

# 正法曙光

## The Dawn of Orthodox Dharma

莊果江 文 BY CHUANG GWO CHIANG

編輯部 英譯 ENGLISH TRANSLATED BY EDITORIAL TRANSLATOR

我們拜訪的第一站是東北雙鴨山市的大菩提寺。對我而言，雙鴨山市是一個從未聽過的小都市，它是位於哈爾濱往北約 5 小時車程的地方，佛教在當地是很興盛。該寺的方丈正修法師告訴我們，該寺佛像開光當日估計約有七萬名信眾參加，當地政府領導因人潮擁塞無法出席，最後是以機車接送才到達寺廟。當我們到達大菩提寺時，方丈非常隆重的迎接訪問團，先是大開山門並燃放一大長串的鞭炮，信眾沿著通往大殿的石階列隊歡迎我們。訪問團進入講堂，各樓層早已座無虛席，至少有四、五百人來聽講，甚至有十多人的團體遠從天津專程來聽講的。在法會結束後，聖城的法師就像電影明星般的被追著合照。當訪問團離開前，實法師答應將在 2009 年於該寺舉辦七天的講經法會。

哈爾濱極樂寺是我們造訪的第二站，我們抵達時，該寺的方丈靜波法師早已在大門等候。先是參觀該寺後，再進入大殿聽開示，估計當日來聽法的信眾約有二千人。但是，佛教是否在中國都是這麼興盛呢？記得我們在北京故宮門口遇到一位手持念珠不停念佛的老居士，他向我詢問訪問團的僧人來自何處，我也同時請問他佛教在北京是否很興盛，他則告訴我：「佛教在北京並不興盛」。聽他口氣，佛教目前在中國的某些地方是興盛的，並非全都如此。而東北因是上人的故鄉，鄉人早有耳聞師父的事蹟，因此來自聖城的訪問團特別禮遇仰慕。靜波法師說其師曾參加過聖城舉辦的水陸空法會，有可能是上人昔日為我們訪問團播下的種子，今天我們的東北之行才能受到如此熱情的歡迎。為了將佛教正法的種子傳播到中國大陸，若是可能的話，是不是也可以邀請中國的法師



Our first stop was Great Bodhi Monastery in the city of Twin-Duck Mountain in the Northeast (Manchuria). To me, it was a small city which I had never heard of. It is situated about five hours driving distance north of Harbin. Buddhism is prospering locally. The abbot of the monastery, Dharma Master Zhengxiu told us that there were about seventy thousand Buddhist participants during the Day of Opening Light of the monastery. It was so crowded that the local government officials were not

able to attend until motor vehicles were sent for them. When we arrived at Great Bodhi Monastery, the abbot extended us a huge welcome - the main gate was opened for us and a long string of fireworks went off, then the local assembly formed lines to greet us on the granite pathway leading to the main hall. Our delegation entered the lecture hall where there was not an empty seat on all levels of the building. There must have been at least four to five hundred people who came for the Dharma talk. There were more than ten people who came all the way from Tianjin for the talk. When the Dharma assembly had ended, the Dharma Masters from CTTB were treated like movie stars with people requesting to take pictures with them. Before the delegation departed from the monastery, Dharma Master Sure promised to return to hold a seven-day Dharma talk session in 2009.

Ultimate Bliss Monastery in Harbin was our second stop. The abbot, Dharma Master Jing Bo, was waiting for us at the main entrance when we arrived. First we toured the monastery and then we entered the main hall to listen to the Dharma talk. There was an estimated two thousand people that day. Is Buddhism really flourishing in China? I recalled meeting an old lay person who was reciting the Buddha's name with a chain of recitation beads in hand at the entrance of the Forbidden City in Beijing. He asked where the Sangha in our delegation came from; at the same time I asked him whether Buddhism in

來萬佛聖城訪問，讓大陸法師對於佛教有另一種的體會，將上人的法寶及道風等傳回中國；其結果也會像當年上人邀請中國的法師來聖城參加三壇大戒及水陸空法會一樣，讓中國的法師們認同聖城的道風。

目前進入中國大陸的寺廟幾乎都要收入門票，聽譚果式居士說這是因文革後許多寺廟遭毀損，政府先支付錢幫忙重建，再以收門票的方式來彌補先前墊付的費用。江南寺廟幾乎都辦水陸大法會，水陸法會是冥陽兩利，特別是對孤魂野鬼等落入三惡道的眾生來說是一大福音。但是修行人若不本著不爭、不貪、不求、不自私、不自利、不打妄語的前提，恐有礙修道。

這次行程中，當我們訪問杭州法鏡寺時，接待的法師告訴我們，農曆的四月至七月是她們結夏安居，在這段期間會特別研究四分律，其方法為觀看台灣法師講解的光碟片。這也讓我想到，除了努力流通上人講解的經書外，我們是不是也有必要大量製作上人的光碟片、CD 或 MP3，提供中國大陸的道場做為研究教材呢？



中國有十多億的人口，各個跨國公司爭先恐後想到大陸開拓市場。我們要弘揚佛法度眾生，套用跨國公司的理念，那裏確實是一個潛力十足的地方。雖然，過去幾十年，中國經歷許多的動盪，造成文化及宗教上極大的變化，但因為佛教在中國已有幾千年的歷史，很多人早就將佛教當成是中國自己的宗教了。在一個對佛教這麼有淵源的地方，大家應該努力幫中國的佛教重新站起來，早日實現上人所述將「正法傳回中國」的預言。

China was flourishing. He told me, "Buddhism in Beijing is not flourishing." From talking to him, my impression was that while Buddhism flourished in some places within China, it was not the same everywhere. Because of the fact that the Venerable Master came from Northeast China, the locals have had heard stories about Master Hua. As such, folks have special admiration for the group from the CTTB. Dharma Master Jing Bo said that some Dharma Masters in the area had participated in the Water, Land, and Air ceremony held in CTTB, it was possible that the Venerable Master had planted the seeds for us in the past so that our delegation received such an overwhelming welcome during our visit. In order to spread the seeds of Orthodox Dharma in China, he asked if it would be possible to invite Dharma Masters from China to visit CTTB so that they could experience Buddhism from a difference perspective. That way, the Venerable Master's Dharma treasures and practices could be taken back to China. The result could be similar to the time when the Venerable Master invited Dharma Masters from China to attend the Threefold Ordination ceremony and Water, Land, and Air ceremony in CTTB, allowing Dharma Masters from China to acknowledge the practice at CTTB.

Almost every monastery in China today charges an admission fee. According to Upasika Tan Guo Shi, lots of monasteries were destroyed after the Cultural Revolution. The government fronted the rebuilding costs and is now recovering the costs from admission fees. The Water and Land ceremony is being performed in nearly every monastery in Jiangnan, which greatly benefits both esoteric and exoteric Buddhist traditions. This is especially a blessing for the souls and ghosts drifting in the Three Evil Paths. However, if the cultivators do not uphold the principles of no fighting, no greedy, no seeking, no selfishness, no pursuit of personal advantage, and no lying, they may encounter obstructions in their spiritual practice.

On our visit to Fajian monastery in Hangzhou during our journey, the Dharma Master who received us said that they hold their summer retreat during the fourth to seventh lunar months and engage in intensive study and research of the four divisions of Vinaya by watching VCDs of Dharma Masters from Taiwan giving lectures. This brought to mind that besides our effort to circulate the Venerable Master's books; maybe we should mass produce his teachings in VCDs, DVDs, CDs and MP3, thereby providing research and teaching material for monasteries in China.

There are more than ten billion people in China. Companies with global operations are fighting to tap into this huge market. We on the other hand are propagating the Buddhadharma to save living beings. Borrowing the same ideas from these global companies, this really is a place with 100% potential. Although China has been unstable in the last several decades, suffering upheavals in cultural as well as religious fronts, as Buddhism has already had thousands of years of history in China, to many, Buddhism has long been considered China's own religion. In a place where there is so much Buddhist history, we should try hard to resurrect Buddhism in China, fulfilling the Venerable Master's prophecy of "Propagating the Orthodox Dharma back to China."