

跑不掉的護法——

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The Ever-Present Dharma Protector—

Introducing Mr. Liu Guo Guang

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編輯部英譯 English translation by the Editorial Staff

回憶廿九年前與上人的初次見面，仍如昨日般的清晰。那是一九八三年的暑假，我們一家五口開車從西雅圖到加州旅行，回程從三藩市沿著海岸線101公路經過萬佛聖城，於是隨緣進入佛殿恭聽上人說法。之後上人與我們見面，全家頓起皈依三寶之意念。蒙上人慈悲，就在隔天清晨六點，上人特別給我們一家舉行慎重的皈依儀式。

大約兩個月之後，上人給我電話，說：「幾天後的深夜，我會搭飛機前來西雅圖。」我問他為什麼深更半夜來呢？他說為了節省信眾的善款，半夜來，機票就便宜很多了。上人是為了決定是否買下Minor Street的金峰聖寺，以及溫哥華金佛聖寺而來。之後他指派一位比丘法師及兩位越裔工人前來裝修金峰聖寺，並叮嚀他們要在佛堂的兩邊牆上加裝3x3x6呎的內框，以供奉護法韋馱以及伽藍菩薩，可是法師卻決定叫我找畫家來畫護法菩薩像，貼上即可。

I look back at the first time I met Venerable Master some 29 years ago. This memory is still as fresh and clear as if it was just yesterday. It was the summer of 1983. Our family of five was on a road trip travelling from Seattle to California. On our way back, we drove on the 101 highway along the coastline in San Francisco and passed by the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB). On the spur of the moment, we decided to go into the monastery to listen to the teachings of the Venerable Master. Venerable Master met with us. Our entire family suddenly had the urge to take refuge in the Triple Jewels. Venerable Master was very kind and loving; the very next morning at 6a.m., he personally conducted a refuge ceremony especially for us.

Roughly two months later, Venerable Master phoned and said he'll be arriving in Seattle at around midnight in several days. I asked him why he chose to come at such a time, he simply said, "It's to save money on the donations that people have given us. The plane tickets at midnight are a lot cheaper!" That particular trip was actually for Venerable Master



當年西雅圖華人很少，更找不到會畫護法菩薩像的高手，我只好打電話拜託親戚在臺灣三義的木雕廠訂製，但卻因半年後才能交貨而作罷。絞盡腦汁，經過幾天的冥思苦想，突然想起幾個月前有一位法師交待我，代他向海關申辦五尊佛像的出關手續，當中或許有兩尊護法菩薩吧？於是提起勇氣跟他商量，可否將兩尊護法菩薩供奉在金峰寺。沒想到竟然如願以償。現在回想，原來師父早就知道會有兩尊白色大理石、雕刻莊嚴的護法菩薩從中國運到西雅圖。其實他是在考驗弟子的誠心！

對在家弟子，上人是非常的慈祥和藹，有求必應，每當我們見到上人，一定請他老人家多敲頭，以長智慧；對於出家弟子，上人則特別嚴厲。當年每週共修午齋後都有心得分享，有位法師就提到一天下午四點左右，他從二樓窗戶往街上看，剛好有兩位女子在對街漫遊。馬上電話鈴聲就響了！是上人打來的。第一句便問：「外面的女孩子漂亮吧！」把他嚇了一大跳。還有一次做晚課時，他心急氣躁，木魚敲得大聲了點。晚課做完，電話鈴響了，又是上人打來的。第一句話就問：「你發什麼牛脾氣啊？木魚敲得那麼大聲！」從此他就很小心很小心了。上人無時無刻不在關心弟子。

當年萬佛聖城有法會，我們都會租車前往參加。有一年我們租了兩部十五人座的箱型車，半夜大約十一點左右，開車經過Clear Lake湖邊時，突然聞到一陣濃郁的檀香味，持續不散有十分鐘之久。到萬佛聖城時已是十二點多，沒想到上人在會客室等我們。同修果榮向上人報告在車上聞到檀香的事，上人微笑地說：「對啊！菩薩在等著歡迎你們的到來！」以上就是我的幾則心得分享。阿彌陀佛！

to decide whether or not he should purchase the Gold Summit Sagely Monastery on Minor Street in Seattle, and the Gold Buddha Monastery in Vancouver. He later asked a Dharma Master and two Vietnamese workers to help renovate Gold Summit Sagely Monastery, specifically reminding them to install 3x3x6 frames on the two side walls in the Buddha hall for the Bodhisattvas Wei Tuo and Sangharama. But somehow, the Dharma Master asked me to look for an artist to paint the Bodhisattvas on canvas and hang these paintings on the walls instead.

Back then, the Chinese population in Seattle was very small, making it all the more difficult for me to find someone who could draw the images of the Bodhisattvas. I finally had to call my relatives in Taiwan to place a local order, but had to give up the idea later due to a six month delivery date. I thought hard for several days, and suddenly remembered that I once helped out a Dharma Master on importing his five Buddha statues. Perhaps he has the statues I want. So I phoned the Dharma Master and asked whether I could make use of the two of his the statues and place them at the Gold Summit Monastery. My request was blissfully fulfilled. Looking back, I realize that Venerable Master already knew what was in the shipment going to Seattle; that it contained the two elegant white marble statues. This shipping event was testing my sincerity and devotion.

Venerable Master cares very much about his lay disciples. He is very loving and kind and does not hesitate to help us out with our problems. Every time we met with Venerable Master, we would ask him to tap on our head so we received more wisdom. Towards his monastic disciples, Venerable Master was also very strict. Every week, we shared our own experience among ourselves right after meal time. A Dharma Master mentioned that sometime ago he looked out from the second floor and noticed two girls walking on the other side of the street. At that very moment, his phone rang! And it was Venerable Master calling him to say, "You think those girls outside are really pretty?!" He was very shocked! And there was another time when he was in the evening recitation, he was not too happy with himself and vented out by hitting the wooden fish instrument harder than usual. Afterwards, the phone rang, and again it was from the Venerable Master. The Venerable asked, "Why the grouchiness and bad temper? The hitting was so loud!" Since then, he became very careful and cautious.

Back then, we usually rented cars to attend ceremonies at the CTTB. One year, we had two fifteen-people vans and when we passed by the Clear Lake at around eleven o'clock at night, we noticed a very strong fragrance of incense. It lasted for roughly ten minutes. We finally arrived at the CTTB and saw that Venerable Master was actually still up, waiting for us in the reception room! Guo-Rong and I told the Venerable Master about the incense fragrance. The Venerable Master smiled and replied, "Of course! The Bodhisattvas were welcoming you!" These are my personal experiences I wanted to share with you. Amitofo!