

I have a story about Shifu [the Master]. While I was in CTTB [the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas], I received a telephone call. It was Shifu at the other end of the line. Shifu asked, "Do you have time?" "Yes, I do," I replied. "You need to go to Phoenix, Arizona. A disciple there wants to donate a bus to us. You need to see this disciple who is currently in jail." I accepted the task and boarded a Greyhound bus the next day on my way to Phoenix, Arizona.

I arrived in Phoenix at night and, needless to say, the place was dark. I started wondering where I should spend the night, as I did not bring enough money to check into a hotel. I found a shelter with the bare minimum. It was designed for poor people who just needed to stay overnight. This fit my purpose and I paid the person in charge five dollars in exchange for a blanket. Inside the building, I became nervous. I discovered that the place was wide open; it did not have any rooms, only partitions to section off the open space. The surroundings did not feel secure and as a result, I could not fall asleep. I stayed up all night reciting Guanyin Bodhisattva's name hoping for her protection in case of mishaps. Fortunately, no one headed my way or caused me any troubles, and the night was finally over.

The following morning, I managed to find the detention center. The place was filthy and enclosed in a dark *qi*. I later learned that this Chinese disciple was indicted and confined in jail because he used the U.S. mail to illegally sell Chinese herbal medicine by falsely advertising that the medicine could help women conceive. He was convicted and retained in jail for an undetermined amount of time.



## A Master Who Answers All Prayers 尋聲救苦的師父

比丘恒來 講於2010年11月28日金峰寺梁皇寶懺法會

A talk given by Dharma Master Lai on November 28, 2010, the Final Day of the Emperor Liang Repentance Ceremony, in Gold Summit Monastery

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我今天講一個有關上人的故事。當年在萬佛城時，我接到一通電話，電話的另一頭是上人。上人問我：「你有時間嗎？」「是的，我有。」「我要你到亞歷桑那州的鳳凰城一趟，那兒有個弟子要供養一台巴士，你到那兒去看看他。他現在人在監獄裏。」我接下這個任務，第二天就搭灰狗巴士出發了。

抵達鳳凰城時已經晚了，不消說，外頭是一片漆黑。我開始忖度晚上該在哪兒過夜，因為身上帶的錢不多，所以不打算住旅館。然後我找到一個棲身的地方，這個地方僅有最基本的設備，是專為窮人臨時過夜而設的，不過它符合我的條件。於是我付了對方五塊錢，換來一條氈子，解決了過夜的問題。可是一走進屋裏，我開始緊張起來。我發覺這屋子是完全打通的，所謂的房間，不過就是用隔板隔開來的空間，整個環境令人覺得很不安全。結果我一整晚都無法入眠，一直念著觀音菩薩的聖號，以防不

I finally was granted permission to talk to him. Through the thick glass, I noticed that he was very nervous and anxious. He believed his life was under threat and he could not survive under such conditions. It was quite understandable; these places generally harbor bad spirits, and the environment is oppressing. I tried to comfort him and told him that if he recited Guanyin Bodhisattva's name he should be fine. I obtained the bus key from him and left the facilities. I called Shifu and reported that the man was very worried about his own life. Shifu assured me that Guanyin Bodhisattva would protect him as long as he recited her name.

I went to check out the bus in the trailer park. I was disappointed. The bus was really "mama huhu," meaning below average. It was built around the time of World War II and had touch-up house paint all around the exterior of the bus. The tires were so worn that they hardly had any tread on them to provide traction. I wondered how I could possibly drive this bus to CTTB, given the conditions. Amitofo! I stepped into the bus. The interior was modified and looked like a mobile home, but only on a much smaller scale. It had a tiny kitchen, a very small desk, and a little black and white television. I turned on the engine and started to drive the bus back to CTTB. The weather in Arizona at that time was very hot. The temperature was over 100 degrees, and I could not take the bus above 35 miles per hour because the bald tires made it difficult to control. I constantly had the impression that the bus would give up on me or I would get a flat tire at any time. All I could think of doing was to recite "Namo Guan Shi Yin Pu Sa" all the way, and it turned out to be a long four-day trip.

I came to the Sierra Mountains and the bus barely made it over Donner Pass on Highway U.S. I-80, at a speed of below 15 miles per hour. Now I was on a descent, I could coast. I rolled until evening, then I called it a night.

The next day, I turned on the ignition but the bus refused to start. The place was deserted, with not a single house or person within sight. No one would come to my rescue. I thought to myself that I would probably die from starvation right on this deserted spot. So I went on again, reciting Guanyin Bodhisattva's name, and suddenly a tow truck came and stopped for me. The driver came over and offered to help. He diagnosed that the bus died due to a failed regulator. Not only was he a fine mechanic, he was also one who collected old car parts and happened to have a World War II era bus regulator at his shop. As I was short in cash after filling up my gas tank and could not afford to buy the part from him, I negotiated a deal. We agreed to trade parts. I would give him the little black and white television, and he would give

測。還好，沒人來騷擾我；那一夜，就這樣安然渡過了。

隔天一早，我去了拘留所。那地方不僅髒亂，還罩著一股陰氣。之後我才知道，原來這個中國弟子利用美國郵遞非法販賣假藥，詐稱他的中藥能幫助婦女受孕。因此他被起訴入獄，判期未定。

終於，我得到許可，可以和他交談。透過一層厚厚的玻璃，他看起來非常焦慮不安。他相信自己的生命不保，而且那種環境簡直令他活不下去。他的處境我很能理解，因為這些地方通常有許多無形的眾生，給人一種強烈的壓迫感。我試著安撫他，並且建議他念觀音菩薩的名號，一切都會沒事的。從他那裏拿到車鑰匙後，就離開了那地方。之後撥了一通電話給上人，告訴他那個人很擔心自身的安危。上人向我保證，只要他念觀音的名號，菩薩一定會保佑他的。

接著，我就到拖車場去取車。看到車時，我很失望。那部巴士真的只是「馬馬虎虎」，也就是不怎麼樣的意思。車子大約是二次世界大戰期間製造的，車身還刷上了一層油漆粉飾一下。輪胎的齒紋幾乎已經磨平，無法對路面產生附著力。看到這種情況，我很懷疑自己有沒有本事把這輛車開回萬佛城。真是阿彌陀佛！

我上巴士一看，裏頭改裝過，看起來像個活動車屋，只是規模小很多。裏頭有一個迷你廚房，一張很小的桌子，一架小黑白電視機。我發動引擎，將車子往聖城的方向開回去。當時的亞歷桑那州十分炎熱，氣溫超過華氏一百度。因為車胎是平的，只能將車子保持在時速三十五英哩以下，免得失控。一路上老覺得這部巴士隨時會罷工，要不就是爆胎。我當時唯一想得到的，就是沿途念著「南無觀世音菩薩」回城。這段路我整整開了四天才到達。

在I-80號公路上，行經Sierra山脈時，我以每小時十五英哩的車速行駛。當巴士到了Donner Pass時，車身幾幾乎就爬不上去。接著的下坡路段，我是用滑行的方式行進，一路滑到傍晚才停，然後，我也結束了該天的路程。第二天，準備發動車子，可是它一動也不動。在那個荒郊野外，沒有一戶人家，也不見半個人影，根本不會有人前來搭救，心想大概會這樣餓死在這荒漠之中吧！隨後想起念觀音菩薩的聖號。忽然間一部拖車開來，停在我面前，裏頭的司機走過來要幫忙。檢查的結果是調整器壞了。這人不僅修車技術了得，還收集很多舊車零件；正巧的是，他那兒還有這種二戰期間生產的巴士的調整器。我手頭的現金付完油錢以後，已經所



## 菩提田 Bodhi Field

me the regulator. He installed the new regulator and I was on the road again.

I finally arrived safely at CTTB. I talked to Shifu about the incident and reported all that happened on the road. Shifu said, "That mechanic you encountered was our special friend; he indeed was a Dharma protector. No one today would keep a car part that predates World War II. But, although I asked you to go get this bus, in reality we have no need for it. The true reason behind this trip was to give an opportunity to the jailed disciple to create some merit and help reduce his suffering by accepting his bus donation."

Soon after, the person was released from jail. During his stay in prison, fortunately he was neither attacked nor beaten by his inmates. He became a free man.

As far as the bus was concerned, it was kept at CTTB until, one day, a hippie couple came up and asked to buy it from us. We made sure that they knew it was a valuable bus and was considered a classic and a collectible item. We offered the bus to them for \$1,250. The couple agreed but could only put down \$250 at first. They promised to bring \$250 every week until the balance was met. We said, "Fine. You can bring \$250 every week, but you are not going to drive the bus anywhere until you have completely paid it off." This was how we got rid of the bus, and that concludes my story.

剩不多，買不起那個零件。於是，我和他打個商量，最後我們同意用一台黑白電視機，交換一個調整器。他還幫忙把它裝上，所以我又重新開車上路。

終於，平安回到了聖城。向上人報告了路上所發生的一切。上人說：「你遇到的那個技工，是我們一個很特別的朋友。他其實是個護法來的，否則現在有誰會收藏著二次世界大戰前的汽車零件？還有，雖然我叫你去拿車，其實我們根本就不需要那台巴士。你這趟出門真正的目的，不過是去給那個坐牢的弟子一個機會，接受他供養的巴士，讓他能做些功德，少受些苦。」

這件事經過沒多久，那個人也出獄了。在他坐牢的那段歲月裏，很幸運地，從沒被同牢的人揍過或欺負過。他現在已經是自由身了。

至於那輛巴士呢，它就一直停放在萬佛城，直到有一天，一對嬉皮夫婦找上了門，要買這輛車。我們向他們解釋了這輛車的價值，是件值得收藏的古董，並且開價1250塊美金。這對夫婦接受這個價錢，但只能先付250元。他們保證，以後每個星期都會送來250元，直到付清為止。我們說：「沒問題，你們可以分期付款，但是餘款尚未付清之前，車子不准開上路。」這就是我們將巴士脫手的經過。我的故事到這裏。