

crying during the Liberating Life Ceremony and you may have wondered why. Well, I'll tell you. The reason I wept was because I realized one of these birds had been a monastic disciple of mine in a previous life. But this monastic strayed from the path, and eventually strayed so far that now he has been rebirth as a bird. It was because of this that I couldn't help but weep out pity."

The ceremony at Western Bliss Gardens was an unforgettable experience for me. The fact that Master would shed tears over the karmic fate of one disciple shows the depth and genuineness of his concern for disciple. His weeping for a little bird shows me that the Master's compassion is so far-reaching that it really does extend to all living beings.



麼。好吧！我告訴你們！我發現這些放生的小鳥裡，有一隻是我前世的出家弟子。但是他誤入歧途，終至偏離太遠，以致今生做鳥。今日與他在此種場合見面，不禁悲憫落淚。」

西樂園寺的放生法會，是我終生難忘的一次經歷。上人竟然會為被業力所縛的弟子而流淚，顯示了他對弟子強烈而真實的關切。他為一隻小鳥而哭泣，讓我發現，上人的慈悲，真的是如此深遠而普及於一切眾生！

永恒的追思

In Memoriam with Deepest Respect

比丘尼 恒持 文 (摘錄) Excerpted from a poem by Bhikshuni Heng Chih

*The Buddhist Lecture Hall locale
In San Francisco's Chinatown
Was the Way-place where we awakened
To the wisdom of Foremost Shurangama,
To karma, to causes, effects, and more.*

三藩市裡中國城，
佛教講堂是道場，
覺悟因果與業緣，
首識楞嚴大智慧。

*We found our Teacher who taught us before.
We wept for joy at this rare reunion.
If asked why we cried, no words came forth.
When we asked why, the answer was kind:
"You ride on vows you should renew."*

今生重遇往昔師，
喜極而泣欣重聚，
是何因緣淚難忍，
乘願而來謎情解。

*"Take refuge with three--the Triple Jewel
And follow the precepts to make yourselves pure.
Precepts are the basis of Buddhism.
From them comes samadhi and then comes wisdom.
No outflows is the ultimate aim."*

皈依持戒返清淨，
佛法根本在戒律，
定慧由茲自然生，
最終目的是無漏。

*Such mighty vows! Such gentle guidance!
How can we hope to repay that kindness?
"Only when no one is here in the hells
Will I consider my job complete."
A thump of his staff! A tinkle of rings!*

軟語教化誓弘深，
師恩浩瀚難酬報，
地獄不空誓不休，
錫杖震地鈺環響。

*Who was he, our Humble and Wise Advisor?
Some say he was indeed Earth Store.
Others say he was Cao Xi Source.
Let me quote once upon a time:
"Who is Amitabha? I am Amitabha!"*

明眼知識竟是誰？
地藏菩薩再臨世？
曹溪寶林是來處？
同參一語驚迷夢，
阿彌陀佛在面前。

*Down into the dark, rich soil
Of this vast and vibrant Western land
He planted a small Bodhi seed.
First guiding its slender sprout with care,
Eventually he nurtured a tender trunk.*

西方黑肥沃土中，
細細撒下菩提種，
殷殷看顧嫩芽生，
終至茁壯成樹幹。

*Like the moon in waters his transformations abound.
In dreams he offers comforts and cures.
May we meet him again in Amita's Pure Land.
Meanwhile, we know what we must do:
Bring our own Bodhi resolve to perfection!*

化身無數水中月，
直向夢中尋慰藉，
彌陀淨土願重見，
廣發圓滿菩提心。