

## Embarking on a Journey of Metamorphosis (Continued)

### 踏上羽化的旅程 (續)

果婦 寫於2010年8月9日台灣

Written by Guo Chang on August 9, 2010 in Taiwan

慕西 英譯 Translated into English by Muxi



《法華經》是經中之王，《華嚴經》是經王之王、法界之經，《華嚴經》是成佛的經典，法師以文殊師利菩薩告訴善財童子之話勉勵：「善男子，求善知識，勿生疲懈。見善知識，勿生厭足。於善知識所有教誨，皆應隨順。於善知識善巧方便，勿見過失。」周遭的事物皆是我們的善知識，不論他們示現的是好或壞的一面，但問自己不染污，記住一念瞋心起，百萬障門開的道理。法師以無形慧劍斬斷我們不正確及混淆的知見，讓我們開門見山，豁然開朗。

三星期《華嚴經》研習課程，讓我們入寶山而掬滿懷。上課法師與翻譯的法師，不顧白天參與法會，和處理廟務法務的疲憊，晚課後再為遠方來的我們傳輸精神食糧，好讓我們站穩腳步，讓正法永存。經過不斷的提問，腦力激盪，似乎回到學生時代，由剛開始的生澀，到最後大家踴躍發表個人感想。晚上就算回到宿舍，大家依然繞著上課法師所說過的話轉，提醒彼

The *Lotus Sutra* is the king of sutras whereas the *Avatamsaka Sutra* is the king among the kings of sutras. It is the sutra of the Dharma Realm and the sutra that will cause the realization of Buddhahood. The Dharma Master exhorted us with what Manjushri Bodhisattva said to Youth Sudhana, “Good man! When seeking a good wise teacher, one should not become lazy and lax. When seeing a good teacher, one should not become tired of him. One should accord with good teachers’ instructions and exhortations. One should not find flaws in the skillful means that good teachers employ.” Everything happening around us can be a teaching from our teachers. Regardless of whether things are manifesting a positive or a negative side, we should only ensure that we are not defiled by the circumstances. We should remember, “With one thought of anger, ten thousand doors of obstruction open.” The Dharma Master used the wisdom sword to directly rectify our incorrect, confused knowledge and views so that our understanding of true principles became crystal clear.

After the three-week Avatamsaka Study Program, we came out fully loaded with fruitful results. The two Dharma Masters who were responsible for the lectures and for translation continued to nourish us with spiritual food after evening recitation despite their exhaustion from handling the monastic affairs and participating in the Dharma session during the day. Because of them, we could stand firm on our feet and cause the Proper Dharma to abide in the world eternally. In being asked to answer questions or brainstorm, we felt as if we had gone back to being students again. The class went from being shy and timid to enthusiastically expressing our ideas and feelings. Even after we had gone back to the dormitory for the night, people would continue discussing the topics from class. It was quite interesting because we either reminded one another of our own practices or gently laughed at one another.

Moreover, the Dharma Master in the kitchen prepared light, healthy,

此或善意的嘲笑對方，煞是有趣。

除此，負責餐點的法師，不遺餘力精心製作清淡、營養、健康美食滿足我們的胃，我們得以親身體驗，不同於家鄉的異國風味飲食。一個月來，法師於凌晨信眾仍酣睡時，已起身燒好熱開水供我們起床飲用。時常於我們上床後，仍在廚房藉著微弱燈光，準備隔天的食物，因法師用心呵護，我們的體力足以持續到最後。

道場內，羅漢道是大家最喜歡去的地方，此處不僅可欣賞小徑兩旁栩栩如生的十八羅漢石雕像，還有一座圓形廣場端坐世尊如來石雕像。來此彷彿走進時光隧道，幽林裡；往昔世尊講經說法，人人皆為證果阿羅漢，多走幾回，心中多幾分渴慕，想做好佛弟子的心也愈增強。

法會期間除了剛開始幾日下小雨，其餘日子陽光溫煦、萬里晴空，偶而祥雲聚集，無形中一股力量，激勵大家更勇猛精進。夜晚，清澈天空於無光害下，滿天星斗距離我們如此的近，似乎觸手可及，冷冽的寒風吹過樹梢，一種說不出的寂靜祥和。佇立夜色下，感覺法身的家如此不同凡響，是一種清淨、出離與無我。回顧剛來的雜亂，經過法師刻意安排課程和照顧下，大家不但於午齋時分享彼此的學佛心得，也於《華嚴經》研習時，勇敢舉手搶答。彼此不管來自哪個國度，相互融入法的滋潤，不吝學習互助。

提起行篋環顧周遭，教導我明白事理，面對境界跳脫生死之處，此行有因為成長蛻變的痛。有一晚上課時，法師帶領我們讀《華嚴經》〈淨行品〉時，看到經上言：「見昇高路，當願眾生，永出三界，心無怯弱。」當下心頭記著「永出三界，心無怯弱」，明白羽化過程沒有不付出代價，凡彎身走過，前頭總會海闊天空。走出戶外，踏上車子，再揮手，窗外法師們置身細雨，他們抬首引頸朝著我們微笑，嘴裡有著叮嚀。當車子離開，最後一陣裊裊煙霧散播於大地時，再回首，一大團影像依舊在遠遠燈光下揮舞雙手，雨；仍繼續下著。

and nutritious food that satisfied our stomachs. We had an opportunity to taste a variety of international cuisines different from our hometown food. During the entire month in the early morning while we were still asleep, the Dharma Master boiled water for us to drink. After we had gone to bed, she would still be in the kitchen preparing food for the next day under dim lights. Because of her extra care, our physical strength could support us to the very last minute in the session.

In the monastery, the Arhat Trail was everyone's favorite place to go—not only to look at the vivid stone sculptures of the 18 Arhats, but also to admire the stone-carved image of the World Honored One in sitting position at the circular pavilion. When we went on the trail, it was as if we had gone back in time. In the verdant forest, the World Honored One was speaking Dharma and everyone had the potential to become awakened as an Arhat. Walking on the trail time after time, the yearning and strong wish welled forth: I want to be a good disciple of the Buddha!

During the session, the sky was bright and cloudless with mild sunshine except the first few days when the rain was drizzling. Once in a while, some clouds gathered and formed an invisible energy that encouraged us to be more vigorous. At night, the clear sky was filled with stars. Without air pollution, the stars seemed so close to us that we could almost touch them. A chilly breeze rustled the tip of the branches. As I stood there at night, an indescribable peace and serenity made me feel that this home of our Dharma bodies was so extraordinary—it was all about purity, renouncement, and no-self. I also reflected on my chaotic state of mind when I just arrived at this place. Following the Dharma Masters' arrangements, at lunchtime we shared enthusiastically our personal experiences about how we came to learn Buddhism. In the evening lectures, we also bravely raised our hands to answer questions. Regardless of which country we came from, we were infused with the nourishment of Dharma and learned so much from one another.

Picking up my luggage, I looked around this place that taught me to understand the principles and the specifics. Facing the states of mind in the quest to transcend birth and death, this journey brought me the pain of metamorphic transformation. One night, when the Dharma Master led us to recite the Pure Conduct Chapter, we read,

“When I see a road going uphill,  
I vow that sentient beings  
Will eternally transcend the Three Realms,  
Their minds fearless and undaunted.”

I understand that there is always a price to pay in the eclosion process of personal growth. When one bends down to walk through this path, the horizon in front of us will always become open and vast. Walking out of the door and stepping into the car, I waved my hand. The Dharma Masters standing in the drizzling rain smiled at us still giving us exhortations. As the car left the campus, the last trace of swirling smoke and fog scattered in the great earth. When I turned around again, shadowy forms were still waving their hands under the light in the distance. The rain continued to fall.