

古剎掠影

參訪中國佛教感言

謝國正文 / 林家安英譯



A Reflection on the Journey to China: A Glimpse of the Ancient Monastery

By Larry Hsieh / Translated into English by Chia An Lin

由恆實法師帶領，萬佛聖城中國佛教訪問團一行十五人，包括兩位法師（恆實和近永法師）和十三位居士分從美國和台灣兩地出發，在中國江西省南昌市會合。並有來自上海、北京等地六位法師和居士亦參與其中，進行為期兩週的參訪交流活動。

從十月二十七日至十一月八日止，前後共參訪真如、東林、龍華、玉佛、荐福觀音、天津大悲院、柏林、戒台、潭柘、雲居和龍泉等十一座道場，參加三場佛學研討會。我們一路從南昌經上海到天津，後至石家莊，最後到北京。行程不調不緊湊，但沿途卻處處令人法喜充滿，飽嘗千年古剎意境的深邃和氣勢的宏偉，令人不得不興起思古之幽情，彷彿一切都似曾相識和親切。

此行印象最深者莫如拜訪天津的荐福觀音寺。拜訪的前一日，天津市地區下了一場比往年早半個多月來勢不小的初雪，讓乾旱已久、飢渴的大地獲得短暫的滋潤和生息。可是當我們傍晚從上海

Dharma Master Sure led a delegation of fifteen people representing the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas to visit China. In addition to DM Sure and DM Jin Yong, there were thirteen laypeople who traveled from the US and Taiwan and met in Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province. Six Dharma Masters from Shanghai and Beijing also joined us for these two weeks of visiting and mutual exchange.

From Oct. 27 to Nov. 8, the delegation had visited eleven monasteries - Zhenru, Donglin, Longhua, Yufo (Jade Buddha), Jianfu Guanyin, Tianjin Great Compassion Hall, Bolin (Cedar Forest) Monastery, Jietai, Tanzhe, Yunchu and Longquan, and participated in three Buddha Dharma study seminars. We traveled from Nanchang through Shanghai to Tianjin, stopped in Shijiazhuang and reached Beijing at last. The journey was a hectic one, but it brought pleasant surprises to all of us. The grandeur and majesty of the thousand year old monasteries made us ponder the ancient times. Everything seemed so familiar and affable.

I was very inspired by our visit to Jianfu Guanyin Monastery. The day before our visit, Tianjin had an early snowstorm. The storm was about two weeks too early but it also brought a stop to the drought in the area. When we reached Tianjin in the evening from Shanghai, gentle snowflakes fell from the sky, as if the heavenly fairies were scattering flowers to welcome us, as if Guanyin Bodhisattva was blessing us with sweet dew. The local tour guide welcomed us in his gentle Beijing dialect and said that our visit had brought this early snow in Tianjin.

We went to Jianfu Guanyin Monastery the next morning. The monastery

抵天津時，天空卻只飄來徐徐的雪花，彷彿天女散花般迎接我們的到來，也恰似觀音菩薩加持予我們的甘露，讓我們一路平安抵達。來迎接我們的導遊用溫文的北京話親切的問候說，你們的到來可真給我們天津帶來了瑞雪。

隔天一早來到荐福觀音寺，住持妙賢法師以大陣仗的儀式迎駕我們，讓人有受寵若驚之感。或許是因聞法而來的信眾實在太多，竟安排恆實法師在近攝氏零度下的戶外廣場講法。從台階上往下一望人頭攢攢，少說也有近兩千人。也許有不少是衝著好奇而來，「到底這個洋和尚能為我們中國人講些什麼東西？」妙賢法師還說，本來會有更多人來聽法，因天氣太冷，有些年紀較大的不方便出門。「哇！實法師的號召力可真不小。」我暗地自言。

開示時，恆實法師字正腔圓習慣地以「天不怕，地不怕，就怕洋和尚說中國話。你們怕不怕？」做為開場白，信眾報以一陣笑聲和鼓掌齊答曰「不怕！」，「好！那我就可以講法了。」他以一貫詼諧幽默的口吻，引用上人的教誨、自己學佛經驗和觀音菩薩感應的故事貫穿全場。也許是信眾不畏風寒站在廣場上的誠心，也許是恆實法師的慈悲與智慧，也許是諸佛菩薩的加被，全場的信眾被感動得幾乎人人眼眶溼溼。我也被這場不可思議的力量所感，不斷尋找動人的畫面「卡擦、卡擦」地按下快門。最後，恆實法師以上人「忍耐！忍耐！多多忍耐！娑婆訶。」的忍耐咒送給信眾，勉勵大家在任何困境下都要忍耐。實在難以忍受時，就唸上人教我們的這個忍耐咒，一切困難就可獲得舒解。當下的感想是，一個中國話非其母語、藍眼睛的洋和尚竟能讓那些幾乎從未出國的中國北方佬感動到幾乎落淚，除了實法師自己的修為外，是否

Dharma Master Miao Xian, the manager of Jianfu Guanyin Monastery in Tianjin, introduces us to the audience.

天津荐福觀音寺住持妙賢法師向信眾介紹本會訪問團及恆實法師。



manager, Dharma Master Miao Xian welcomed us in a grand ceremony which made us feel surprised and flattered. Because there were too many people, Dharma Master Sure had to deliver his speech in sub-zero temperature outdoors. Looking downward from the steps, I saw a sea of heads; there were at least 2,000 people. Maybe some came out of curiosity, thinking, "What can this foreign western monk possibly teach us?" Dharma Master Miao Xian said that there were more people who wanted to join us but the poor weather conditions didn't allow those who were too old to come. I thought to myself that Dharma Master Sure certainly was popular to attract such a big crowd.

Dharma Master Sure began by saying "Not afraid of heaven, not afraid of earth, you're only afraid of a foreign western monk who speaks Chinese. Are you people afraid?" The audience laughed and applauded, then answered "No!" "Good, I can continue my lecture then." In his speech, he used a humorous but noble way to deliver his message to the audience. He used the Venerable Master's teachings, his personal experience and stories of Guanyin Bodhisattva to win everyone's heart. Maybe it was the audience's sincerity, Dharma Master Sure's compassion and wisdom, or the Buddhas' blessing, but everyone was touched by this moment and many had misty eyes. I was moved by this incredible force, so I used my camera to capture these



1 DM Sure lectures on the different aspects of kindness and compassion at Longquan Monastery. (On the left is Dharma Master Xuecheng, the abbot of Longquan Monastery.) 恆實法師受邀於北京龍泉寺開示「慈悲的不同面觀」(左為龍泉寺方丈學誠法師)。

2 DM Sure plays guitar and sings Buddhist songs as an expedient way of inspiring people to learn Buddhism.

恆實法師用吉他演唱佛曲，接引人學佛。

3 On Nov. 2nd in Tianjin's Jianfu Guanyin Monastery, the subzero outdoor temperature does not deter people from sincerely seeking the Dharma.

零下的氣溫，也阻擋不了求法的熱誠。(天津荐福觀音寺11/2)

4 The audience of Longquan Monastery applauds after listening to DM Sure's lecture. 龍泉寺聞法信眾對恆實法的開示鼓掌不已。

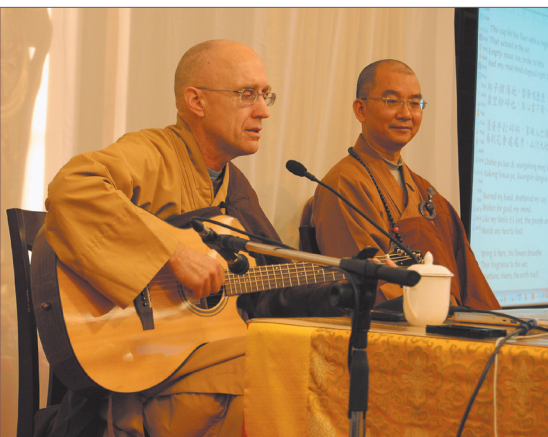


也有上人的加持？

2 午齋後，大家被安排看表演，首先登場的是比丘尼國樂團演奏三寶歌等，其細膩的演奏，出乎大家意料之外，接著是男眾樂隊賣力而盡性的佛曲和民謠表演。然後，是女眾的合唱，當這些似乎主要由家庭主婦組成的合唱團開口唱出「六字真言頌--觀世音菩薩如秋月」的第一句歌詞時，全場幾乎被那高亢嘹亮有如天籟般純真的歌聲給震攝，由於曲調有如秋天般淡淡的哀愁，大家鼻子為之一酸，眼眶也跟著溼潤，人人似乎陶醉在觀音菩薩的六字大明咒下，閉眼默唸。最後，在對方的要求下，我們也在實法師的帶動下，齊唱萬佛城校歌「盡虛空」回饋，雙方互動熱絡。

縱觀這次的大陸行，恆實法師用吉他唱佛曲的機會不少，也感動不少人。

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precious moments. Dharma Master Sure concluded with the Venerable Master's patience mantra, "Patience, patience, and more patience swo po he" to remind everyone that in tough circumstances, endurance is key. When one is at the tipping point, repeat this patience mantra, and any difficulties will be resolved. I wondered, "How did a blue-eyed, fair-skinned monk deliver so much in a language that is not his native tongue? How did he move these northern Chinese people to tears?" Maybe besides Dharma Master Sure's own cultivation, he was also blessed by the Venerable Master?

3 After lunch, performances were arranged. The first performance was by the Bhiksuni Chinese Orchestra, playing an excellent rendition of the Triple Jewel song. Then the laymen brought us folk and Buddhist-inspired songs. The laywomen choir, mostly housewives, sang "Verse of Om Mani Padme Hum—Guanyin Bodhisattva Resembles the Autumn Moon." When they sang the first chorus line, we were all moved by the heavenly voices, the bright and strong voices from above.

4 There was a hint of nostalgia in the melody, a feeling of autumn that made everyone's eyes misty. Everyone seemed to be enjoying Guanyin Bodhisattva's Verse of Om Mani Padme Hum; many closed their eyes and sang along with the choir. Upon request, Dharma Master Sure led us in singing the school song of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, "Throughout Empty Space." We had a great time.

Throughout this journey to China, Dharma Master Sure would often play his guitar and sing Buddhist songs that touched many people's hearts. At the last stop, Longquan Monastery, he played his guitar and sang Elder Dharma Master Hsu Yun's Verse of Enlightenment in English.

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➔ 上承 封底

在最後一站龍泉寺開示時，他彈吉他唱虛雲老和尚的英文開悟偈「杯子撲落地，響聲明漑漑……」，並彈吉他教導信眾用英文演唱大家熟知的外國民歌改編的佛曲，引起相當的共鳴。他說用吉他演唱佛曲是一種方便法，不喜聽經的，唱佛曲一樣可以度眾生學佛。那用其他的工具行嗎？

只要我們留意，其實不只音樂，其他寫作、繪畫、吟詩填詞、建築、雕塑，乃至攝影、電影、電視，甚至各行各業謀生所使用的工具，只要善用其心——一顆慈悲喜捨的心，熟練技巧，都應可以拿來度化眾生，而不必拘泥於傳統方式，不是嗎？從恆實法師身上，我們看到運用多元化工具弘法利生一個成功的典範。



➔ Continued from back cover

It begins: “The cup falls on the ground, the breaking sound is clear and crisp....” He also taught people how to sing well-known English folksongs, all of which was well received by everyone. Dharma Master Sure plays guitar and sings Buddhist songs as an expedient way to reach those who don’t like listening to traditional sutras. Singing Buddhist songs has the same effect of crossing over living beings, leading them to learn Buddhism. What about other tools for such purpose?

As long as we pay attention to our surroundings, we will find that many activities and things are instruments of the Buddha’s wisdom. Not only music, but writing, painting, architecture, sculpture and photography can be used as vessels of the Buddha’s wisdom to benefit living beings. Even movies, television shows and other media have the power of bringing goodness into people’s lives. If we have a kind, compassionate, joyous, and generous heart, we can help transform living beings. We don’t have to limit ourselves to traditional ways; this is something that we can all learn from Dharma Master Sure. We see that he is a successful example of using multidimensional tools to bring the Dharma to everyone.