

老老實實做個好人

Be A Down-to-Earth, Good Person

上人1987年對東北家鄉父老的談話
A Talk by the Venerable Master to the People from His Hometown
in Northeastern China in 1987

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我現在在美國三藩市北邊，瑜珈市達摩鎮萬佛聖城錄音，對我家鄉各位父老兄弟，說幾句我要說的話。我俗家的名字叫白玉書，住在拉林鎮西黃旗。我在讀完書之後，覺得這個世界上，一切都是虛妄不實的；於是就把一切一切的都放下，到平房站三緣寺出家了。

出家之後，和各位老居士曾經常常見面，和我的俗家的人很少來往；我在東北的時候，並沒有和所有的親戚朋友、父老兄弟常常來往。因為我已經出家了，把一切世間的親情都看得很淡了，一心去弘揚佛法，教化眾生。我在廟上，附近的鄉村、各處有很多人都皈依我，可是我家鄉的人很少人認識我，很少人見過我。

我在日本投降的第二年，就準備到普陀山去受戒。因為這個，也沒有和各位老居士、鄉村父老兄弟、一切的親戚朋友、和家人見面。同我兩個徒弟，從哈爾濱到五常縣，再到吉林、長春；這一路，不是搭火車就是走路。從長春又到瀋陽，然後到天津。從天津坐船到上海，船經過黑海洋的時候，船在黑海洋裏打轉轉十多天。

本來從天津到上海，搭船三、四天就可以抵達；可是這一次在黑海洋裏打轉轉，就沒有法子開出到黑海洋的外面。船上兩百多人沒有水喝，也沒有飯吃，幾幾乎要餓死在船上，幸虧菩薩慈悲解決困難，最後到上海。由上海到武昌，第二年到普陀山去受戒。

受完了戒，就到蘇州靈巖山住了半

I am currently recording this in the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, which is located in Talmage, near Ukiah, to the north of San Francisco, in the United States of America. To the people from my hometown, I have some words to say.

My given name is Bai Yu Shu, and I lived in West Yellow Flag, Laling Town. After I finished school, I felt that everything in this world was false, unreal, and illusory. So I let go of everything and went to Three Conditions Temple at Pingfang Station to become a monk.

After I became a monk, I met with many elderly laypeople, but I hardly ever had any contact with the people from my village. When I was in northeastern China, I didn't stay in touch with all my relatives, friends and neighbors because I had already left home. I regarded all my familial relationships in this world as unimportant in my life and wholeheartedly planted the seeds of Dharma and educated living beings in this world. When I was at the temple, numerous people from various villages came to take refuge with me, but not many people from my village knew me or saw me.

The second year after the Japanese surrendered, I decided to go to Putuo Mountain to receive the complete precepts. Because of this, I didn't have the chance to meet up with all the elders from my village, all my relatives and friends. I traveled with two of my disciples from Harbin to Wuchang County, and then on to Jiling and Changchun; we not only took the train but also walked throughout this journey. From Changchun, we went to Shenyang, and then Tianjin. From there, we took a boat to Shanghai. When the boat was crossing the [Chinese] Black Sea, it went in circles, out of control, for more than ten days.

Normally this trip took three to four days, but this time the boat was spinning in the Black Sea and there was no way to navigate out. More than 200 people on the boat had no water



年。在暑假的時候，我曾經回到東北到瀋陽，本來準備到雙城縣拉林鎮，以及哈爾濱，和你們各位見面的。可是當時兩個政府互相敵對，行路交通不方便，於是我又回到蘇州靈巖山。在靈巖山又住了一個時期，想到廣東，所以先到南京空青山，在空青山過的冬。中國的舊曆年回到上海，再坐船到湖北，搭火車到了廣東。在廣東見到一百多歲的一位老人——虛雲老和尚；我到廣東的目的，就是為了會見這位老和尚。

在廣東南華寺住了一年，又到乳源——雲門山大覺寺，住了大約三個月，然後到廣州、香港。香港七月間，又回到廣州，準備過了中秋節之後回雲門大覺寺，去用功修行。可是在八月初旬，曲江韶關解放，想回雲門也回不去了。於是在八月十八那一天，從廣州乘船到香港，在香港住了十多年。

1959年到澳洲去，1960年也在澳洲，1961年又回到香港，1962年就來到美國。初到美國的時候，自號「墓中僧」，就是一個已經到墳墓裏的出家人；我與世無爭，與人無尤，不問世事，自己在那兒用功，經過六年的時間。六年（1968年）以後，有一些在西雅圖的大學生，到了三藩市來想聽經，我在當時就給他們講了一部《楞嚴經》。以後這些個人就在三藩市留下來，此後講了《法華經》、《六祖壇經》、《阿彌陀經》，又講了《大方廣佛華嚴經》，天天都在講經；這個墓中僧就從墳墓爬出來了，出來只知道講經，旁的什麼也不知道。

以後也是時節因緣，1970年成立金山寺，1974年又買下萬佛聖城；萬佛聖城現在要是都

民國三十七年·戊子·虛雲老和尚一百零九歲一九四八年



虛雲老和尚

宣化上人

or food and they nearly died of starvation. Luckily, compassionate Bodhisattvas solved the problem. Finally, we arrived in Shanghai and went to Wuchang; the second year we went to Putuo Mountain to receive the complete precepts.

After receiving the precepts, we stayed in Lingyan Mountain, Suzhou for half a year. During the summer vacation, I went back to Northeastern China to Shenyang. I originally planned to go back to Laling Town, Shuangcheng County, and Harbin to meet up with you, but at that time the two governments were hostile towards each other, so roads and transportation were not convenient, and I ended up back at Lingyan Mountain, Suzhou again. I stayed there for a while thinking about going to Canton, so I went to Kongqing Mountain in Nanjing for the winter. During the Chinese New Year, I went back to Shanghai, and then I took a boat to Hubei and boarded a train to Canton. I met an elderly man who was more than 100 years old; he was the Elder Master Hsu Yun. The reason I went to Canton was to see this elder monk.

I stayed in Nanhua Monastery, Canton for a year and then I stayed in Ruyuan's Great Bodhi Monastery at Yunmen Mountain for about three months and traveled to Guangzhou then Hong Kong. In July, I moved back to Guangzhou from Hong Kong. I planned to go back to Yunmen Great Bodhi Temple to cultivate diligently after the Moon Festival. However, in the beginning of August, due to the liberation in Shaoguan, Qujiang, I couldn't go back to Yunmen. So on August 18th, I took a boat from Guangzhou to Hong Kong and from there, I stayed in Hong Kong for more than ten years.

In 1959, I went to Australia, and 1960 I was also in Australia. I went back to Hong Kong in 1961 again, and I came to America in 1962. The first time I came to America, I called myself "the monk in the grave," which meant a monk who was already in the graveyard; I stood aloof from worldly affairs, didn't have any grudges with anyone, paid no attention to the affairs of human life, and cultivated by myself for six years. Six years later (1968), several university students came from Seattle to San Francisco to listen to Dharma talks. At the time, I lectured the *Shurangama Sutra* to them.





住滿了人，可以住兩萬人。現在萬佛聖城附設有法界大學、培德中學、育良小學。我們的學校都是為教育而教育，不是在這兒開學店。雖然很困難，但是一天一天的也都過來了；到現在還是這樣，在困苦艱難中做事情。

在今年，我不知道家鄉的親戚朋友、父老兄弟現在的情形怎麼樣？藉著法界大學組團去中國，我就拜託他們到東北，特意去訪問你們各位。他們帶回來你們各位的錄音，我都聽到。我很慚愧，因為年幼的時候，也做了很多令人不高興的事情，現在覺得自己不應該那樣！

我現在和你們各位說話，希望你們各位都研究研究佛法；不要那麼認真世間的事，應該這樣看「一切有為法，如夢幻泡影；如露亦如電，應作如是觀。」能以沒有煩惱、沒有脾氣、不爭、不貪、不求、不自私、不自利、也不打妄語，這才是我們做人的根本道理。

我們不要和人爭，人要和我爭，退後一步讓人，不和人爭；也不貪，因為你貪多少，將來也都會化為烏有的；不應該得的你要得到，這是向外馳求，也會造成心裏上的一種負擔，所以也不應該去貪求；我們應該大公無私，至正不偏，所以做人不應該自私；不應該只知道利益自己，不知道利益旁人。我們一舉一動能以利益他人，對旁人有好處的事情，我們多做一點；對自己有好處的事情，不妨不要做。我們在任何環境、任何情形下，都不打妄語，要說真話、誠實話。老老實實地做個好人，那就夠了！

希望各位父老兄弟、各位老年的居士、青年的有為的朋友、和我所有的親戚朋友，大家明白我這個老實人做老實事，我也希望你們學

These students stayed in San Francisco after my lectures. I also had Dharma talks on the *Lotus Sutra*, the *Sixth Patriarch's Dharma Jewel Platform Sutra*, the *Amitabha Sutra*, and also the *Avatamsaka Sutra*. I spoke Dharma everyday. The monk in the grave just climbed his way out of the graveyard. After he climbed out, all he knew was to speak Dharma and nothing else.

Later, because of the right causes and timing, Gold Mountain Monastery was established in 1970 and The Sagely City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) was bought in 1974; at its fullest capacity, CTTB could hold 20,000 people. CTTB has complementary facilities which are Dharma Realm Buddhist University, Developing Virtue Secondary School, and Instilling Goodness Elementary School. Our schools operate to provide wholesome education; they are not run as businesses. Although it was very difficult in the beginning, we persevered day after day. It is still the same now; we persevere in difficult situations.

I have no idea how my relatives, friends and people from the village are doing now. Since a delegation from Dharma Realm Buddhist University was going to visit China, I urged them to go to Northeastern China to pay a special visit to you. They brought back a recording from each of you; I listened to them all. I felt really guilty for a lot of unpleasant things I did during my childhood, which I regret doing now.

Now that I am talking to you all, I hope you will explore Buddhism; don't be so serious about things in this world. You should view things like this: "All phenomena are like dreams, illusions, bubbles and shadows; like dew drops and lighting flashes. You should contemplate them thus." We should take the principles of not getting upset, not getting angry, not fighting, not being greedy, not seeking, not being selfish, not pursuing personal advantage, and not lying as a foundation for being a person.

We don't want to fight with others. If others would like to fight with you, take one step back to yield to others; don't fight with them. Also do not be greedy because no matter how much you crave, it will all amount to nothing eventually. The things you don't deserve that you acquire from outside will also become a burden in your heart, so don't be greedy. We should be public-spirited and altruistic, upright and fair, so we shouldn't be selfish. We shouldn't exclusively pursue our own personal advantages but not care about benefiting others. Every single moment, we should do good things for others; we should do more things that will benefit others, and avoid just looking out for ourselves. We should not lie in any circumstance or situation; we should be honest and truthful. Just being a down-to-earth, good person is enough!

I hope all elders and youngsters, all elderly laity and young people who are capable of great achievements, and all my relatives

老實一點，大家都老老實實，令這個世界也變成老實世界；大家不爭了，也不戰了，也不謀奪旁人的利益了，就會相安無事，這個世界就會變成極樂世界了。

我祝福你們各位，遂心如意，心想事成；發菩提心，將來在佛國見！再祝你們，永遠身心快樂，健康愉快，沒有一切的煩惱，也不抽煙，也不喝酒，把一切的習氣毛病、大毛病、小毛病都把它改了，是我對你們最大的一個希望。最後還是祝福你們身體健康，精神愉快！如果你們各位想和我見面的話，希望你們都到美國來觀光旅行，快樂的到這兒來聚會。如果有興趣的話，你們可以組織一個旅行團到美國來觀光。到這兒，我旁的力量沒有，吃的、住的問題，我可以負完全責任，再見！

我的精神常常回去！

我最後還有幾句話，對我俗家的三哥談一談。按著俗家，你是我的三哥；要按著出家人而言，我叫你叫居士。不管你承認你是居士，不是居士，我要這麼稱呼你；居士，是佛教徒稱呼人的一個名詞，就是很善良的人。我希望你把煙戒了，酒也戒了，老年要特別的保重身體，不要把它糟塌了。我聽見你的錄音帶，知道你耳也沒有聾，眼也沒有花，你這方面是很好的。尤其父親故去的時候，你已經盡到你盡的力量，我很感激你；我在很遙遠的地方，向你表達我對你的謝意！我想我也不必說太客氣的話，我們老老實實，我最大的希望還是希望你把煙酒戒了。我還希望你能到美國來，即刻去辦申請手續；你能帶幾個人來，我都特別歡迎。不論有什麼問題告訴我，我能做到的，我不會推辭的。

我再告訴你，我出家的名字叫安慈，字度輪，號宣化。你如果有興趣的話，精神能支持得了，我請你到美國來！不單你來，所有我們的親戚朋友，好像那個小東、大哥第二個女兒翠蘭，咱們那個大的姪子白勇發，還有翠琴，還有你的兒女和孫，哪一位願意來，我都由衷的高興和歡迎。我現在在萬佛城這兒有事情離不開，可是我的精神常常回去，1975年在夢裏和你見面，你大約也還記得。這是我今天對你們各位講的話，我們在美國見！

and friends, understand me as an honest person who does honest things. I hope you will learn to be honest. If everyone is honest, this world will turn into an honest world; if everyone does not contend, does not fight, and does not scheme to get other people's profits, we will live happily together. This world will become "The Western Pure Land."

I hope all your wishes will be fulfilled; make the resolve for Bodhi, and I will see you in the Buddhaland. I hope you will be forever happy in body and mind, healthy and joyful, without any worries. May you avoid smoking and drinking, and eradicate all bad habits, big and small; this is my biggest hope. Lastly, I wish you all to be healthy and joyful spiritually. If you want to meet up with me, I hope you can come sightseeing in America and come to CTTB for a happy reunion. If you are interested, you can organize an American sightseeing tour group. When you arrive, I don't have anything to offer other than providing your food and accommodations. Bye-bye.

MY SPIRIT ALWAYS GOES BACK!

I have some words to say to my third elder brother. According to lay custom, you are my third elder brother; as a monk, I will call you a layman. No matter if you regard yourself as a layman or not, I would like to call you like this; a layperson is a Buddhist; it refers to a kind-hearted person. I hope you will abstain from smoking and alcohol, and look after yourself in your old age; don't mess up your health. I listened to your recording, I knew your ears and eyes are still working; these are great things. Especially when father passed away, you tried your best; I really appreciated your effort. From afar, I sincerely express my gratitude to you. I think I don't need to say too many polite words; we should be honest and sincere; my biggest hope is for you to give up your smoking and alcohol. I also hope you can come to America; go and apply for your visa immediately. You are welcome to bring as many people with you as you wish. No matter what problems you have, please tell me. I will always try to help; I will never say no.

Let me tell you again, my Dharma name is An Ci. I'm also known as Du Lun and Hsuan Hua. If you are interested and still in good health, I invite you to come to America! Don't come only by yourself; all my relatives and friends, such as Xiao Dong; Cui Lan, the second daughter of my eldest brother; Bai Yongfa, our eldest nephew; and Cui Qing; and also your children and grandchildren are welcome. Anyone who wishes to come, I welcome you sincerely with joy. Now I am not able to leave CTTB since there are some things that need to be done, but my spirit always goes back to visit you. We reunited in your dream in 1975; maybe you can still remember vaguely. This is all I would like to say to you. I hope I will see you in America!