

覺醒之路：

學習正法真逆流



The Path to Awakening: Learning the Proper Dharma Is Truly Going Against the Flow

陳親珠 2009年10月11日講於台北法界印經會

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張秀樂 英譯 Translated into English by Hsiu-Le Chang

回想十年前，同事將上人的事蹟和開示介紹給我，我看了好歡喜；直到後來，我經歷孩子突然的往生，我才真正走上覺醒之路。孩子往生的那一天，佛友到家裏安慰我和同修，跟我們講了很多有關佛法的道理。我記得印象最深刻的一句話——己所不欲，勿施於人！孩子的往生雖然令我們很痛苦，卻是我們一家重新開始，我們開始反省以前所作所為，和探討孩子突然往生的原因。

孩子往生之後，檢察官決定解剖驗屍，我們請求不要，他卻堅持非做不可。我們真的很難過很不忍，但是想到上人開示「崇禎皇帝前生的公案」，我們再怎麼不

I recall being delighted ten years ago when my colleague introduced the Venerable Master's biography and Dharma talks for me to read. Later on, when I experienced the sudden death of my child, that was when I started to walk on the path to awakening. The day my child passed away, many Buddhist friends came and tried to comfort me and my spouse. They told us many principles of the Buddhadharma. The one I remembered most was, "Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself!" Even though the death of our child was very painful, it was a new start for our family. We started to reflect on our past behavior and tried to discover the reason for the sudden death of our child.

After the child's death, the prosecutor decided to dissect the body. We begged him not to, but the prosecutor insisted that it had to be done. We really had a hard time bearing it, but we thought of the Venerable Master telling the story of Emperor Chong-Zhen's previous life and

捨，也只能讓孩子「隨緣了舊業」了。解剖的那天，孩子從冷凍庫推出來退冰，家屬必須一起進去解剖。我跟同修說：「我們真的很自私！以前從賣場買回的雞鴨魚肉，或從冰箱拿出冷凍肉來切割，我們從來不覺得牠們會有痛覺；現在換成我們的孩子，我們卻心痛不捨……」後來在地方法院聽檢察官的報告，我看到孩子被解剖的照片，我簡直是痛苦到快崩潰了！

母親來看我時，我覺得自己很不孝，長那麼大還要父母為我擔心，所以我裝得一副很堅強的樣子，告訴媽媽：「我沒事！請不要擔心！我有吃飯……」但是眾人散去後，我總是呆望著天空落淚；沒有孩子，我的心很痛。如果我沒有接觸佛法，我一定會瘋掉，我很想知道「為什麼會這樣呢？」

那時有很多同事問我：「我們每個月都一起集資印經書或做善事，你怎麼還會碰到這樣的事呢？」我很清楚地回答：「雖然我知道印經書、做善事很好，但我從不覺得自己『可惡』。就拿日常生活來說，為了滿足口腹之慾，就把活蝦直接丟到油鍋裏，或是趕到石門水庫吃活魚三吃，完全不管牠們的死活。其實我『身、口、意』時時都在造惡，我的惡業真的不可計數。」

佛教說：「一切是因果，人人無處躲。」我的心像在迷迷茫茫的大海裏，想找個可以離開這個苦海的辦法。我知道唯有不再造「惡因」，才不會遭遇「惡果」。我下定決心從自己做起，修正一切錯誤的行為，不再做不應該做的事，從此全家吃素、皈依三寶、受五戒。記得皈依三寶、受五戒的那天，家裡的突發狀況很多。我心想人生無常，錯過這次機會，也許以後就沒有改過自新的機會，所以在心裏求上人，讓我有改過向上的機會。等載我們的車子一到，我什麼都不管，只說一句話：「大家都要上車！」我重生的日子是民國八十九年四月二日。

在九十年代，我看到《智慧之源》刊登「週末兒童班」的消息，就想帶孩子參加。後來大兒子放暑假，同修鼓勵我搭車帶孩子來法界參加法會及「兒童讀經班」。每逢星期六、日，我將小兒子背在前面，後面背個大背包，裡面有讀經班的課本、奶瓶、奶粉、尿布；就這樣背一個、牽一個，搭公車轉捷運，或騎摩托車

became resigned that no matter how much we did not want it, we had to let our child work out his old karma. On the day of the autopsy, my child was released from the freezer to defrost and the family had to be present for the process. I told my spouse, "We are really selfish! In the past, when we bought chicken, duck, or fish from the market or took meat out from the fridge to cut, we never thought about the other beings' sufferings; but now that it was our child [being cut] we felt so much pain..." Later, when we went to the court room to hear the report from the prosecutor, I saw pictures of my child's autopsy; I was in so much pain that I almost collapsed!

When my mother came to visit me, I felt that I had not been filial to her. I had grown to such an age but I still made my parents worry for me; therefore, I pretended to be strong and told her, "I am okay! Don't worry! I've already eaten..." But when the crowd left, I would always stare at the sky and cry; without my child, my heart was burning. If I hadn't come in contact with Buddhism, I would absolutely have gone crazy. I really wanted to know why my child had to die.

At that time many colleagues asked, "We raised funds each month to print sutras or do good deed; how could such misfortune happen to you?" I answered clearly, "Even though I knew that printing sutras and doing good deeds was good, I never realized I was so cruel." To take an example from daily life, just to satisfy my palate, I would put live shrimp into a pot of boiling oil or I would go to the Shihmen Reservoir to eat live fish cooked in three ways; I did not care about other beings' survival. In fact my body, mouth and mind are always doing evil; I have committed countless offenses.

Buddhism teaches that, "Everything is cause and effect; no one can escape." My heart was like a sea of confusion; I wanted to find a way to leave this sea of bitterness. I knew the only way to do this was not to create any bad cause, so bad consequences would not come upon me. I made up my mind to start with myself, to correct all the wrongdoings and stop doing what shouldn't be done. From that day on our whole family became vegetarian; we took refuge with the Triple Jewel and took the five precepts. I remember the day we took refuge with the Triple Jewel and five precepts, many unexpected things happened. I thought to myself life is short; if I miss the opportunity this time I might not have another chance to start a new life. For that reason I prayed to the Venerable Master and begged him to give me a chance to start anew. When our ride came, I did not think of anything and just said, "Everyone get in the car!" My new birthday was April 2, 2000.

Near the end of 2001, I read an announcement in *The Source of Wisdom* newsletter about weekend classes for children. I wanted to bring my children to attend the classes, so when my older son was on summer break my spouse encouraged me to bring them to attend the Dharma assembly and the sutra class for children.

轉搭火車，我們很辛苦地來到法界印經會。

以前小兒子年紀小，星期日法會我常常要抱著他，坐在最後一排的椅子。一天的法會下來，回到家將孩子從背巾上解下來，我整個人累得癱倒在沙發上。在我很累的時候，我會問自己：「為什麼要那麼辛苦的去道場？」我想為人父母能照顧孩子的，只有眼前；孩子突然在你面前跌倒受傷，父母也沒辦法替代。學習佛法，培養孩子的正知正見，讓他的八識田裡種下善的種子，令他生生世世不會走錯路，那正是我給孩子最好的禮物。

有一天，我洗大兒子的枕頭，要大兒子拿弟弟以前用過的枕頭用；睡覺前，一個說那是他以前用過的，另一個說那是媽媽幫我準備的，兩個小孩就吵個不停。我跟小的說：「好！如果說那個枕頭是你的，你把所有你所謂『你的』拿在手上，『你的』玩具、『你的』書包……。你兩隻手可以拿多少？」我又問他們：「如果現在突然大地震或大火災，你要逃命，你要帶什麼一起逃呢？」兩個小孩靜靜地沒人回答。我說：「你們現在爭的這個東西能保護你嗎？這有那麼重要嗎？記得危險的時候要趕快念佛！不該死的，會平安無事；就算死了，也有阿彌陀佛接引，這才是最重要的。我們已經很幸福了，不要再吵！」

我今年到聖城受「在家菩薩戒」，法喜充滿！感恩家人對我的幫忙，他們總是幫我注意今天是不是六齋日。有一次，為了星期六要帶孩子去兒童班，我問同修：「明天會不會下雨？」我同修很自然就拿起遙控器，想開電視看氣象報告；兒子馬上大聲說：「媽媽今天不可以看電視！」頓時，同修的手停住了。

每個人都有他不同的苦，我雖然曾經傷心、痛苦，但現在我會提醒自己要小心，不要再走錯路。但我相信——只有佛法，能讓我們找到真正離苦得樂的方法。學習佛法、皈依三寶、受五戒、去萬佛聖城受在家菩薩戒，是我生命中最幸福的事。感恩諸佛菩薩、師公上人對我這愚痴眾生，一直不棄不離；感恩法師慈悲教導；也感恩所有為道場付出的人，因為你們讓我很感動。

Every Saturday and Sunday I would carry my son in front of me and a big backpack on my back. I would take the public bus and train or take the motorcycle or public transit, carrying the backpack containing sutra books, baby bottles, milk powder, and diapers. It was quite cumbersome for us to go to the Dharma Realm Buddhist Books Distribution Society.

When my younger son was young, I had to hold him all day when we attended the Sunday Dharma assembly; we would sit in the last row of chairs. When we arrived home after the assembly, I would untie the towel that held my baby to my body and would lay on the sofa feeling totally exhausted. During that time, I often asked myself, "Why do I still go to the temple when it is so difficult?" I believe parents can only take care of their child in the present, but if they suddenly fall and hurt themselves there is nothing we can do about it. Learning Buddhism can help children develop proper morals and values, planting good seeds in their minds that will benefit them in life after life. This will guide them so they will not go astray. I believe that is the best gift I can give to my children.

On one occasion, I washed my oldest son's pillow and told him to use his younger brother's old pillow. Before bedtime, they were fighting over the pillow. One said that it was the pillow he used to use, and the other said mother had prepared it for him to use. I told the younger one, "Okay! If you think this is your pillow, please take all your belongings in your hands, such as your toys, your book bags etc... see how much your two hands can hold." I also asked, "If there were a sudden earthquake or fire right now, what would you bring along with you to escape?" They both stood there quietly without answering my questions. I said, "Can the things that you guys are fighting over protect you? Are they really that important? Remember to recite the Buddha's name when you encounter danger! If you are not meant to die, you will be safe; even if you die, Amitabha Buddha will come to bring you to the Pure Land. This is the most important thing; we are very fortunate already, so please do not fight!"

This year during Christmas, I took the Lay Bodhisattva Precepts and was filled with the joy of Dharma! I really appreciated my family's support and help; they always remind me about the six vegetarian days. On one occasion, I wanted to bring the kids to the Saturday children's class so I asked my spouse if he knew whether it would rain. He took the remote control in order to switch on the TV to watch the weather forecast but my son said, "Mom, you cannot watch TV today!" At that point, my spouse stopped his action.

Everyone has his or her own sufferings. Even though I was once very hurt and sad, now I always remind myself to be very careful and not to walk the wrong path. I believe only the Buddhadharma can help us find a way to leave suffering and attain happiness. Learning the Buddhadharma, taking refuge with the Triple Jewel, receiving the five precepts, and going to CTTB to take the Lay Bodhisattva Precepts have been the most wonderful experiences in my life. I am grateful to all the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas and the Venerable Master for being so kind to me and never forsaking me. I appreciate all the Dharma Masters for their teachings, and I also want to thank the volunteers because they have really touched my heart.