

Events in the Life of the Venerable Master: The China Period 宣化上人事蹟（中國篇）

White Mountains and Black Waters Nurture Rare Talent (Continued)



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08. 難彈落日弦

上人一生的遺憾，就是沒有報國。日本侵華，佔領東北；他看見日本蹂躪中國，曾想從軍打日本，未能遂願。上人曾說：「出家未忘忠貞志，不改國籍溯本源。我雖然出家了，我沒有忘掉『忠心為國』的思想。我是中國人，永遠是中國人，生生世世、在在處處都是中國人。等中國真正強大了，我那時候或者已經不在了，或者還在；不管在不在，我希望我這一生，最低限度不改變我的國籍。我不貪任何的便宜和方便，因為我沒有忘本。」上人忠貞愛國之心，唯天可表。

上人自述：

我十二歲就想修道，可是以後看見日本侵略中國的殘暴行為，我也曾想保國衛民，可是沒做到！九一八事變那時候，我當時十四歲，還不太懂事，不知道什麼叫國？什麼叫家？以後日本人來了，到處摧殘中國的老百姓，我就想去參加革命軍去打日本；可是怎麼樣也沒成功，沒能遂我的志願。我一生的遺憾就是沒有報國，不能為國流血流汗；以後各處給人治病，漸漸走到出家這個途徑上了。

08. Unable to Fight Japan

All his life Master Hsuan Hua regretted that he had not fought for his country. When Japan invaded China and occupied Manchuria, he saw the havoc that was being wrought and wanted to join the army; but he wasn't able to. He once said: "Just because I am a monk does not mean that I am any less loyal to China. Although I have become a monk, I have not forgotten the maxim: 'Be loyal and faithful to your country.' I am Chinese and will always be Chinese. Everywhere and in every situation, I will remain Chinese. When China becomes a world power, I may still be alive or I may already be dead. But whether living or dead, the least I can do is remain true to my nationality. I will not be corrupted by the desire for personal advantage, because I cannot forget where I come from." The loyalty and patriotism of Master Hsuan Hua are beyond words.

As told by the Venerable Master:

When I was twelve years old, I wanted to practice Buddhism. Later when I saw the Japanese invading China and witnessed their ruthless brutality, I wanted to defend my country, but I was unable to. At the time of the Mukden incident in 1931, I was fourteen; I was not yet very knowledgeable. I didn't really understand what country or family meant. Then the Japanese came and rained down destruction upon ordinary people all over China. I wanted to join the revolutionary army and fight against Japan, but I didn't know how to do this, so I was incapable of realizing my dream. All my life I have regretted that I did not fight for my country--that I was unable to sweat for it and shed blood for it. Later I treated the illnesses of people in various places and gradually advanced along the path to becoming a monk.

At that time I didn't hate the Japanese--there was no point in hating them. I wanted to find a way to fight against them. The way to fight against them was with "fire," so I prepared to launch a live-fire attack. Japan belongs to fire, I thought, so a live-fire attack would give the Japanese a taste of their own medicine. For example,

當時我不恨日本，恨他們是沒有用的，我要想法子來對付他們。對付日本的方法，就是用「火」來攻，我預備到什麼地方都用火攻他們。日本屬於火，我想以火攻火，以毒來攻毒；譬如用火把他們住的地方都給燒了，叫他們無家可歸。在日本投降的前五年，按著這五行來推測，我早就說過，日本投降那一年，這日本他一定會衰了、沒有了。

【後記1】民國20年（1931年）9月18日，日本突擊佔領瀋陽，奪東三省。民國34年（1945年）9月9日，日本正式投降。

【後記2】日本投降是1945年，歲次乙酉，民間說「日落申，點燈酉」，這時候「太陽」下山，氣勢漸衰。上人在前五年預測時，歲次是庚辰年，太陽在辰，氣勢正強，日本恣意蹂躪中國因火旺。但物極必反，火過午就漸衰，而酉年屬金，火金相剋，故日本氣盡。

問：上人心懷中國，為什麼把自己的道場設在美國？

上人：我一向是人棄我取，別人不去的地方我去。臺灣這裏多的是道場！

09. 皈依三寶

上人訪師求法，經過三年，遇到上常下智老和尚。上人一見大師，感覺早已熟識。上人拜問了生脫死之法，大師說：「真誠持久，實踐篤行；法門不二，向上一乘。」上人聞法受益，衷心喜悅，於是拜老和尚為師，正式皈依三寶。

上人自述：

我沒出家前，皈依常智大師。常智大師和常仁大師都是雙城縣的人，智公是常仁大師的師弟。我作夢讀了幾天書，所以斗大的字也認識幾籊筐；也因為我識字不多，所以就拜一個不認識字的人作師父。他俗家姓孟，一般人稱他叫孟打頭，因為他帶著一班工人去做工，做工頭的。又叫孟豆腐，他會做豆腐，所以也歡喜吃齋。常仁大師在守孝的時候，他常年給王孝子（即常仁大師）送飯；這都是靠他做豆腐，或者當打頭賺的錢，一方面養家，一方面供養王孝子。他為人忠厚誠實，總是吃虧讓人。受常仁大師的感化，萌出家之念。

◎待續

one might burn down their houses, so that they would be left homeless. Five years before the Japanese surrendered, I predicted that Japan would lose, based on an analysis of the Five Elements.

Note 1: On September 18, 1931, the Japanese suddenly invaded Shenyang and occupied Manchuria. The Japanese surrendered on September 9, 1945.

Note 2: Japan surrendered in 1945, which is the 22nd year of the Sexagenary Cycle, known as Yi Jiu. There is a popular saying: "The sun sets in the time of Shen; the light is lit in the time of Jiu." At this time the "sun" goes down, the strength of its light gradually weakening. Master Hsuan Hua predicted this five years prior to the end of the Sino-Japanese war. It was in the 17th year of the Sexagenary Cycle, known as Geng Chen, that the sun was at its highest point. Japan was shamelessly ravaging China. However, after reaching its zenith, it began to lose force. The year of Jiu belongs to metal, which conquers fire. Thus, Japan lost the war.

Question: If you love China so much, why did you establish your monasteries in America?

Answer: I always do the things others don't want to do. There are already a great many monasteries in Taiwan!

09. Taking Refuge in the Triple Jewel

After searching for his Dharma teacher for three years, the Venerable Master found Elder Master Chang Zhi. After one look at the Great Master, he felt they had known each other for a long time. He asked the Great Master about the Dharma for ending birth and death, and he answered, "Be sincere and consistent in practicing and be loyal to what you practice. This is the one and only way to ascend upward and to attain enlightenment." The Master felt wholehearted joy upon hearing this that he accepted Elder Master Chang Zhi as his teacher and formally took refuge under him.

As told by the Venerable Master:

Before I became a monk, I took refuge with Master Chang Zhi. Master Chang Zhi and Master Chang Ren were both from Shuangcheng city. Master Chang Zhi was the younger Dharma brother of Master Chang Ren. I read some books during my dream so I knew some characters. Since I didn't know many characters, I chose an illiterate person to be my teacher. His family name was Meng. He received the nickname of Leader Meng because he supervised a team of manual laborers. People also called him Meng Tofu, because he made tofu and was thus happy to practice vegetarianism. He took meals to Master Chang Ren throughout the entire period when the Master was observing mourning for his parents. With the money he earned from manual labor and from his tofu business he supported both his family and the filial son. He was honest and considerate of others; consequently he was always cheated and taken advantage of. Moved by the consistent kindheartedness of the Master, he decided to become a monk.

◎To be continued