

Some of the Things the Venerable Master Taught in a Split Second

師父教導的二三事 電光石火的刹那

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梁照亮講/譯於2011年11月12日萬佛城大殿

A talk / translated by Liang Zhao Liang on November 12, 2011 in the Buddha Hall at CTTB

我要講有關師父的一些事情，在當時，沒有特別地珍惜。可是這一回到聖城，碰到很多佛友，還有法師，他們並沒有機會見到師父。因此十八、九年前，在聖城住的這段時間裡，聽到師父給我們講的一些法，還有看到的一些經歷，值得跟大家分享。有一件事情我記得很清楚，就是漢堡大學來聖城參觀的這件事。

法師今天早上給我一本雜誌，封面上寫著，羅哲思神父在師父圓寂的時候，在萬佛殿裡面舉行彌撒的儀式來紀念他。我覺得這個是很值得提起的事，因為當時在一九九三年時，漢堡大學學生來聖城，做他們的短期修學，我們當時在場，師父也給我們介紹羅哲思神父。

第二天早上，師父就邀請羅哲思神父，來舉行望彌撒的儀式。我現在不是很記得是幾點，可能是早上六點鐘吧。為什麼這個是很重要的呢？因為我很難想像，有其他的宗教的神職人員，比方說天主教的神父，或基督教的牧師，會把教堂讓出來，借給佛教的法師，來舉行大悲懺，或其他的一些佛教的宗教儀式。

因為師父的胸襟是很廣大的，他甚至不覺得說佛教本身是一個宗教，而是一種智慧。所以師父都是用他的親身實際的行為，來切切實實地說到做到，他想要教我們的這些道理。感覺上，那時候羅哲思神父，也是非常欣賞師父的這一點作風。

有一件事情，我現在想起來還是覺得蠻有趣的，是跟恒實法師有關。那個事情，可以點出師父教導弟子的嚴苛及一絲不苟，這對我們來說是很受用。

當時漢堡大學差不多有十來個學生來聖城參觀，座談的時候，上面坐了一兩個法師；現在我不是很記得

I'd like to share an experience with the Venerable Master. At that time, I didn't really cherish what was said. However, this time when I returned to CTTB, I met a lot of Dharma friends and Dharma Masters who never had the opportunity to meet the Venerable Master. Thinking back to eighteen or nineteen years ago when I lived at CTTB, I'd like to share some of the Dharma that the Venerable Master gave and some experiences. There's an incident that I remember clearly; it was when visitors from Humboldt State University came for a visit.

A Dharma Master gave me a magazine this morning. On the front cover, it mentioned that Father Rogers held a Catholic mass in the Buddha Hall at CTTB, in commemoration of the Venerable Master at the time of his passing. I think this is an incident that's worth mentioning. It was in 1993 when the students from Humboldt State University came for a retreat that the Venerable Master introduced us to Father Rogers.

The next morning, the Venerable Master invited Father Rogers to hold mass in the Buddha Hall. I don't remember exactly when it was, maybe six o'clock in the morning. The reason I felt it was special was because I couldn't imagine a Catholic priest or a Christian minister inviting any Dharma Masters to hold a Great Compassion Repentance or some other Buddhist ritual at a church.

The Venerable Master was broad minded and tolerant and did not even consider Buddhism a religion, but just a form of wisdom. He practiced what he preached. I felt that Father Rogers also respected this style of Venerable Master very much.

I was in the audience at one time, and I'd like to share an exchange I witnessed between the Venerable Master and Dharma Master Heng Sure, which showed how careful and precise the Master was in teaching his disciples.

During that time, the students from Humboldt State

其他人，可是知道，恒實法師是坐在上面的。

會議一開始的時候，師父走進來，然後坐在上面的法師跟下面的學生之間。也就是說師父剛好是坐在恒實法師的前頭，不過是側面坐的，所以我們可以看到他的側面。

有一個在觀眾席的學生，舉手問說——因為他看過恒實法師的三步一拜，認出恒實法師——他就說，「哦，你是不是就是那個三步一拜的那個法師？」恒實法師就微笑一下，點了一下頭。就是這樣子。結果，就是這個輕微的動作。師父馬上頭就轉過去，看他一下下而已；非常短，實法師的頭就垂下來了。當時我的感覺就好像是看電影那種電光石火的樣子，我看到，原來這些都不用話講的，直接就讓恒實法師說，不能有那樣子的貢高的心，或是歡喜被人家認出來，很高興的那種心理。

看到這樣的情況，我印象非常地深。當時的一個想法就是，誒，其實被人家認出來，或者說做了一個蠻開心的事情，被人家注意到，不也是人之常情，稍微開心一點，好像也無可厚非。但是，因為師父這樣子的教化，我就馬上知道，哦，沒有，事實上對修行人來說，起心動念太重要了，一點點的那種，片刻的懈怠，或是一點點的自滿都不行。

就是像在三昧水懺裡面的悟達國師，他其實坐在沉香寶座上一剎那，也是這樣子一個小小的自滿，或是貢高，他的冤親債主就找上了。在當時，很深刻的一個感覺就是，對於佛教裡面高僧大德的這些故事，或者是棒喝，或者是教化，好像都只在《高僧傳》，或是《傳燈錄》這一類的書籍上面看到。但是對我而言，在當時就是活生生在面前上演的一幕電影。也是因為這樣子，那種珍惜的心會起來。就是說，師父時時刻刻都在教化我們的，不論用什麼樣子的方式。所以，我覺得有機會可以恭聆聖誨，把親身的經歷，在這邊和大家分享，也覺得是很榮幸的一件事。

另外一件事情，就是自己的親身經歷。那是在一九八七年左右，剛到聖城沒有太久，還在學校念書。當時師父會用他的拐杖，打人家的頭來加持。師父在坐在中間方丈坐的地方，大家就圍著，讓他一個一個打，有時候不見得打得到。

忘記是什麼法會，我是帶我媽媽一起過來。反正後來我們就開始圍進去——我是一直都覺得怪怪的，好像要擠在前面，很怕落在後面的樣子。現在想起來——特別是有小孩子的居士，他們就會一直希望往前擠，想擠個位子給孩子。那時候實在是很擠，我跪的地方蠻遠的，有一點點掙扎。我很不願意去，而媽媽就一直把我往前推。可能也覺得自己已經是研究生了，不適合在那邊跟人家擠。可是媽媽就把我往前推，叫我趕快上去啊！

University didn't come as a huge group. Usually it was twelve or thirteen students at a time. We held the discussion in a small classroom. One of the panelists was Dharma Master Heng Sure.

I couldn't remember the others. When the discussion was about to begin, the Venerable Master walked in. He sat in front of Dharma Master Heng Sure, but sideways so we could only see half of his face.

One of the students in the audience recognized Dharma Master Heng Sure, raised his hand and asked if he was the one from Three Steps One Bow. Dharma Master Heng Sure only acknowledged with a nod and a tiny smile. The Venerable Master looked over at Dharma Master Heng Sure and he lowered his head. This happened quickly, like a movie and it made an impact on me.

At first, I thought it was only human that when people point out and praise you for things you've done, that one would be happy, and that it was a natural human reaction. I knew that when the whole thing happened, the Venerable Master was reminding the cultivator that you have to watch every single thought, not be arrogant or lax, even for a second.

It's just like in the Water Repentance Ceremony, the Dharma Master Wu Da felt proud of himself and he got in trouble. The reason I want to recall this incident is because I feel it is meaningful. Usually teachings by the eminent monks could only be read in old records. When they were teaching you a lesson (by hitting you), we usually only read it in history books. We never see these kinds of things anymore; it's like watching a film. That's why I cherish being in the audience and witnessing things like this, which I can now share.

The other incident I want to share happened around 1987, during one of the first couple of times I came to the City. I was still teaching. One of the things people looked forward to was after the lecture, the Venerable Master would come to bless people using a staff, close to where the abbot stands in the middle of the hall. It wasn't all the time that people would receive a tap of his staff. It was something people looked forward to.

I forgot what Dharma event it was, but I had brought my mother. One of the things I thought awkward was to cram around the Venerable Master. Normally, it was the parents that told their kids to get near to the Venerable Master, so they would be blessed. At that time I was a graduate student, so I felt awkward when my mother pushed me forward. I remember I knelt down but I was still distant from the Venerable Master. I was in a dilemma - my mother was

一方面當然也希望，媽媽不要很失望，假如我沒有被「打」到。可是又覺得，實在是不好意思跟人家在前面搶。後來看到旁邊有個小男孩要擠上前去，記得我回過頭，想



跟媽媽說：「沒關係，讓他一下。」記得才剛退了一步而已，師父的那個棍子（拐杖）就打到我了。到現在還是覺得有點奇特，因為我離師父其實有點遠的。那個棒大概打得太重，所以到現在，每次只要想到問自己是不是不爭，就常會想到這件事情。哦，其實當時我也不過是一點點的念頭，讓別人一下而已，師父就知道了。

還有師父訓練我們怎麼樣講法。當時因為也在女校跟男校教書法，所以沒有那麼多的時間可以參加對聯課。一九九三年左右，師父的身體狀況也不是特別好。所以他沒有常回到聖城。

當時我住在cottage二號，師父住在三號；他只要回來，我們看到燈，就知道他回來了。其實多半都不用看到燈，就知道師父回來，因為好像聖城的氣氛就很不一樣，感覺大家在做事時會比較緊張謹慎，或者有時就是只是很雀躍，很歡喜那樣的心情。

有一次，我記得，就是突然被叫上台要做翻譯，幫師父翻譯。我從來就沒有做過，也不曉得怎樣做，坐在師父旁邊的時候，就開始非常緊張。我坐在師父旁邊，等到他講得差不多，其實我可能有在抄筆記吧！後來師父就看著觀眾席就講，「果普！怎麼舊的人都沒有翻呢？」後來恒賢法師就上來了，坐在我旁邊，我整個心就安定下來。

為什麼我會很緊張？主要就是，因為翻譯師父的講法，好像一個字都不能漏掉；要不然就覺得大家那種，「啊，師父講了什麼，你沒有翻到？」雖然沒說出來，但會感覺到大家那種很迫切、很渴望的心情，這樣子會有很大的壓力。

時間到了，我在這裡停止。感謝您們給機會分享上人的教化。

pushing me to get close and I was pulling back as I felt I shouldn't fight for a place with the other kids.

I didn't want to make my mother disappointed that I didn't get blessed. I remember seeing a little boy who was in the same situation, who was also being pushed forward by someone, perhaps his mother. He was caught in front of me so I was kind of happy he could go first. I remembered I moved back a bit so he could get closer. I don't remember if I said this aloud but I thought it was okay for someone

else to be in front of me. Suddenly, the Venerable Master hit me with the staff. If I remember correctly, I was quite a way from him, so I don't know how he reached me. Every time we recite the Six Principles, "no fighting," I will think about this incident. Actually I just had a thought of letting others go first at that moment, yet, Venerable Master already knew it.

Also I want to mention a time when Venerable Master was teaching us about how to speak Dharma. Back then, I was attending the Chinese couplet writing class. Because of my duties with the school or for other reasons, I wasn't able to attend the class all the time. This was around 1993, when the Venerable Master wasn't in good health, so he didn't visit CTTB often.

I lived in the cottage close to Venerable Master. When he returned, we would know because we could see the light on in his cottage. I didn't have to see the light to know he was back. The atmosphere would give it away -- people would be excited and pay more attention to the things they did, or people would be very excited or joyful.

There was one time I was called on to do translation. Before then, I didn't know what would happen and had not done translation before. I was sitting next to him and felt extremely nervous. He looked at the audience and said, "Guo Pu (Dharma Master Heng Hsien), why don't the more experienced translate?" Then she came up and I felt so relieved.

Why was I nervous and anxious? People wanted to know everything the Venerable Master said and if the translation wasn't done properly, it would be disappointing -- and it was a lot of pressure.

Time is up, so I will stop here. I appreciate your giving me a chance to share my experience from the Venerable Master's teaching.