



好古文 By Oldy But Goody

國際譯經學院記錄翻譯 Translated by the International Translation Institute

You know, in those early days, the Master would, on rare occasions, take us disciples on outings. Sometimes we would go to the “one-man temples” of Chinese monks who came to settle in the Bay Area. In the car on the way to such places that had expensive interior decoration—fine furnishings and thick carpets—the Master would quietly teach and re-teach us the rules of etiquette:

Take off your shoes at the door. Don't look around as if you were thinking to steal something. Don't spill your tea. Don't ever go off alone in a room or place where you can't be seen; otherwise the host will worry about what you are up to or what you are going to take or break. Don't pick up anything! Don't take books off the shelves. Don't say things to challenge or embarrass the Dharma Master.

It was very obvious that our visits upset those Dharma Masters. As we trekked up to their doors, they would look at us aghast, for we didn't “fit” their environment at all!

How different their attitude was from the Master's kind and open acceptance of us! His patience and expedients drew us like magnets! He not only “put up” with our messes and mistakes, he also slowly taught us how to clean up our messes and mend our mistakes. And how different those Dharma Master's “temples” were from the plain, often old, but always roomy and functional Way-places that the Master established for the Sangha and laity to reside in! The question is often asked why so many young people gravitated to the Master and wished to become part of his Sangha and cultivate. These are two big reasons!

Venerable Master's Patience and Expedients Drew Us Like Magnets!

師父像吸鐵石一樣 吸住我們

50
YEARS
Fr 1962
W

你知道嗎？在早期，上人偶爾會帶著我們去參訪。有時候我們去拜訪幾家「精舍」，那是一些中國和尚來到灣區後，就自己花錢買房子，建立自己的小廟。我們開車到這些屋裡有昂貴裝潢、上等家具及厚地毯的精舍時，在車上上人反覆地叮嚀我們一些規矩：

在門口脫掉鞋子。不要東張西望地好像想偷東西。喝茶時不要灑出來。不要單獨到沒人看到你的房間或地方，否則這主人會一直擔心你會做什麼，或者你會拿什麼或者你會打破什麼東西。不可以拿任何東西！不要在書架上拿書出來。不要對法師說些令人難堪的話。

很明顯地，那些法師對我們的拜訪都很不高興。我們漫不經心大步地走到門口時，他們很不歡迎地看著我們，因為我們跟他們的格調實在格格不入！

和上人的慈悲及接受我們的態度比較起來，他們是多麼地不一樣！師父的耐心、權巧方便就像吸鐵石一樣吸住我們。上人不僅忍耐我們的邇邇及所做的錯誤，他還慢慢地教我們如何收拾乾淨及改正錯誤。那些法師的「精舍」與上人的道場又是多麼地不一樣！上人為僧團及在家人所建立的是雖樸素、老舊，但卻寬敞、又符合我們需要的道場。有人常問：「為什麼上人能吸引這麼多的年輕人，願意跟他出家及修行？」上面所說的兩點是最主要的因素。