



of the monks, and said, "Look, I have to withdraw my refuge application. I'm not really ready yet." He said, "Don't worry about." He tried to mellow me out, "It's not a problem." I said, "I'm really sorry." I sat in meditation for a while. I got more false thinking going. I jumped up and went to Shrfu's room and knocked on his door, and Heng Xing, the other monk, said, "What are you doing bothering Shrfu for?"

At that point Shrfu opened the door and said, "Don't worry, come in, come in." He was really friendly. "Sit down, sit down." I said, "I apologize, Shrfu, for bothering you but I can't take refuge." "No problem, no problem. No need to. No need to." Shrfu was just real nice. "I'm not ready. I don't have enough get-go to do it, enough resolve." He says, "Don't worry, no problem." He says, "Go take a break. Come back later. No need to go into the session."

I took a break for a while and left. Then I started going to another center and listening to lectures. I liked meditation because I didn't have to do any reciting, bowing, all these things I didn't have any real feeling for. But those people were just totally the opposite. They didn't have any belief; they didn't

have a good teacher. Their teacher wasn't enlightened. I could just feel it. They put on these airs, like they were masters. I thought, you guys don't understand anything. The real masters are totally natural. They don't have these phony airs about them. I liked the layout of the place and how simple and clean it was. But the people there just weren't doing anything for me. On the outside they looked really impressive, and the way they ran it was almost like a military camp. But internally they didn't have it. Shrfu had it all over him. I knew I had to go back.

At that time, they were moving over to Gold Mountain on Mission Street, in the old factory. So I think Loni sent me a note that said, "You'd better get back here." That's what she put on her note. So I went back and Shrfu made a big deal out of it. He was giving a lecture and he made me sit next to him. He was sitting up here and he said, "You sit here, you sit here." It was really embarrassing but I sat through it anyway.

☞ To be continued

我的生命從魔手搶回來了！

My Life Was Saved from the Devil's Hand

一九七三年九月廿七日美籍比丘尼恒隱寫於金山寺

American Bhikshuni Heng Yin, written at Gold Mountain Monastery,
September 27, 1973

On September 19, 1973, I met a great devil and almost lost my life. Fortunately Master Hsuan Hua, with great compassion, used his boundless powers to conquer the devil and I took back my life.

It all started when I was having lunch at Gold Mountain Monastery.

All of a sudden, my stomach began to growl and became so painful that I could hardly stand up. At the stairs I fell down and an awful smell burst forth from my mouth. My whole body felt cold like ice. My hands and feet became numb, my eyes could not see and I could not move. At that point, I thought

I was going to die.

During this lifetime, for the last 20 years of my life, I have been amazed at meeting the Master Hsuan Hua and being taught to be truthful, to be compassionate and to be kindhearted. To be born in this world, we should be beneficial to the world, but I don't have any virtue. Now I have met the king of hell, which I regret, but it

is too late.

At this point in the story, Dharma Master Chih came up the stairs and saw that my face was pale as a dead person's. "What's wrong?" she asked. "Do you want me to tell the Venerable Master?"

"I'm sick and near death," I said. "I have no face to see the Venerable Master. Is he here?"

Dharma Master Chih said, "Yes."

Then I said, "Excuse me, will you please ask him to save me?"

The Master came and when he saw me, he asked, "What happened? What false thoughts were you thinking about?"

I replied, "Master, I am repenting and my stomach pain is unexplainable."

At that time, the Master pointed at the spot where I hurt with his finger and recited a few lines of the Shurangama Mantra. I felt as if I had been shocked by electricity, and a chilly wind swept through my body. The pain was immediately gone, and I fell asleep instantly.

When I woke up about forty minutes later, the Master asked me, "How are you doing?"

I said, "Thank you Master, I am totally recovered." When I stood up, I felt no pain, but my thinking was a little unclear, as if I were drunk. Half an hour later, the Master said, "The devil is powerful. If you didn't have faith in the Buddha, you would have died, did you know that?"

A few months later, I had an appendicitis attack and went to emergency. When the doctor examined me and gave me an x-ray, he was surprised. "This situation cannot be cured. Originally, you would have been dead in one or two hours; oddly, it has cured itself."

From this experience we can learn about the compassion of the Master and the unlimited Buddha Dharma. The Master took my life back from the devil, so from now on I must work harder to spread Buddhism in the West. That way, I can repay the kindness of the Buddha, the Bodhisattvas and the Venerable Master.

一九七三年九月十九日我遇到一個大病魔，幾乎沒有命了；幸虧吾師度公宣化上人慈悲為懷，以無邊的法力，降伏了病魔，終於從魔掌裏，搶回了我的生命。

經過的情形是這樣的：我在金山寺吃中飯的時候，（我們天天上供，然後吃飯，每天只吃一餐。）突然腹痛如絞，痛得我站不起來，只好勉強地爬上樓梯，在樓梯上我跌倒了，從口裏發出一種怪味來，全身寒冷像一塊冰，手足不會動，眼睛也看不見東西，我心裏想：唉！可憐我要死了！這一輩子我迷迷糊糊地空過了二十多年，上人所教給我們的道理真對，要發菩提心，行菩薩道。生在這個世界，是應該對這個世界有益處，可是



比丘尼恒隱師在法會中當維那

American Bhikshuni Heng Yin acting as cantor during a ceremony.

我自己一點德行都沒有，如今要去見閻羅王，我很後悔，可惜太晚了！

這時，師兄恒持法師上樓來，她一看見我臉色慘白，像死人一樣，就問我：「妳有甚麼病？要不要我告訴上人？」我說：「病得要死，沒有臉見上人，他在嗎？」恒持法師說：「在。」我說：「那麼麻煩妳去請上人來救救我吧。」

師父來了，他老人家一看我就說：「怎麼攪的？妳究竟打甚麼妄想？」我說：「師父我正在懺悔，肚子痛得快要死了！」

就在這個時候，上人用手指著痛的地方，念了幾句楞嚴咒，我忽然覺得全身像觸電，像被一陣冷風颳過，立刻一點痛都沒有，很快地就睡過去了。

大約過了四十分鐘才醒悟，上人又來問我：「怎麼樣？」我說：「謝謝師父，現在完全好了。」這時我站起來，覺得一點痛都沒有，只是頭腦有點不清楚，昏昏沉沉，像喝醉酒似的；但是過了半個鐘頭就好了，上人對我說：「你這個魔真厲害，如果你信佛沒有誠心，你早就死了，知道嗎？」

幾個月後，我盲腸炎發作，送去醫院急診，當醫生做檢查，並用X光去照，醫生大為驚訝，他說：「這種病是治不好的，本來在一兩個鐘頭之內，必定要死；但是很奇怪，怎樣會自然就好了？」

由此可知上人的慈悲，和佛法的無量無邊。師父把我的生命從魔掌搶回來，從此我更要努力用功，使佛教在西方發揚光大，才能報答佛菩薩和上人的恩惠。