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A Calamity Is Averted and the Mountain Is Inaugurated

三寶弟子文/譯 Written and translated by disciple of Triple Jewel

Students and teachers of the University of Washington in Seattle invited the Venerable Master Hsuan Hua, Abbot of Gold Mountain Monastery, to deliver instructional Dharma talks at the University twice each day on August 19, 20 and 21, 1974. He traveled to Seattle on the 18th, accompanied for the duration of the trip by five of his

宣化上人(當時金山寺的住 持和尚),應華盛頓大學師生 的邀請,於一九七四年八月十 九日至二十一日前往講法,一 天兩場。宣化上人於八月十八 日抵達西雅圖,當時有座下五 位比丘弟子陪同上人,包括了 剛完成「為祈禱世界和平,三 Bhikshu disciples, including Heng Ju and Heng Yo, who had just completed their remarkable Three-Step One-Bow pilgrimage for world peace.

The Venerable Master took the opportunity of the invitation to speak at the university to welcome and congratulate his two worthy disciples at the completion of their vows. During his stay in the state of Washington, the Venerable Master planned to inaugurate the mountain at Marblemount, the future site of Cloud and Dragon Monastery. The new monastery obtained its name from Bhikshus Heng Ju, Heng Yo, and Heng Shou who saw, from the mountaintop one night, a dragon writhing through a cloud in the valley.

The lecture schedule was quite busy, so plans were made to travel to Marblemount, Washington, on the day after the lecture series was complete. Marblemount is nearly three hours by car, north of Seattle. Early in the week; however, the Venerable Master announced a change in the schedule. On the last day of the lecture series, he announced that we would travel to Marblemount after the morning lecture (which ended at noon), and eat our one meal of the day in the car while riding to our destination. When we arrived, we would hold ceremonies to "open the mountain," and then quickly drive back to the university in time for the evening lecture.

It seemed like an impossible schedule, but everyone followed in accord. On Wednesday afternoon, two cars departed for Marblemount, with the Master, five bhikshus and three laymen. The bhikshus were Heng Ch'ien, Heng Shou, Heng Kuan, Heng Yo and Heng Ju. The laymen included Upasaka Takping Pong, founder of the Bodhi-Dharma Center, an affiliate of Dharma Realm Buddhist Association, and his wife, Gwendolyn Pong.

I was one of the bhikshus in the car with the Master. When we arrived, the second car had not yet appeared, so I took a walk down the mountain through the dense foliage, toward the river ... and saw smoke. Upon closer inspection, I found that about 30 square feet of the forest had been consumed, and would soon break out into a raging fire if we didn't do something. The combined effort of bhikshus and laymen carrying water from the river and throwing dirt on the fire, along with support from the local fire department, extinguished the blaze in about an hour.

If we had come to the mountain a day later, as originally planned, instead of a dense green forest we would have found only rocks and dirt. Everyone bowed deeply to the Master and thanked him for saving the forest land. The Master then inaugurated the mountain, and we returned to Seattle just in time for the evening lecture. The lecture series in Seattle was widely attended and many people, in spite of their busy schedule, came to all the Master's lectures. Many sought interviews during the day with the Master, and all were delighted to have the opportunity to hear the Dharma. 步一拜」的比丘恒具及恒由。

上人藉著這次西雅圖華盛頓大學應邀演講的 機會,來到北美地區。一方面也是來歡迎及祝賀 他的兩位傑出弟子,完成了他們的誓願;同時上 人也計劃,在他停留華盛頓州的期間,到位於大 理石山上,也就是未來「雲龍寺」的地點灑淨結 界。這新道場的命名,是源自於比丘恒具、恒由 及恒授在一個晚上,從山頂上看到一條龍穿過雲 層盤繞在山谷上。

因為大學的講法課程緊湊,因此原訂計劃是 講完課的第二天,開車前往位於西雅圖北邊,三 個小時車程遠的大理石市。然而在這一個星期稍 早,上人宣佈變更行程。到了課程的最後一天, 上人指示:早上的講經課程結束後,當天就要去 大理石山(當時課程是中午結束)。然後利用去 大理石山的路途中,在車內吃我們一天中唯一的 一餐。我們抵達目的地後,舉行灑淨結界儀式; 然後很快地回到大學,可以即時趕上晚上的講經 課程。

雖然,事先我們大家都認為這行程不可能辦 到,大家還是遵照這個指示。在星期三中午,八 月二十一日,上人由五位比丘及三位在家居士陪 同,一起前往大理石市。這五位比丘是恒謙、恒 授、恒觀、恒由、恒具,三位居士包括龐先生夫 婦;龐先生是法總分支道場菩提達摩中心成立 者。

我是陪伴上人的五個比丘之一,我們的車抵達 目的地後,因為第二部車還沒有到,我就穿過濃 密的樹林散步到山下的河邊。然後我看到煙,再 走進一點看,我發現了約三十平方呎的森林已被 燒燬了;如果我們沒有馬上處理的話,火勢將很 快地蔓延開來。比丘及居士協力從河裡提水,把 土倒在火上;接著在當地消防人員的支援下,在 將近一個小時內,終於撲滅了這場火災。

如果按照原訂計劃,晚一天來到這座山上,那 我們看到的將是石頭及灰燼,而看不見茂盛青翠 的森林了。我們每個人向上人跪拜頂禮,感謝他 救了這片土地,接著上人就為這座山灑淨。

然後我們就回西雅圖去,剛好及時趕上晚上的 這堂課。這佛法課程是開放給大眾參加,很多人 儘管行程都忙碌,還是來參加上人全程的課程。 在這一天有很多人想與上人面談,他們都很高興 有這個機會來聽上人講法。