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Become a Great Hero by Transcending the Mundane World

資料由般若觀音聖寺提供

Provided by Prajna Guanyin Sagely Monastery, Malaysia

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法隨因緣轉，因出家者之美國簽證不容易申請，所以才有因緣在馬來西亞吉隆坡的般若觀音聖寺舉行剃度典禮。2009年2月10日（農曆正月十六日），邀請美國的良好法師和才法師來本寺為兩位女居士馬慧萍（出家後法名/字號：親思師/近妙師）和黃秀雲（出家後法名/字號：親般師/近若師）剃度；由授戒師恆章法師和恆祥法師傳授沙彌尼十戒。

這是本寺成立十七年來首度舉辦的剃度儀式，因此特別多的在家居士都抽空前來；又因為近若師是本寺法界幼兒苑的教師，因此老師們也帶領了全校三十八位學生齊到大雄寶殿觀摩剃度典禮。是日天氣晴朗，非常祥瑞；大小老少共聚一堂，可謂非常殊勝。

上人常教化弟子修行要趁年輕力壯，精進修道。所謂：「孤墳多是少年人，莫待老來方學道。」有發心想要出家者，今後可以來般若觀音聖寺受訓。

【附記】幼兒苑的童言童語

這次之所以讓法界幼兒苑的學生去觀摩剃度儀式，並不僅僅因為準備出家的近若師本是幼兒苑的教師，而是還有一個天真無邪的前因緣。

在這之前，有一天，老師講述佛的兒子羅睺羅的故事給六歲班的學生們聽，故事的結尾是羅睺羅及母親耶輸陀羅都出家了。孩子們看著耶輸陀羅比丘尼托著鉢的畫像，似乎無法把它與前邊耶輸陀羅長髮

Dharma turns according with cause and conditions. Because it is difficult to obtain a visa to the U.S., a shaving head ceremony was held in the Prajna Guan Yin Sagely Monastery. On February 10, 2009, Dharma Master Liang and Tsai were invited from the U.S. to shave the heads of two laywomen, Huiping Ma (Monastic Dharma Name/Courtesy Name: Chin Si/Jin Miao) and Xiouyun Huang (Monastic Dharma Name/Courtesy Name: Chin Bo/Jin Re). In addition, Dharma Master Heng Jang and Heng Xiang transmitted to them the ten precepts for female novices.

Since it was the first head-shaving ceremony in seventeen years since the monastery was established, many laypeople spared their time to attend the ceremony. Also, because Jin Re Shr was the former teacher of Dharma Realm Young Learners in the monastery, all thirty-eight students were led by their teachers to observe the ceremony in the Buddha Hall. On that day, the sky was clear, and it was very auspicious that the elders and the youth gathered together for this event.

The Venerable Master often instructed his disciples to cultivate vigorously in their prime. It is said, "Don't wait to cultivate until you are old, since many lonely graves are those of young people."

Appendix: Children's Discussion

The reason students from School of Dharma Realm Young Learners attended the ceremony, was not only because Jin Re Shr was their former teacher, but also because of an innocent underlying story.

One day before the ceremony, a teacher was telling a story about Rahula, the Buddha's son, to the six-year old students. At the end of the story, both Rahula and his mother Yashodhara left the home-life. There was a picture of Bhikshuni Yashodhara with head clean-shaven. The children seemed skeptical and could not connect this picture with the previous one in which Yashodhara had long hair. "Nooo!" the children said in a chorus, "she is not a woman; she is a man!"

Later the teachers had a discussion and concluded that if a head-shaving ceremony were to take place the students should attend it. Such an occasion soon presented itself. When the children were told



的畫像產生聯想；孩子們拉著唱歌似的調子說：「不——是！她不是女生，她是個男生！」

老師們討論的結果，認為應該給孩子們真實的機會教育；而沒多久，這機會就來臨了。當孩子們聽說在二月十日這天的儀式中，教他們誦經的黃老師要剃度；一個孩子說：「我爸爸都帶我去理髮店剃頭，為什麼黃老師不去理髮店呢？那兒剃得又快又好！」很快地，孩子們都陷入熱烈的討論：「在儀式中剃度」與「去理髮店剃頭」，這兩者有什麼差異？觀摩剃度儀式之後，孩子們似乎有點感傷；不過他們的結論是：近若師（黃老師）看起來像個男生；也看起來像佛。老師們同意這兩種說法都沒錯，因為當一個善女子剃髮出家而成為僧團的一份子時，她已具大丈夫相；她不只是個男生，還會成佛。

that in the ceremony on the 10th of February 2009, their teacher Ng who used to teach them how to chant sutras would have her head shaved, one lad said, "My father takes me to the barber to have my hair shaved. Why doesn't teacher Ng go to the barber? It's very fast and easy!" This statement soon had everyone in a cheerful discussion about the difference between going to a barber and having one's hair shaved in a leaving the homelife ceremony!

When asked how they felt after the ceremony, some children said they felt "sad", because they saw some aunts crying! Their conclusion was that Jin Re Shr (former teacher Ng) now looked like a man and also looked like a Buddha. The teacher agreed that they were not wrong because when a person shaves off her hair and leaves the homelife to become a Sangha member, she not only takes on a heroic appearance, she can become a Buddha too.

