

I AM ONLY ABLE TO HELP PEOPLE IN REAL NEED

我只能幫助 真正需要的人

艾潔莉 文 Written by Jerri-Jo Idarius
佛子 中譯 Translated into Chinese by Fwo Zi

Although I was not a disciple of Shr Fu [the Ven. Master], I was privileged to have had the benefit of his friendship and assistance during a time of need. I began working for CTTB in the fall of 1979 as a teacher of calligraphy. Later I was allowed to set up a graphics art studio with Linda Pecaites in the building adjoining the ceramics studio. I believe it is now called Wonderful Words Hall. There I taught classes and worked on publication projects for *Vajra Bodhi Sea*, the *Lotus Sutra*, and other books. The time between the fall of 1979 and the summer of 1981 was difficult for me personally. I was leaving a ten-year marriage and transitioning into single motherhood. My son Bodhi was three to five years old during this period and was also going through a difficult period of adjustment.

Although I have hints of the history of my relationship with Shr Fu from past lives, I have to rely on the dream he sent me shortly after beginning to teach calligraphy to the nuns. In this dream he said, "Please come here and bring your friends. You bring a nice family feeling to this place." This resulted in the formation of a pre-school taught by two nuns, which Bodhi and his Ukiah friends attended. I also brought many friends to the Master's lectures through the next several years. I always felt welcome and unencumbered by rules, as long as I showed appropriate respect for others.

In the winter of 1980, my best friend from childhood, Barbara Mayginn, had a second child. She had moved to Ukiah from Portland, Oregon in the 1970s, had married a friend in my spiritual group, and had become a disciple of the same spiritual Master. In January 1975, she had a son named Shamaz. My son was born exactly one and a half years later. Our boys spent two years in Instilling Virtue School during the time I worked at CTTB. Barbara's second child was born caesarean. After the birth she was weak and was not recovering in a normal fashion. She soon found out that the doctor had cut a ureter (the tube that transfers urine from the kidney to the bladder) during the operation. Therefore, a second operation had to be performed. During the recovery



雖然我不是上人的弟子，但是在我困難的時候，我很幸運地受到了他的恩惠及幫助。1979年秋天，我開始在萬佛聖城教授書法。後來我和琳達在城內一間陶藝工作室旁，設立一間藝術工作室，現在叫做妙語堂。我在那裡教課，並參與《金剛菩提海》、《妙法蓮華經》及其他書籍的出版工作。在1979年到1981年間，是我生命中一段艱苦的時期。因為那時我結束了十年的婚姻，轉入單身母親的行列。而我的兒子菩提那時正是三歲到五歲之間，適應上也有一些困難。

雖然我覺得自己和上人在前世有一些關係，但我還是仰賴上人在夢中給我的示現。在我開始教尼眾書法後不久，有一天在夢裡上人說：「到這裡來，也帶你的朋友一塊兒來，你給這個地方帶些家庭的氣氛來。」因為這樣，所以就成立了幼稚園。我的兒子菩提，和他在瑜伽市的小朋友們就來這裡上學，當時由兩位尼師任教。接著幾年我也帶了很多朋友來聽上人說法。只要我對人尊重，人家也對我很友善，我也不覺得城裡的規矩有什麼不方便。

1980年冬天，童年好友芭芭拉產下第二胎，她在1970年由奧立岡州的波特蘭搬到瑜伽市。她嫁給我的一位道友，也成為我師父的弟

period in the hospital, complications set in. Barbara's body began producing blood clots, and the doctors decided to put her on the blood thinning drug, heparin. This in turn caused internal hemorrhaging in the abdominal cavity. Again, she was in a life-threatening situation. During this critical period, the doctors were undecided as to what to do, and time was running out. We were losing Barbara.

On the morning of February 14, 1980, I phoned a nun at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas and told her about Barbara's condition. She, in turn, notified Shr Fu, who was in San Francisco that day. Later the same day, I called Gold Mountain and asked a monk to relay more details to Shr Fu. I was told that this was not customary and that he probably would not respond. However, I was insistent. A call was returned by the same monk within ten minutes, telling me that Shr Fu said I should recite the name of Guanyin Bodhisattva. I did so.

The doctors had decided that the only possibility of saving Barbara was to perform a third surgery, this time clamping the vena cava to protect her heart from a large blood clot. I recall a visible cloud of darkness in the hospital and the feeling of being surrounded by death. I had the sudden realization that I might never see my friend again. I recalled many scenes from our childhood and our lives together and became very sad at the thought of losing her. This was a stark possibility. My emotional reaction was very strong, and I almost panicked.

During the third operation, I received a page to pick up a telephone in a waiting room. It was Shr Fu himself. I always recognized his phone calls by the vastness of the silence before he spoke. It was like picking up the phone and listening to empty space. He told me to recite for Barbara with sincere single-mindedness – "Namo Guan Shi Yin Pu Sa" – no other thought. He then told me not to worry, but to see Guanyin coming to help my friend. Three other close friends and I recited, and immediately the energy changed. The darkness left as powerful waves of light and healing began to flood the hospital. Again, this was both visible and palpable to me. We knew that the critical period was over. The operation was successful. Barbara came out from the operating room slightly conscious and was able to give us a small wave.

Shr Fu called the next day to find out how she was. He then recommended that she also recite to regain her strength and for the optimum benefit. She did this. Later on, Shr Fu told me that it is the trueness of heart that is most important in reciting. If one is sincere and selfless, help will always come. A mantra without proper attitude and state of mind is empty.

As Barbara recovered she was in pain, but she emanated a special radiance and peace that I have seen around certain people who have suffered greatly or come close to death. I was struck by

子。1975年一月，她生了一個兒子，名叫山姆士；我的兒子則晚他一年半出世。我在萬佛聖城工作的時期，我們兩家的孩子都在育良小學讀了兩年。芭芭拉的第二個小孩是剖腹生產的，產後她很虛弱，並且沒有正常地復原。不久她發現手術時，醫生切除了輸尿管（將尿液由腎臟排到膀胱的管子），所以要動第二次手術。不料手術後，在醫院復原時，芭芭拉身上產生了血凝塊。醫生決定給她服用清血制凝素，此舉轉而引起腹腔出血，她再次有生命危險。醫師不能決定怎麼應急，此刻時間急迫，眼看我們就要失去她了。

1980年二月十四日早晨，我打電話給萬佛聖城的一位尼師，告訴她芭芭拉的情況，請她轉告在三藩市的上人。稍晚，我又打電話到金山寺，請一位比丘向上人補充詳細情況。他告訴我沒有這種慣例，可能上人不會回應，不過我堅持要他報告。十分鐘後，這位比丘回電話來說，上人要我誦觀世音菩薩聖號，我照做了。

醫師已決定唯一可能救芭芭拉的辦法是動第三次手術，這次是夾住胸腔靜脈，以保護她的心臟，以免產生大血塊。我想起在醫院裡看見一片烏黑，又有被死亡包圍的感覺，忽然領悟到：可能再也見不到我的朋友了。我回想起很多我們兒時的情景，和一塊生活的情形，一想到很可能要失去她，我非常憂傷；我的情緒反應很激烈，驚慌不已。

第三次手術時，我在等候室聽到廣播去接電話，是上人打來的。因為上人在電話中未開口說話以前，總是沈默一陣子，所以我知道是他打來的電話。那感覺就好像是拿起電話來傾聽虛空。上人告訴我要一心真誠地為芭芭拉誦「南無觀世音菩薩」——心無旁騖。然後又告訴我不要擔心，只要觀想觀音菩薩來到，幫助我的朋友就可以了。當時有其他三位好友就和我一起誦持，立刻氣氛就轉變了，強大的醫治光波充遍醫院，黑暗就離去了。這是我看得見，又感覺得到的。我們知道危險期過去了，手術成功了。芭芭拉由手術室推出時，神識已經有點清醒，還能跟我們打招呼。

上人隔天又打電話來問她情況如何。他也要她誦持觀音菩薩名號，以恢復體力，這是為她好；她也照做了。後來上人告訴我，念誦最重要是真心，要是一個人真誠無私，總會得助；態度不正或沒有誠心，念咒是不靈的。

當芭芭拉復原時，雖然在痛苦中，她仍然散發

her compassion and concern for the well-being of others. At one point she said, "I've been knocked around and it's a blessing. I never thought I'd say that. The past is all gone. The past doesn't exist anymore. It has been wiped out completely."

Shr Fu kept tabs on Barbara for several months without her knowing, asking me about her state of health each time he called. He intimated that I could tell him about people who needed help and that if he could, he would help them secretly. He said that he was only able to help those people in real need. Barbara was such a person. This was why he had responded and called to advise me about her after I had requested his help.

The last time I met with Shr Fu privately was after he had been very sick with a kidney condition in 1992. At that time, he asked me to write down an account of this story. It is only after his passing, that I am coming to understand why. Guanyin helps all people who are sincere and in need. This is not obvious to the outer eye. Many people look like they need help, but are not ready to receive it. Others suffer quietly and do not outwardly show their receptivity, yet from within, they are ready. Shr Fu was able to look within the hearts and minds of others and was compassionate. He took time out for many more people than was obvious to even those very close to him. His compassion reached well beyond the limits of the "Buddhist" community.

I had the privilege of having a special view of his work – as an outsider and insider. He helped me, my son, and my friends. He worked with me in dreams, gave me forewarnings of things to come, and showed me a large picture of how he worked. He was not concerned with reputation, nor with being understood by our small minds, yet his method of teaching was simple from the vantage point of higher truth. He knew when to be fierce and strict and when to be soft and forgiving. The Masters use expedient means that are not understood by the measure or standards of the world. If we do not listen with the inner ear, we miss the greatness of their teachings. This means remembrance, faith, and surrender at times when we are most attached and blind.

I hope that everyone at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas will keep alive the spirit of openness and friendship that Shr Fu demonstrated in his dealings with people from all spiritual paths. Times of transition offer an opportunity for jumping to levels of understanding and functioning that were heretofore undreamed of. The challenge before us all is to be true to our commitments and ideals while honoring every soul we contact on the journey. Taking this principle a step further, the synergy created by joining forces across imaginary barriers of mental constructs has the power to transform our communities and the world. This is the power of the future I see.

I am so grateful to have known Shr Fu again and to have received his love and graciousness.

著一種光輝和寧靜，那種樣子我在一些受大痛苦或臨終者身上也曾見過。她對旁人福祉的慈悲與關心使我深受感動。有次，她說：「我時常遭受打擊，其實那是一種福氣。我沒有想到自己會這麼說，過去的就過去了，已經完全磨滅。」

以後幾個月，上人沒讓她知道，總是打電話問我她的健康狀況。上人親切地說如果有人需要幫助，可以告訴他，只要能力所及，他會默默幫助。他說他只能幫助那些有真正需要的人，芭芭拉就是其一。所以每次我為芭芭拉的事求助於上人時，他都會有所回應。

我最後一次單獨見到上人，是在1992年上人腎臟病重時。那時他要我寫下這個故事，直到上人圓寂了，我才明白為什麼。觀世音菩薩幫助所有真心求助的有難者，這不是凡夫肉眼所能見的。很多求助的人看來需要幫助，但其實心裡還沒有真正準備好；有些人默默地受苦，外表上看不出來，但他們的內在已經能接受幫助了。上人既能透視人的心底，又慈悲。他花很多時間在無數人身上，即使在他身邊的人也不得而知，他對眾生的慈悲遠遠超過「佛教徒」的範圍。

身為一個當事人及非當事人，我有幸能看到上人工作不尋常的一面。他曾幫助我、我兒和我的友人。他在夢中，向我預先警示未來之事，也讓我看到他工作的大範圍。他不在乎名譽，也不在乎我們的小心量是否能了解他。而他的教導簡單明白，源於高明的真理。他知道何時該剛厲、嚴格，何時該柔和、寬恕。大師們所用的權巧方便法，不是世俗的尺度或標準所能理解的。我們若不用心來聽，就會錯失他們偉大的教化。也就是當我們最執著盲目時，應該憶念、信從與接受他們的教誨。

上人對各種不同宗教信仰的人，所表現的開放與友善精神，我希望每位在萬佛城的人，都能持續下去。時勢變遷時，反而有機會增加彼此之間相互的瞭解，發揮更大的功用，這是以前所意想不到的。在人生旅程上遇到的每一個人，我們要尊重他們，但同時也不能放棄自己的誓願與理想，要同時兼顧這兩者，是我們面臨的最大難題。更進一步，如果我們能克服我人分別的妄見，將力量凝聚起來，就可以改變這個社會與世界。這種凝聚的力量，我相信在將來一定會有。

我心中充滿感激，今生能再次認識上人，並蒙受他的愛護和恩惠。