

# 萬佛城內洗塵埃 【窮子歸寶所】 (續)

*The Poor Son Returns Home:*

## *Cleansing Myself at CTTB (Continued)*

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各項法會結束後，馬來西亞訪問團也回去了，只留下我及另外一位女孩子準備常住，攻讀僧伽居士訓練班及當義工。後來有機會見到上人，上人說我們剛來的時候帶了很多的黑氣，現在才慢慢的消失。正如《法華經》所講的，窮子回去大富長者的家後，需要若干之時日以除去「糞便」，這亦即是要去除自己貪、瞋、癡三毒的習氣毛病，亦是心靈之環保。

### 宣公上人的環保教育

因為廟上的東西不可隨便丟棄，所以不知不覺的就存放了一房間的瓶瓶罐罐，大大小小，長方圓短，應有盡有。一日，當時我正在整理這些「寶貝」，上人忽然出現，令我驚訝萬分。就在此時，上人說：「你堆放那麼多『垃圾』做什麼？該丟的就要丟掉！」但是看到我愣在那兒，上人接著又說：「我教妳怎樣放！小的罐子應該放入大的罐內，才不會浪費空間！」上人邊做邊示範。（當時瑜伽鎮尚未聽到「環保」的名稱，但上人已教導我第一個「R」——Reduce減量。瑜伽鎮政府在1991年才開始資源回收方案）。

上人的許多教導都是教世人如何節省能源，如日中一食可節用世間的糧食，及減低電力、人力等的消耗；不吃的兩餐，又可迴向給饑餓的人士。

一張擦面紙，上人可用數日；

寫黑板時選用最小的粉筆頭；

用過的信封翻過來再使用；

這都包含了 Reduce（減量）

Reuse（重複使用）

Recycle（資源回收）。

At the end of the Dharma assembly the Malaysian delegation returned home, leaving me and one other woman behind. We enrolled in the Sangha Laity Training Program and worked as volunteers. Gradually I began to see the Master and talk to him. He said that we had brought dark energy with us, but it was slowly dissipating. We were like the poor son in the *Lotus Flower Sutra*, who, after returning home, was given the job of disposing of dung. This means to eliminate our own bad habits of greed, hatred, and ignorance—the three poisons—so we can protect the integrity of our mind, our inner environment.

### How the Venerable Master Taught Me to Recycle

Life in the temple was frugal: we did not simply throw away things. Without realizing it, I had gradually piled a room in the kitchen full of glass bottles and other containers. One day, when I was arranging them, the Venerable Master caught me by surprise. He asked, "Why do you keep so much garbage? You should throw away things that need to be thrown away." Picking up some cans, he said, "I'll show you how to arrange these. Small containers should go into the larger ones. That way, you won't waste space." Although Ukiah began recycling in 1991, the Master had already personally taught me at CTTB the first R of the 3Rs: Reduce.

The Master taught us all how to use our own resources and to conserve existing resources. For example, eating one meal a day (for



上人給我寥寥數語的言教及身教，有舉一反三，乃至更多的作用。以後凡是遇上橫逆境界，或難以處理之事務，乃至面臨臭氣沖天、好壞摻雜、沒有分類的垃圾時；都能當機立斷，該丟則丟。如此，則不至於「應斷不斷，必遭其亂。」

### 活用錦囊妙計

因為持有上人的「錦囊妙計」，所以後來有很多難辦理的事情，都能迎刃而解。

大約是1986年中旬，在一星期內，我們前後曾經接到辦公室兩項通知：

第一件是要在一星期內，清掉三間房間內所有一切東西。

原因是：消防局來聖城作安全檢查時，無意中發覺有三間空房內堆滿許多易燃品，如舊報紙、發霉紙張，還有堆積如山、塵封的舊書籍等等，亂七八糟的混在一起；再加上七橫八豎的蜘蛛網，實在有點恐怖！因此處久被忽略，既沒有人住，又沒人打掃，以致形成被個人或其他部門所隨意堆放書籍、物件之處。

第二件事情，是必須在一個月內整理及編號圖書館所有的書籍，乃至於要採用美國國會圖書館 (Library of Congress) 的編碼。這真是一個大工程！事有輕重急緩，我們決定先整理三間房間內所有易燃品，然後才全力以赴去整理圖書館。

眼見一夜間要丟棄所有的書籍，甚為可惜。於是我們開始將之分類，並用許多箱子分類裝好；同類的疊放在一起。並在箱子上註明其類別。全部書分類後，分別放回原來的三個房間內，並在三個門上分別貼上標籤。那些舊報紙、壞紙箱等實在不好處理，但是全部掃起來後，就可以放入鐵桶內做燒火爐點火用；發霉紙張則放入火爐內焚燒，以後還可當肥料用。

因多日來的趕工，我們已筋疲力盡，所以決定休息一天。誰知消防局之檢察官就在此日突擊檢查，在辦公室之帶領下，又再度出現在這三個房間外面。然而他們很驚訝的以為走錯了門口，因為裡面是那麼的整齊，外面的標籤宛然改觀了整個局面；於是他們很滿意的說：「做得真好！你們已令一切改觀！」

the left-home people) can reduce the world's food consumption and save electricity, natural gas, water, and manpower. The food that we don't eat can be left for hungry people. He also reused envelopes and made a piece of napkin or chalk last for days. His every action was a real-life demonstration of the 3Rs: reduce, reuse, and recycle.

With a few words and illustrious role modeling, he taught us to accord with all situations, so that when we encounter adversities or even favorable conditions, we can quickly distinguish them and discard what needs to be discarded. That way, we will not be confused by states.

### Putting the Superb Strategies to Good Use

Because the Venerable Master taught us his wonderful set of superb strategies, later on, I was able to manage many difficult tasks that came my way.

Around mid-1986, within a week, we received two notices from the office:

1. The fire department is coming for an inspection. Clear out everything in three certain rooms within a week. The fire department had recently inspected CTTB and found three rooms filled with combustible materials such as old newspapers, dusty books, tapes, and an assortment of moldy papers piled up like little mountains. With cobwebs everywhere, the sight was horrific. Since no one lived in the rooms, people casually stored their stuff in them.

2. You have one month to systemize all the books in the library according to the Library of Congress classification method. A massive task! We decided to clean up the three rooms before tackling the library.

Deciding that it would be a shame to throw away the books and materials, we sorted them into various categories and labeled the boxes according to subject matter and languages, then stacked them neatly in the rooms. As for the old newspaper, broken cardboard boxes, and moldy papers, we put them in a big old steel barrel and burned them to ashes that we used then for fertilizer.

After days of hard work, we were utterly exhausted and decided to rest for a day. Who would have known that the fire department would come for a surprise inspection! When the office staff led the inspectors into the three rooms, they were shocked, thinking they had walked into the wrong rooms. The entire look and feel of the rooms was transformed by the neatly stacked and labeled boxes. Satisfied, the inspector said, "Good job! You made a difference!"

The "re-use" philosophy was put into use again: the garbage had been transformed into treasures! Now, after all these years, with the opening of the Ukiah Recycling Center, other than Buddhist books and materials, many of these treasures have been transformed back into recyclables!

This minor success gave us great encouragement, and I had this



所以很顯然的，在當時「再利用」的哲學使它們能再派上用場；「廢物」經過整理後，可變成「寶貝」。但是過了數年，等到瑜伽鎮政府的資源回收公司開張後，除了佛教文物外，大部份的「寶貝」又搖身一變，成為「資源回收物」了。

此次的小成功很令人鼓舞，這令我體會到：東西不怕有，只怕不會收拾。於是我們又進軍到圖書館，立刻展開一連串的活動：幫忙圖書館重新整理及分類所有的書，然後把已有編排號碼的書籍貼上標籤。此外所有的地方也須一一的收拾，不但如此，在百忙中，我們還要向一位外來資歷深厚的圖書館管理員學習美國國會圖書館 (Library of Congress) 編排號碼方式。但是很可惜因我的心定不下來，未能專心學習。於是我乾脆花時間在排書(有人教我們以書打書，果然每本書被輕打後，都非常整齊的排列在一起)。每日的敲敲打打，所謂「不打不成材」，漸漸地增進整齊，齊頭並進。等到圖書館檢查人員快到時，室內地上已掃得一塵不染。檢查人員到的當日，我們又特別在最顯處，如正門前之走道、正門進口處及各個主要進口處，又再掃個纖塵無染。(這使我想起我小時候，為了迎接新年之到來，就會盡全力把家裡頭打掃得幾乎是「清潔溜溜」)。

結果不負眾望，檢查人員到來時，在他們眼前亮晶晶的走道，加上排列整齊的書架，竟然深深的吸引了他們；因而他們評定我們是「整齊而乾淨」——這是我們通過檢查的主要因素之一。

小時候，那位印度小販的良好模範及家人的簡樸節約生活，令我學會愛護資源；然而上人的言教及身教，讓我體會到光打掃外面的垃圾是不夠的，心靈環保才是最重要的！很感恩上人買下這個地方，留給世人不朽的遺產——萬佛聖城，讓我們在此得以藉事鍊心，藉掃地、掃地、掃心地，來漸漸地除去自己內心的塵垢——貪、瞋、癡三毒，早日返回本來的清淨面目。



realization: Do not fear things, only fear not being able to organize them! Thus we marched into the library and immediately began organizing the books and cleaning up the place. An experienced librarian came to help and taught us the Library of Congress classification system. We also learned to lightly hit the books together so they could be placed neatly next to each other on the shelves. And so every day, we hit here and we hit there, going forward head to head. Soon, the entire book collection was classified. Before the library inspectors were due, we targeted the most obvious spots—the corridors, front entrance, and corners, cleaning them until they sparkled. As a saying goes, “unstained by a single speck of dust.” This reminded me of my childhood before lunar New Year when I would clean up the entire house to make it “free of all dust and dirt.”

No one was disappointed. The sparkling corridors and the neatly shelved books left a deep impression on the inspectors. They certified us as being orderly and clean, the most important factors in passing the inspection.

In my childhood, the good role models shown me by old peddler and my relatives who lived a simple and frugal life led me to appreciate and cherish what we had. With a few words and illustrious role modeling, the Master made me feel it is not enough to only clean up garbage outside, for the spiritual environment is the most important! I deeply appreciate the Master's purchase of this place, leaving the world an immortal legacy—the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, where we can link our actions to the mind, by purifying our minds as we sweep the grounds, so that we gradually eliminate the dust from the three poisons of greed, hatred, and delusion within our hearts, and quickly return to our original purity.