

宣化上人事蹟（中國篇）

Events in the Life of the Venerable Master: The China Period



白山黑水育奇英（續）

White Mountains and
Black Waters Nurture
Rare Talent (Continued)

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05. 叩頭因緣

上人十二歲時，幡然省悟，每天向父母叩頭悔過；後來一路增加到八百三十七個頭，早晚各一次，直至廬墓守孝。上人以身教、言教訓勉弟子，父母是堂上的活佛，佛教徒重視孝道是本份。

上人自述：

（一）覺醒悔過禮父母

我小時候最歡喜吃好東西，誰要有什麼好吃的東西，無論在家裡、在外邊，若不給我吃，那怎麼樣也是不行的！等到十一、二歲的時候，自己才省覺：「我這個人怎麼這樣頑皮，這樣不守規矩？這樣做人沒有什麼意思，何況我對自己的父母也不孝順。」我知道以前所行所作都是不對的，於是從十二歲那一年，改過自新，改惡向善。這時候，不知道什麼叫佛的戒律——諸惡不作，眾善奉行——完全不懂；雖然不懂，可是我所行所作和佛的戒律，默默中相符合。

在這個時候，我想我要學好，要先從孝順父母開始，於是我下決心對父母悔過認錯。我跪到我父親母親面前，我父親母親就問：「現在也不是過年，你給我們叩什麼頭呀？」在北方過年的習俗，是可以給父親母親叩頭拜年。我說：「你們生我已經十二年了，我令你們這樣操心，給

5. The Reason for Bowing

When the Master was 12 years old, he realized his mistakes and bowed to his parents every day to show his remorse. He kept increasing the number of bows until he was bowing 837 times every morning and every evening while his parents were alive. After his mother's death, he lived in a hut beside her grave in mourning. Using his own behavior as an example, he taught others. Parents are living Buddhas in the home. Being filial to one's parents is the basic teaching of the Buddha.

As told by the Venerable Master:

1. After reflecting and repenting, I bowed to my parents
I liked good food when I was a kid. If someone had something delicious, no matter if it was at home or outside, he had to share it with me or I wouldn't let him go. When I was 11 or 12 years old, I wondered: *How can I be so naughty and disobedient? It is meaningless to live such a life. I am not filial to my parents.* I became aware that everything I had done before was wrong. So I changed my behavior at the age of 12 and followed good examples. At that time, I didn't know the Buddha's teachings, such as "do no evil, do good deeds." Though I didn't know much about Buddhism, I began to follow the teachings.

If I wanted to be a good person, I thought I should start respecting my parents. So I bowed to them and admitted my wrongdoings. They said, "Today is not New Year's Day; why are you bowing to us?" In northern China, it is traditional for

你們惹了很多的麻煩，也沒有聽過你們一句話，我實在對不起兩位老人家。」我父親聽我這麼樣一說，就哭起來。我說：「你不要哭！從今天開始，我要把以前惡劣的習慣都改了，天天給你二老叩頭悔過，我再也不會對你們忤逆不孝了。」我父親說：「只要你聽話一點，叩不叩頭沒關係；你總給我們叩頭，我們也不好意思。」

我想一般人沒有天天給父親母親叩頭的規矩，他們一定不會許可我天天這樣子做，這怎麼辦呢？於是我就想了一個方便法，打個妄語，我說：「我昨天晚間作了一個夢，不知道是佛還是菩薩告訴我，他說我的罪業很重，不久就要死了。如果我要不死的話，就要天天給父親母親叩頭。我也不相信這個夢，但是我很怕死。」我父親母親一聽，沒有話講了，只好說：「那就隨你囉！」從這以後，我天天給父親母親叩頭。父母以為「人之將死，其言也善」，這個孩子是不是真的活不了多久呢？所以每次我向父母叩頭，父母就流眼淚。為了怕父母傷心，就改到院子裡叩頭。

（二）一路增加無畏苦

叩了一個時期，我就想這個世界上，不是單單父母親對我好，世界上有天、地、君、親、師這五大恩。天會覆我，地會載我，天地對我有恩，我應該報恩。君是國家的元首，我也應該報恩。親，就是父母。師，我那時候就覺得將來會有師父，雖然我沒有見著師父，沒有拜師父，但我也要先向師父叩頭。所以我就給天叩三個頭，地叩三個頭，國家元首叩三個頭，又給父親叩三個頭，母親叩三個頭，又給我老師也叩三個頭。

叩完了覺得還不夠，我聽人說聖人是生而知之的，又給世界上古今的聖人叩頭。給聖人叩頭以後，又加上賢人，又加上大忠臣、大孝子、大偉人、大哲士、義夫、節婦。因為他們能影響我，諸惡不作，眾善奉行；他們能影響我怎麼樣做一個無愧於天地的正人君子，所以我要感謝他們，向他們叩頭頂禮。然後我又想到，不善的人、大惡人、大壞人、大無賴、大流氓，這些人怎麼辦呢？於是我又向他們叩頭。一般人是給佛叩頭，給菩薩叩頭，給大菩薩、大佛來叩頭。我那時候很愚笨的，想這些大惡人、大壞人，在世界上很可憐的，他們在六道輪迴沉淪，離佛道越來越遠，所以我就給他們迴向，希望他們都改惡向善。

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children to bow to their parents on New Year's Day and wish them good fortune. I replied, "For the 12 years since I was born, I have caused you nothing but trouble. Yet, you never reprimanded me or said anything. I feel really remorseful." My father cried, but I said, "Please don't cry. From now on, I will change my bad habits and bow to you every day to show my remorse. I won't be unfilial to you any more." My father said, "You don't have to bow as long as you listen to us. We'll feel uncomfortable if you bow to us every day."

I thought since ordinary people did not bow to their parents every day, my parents certainly would not let me do it. "What should I do?" I asked myself and finally came up with an expedient method which was to tell a lie. I told them, "I had a dream last night in which a Buddha or a Bodhisattva told me that my offenses were very heavy and I would die soon if I didn't bow every day to my parents. I don't believe the dream, but I'm afraid to die." My parents couldn't refuse me. They said, "Okay. It's up to you." So I continued bowing to them. They thought, "A person always says something nice when he is dying. Maybe our son will die soon." Every time I bowed to them, they cried. To keep them from being so sad, I changed to bowing in the courtyard.

2. Increasing the number of bows with no fear of hardship

After bowing for some time, I had this thought: *This isn't enough. In this world, I am blessed with the sky, the earth, the king, my parents, and my [future] teacher. The sky covers me and the earth supports me. I should respect them. The king is the leader of our country, and I should also respect him. My parents deserve my respect. Though I hadn't met my teacher yet, I knew that I would one day, so I should respect him also.* So I bowed three times each to the sky, the earth, the king, my father, my mother and my teacher, respectively.

After some time, I still felt this was not enough. I heard that sages were born with wisdom, so I bowed to all the sages in the world. Later, I added good people, loyal officials, filial people, great people, great philosophers, and chaste men and women to my list. They influenced me not to do anything bad, but to do good things--to become a man with integrity. I bowed to thank them all. Then I thought: *What about bad people?* So I bowed to them as well. Normal people bow to the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, but I was foolish. I felt sorry for bad people. They would transmigrate over and over in the Six Paths, moving farther and farther away from the Buddhist Path. So I transferred my merit to them, hoping they would correct their wrongdoings and become good.

To be continued