



宣化上人事蹟（中國篇）

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

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White Mountains and Black Waters Nurture Rare Talent (Continued)

宣化上人事蹟編輯委員會新編（2009年）
A New Edition (in Chinese) by the Committee for the
Publication of Venerable Master Hsuan Hua's Biography
姚敏 英譯 Translated into English by Yao Min

10. 求學新生（續）

上人自述：

（一）先難後易初入學

他就曾經這樣讚歎過我，他說：「看你這個樣子，一點都不聰明；但是你記憶力這麼好，你真是和顏回差不多了！」我一聽他這麼讚歎我，就生了貢高心，我說：「我怎麼可以比得了顏回呢？而且我也不願意和顏回比，為什麼呢？顏回聰明太過了，變成一個短命鬼；我如果和顏回一樣，我會不會和顏回一樣的年紀就死了？！」以後我就給自己起一個別名，叫如愚子，這就是一個貢高的名字。本來壽命長和短沒有什麼分別，你要是怕短命，這就是著住到壽者相；你若歡喜長命，這更是著住到壽者相，所以我不願意學顏回的短命，也不願意學彭祖的長命。

（二）上課頑皮趣事多

我很歡喜對對聯，全班有三十多個同學，上對聯課時，差不多有二十五個都找我當槍手。你說這怎麼辦？我就模仿他們寫的字，幫他們對。總而言之，都可以幫他們敷衍交卷子。我記得有一次，老師出的上聯是：「鴻雁空中過」，我給同學當槍手，對：「麋鹿山內遊」。先生看了，就對這個人說：「這是你對的嗎？」他說：「是。」先生說：「你能想出這樣的好句子來？可是這個字又

10. Education and a New Life (Continued)

As told by the Venerable Master:

First Stage of School – Difficult at the Beginning and Easy Later

He complimented me, “You don’t look very smart but you have an excellent memory. You are the same as Yan Hui, the great student of Confucius.” I was a little arrogant after hearing his compliment and replied, “How can you compare me to Yan Hui? I don’t want to be compared to him. Why? He was smart but didn’t live long. If I were the same as he, would I die as young as he did?” I chose a name for myself later – a fool. Actually, it was an arrogant name. In essence, there is no difference between a long life span and a short life span. If you are afraid of death, you are attached to living a long life. If you prefer longevity, the attachment is even worse. Therefore, I neither wanted to have a short life span like Yan Hui nor a long life like Peng Zu (a long-lived figure in Chinese history).

Second Stage of School – Fun at School

I enjoyed matching couplets. Thirty-some fellow students in my class. In the matching couplets course, about 25 of them asked me to be their ghost writer. I precisely reproduced their handwriting and completed the couplets assignments for them. I proved to be successful every time. I recall the time when the teacher assigned part one of the couplet, “The bird flies through the air.” I composed the second line of the matching couplet for my classmate, “The deer roams in the mountains.” After the teacher read the sentence, he asked the student, “Did you write this?” The student replied, “Yes.” The teacher responded, “I don’t think you can come up with such a good matching phrase but the handwriting is yours. What’s going on?” It makes me laugh to recollect these things from the past.

像你寫的，這是怎麼搞的？」回憶年少這些往事，很好笑的！

在私塾裏讀書的時候，我也很頑皮，不知耍過多少把戲。我有個同學讀了十二年書，我只讀了半年書。他在學校裏當學長，就像班長或學生主席似的。老師如果不在學校，他就做代理老師要同學背書。可是老師不在學校時，學生多數不會好好讀書。到背書的時候，誰也背不出，他就罰同學跪在至聖先師——孔子的牌位面前，好多人跪在那兒。我為他們抱不平，因為我是第二個主席，我說：「你們現在都起來，不要跪了，看他能怎麼樣！」這些學生看我支持他們，都站起來。主席氣得用眼睛瞪我，卻奈何不了我，我對他說：「將來你小心點！我要為大家報仇的。」

沒過兩個月，雖然他讀了十二年的書，我超過他，變成我是主席。老師不在學校，我當代理老師，看著同學背書。我第一個叫他背，他背不出，我就說：「你到孔子那兒跪著！」他望著我，也不敢不跪。我對學生們說：「你們都會背了沒有？」有的說會，有的說還不會。我說：「你們在那兒站著念，什麼時候會了，什麼時候再來背。」結果只有他一個人跪著，別的學生都站著念書，氣死他了！

11. 讀書要訣

上人讀一天的書，旁人二十天也讀不了。「三到」、「三上」，是上人讀書要訣；他讀書專心，和書本合而為一，所以讀得快，記得也快。

上人自述：

「讀書法，有三到；心眼口，信皆要。」什麼叫「三到」？就是眼到、口到、心到，不打妄想，專心讀書；眼睛看著書，心裏想著書，口裏念這個書，這是三而一、一而三，心眼口合作叫三到。這必須要專一；專一則靈，分馳則弊。

還有「三上」，就是路上、廁上、枕上。當我走路，眼睛看著路，心裏背書、口裏背書，一遍又一遍地背。要是背熟了，每一天要溫習一、兩遍，這樣永遠都不忘了，這叫路上。

待續

I was naughty and played many tricks when I was in the private school. One of my classmates had studied for twelve years and I had studied for only a half year. He was the leader of the school, much like the leader of a class, and served as the substitute teacher when the teacher was absent. On one occasion when he was the substitute teacher, he asked the students to recite a book. As you know, when the teacher is away, the majority of the students won't study hard. When he told them to recite, no one could. He punished the students by making them kneel down in front of the name plate of Confucius. Many students were kneeling, and I felt it was unfair. I was the second chairman so I spoke to the students, "Get up! No need to kneel anymore! Let's see what he will do!" The students complied and stood up. The leader was angry but he couldn't do anything. I told him, "You'd better be careful! I will get back at you for what you have done to them!"

In less than two months, I beat him in reciting the classics; then I became the leader. When the teacher was away from school, I was his substitute and supervised every student in reciting. I called on the ex-leader to recite first. He couldn't do it. I said, "You kneel down in front of Confucius!" Then I asked the other students, "Are you able to recite now?" Some said yes, some said no. I said to the students who were studying their books, "Come here and study until you are ready to recite." In the end, only the ex-leader was punished by kneeling down in front of Confucius. All the other students were standing and reciting. He was furious!

11. The Secret of Reading

The number of books that the Master could read in one day couldn't be finished by normal people in twenty days. The 'three faculties' and the 'three places' were the secrets of the Master's reading skill. He concentrated and became one with the book, so he read fast and fully retained everything he read.

As told by the Venerable Master:

The first secret of reading is the 'three faculties.' Mind, eyes, and mouth are all required to achieve concentration. While reading, a person should focus the mind, eyes, and mouth without any distracting thoughts. The eyes should be on the book, the mind should be thinking of the book, and the mouth should be reading the book. The three faculties become one, and one encompasses the three. The combination of mind, eyes, and mouth is called the 'three faculties'. You must concentrate. It works if you concentrate, but not if you are distracted.

The second secret is to read in three places, which are: on the road, in the bathroom, and on the bed. When I walk, my eyes are on the road, but my mind and mouth review the books, reciting them over and over. Once memorized, I review them once or twice a day until I can never forget them. This is called 'on the road.'

To be continued