

宣公上人傳法西方五十年

50 Years of Dharma
Brought to the West
by the Venerable Master Hsuan Hua

50
YEARS
From 1962
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1962年3月28日的三藩市報紙記載：「香港慈興禪寺度輪法師承三藩市佛教講堂之請，來美講佛學。昨日（3月27日）抵步下機後與歡迎佛教徒合影。歡迎者有余果興、梁民惠。」這一步踏出西方佛教歷史的一大步。上人說：「我來美國弘揚佛法，為救眾生離苦得樂。我發願把佛教在西方重新整頓，重新發揚光大。」

上人的遠見，廣大如法界；他廣度眾生，不問國籍、種族、宗教、背景，也不問人或非人。但是上人今生與中國、美國這兩個國家特別有緣，雖然他大部分的弟子都是中國人，但後人所記得他的，恐怕是他把佛教帶到西方的事業。

今年（2012年）正是上人傳法西方五十年，本刊將從本期（一月號）做一系列報導，首先介紹上人的教化。

一、 上人的教化

從以下幾位弟子所述，可知這位東方來的和尚為教化西方人而付出的努力，其精進度、深度、廣度，實在是難以想像的。

不論受教的人是不是他的正式弟子，上人都是幫助人改過自新，啟發本有的智慧。對人總是很坦誠、很直接、很老實的。上至總統，下至小孩，都一視平等。所做的一切事，總是為利益他人，從不為自己。



On March 28, 1962, a San Francisco newspaper reported: "Chan Master To Lun of Chi Hing Temple in Hong Kong was cordially invited to the United States to give lectures on Buddhism by the Buddhist Lecture Hall in San Francisco. Yesterday (March 27), after arriving by plane, the Master took a group picture with his followers Guo Xing Yu, Leung Man Wai, etc." This was a big step in the history of Western Buddhism. The Venerable Master said, "I have come to America to propagate Buddhism in order to help beings leave suffering and attain bliss. I made a vow to make a fresh start in the West by reforming Buddhism and causing it to flourish here."

The Venerable Master's vision was as vast as the Dharma Realm, and he taught and transformed all beings without regard to path of rebirth, country, ethnic origin, religion, and so forth. There are two countries, however, where he had special affinities in this life: China and United States. Although the majority of his disciples are Chinese, history will probably remember him primarily for his work in bringing the teachings of the Buddha to the people of the West.

This year (2012) is the 50th anniversary of the Venerable Master's bringing the Dharma to the West. For this reason, we are publishing a series of articles starting from this issue (January). First we will introduce the Master's teaching.

1. What the Master Taught

From the following stories shared by several disciples, we realize that the vigor, depth, and breadth of the Master's efforts in teaching the Dharma in the West are nothing short of incredible.

Regardless of whether they were his disciples, the Master would always help people become aware of their faults and change them and develop their inherent wisdom. He was always open, direct, and totally honest with everyone. He treated everyone equally, from the President of the United States to little children. Everything he did was to benefit others and never for himself.