

# 龍迎朝聖僧

## The Tale of the Dragon that Greeted the Pilgrimage Monks



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After a year and half in Hong Kong, translating the sutra text of the Bodhisattva Precepts and co-lecturing on the *Lotus Sutra* to the Master's disciples at the Hong Kong Buddhist Lecture Hall, I received permission from the Master in spring of 1974 to return to the States and move up to a tiny cabin on the newly acquired Skagit River retreat land near Marblemount, Washington. This was precisely the same piece of prospective monastery property toward which Bhikshus Heng Ju and Heng Yo had been progressing in their one-thousand-mile, three-step, one-bow pilgrimage begun some time earlier in San Francisco.

My aim in going to the Marblemount property had been to develop a stronger meditation and sutra study practice such as only a genuinely solitary retreat situation would allow. I was also preparing the Marblemount site for an inspection tour by the Master, during which he could more closely evaluate the suitability of the small river-side acreage for construction of a larger monastic meditation facility.

My life there, at the time, consisted of many hours of meditation and reading; a little roaming around in search of wild nettles to serve as vegetables with simple meals of homemade chapatis and lentils. Later in the day, I worked a couple hours with the machete and chainsaw, opening up pathways

我在香港翻譯〈菩薩戒〉經文，並在香港佛教講堂為上人的弟子們助講《法華經》。約一年半以後，上人允許我在一九七四年的春季返回美國，然後遷居到新購置位於斯卡吉特河畔的小屋，那裡環境清幽，鄰近華盛頓州的大理石山。這地方也正是比丘恒具和恒由，在早期從舊金山進行長達一千英哩的三步一拜，所朝向的同一塊寺院預定地。

我去大理石山寺院預定地的目的，是去發展更堅實的打坐與佛經研究的修持；因為唯有在一個真正獨居的寧靜狀態，才可以實現此目標。同時我還附帶的準備大理石山資料，以便上人來考察時可以更仔細地評估在小河流邊建造一個面積較大的寺院禪房之適當性。

當時我在那裡的生活，包括許多小時的打坐和閱讀，偶而在周遭漫遊，尋找野生蕁麻來做蔬菜，伴同自製的印度薄餅和小扁豆，做簡單的伙食。然後，稍晚用彎刀和鏈鋸會工作幾個小時，來開闢通道以便進入這塊地方。

那是一九七四年的盛夏，比丘恒具、恒由終於如期抵達這裡。那天早晨，他們一直拜到河邊的小屋，確實圓滿他們的旅程。我們用一些特地為了

for access to all parts of the property.

It was mid-summer of 1974, when Bhikshus Heng Ju and Heng Yo were finally due to arrive. The morning that they did indeed reach the end of their journey, bowing all the way to that tiny riverside cabin, we cut up some store-bought vegetables purchased especially for the occasion, and made a simple lunch. Then, at my suggestion, we set out on a 20 mile celebratory trip up to the deserted Forest Service fire lookout cabin on the very summit of Sauk Mountain.

My idea had been to treat these two pilgrimage monks to a fabulous view of the sea of snowy mountain peaks, forming the North Cascades Range, along with a view west to Puget Sound.

The weather that day was perfectly clear, and the moon was due to come up full to illuminate the beautiful landscape stretched out beneath us in all four directions from this 5,000-foot high vantage point.

I had climbed up Sauk Mountain before and knew, since we could drive all but the last thousand feet of switch-back trail climbing. It wouldn't be too strenuous, and there would be a fabulously fine view to greet us, allowing us to see the snowy mountain peaks to the north, east, and south while also enjoying a view out west all the way to Puget Sound.

Sure enough, we got to the top of the mountain in plenty of time for the sunset and the rising of the full moon. There were no clouds in the sky, except way out, hovering over Puget Sound. As the sunset developed, a thin but very broad swath of clouds appeared out of nowhere, slowly roiling in a range of fuchsia-pink, burnt orange, gold, and luminous white hues.

As we sat there on top of the flat roof of the lookout station, meditating and preparing to spend the night, the clouds very quickly uncoiled into an absolutely unmistakable south-facing dragon, stretched out across an otherwise cloudless Puget Sound sky. It was perfect in every detail right down to the whiskers, long tail, and claws. And it looked so very, very much like the incredibly life-like dragon which the Master had made with his own hands at Cixing Monastery on Hong Kong's Lantau Island.

I was of course very familiar with that dragon as I had spent most of the previous year, living within a few hundred feet of the Master's sculpture that he had placed there to tame the Cixing Monastery fengshui.

As we sat there staring at the view, Heng Ju, Heng Yo, and I were all simultaneously jaw-drop startled and enchanted with this huge and perfect dragon stretched across the western sky, with the bright, white full moon overhead, and the glowing snowy mountain peaks around us.

Then the most surprising thing happened: This completely clear moonlit sky all of a sudden clouded over rapidly and completely, a fact which, to this very day, I'd swear has to

這個場合而從商店買來的蔬菜，做了一頓簡單的午餐；然後，在我的建議下，做了個二十英哩的慶祝之行，出發到座落於索克山最高峰的一間廢棄了的森林防火瞭望小屋。

我的想法是款待這兩位朝聖的僧侶，讓他們看看這如神話般的雪山山峰的海景，這些山峰形成了北卡斯卡德山脈，同時向西還能看見普吉特海灣。

當日的天氣非常晴朗，因為是滿月，完美地照亮了來我們腳下美麗的風景；這些風景是由5,000英尺高的制高點向四面伸展開來的。

我以前曾經爬過索克山，所以知道，我們可以開車，但最後一千呎需要徒步登上Z字形步道；那樣就不至於太費體力，而且將會有優美的景色來迎接我們，讓我們看到來自北面、東面和南面的雪山山峰，同時也享受了西面的風景，可以一直看到普吉特海灣。

果然，我們到達了山峰的時候，還有充裕的時間，等著看日落和漸漸升起的滿月。那時天空中全然沒有半朵雲彩，除了遠處，在普吉特海灣上空有雲彩盤旋。日落來臨時，一列絲很薄而細長的雲不知從哪兒冒了出來，慢慢地變換著色彩，從粉紅色、赭橙色、金色，到明亮的白色色調，盤旋在普吉特海灣的上空。

我們在瞭望台頂端的平臺上打坐，並準備過夜的時候，團團的雲很快散開，變成一條十分清晰而面向南方的巨龍，蜿蜒地展身橫跨過萬里無雲的普吉特海灣上空；龍的每一個細節都很完美，鬚鬚、長尾巴和爪子，看上去非常、非常地像上人在香港大嶼山島上的慈興寺親手塑的龍，逼真得簡直讓人難以置信。

我當然很熟悉這條龍，因為我過去的大部分時間都生活在離上人雕塑的那條龍一百英呎的地方。那



be an absolute meteorological impossibility. And then, the sky just opened up, and all of a sudden deluging rain cut loose in furiously drenching torrents, driving all three of us quickly off the roof of the fire lookout, down into the still-intact ranger cabin where we chatted well into the night, wondering if what we had just seen could possibly have happened.

The next day, I drove the two pilgrimage monks back to civilization. And so ends the amazing little tale of the writhing dragon which greeted the two pilgrimage monks at the end of their arduous thousand-mile journey, all the way from San Francisco to Marblemount, Washington.

條龍是上人放在那兒鎮壓慈興寺的風水。

坐在那裡凝視著這個景觀時，恒具、恒由、還有我，都同時驚愕到下頷合不攏了，只是眩惑於這條橫跨過西方天空的巨大而完美的龍，襯著當頭明亮的滿月，和圍繞在我們身邊發光的雪山山峰。

然後，最令人吃驚的事情發生了！這明月皎潔的天空忽然迅速烏雲密佈。事實上，直到今天，我發誓這在氣象學上是絕對不可能的。然後，最特別的是天空才剛剛放晴，突然暴雨又瘋狂地傾盆而下，迫使我們三個趕快從屋頂下來，跑進那個依舊完好的河邊小屋。我們在那兒聊到深夜，對剛剛看到的情景不敢相信。

第二天，我開車把這兩位朝聖的和尚送回文明世界，就此結束了這個令人驚奇的小故事：蜿蜒的騰龍前來終點站，迎接從舊金山到華盛頓大理石山完成千英哩艱鉅之行的兩位朝聖僧人。