

## Is It OK If I Don't Go?

## 不去行嗎？

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我剛剛學佛的時候，拜讀到上人的開示，感嘆自己業重，無緣親近大善知識。心裏很嚮往聖城的修行生活，可又不認識人，不得其門而入。正打算先搬去瑜珈鎮，再去聖城參學。結果當晚就夢見上人，形像如書中的照片一樣，微笑對我說：你來吧！這是我當初搬到聖城的因緣。

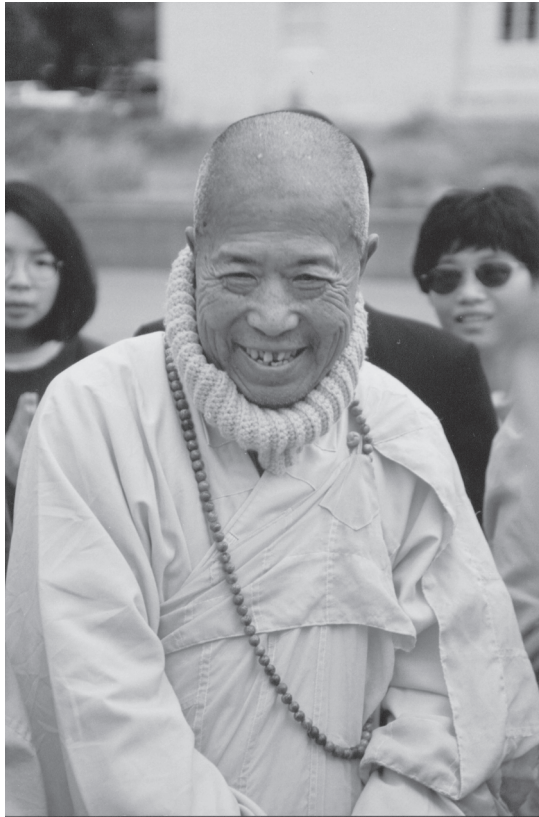
到聖城後承蒙眾位法師與居士們的照顧，但是有很多大小瑣事，實在沒辦法解決的，只要向上人「哭訴」，馬上有求必應。上人對我，可謂無微不至！我心裏常胡思亂想，不知道和上人是何因緣。

我去當兵，新兵訓練苦不堪言，幸虧我有五字真言，每逢艱難危險，苦不堪言的時候，只要在心中大喊這五字真言，無不逢凶化吉的！是哪五字呢？也許有人會說：「我知道，一定是『觀世音菩薩』這五字吧？」非也，是「師父救命啊」！

新兵訓練時，有一次有人犯了讓教官很生氣的錯誤，於是我們就被罰在烈日下練軍姿，也就是站著不能動。教官把醫護人員都請來了，誰中暑昏倒，馬上拉到一邊打點滴。當時絕對超過華氏100度，不到半小時就倒了三個。我也開始頭昏眼花，就在快要倒下時，趕緊念我的「五字真言」！最多念了五、六聲，忽然覺得奇怪了，怎麼太陽沒有剛才那麼毒了呢？偷偷擡頭一看，整個天空一片蔚藍，還是烈日當空，可是偏偏就在我的頭頂正上方不知道從哪裏

When I first learned Buddhism and read the Venerable Master's teachings, I often sighed and lamented that because of my heavy karma, I didn't have the causes and conditions to draw near great, wise teachers. I yearned to live a life of cultivation at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, but I didn't know anyone there and didn't know how to enter its gates. So I first planned to move to Ukiah and then go to the Sagely City to participate in learning and cultivation. That very night, I dreamed that the Venerable Master, just like his photographs in the books, smiled at me and said, "You have come!" This was my initial cause and condition when I first moved to the Sagely City.

After moving to the Sagely City, there were Dharma Masters and lay people who took care of me. But there were still many major and minor issues and



problems that I couldn't manage myself and I would request the help of the Venerable Master by "crying aloud for help." Every cry for help was answered. To me, the Venerable Master has taken excellent care of me in every way! Often I would wonder what kind of causes and conditions I have with the Venerable Master.

The new soldiers' training, the boot camp, was grueling and unendurable beyond words. Fortunately, I had the "Five-Syllable True Words," so whenever I encounter difficulties I would recite these Five-Syllable True Words in my mind, and all troubles would be transformed into auspicious things! What is this Five-Syllable True Words? Perhaps someone will say, "I know, it must be the five syllables, 'Guan Shi Yin

Pusa [Bodhisattva], right?" No, it was "Venerable Master, please save me!"

During the boot camp for new soldiers, one time someone made a mistake which made the training officer extremely angry, so all of us were punished by being made to practice military bearing—which was standing still without movement—under the hot summer sun. The training officer even called out all the military medics, so whoever fainted from heat stroke could be pulled aside and injected with fluids. At the time, the temperature must have exceeded 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Within half an hour, three people fainted from heat stroke, and I was beginning to get dizzy and had blurred vision, so I quickly recited my "Five-Syllable True Words". After reciting at most five or six times, suddenly I felt that the sunlight shining directly on me was not so lethal. I stealthily stole a glance at the sky. The entire sky was deep blue and it was the hottest time of the day, but directly on top of my head a tiny cloud had rolled in. Just how small was this cloud? The cloud was so small

冒出了一朵小雲。小到什麼程度呢？它的陰影遮到了我整個人以及我左右兩邊兩個人的肩膀，如此而已！此情此景，到現在我還記憶猶新！因為萬里晴空就只有太陽和我頭頂的小雲，如此奇特的景象，絕非自然形成，更勿論恰好遮到我而已！當然除了這一次之外，還有多次，在聖城一直到現在，上人對我的無微不至，真是「千次祈求千次應」！所以我從來都不覺得上人離開了我們，他一直都在我們的身邊！

我一開始就已經知道部隊即將前往伊拉克。在報到的前一天晚上，夢見上人。上人皺著眉頭對我說：「你要去殺人了？」因為在這之前我並沒有向上人求助過，一下子不知道該怎樣回答。出聖城前問過上人，答案是：「縱使百千劫，此業不消亡。因緣聚會時，果報還自受。」本來想說既然冤親債主已經找到了我，那就去看是要討債還是還債好了。但是我可不敢這樣跟上人說，於是問上人：「不去行嗎？」上人沉默了一陣子，點頭說：「行！」

第二天醒來我也沒有多想，或許潛意識告訴自己：命令都已經下來了，豈能更改。於是就去部隊報到，正在填表，有一個人從我身邊走過，走過去了，他又折返，站在我旁邊看我填表。我轉頭一看，原來是我的士官長（部隊裏最高的執行長官）。我連忙起立，他問道：「你是從新兵訓練直接過來的？」我說：「是。」他說：「嗯，你和家人也有好幾個月沒見面了吧？」我又說：「是。」

他皺著眉頭想了一會兒，說：「你知道部隊就要出發了吧？這一去又是十幾個月，這樣不太好。」那個……（他喊了一個人的名字，我後來得知是我們管人事的中士，你過來一下！那個中士跑步過來，士官長指著我說：「你把這個士兵調到 XX 連去。」管人事的這位中士一聽面露難色地說：「他們已經要出發了，這……」士官長說：「我不知道嗎？要不要我教你怎麼做？」那中士連忙說：「不用！不用！我知道該怎麼處理了！」士官長這才露出滿意的神色，轉頭對我說：「有什麼困難就找這個中士，他如果幫不了你，就來找我！」說完就走了。

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that it could only shade me and the shoulders of two people directly to my left and right—that's it! This extraordinary and spectacular sight couldn't have formed naturally, for it exactly covered and shaded me! Of course, there were many other incidents from the time I was in the Sagely City until now—during which the Venerable Master showed me such meticulous attention and assiduous care. Indeed, this is often referred to as, "Thousands of appeals are met with thousands of responses!" Therefore, I have never felt that the Venerable Master has left us because he is always near us!

I knew in the beginning that my unit would be deployed to Iraq. The night before reporting to duty, I dreamed of the Venerable Master. The Venerable Master frowned at me and said, "You're going to kill people?" Because I had never appealed to the Venerable Master for help prior to this incident, I did not know how to respond. Before leaving the Sagely City, I had asked the Venerable Master, and the answer was: "Even after the passing of hundred thousand eons, this karma cannot be eradicated. When the causes and conditions converge, you yourself still have to bear the karma." Initially, I thought about replying that since my creditors or debtors have sought me out, what else could I do besides going to see whether it would be to collect debts or pay off debts. However, I dared not say such things to the Venerable Master. Instead I asked the Venerable Master, "Is it OK if I don't go?" The Venerable Master was silent for a while; then he nodded his head, saying, "Yes!"

The second day, after waking up, I did not think much of the dream, but in my subconscious I told myself that since the orders had been issued for reporting to duty, it could not be changed. Thus I went to my unit to report for duty. As I was filling out the form, one person walked passed by me, but after he passed by me, he walked back and watched me as I filled out the form. I turned my head to find that it was my Command Sergeant Major (the highest-ranked officer in the unit). I quickly stood up. He asked, "Are you the new soldier straight from the boot camp?" I replied, "Yes." He said, "Oh. So you haven't seen your family for many months?" I replied again, "Yes."

He furrowed his eyebrows and thought for a while, then said, "Do you know that this unit is about to be deployed? This deployment will last more than 10 months; this is not good." Then he shouted out a person's name. (Later I learned that this person was the administrator for this unit, a sergeant.) "You come here!" That sergeant ran over, and the command sergeant major pointed at me and said, "You must transfer this soldier to XX subunit." The administrator who was the sergeant then frowned and complained, "They are about to be deployed, this..." The command sergeant major said, "You think I don't know this? Do you want me to teach you how to do it?" Then the sergeant immediately replied, "No, no! I know how to do this work now!" Then the command sergeant major, with a look of satisfaction, turned to me and said, "If you have any problems, find this sergeant. If he can't help you, come see me!" After he said that, he turned and left.

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那個中士打量了我半天，才問：「士官長是你爸？」我搖頭。他又問：「是你親戚？」我又搖頭。他鬆了口氣，說：「那我就納悶了。你知道我有多少文件要處理才能把你調到XX連去嗎？」我也好奇，問：「中士，這個XX連是幹什麼的？」他說：「我們這次差不多90%的人都要去，就剩下XX的連不用！」我一聽大吃一驚，才想起昨晚的夢，原來上人不是開玩笑的！

衆生有感，佛菩薩就有應。上人住世時我沒有見過他的面，但是上人的種種教化，多次的顯現，讓我真切地感到上人一直還在我們的身邊，他的法身真是盡虛空遍法界啊！這次我深刻的體會到上人實在是太慈悲了！我都沒有去求上人，因為自己沒臉，他老人家竟然主動現身，把不可能變成了可能，真的是師恩難報！

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The sergeant looked at me for a while then asked, "Is the Command Sergeant Major your father?" I shook my head. He asked again, "Is he your relative then?" I shook my head again. He took a breath, relaxed, and said, "Then I'm quite puzzled here. Do you have any idea how much paperwork and documents I have to file just to transfer you to XX subunit?" I was curious too, and I asked, "Sergeant, what is this XX subunit? What do they do?" He said, "This time about 90% of the people will be deployed, except this XX subunit!" Upon hearing that, I was shocked and remembered last night's dream: So the Venerable Master was not joking with me!

Whenever living beings appeal for help, the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas respond. I never met the Venerable Master when he was alive but the Venerable Master has taught and transformed me on numerous occasions, with many manifestations. I feel that the Venerable Master is still near us, that his Dharma body truly pervades space and encompasses the inexhaustible Dharma Realms! This time, I deeply felt the Venerable Master's kindness and compassion! I did not even appeal to the Venerable Master for help because I was so ashamed. But he initiated his help by manifesting in front of me, which is transforming the impossible into the possible. Indeed, this grace is difficult to repay!