



白山黑水育奇英

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

宣化上人事蹟（中國篇）

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
鄭耿琳 等人 英譯
Translated into English by Genglin Zheng and others

（續）

29. 孝感天地

上人把母親入殮，準備發殯。時值三月，正是東北積雪解凍之際，地面泥濘濕滑，抬棺及執紼之親友，均躊躇道路之難行。在出殯的當天清晨，天降瑞雪，封凍爛泥濁水，眾人皆讚歎上人孝行感動天地。

上人自述：

三月十九那一天，我賒了一口棺材，又有三百塊錢，就把母親的屍首盛殮起來；雇吹鼓手，買了飯菜，請一些人抬棺材，準備第二天往墳上送，發殯出去。我住的地方距離墳塋地，大約還有七八里路。可是正逢河流解凍的時候，東北跑桃花水（東北仲春時，桃花始開，春雨初降，結冰河流開始解凍，水潮奔流，故稱為桃花水），路上非常泥濘，行路很困難。

在深夜大約二點鐘的時候，我想：人抬著棺材，不方便走路，這怎麼辦呢？這時候我就求佛菩薩來幫助我。我說：「我沒有什麼人緣，也沒有天緣。如果諸佛菩薩和上帝，能在天沒亮以前下雪，路上結凍，這個路就會好走了！」我這樣一祈求，很奇怪的，等到雞叫的時候，

29. The Response to His Filial Respect

The Venerable Master placed his mother in the coffin and prepared for the funeral. In March, when the snow began to thaw in northeast China, it would have been difficult for friends and relatives to carry the coffin, walking on slippery and muddy roads. However, on the morning of the day of the funeral, it began to snow, and the ground was frozen and no longer muddy. Everybody praised the Venerable Master as his filial devotion had moved the heaven and earth.

As told by the Venerable Master:

On March 19, I purchased a coffin on credit and had 300 Yuan (dollars) in hand. I put my mother's body in the coffin, hired trumpeters, bought food, recruited people to carry the coffin, and planned to hold the funeral the following day. I lived about seven or eight miles from the grave. It was the season when rivers began to thaw in northeastern China, called the "peach-flower-water" season. (Note: This occurs in early spring in northeastern China when the peach trees blossom, it begins to rain, and the frozen rivers thaw. The season was therefore called peach-flower-water season.) During this season, roads are very slippery, muddy and difficult for people to walk on.

Past midnight, about 2:00 am, I thought, "It will be difficult for people to walk on the muddy road when carrying the coffin. What should I do?" At that moment, I prayed to the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas for help. I prayed, "I do not have good affinity

果然下雪了；路上的水都結成冰，冰上面又有雪，雪下有一寸這麼厚。幾十個人抬著棺材走，沒有什麼困難，也不太累。等送到墳上，天還沒光；把棺材埋到土裏，墳剛剛作好，太陽就出來了，雪才開始融化，我想這是佛菩薩特別的感應！

30. 廬墓守孝

喪禮之後，上人閉目靜坐於母墳旁，那時候真的把一切都放下，打算餓死在墳地。

上人自述：

那時候，我就準備在那兒守孝，可是在母親還沒有埋好之前，我沒有告訴任何人說我想要守孝；除自己以外，就是親戚、朋友、自己兄弟姊妹，沒有一個人知道的。為什麼呢？我做事要往真了做，我不要滿街打鑼打鼓去宣傳。等把我母親送到墳上，埋到土裏，那個時候我真是把一切都放下了；也不管借人的錢，我就坐到墳上那兒不走。有人問我：「為什麼還不走？」我說：「我要在這兒陪陪我母親！」送葬的人聽我這麼說很驚異，都勸我回去；無論誰說什麼，我也不聽，就像聽不見似的坐在那個地方。那時候心裏也不是難過，只是想：「母親，我願意在這兒陪著你；你就是死了，也不會覺得寂寞！」就這樣在墳上開始守孝，大約是十九歲的時候。

【後記】據悉上人的母親白太夫人胡氏，大高個，長臉，常穿著一件很舊的藍布長衫，天天吃齋念佛。那時候一家十八口人，都住在一個房子，家裏很窮。白太夫人生育八個兒女，五男三女，上人是她最小的孩子，也是唯一受過教育的。她往生時，家裏十多口人，窮得吃上頓沒下頓，實在無力辦喪事，上人就到拉林棺鋪賒了一口棺材，借了三百塊錢。

上人的母親去世時，正值清明前後，土路泥濘，鞋踩爛泥，行路困難。沒想到第二天一大早，天氣突然變冷，連風帶雪的，土路結凍。親友很早就去白家幫忙出殯。二十四個人輪流換班抬著棺材，快步奔向白家墳地。為什麼要二十四個人抬棺材？因為棺材是紅色的，上面畫有二十四孝的圖案，以示子女的孝思。

待續

with people and heavenly beings. If the Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, or heavenly lord can let it snow before dawn, the road will freeze again and become easier to walk." I prayed and surprisingly it came true! It began to snow when roosters crowed, and the road became frozen and covered with one inch of snow. Dozens of people carried the coffin walking on this frozen road with no difficulty or fatigue. When we arrived at the grave, it was still dark. Right after the burial was finished, the sun came out and the snow began to melt again. I regard it as a special response from the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas!

30. Observing Filial Piety by the Grave

After the funeral, the Venerable Master sat still and closed his eyes by his mother's grave. He planned to give up everything and starve to death there.

As told by the Venerable Master:

At that time, I decided to stay by the grave to observe the filial custom, but I did not tell anyone before my mother's funeral. No one, not even my relatives, brothers, sisters, or friends, knew my decision. Why did I do it this way? I truly just do things and do not go around and tell others what I will do or have done. After my mother's funeral, I really gave up everything, including the money I borrowed. I sat beside the grave and refused to leave. Someone asked me, "Why do you not leave?" I replied, "I just want to be with my mother." People were amazed by my words and all tried to persuade me to go home. No matter what they said, I acted like I couldn't hear them and sat there, still. I was not really very sad at that moment. All I thought of was, "Mom, I want to stay here with you. Although you are dead, you will not feel lonely!" I began doing that at the age of nineteen.

Editor's Note: It is known that the Venerable Master's mother, Mrs. Bai, was tall with a long face and often wore a very old blue cloth dress. She recited Buddha's name and had a vegetarian diet every day. This was a very poor family; all eighteen members of the family lived in one house. Mrs. Bai had eight children, five boys and three girls. The Master was her youngest child and the only one who went to school. When Mrs. Bai passed away, the family (more than ten people) was too poor to afford food, not to mention to buy a coffin and conduct her funeral. Hence, the Master went to Lalin town to buy a coffin on credit and borrowed 300 Yuan.

The Venerable Master's mother passed away around Qing-Ming Day; the road was extremely muddy and it was very difficult to walk. In the early morning on the day of the funeral, it suddenly became cold, snowy and very windy such that the roads froze. The relatives and friends got together early at the Venerable Master's home to help prepare for the funeral. In total, 24 persons took turns carrying the coffin and rushing towards the graveyard. Why did they pick number 24? Because depictions of the "24 Filial Exemplars" were painted on the red coffin, expressing the filial devotion and mourning of offspring.

To be continued