

放下屠槍(附記) —

中國城保險公司

Throwing Guns Away (Notes)
An Insurance Company in Chinatown

宣化上人於一九九〇年十月十四日開示於比利時布魯塞爾華嚴寺
A TALK GIVEN BY VENERABLE MASTER HSUAN HUA ON OCTOBER 14, 1990
AT AVATAMSAKA MONASTERY IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM.

上人：第一次到馬來西亞是七幾年？

弟子：七八(1978)年。

上人：那時候我在美國經歷一個事情，現在給你們各位說一說。你知道我在美國是幹什麼的？那時候雖沒有做什麼，等到七八年將要到馬來西亞的時候，大約是六月十九，生意就來了。什麼生意呢？我給美國三藩市的Chinatown(中國城)開了保險公司，你們各位應該都懂得保險公司是幹什麼的。這個保險公司為什麼開的呢？就因為那時候在三藩市的Chinatown有個金龍血案，你們在法國比利時這兒聽沒聽說過？在金龍餐廳，死了五、六個人，傷了十五、六個人。被殺死的對方心裏就不平，要來報仇；要報仇，就會再製造第二個金龍血案，或者甚至於第三個、第四個，金龍血案會接連連不停地發生的。

那時候有個祖方幫，一個華青幫，互相爭地盤。為充實自己的實力，就跑到Ukiah這個城

市，想要買槍彈子藥。果然碰到了有賣槍彈子藥的，但是很貴。他們錢也不夠，也怕是警察設的陷阱，埋伏要抓他們，所以也不敢真正地買。當時他們正巧經過萬佛城的大門，一看見萬佛城，他們八個人就想進來；可是門鎖著，不能進來。

當時是下午，我正在講講法；覺得門口有八個人，在那兒等著要進來。我叫當家的去開門，門口離佛殿大約有四、五百公尺這麼遠，佛殿裏也沒有窗戶，只有門，也看不見門口；當家的——就是現在的恒來——他就不相信我講話：「你怎麼知道門口有人在那個地方？」他不相信也沒有法子不去，就騎著單車去開門了。到那兒一看，真有八個人等著要進來，而且已經在那等了半個多鐘了，剛剛想要走。

等恒來去開門，他們就進來了，在佛前上了香。我一看這些小毛孩子來上香，我並不認識這些個人；偏偏那天是六月十九，正巧要打皈依。這個Helen Woo(胡

果相)也在那兒，Helen Woo大約是他們背後的老大哥，就問他們：「你們皈依不皈依？」這些伙計——這些小孩子——就乖乖地報名要皈依我，當時也不知道這班殺人的人會皈依。等我打皈依的時候，我一看，這些人都是殺氣騰騰，威風凜凜的樣子；我後來在講開示的時候——Helen Woo！不知妳現在還記得不記得？

胡果相：記得。

上人：我開始第一句話就說：「你們皈依之後，以後不准殺人，不准放火，不准用槍打人，身上的槍都要丟到海裏去！」妳記得我開始是不是這樣說的？這麼一說，這Helen Woo也發愣了：怎麼今天師父講這個話呢？接著我就問：「誰是你們的老大哥？舉手！」這個老大哥東望望、西望望，左望望、右望望，望完了，他就舉手了。這一舉手，在場的若有人知道他們幹什麼的，那時候就非常緊張了。我告訴他們：「身上帶的槍要掉到海裏去，以後不准殺人放火。」當時，他們

也都答應我了，互相說以後不殺人放火了，不去強搶了，不去打劫了，我就給他們打皈依。

皈依後，他們還是將信將疑的，回去還想要買槍；回到三藩市，就遇到賣槍的，子彈、手榴彈都非常便宜，他們也買得起，可是都不敢買了。爲什麼？因爲皈依了之後，我叫他們放下屠刀，他們也都沒有買。我以後到馬來西亞去弘法，他們在三藩市就又舊病復發了，又想去做那個沒有本錢的生意；可是剛想去做這生意，同一天晚間他們有八個人就做一樣的夢——不准他們再去殺人放火打劫。他們第二天互相一講，都是做一樣的夢；以後就不敢再去做沒本的生意了。

可是這班人都是遊手好閒的；如果沒有錢，他們也不能生活，所以我就開了保險公司。這個保險公司怎麼樣呢？是賠錢的保險公司，就叫這八個人給我做工，我給他們錢。現在這八個人都有正當的職業，沒有去做那種沒有本錢的生意，還常常幫助人家，都吃齋了。

胡果相：這個事情因爲我本人在場，我希望補充幾句！當時師父在講經，我忽然間看見後邊一群年青人進來了，也沒有拜佛，就站在那兒；奇怪怎麼忽然間這麼多年青人進來呢？也不曉得爲什麼師父突然說要打皈依？在皈依時師父很莊嚴地板起臉問他們：「我不是隨便就打皈依的。你們若皈依我，不能殺人，不能放火，不能搶人！」

我就奇怪：人家要來皈依，師父爲什麼這麼兇，也不知道爲什麼師父說這些話，不過後來的事情師父剛才都講過了。我現在要講給大家聽的，最要緊的是這件事情的影響。

美國舊金山的唐人街，是中國華僑在中國以外的最大的一個中國人聚居地，是非常出名的一個地方。一般的華僑都是住在唐人街附近，他們做遊客生意、開餐館，他們養家的錢都是從這裏來的。自從發生金龍血案，全美國新聞都播報出來，整個 Chinatown 變成了鬼城，遊客都不敢來了。整整有半年多，很多商店都很早就關門了，因爲怕出事，幫派一定會尋仇再打的！所以到現在爲止，師父救了不知多少的三藩市華僑。我相信：每一個華僑，不是直接的，間接的也受到師父的影響。師父在無形中救了這麼多人，很多人並不知道，所以我今天要特別講的就是這件事情。

（編按：所謂「放下屠刀，立地成佛」，因爲華青幫這八個人願意洗心革面，改過遷善，到後來胡果相居士都受其感化。原先胡居士無法吃素，但眼見他們居然吃素，生慚愧心，第二天下決心要吃素了，詳見1994年11月VBS第294期「盡妳最大的努力」一文。）

Venerable Master: When was the first time you went to Malaysia in the 70's?

Disciple: 1978.

Venerable Master: I had experienced something that I'd like to tell you. Do you know what I did in the Untied States? Although I did not do much, business came to me when I was about to go to Malaysia in 1978. It was about the 19th day of the sixth month. What business was it? I opened up an insurance company in San Francisco's Chinatown. All of you should know what an insurance company does. Why did I open this insurance company? It was due to the Golden Dragon murder case in San Francisco's Chinatown.

Did you hear about this in Belgium? In the Golden Dragon Restaurant, five or six people died and 15 or 16 people were hurt. Those who were killed were discontent and growling. They wanted revenge; so, a second Golden Dragon murder case would happen, and even a third or fourth one. Eventually, the Golden Dragon murder case would happen repeatedly.

At that time, there were two groups in the underworld called "Hua Qing" (China Youth) and "Zu Fang". They were fighting for their own territories. In order to expand their turf and power, one group went to Ukiah trying to purchase guns and weapons. Sure enough, they met someone who sold weapons but the price was too high and they didn't have enough money. Besides, they were also afraid it was the police trying to set them up and catch them. Therefore, they didn't dare to get the weapons. At that time, they happened to pass by the gate of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. As soon as they saw the mountain gate, the group of eight people wanted to come in. However, the gate was locked and they couldn't do so.

It was in the afternoon while I was lecturing. I felt that there were eight people at the gate waiting to come in and asked the monk in charge to open the gate. It was some 400 to 500 meters between the gate and the Buddha Hall, which had no windows but just doors. One could not see the gate from the Hall at all. The Abbot back then was Heng Lai, who did not believe what I said and asked, "How do you know there were people at the gate?" He didn't believe it but he had to go anyway. So, he rode a bike to open the gate. When he went there, sure enough, there were eight people waiting to come in. They had been waiting for more than half an hour already.

They were just about to leave when Heng Lai went to open the gate, so they came in. They offered incense in front of the Buddha as well. I saw these youngsters, whom I did not know, coming to offer incense. That day happened to be the 19th day of the sixth month, and we happened to have a refuge ceremony. Helen Woo was also there. Perhaps, Helen Woo was their leader behind them and asked, “Do you want to take refuge?” These youngsters obediently signed up and wanted to take refuge. When I was holding the ceremony, I observed the soaring killer energy and their belligerent demeanors. Helen Woo, do you still remember? I was lecturing then.

Helen Woo: Yes, I do.

Venerable Master: The first thing I said was, “After you take refuge, you are not permitted to kill, commit arson, or use your guns to shoot people. All the guns you have must be thrown into the sea!” Do you remember me saying this? After I said that, Helen Woo was also in a daze – why did Shifu say that today? I then asked, “Who is your leader? Raise your hand!” The leader looked around and he finally raised his hand. People in the ceremony who knew what this group did for a living were very nervous. I told them: “All the guns have to be thrown into the sea. You cannot kill people or set places on fire.” At that time, they promised me and said to each other they would not commit anymore. As a result, I allowed them to take refuge with me.

After taking refuge, they were half doubtful and still wanted to purchase guns. When they returned to San Francisco, they met some dealers who sold guns, bullets, and grenades at really low prices that they could afford. However, they didn’t dare to buy them. Why? After taking refuge,

I had instructed them to “put down the butcher’s cleaver.” Therefore, they did not pursue this deal. After that, I went to Malaysia to propagate the Dharma. Their old habits took over — they wanted to do the “cost-free business” again. However, just when they were thinking about doing this, eight of them had the same dream on the very same night instructing them not to kill, not to set places on fire and not to rob. They talked to one another about it the following day and realized they all had the same dream. After that dream, they dared not to get involved with that kind of business again. But these people idled about all day long. If they did not have money, they could not survive. Therefore, I opened up an insurance company. What was it like? It was an insurance company, which actually lost money. I employed and paid these eight people. Now, all eight of them had a proper occupation. They no longer engaged in the “cost-free business” anymore. They often helped others and have become vegetarians.

Helen Woo: I was right there when this happened. I would like to make a few comments. While Shifu was lecturing, suddenly I saw a group of young people came in. They did not bow to the Buddha but just stood there. How strange! Why did so many young people come in all of the sudden? I did not know why the Master suddenly said that he was going to hold a refuge ceremony and why he told them, “I do not casually do the refuge ceremony for people. If you take refuge with me, you must not kill, commit arson, or rob people!”

I thought it was quite strange: These people wanted to take refuge. Why did Shifu talk to them so seriously and so sternly? I did not understand why Shifu said what he said. What

happened later, Shifu already told you a moment ago. What I want to relate to you was the influence this refuge ceremony had brought.

San Francisco’s Chinatown in the U.S. is the biggest place of gathering for overseas Chinese people. It is an extremely famous place. The overseas Chinese live near Chinatown and make a living from businesses such as tourism and restaurants. After the Golden Dragon incident, the news was broadcast by the U.S. news media. The entire Chinatown then became a ghost town, where no visitor dared to come and became really quiet for about half a year or so. Basically, people did not dare to come and many stores shut down their business due to the fear that these gangsters would take revenge and have a big fight again. So, up to now, Shifu has saved countless numbers of overseas Chinese in San Francisco. I believe that even if not directly, people have indirectly received the Master’s influence. Many people were not aware of how Shifu had imperceptibly saved so many people. This was what I specifically wanted to share with everyone today.

(Note: There is a saying, “Cast down the butcher’s knife, and immediately achieve Buddhahood.” The sincere willingness to reform of the eight members of the China Youth gang influenced even Helen Woo. Originally Upasika Woo had been unable to become completely vegetarian; however, upon discovering that these young people had all become vegetarians, she felt ashamed and decided to become a vegetarian herself the very next day. The detailed account may be found in the article “Try your best” in *Vajra Bodhi Sea*, volume 294, November 1994.)