

# 緣起緣滅悟真常——介紹金蓉琴居士

*Realizing the Rise and Fall of Conditions,  
Therein Lies Enlightenment—*

## Introducing Ms. Rong-Chyn Dai

編輯部整理 Composed by the Editorial Staff

甄依玲英譯 English translation by Elaine Ginn



金蓉琴來自台灣，現住維吉尼亞州。一九九九年夏，同修突發性肝炎，尋求佛書。透過友人的介紹，她正式拜訪了華嚴精舍；經由法師開示，對佛法有了重新的認識，猶如大旱之逢甘霖，當天即請了精舍中所有上人開示的經典，以及西方三聖像。

自此以後，她幾乎每週日都去華嚴精舍共修，並與同修發心競相背誦〈大悲咒〉、〈楞嚴咒〉，研讀上人開示，與同修吃全素；對於葷腥，說斷即斷，毫無困難。於第二年的七月，夫婦一起參加萬佛聖城的觀音七，並皈依受戒，正式踏上了學佛之路。

她在華嚴精舍週日學校擔任多年的校長及教師，對於佛教向下扎根的工作不遺餘力。即使卸任校長一職，只要週日學校的師生需要協助，金老師永遠是無聲卻最有力的支持。

初學佛時，多半修習念佛法門，將經教的研習放在次要；隨後因緣成熟，開始探究佛理。如今除了研習經論，也加強打坐；雖然如此，求生西方的意願，始終如一。曾遭喪親、愛別離之痛，深悟緣起緣滅，由不自己做得半分主；沒有證道解脫，始終都脫不了生死輪迴苦。

學佛就要學三無漏學——戒、定、慧，雖然是一條長遠的路，最重要的就要有正知正見，才不致走冤枉路。戒為修行的基礎，基礎不紮實，遑論其它？她認為上人的道場戒律嚴，因此在道場裡學習規矩戒律，打好學佛的基礎，實在是上人的遠見。她深信只要發菩提深心，精進不懈，上人和佛菩薩都會扶持我們，給予指引與鼓勵。

In 1999, Rong-Chyn Dai, a Taiwanese native living in Virginia, discovered that her husband had developed hepatitis. Looking to Buddhist books to find answers, she was recommended through friends to visit Avatamsaka Vihara. After speaking with a Dharma Master, she found a new perspective on Buddhism. Like finding a precious treasure, she bought almost every book with the Venerable Master Hua's lectures, including images of the Three Western Sages.

Dai diligently visited Avatamsaka Vihara every Sunday. She and her husband both eagerly memorized the Great Compassion Mantra and Shurangama Mantra, read the Venerable Master's lectures, and converted to being vegetarians with no difficulty in cutting out meat and fish from their diet. They also attended the Guan Yin recitation session in July and took refuge along with the five precepts.

Dai later served as Avatamsaka Vihara's Sunday School principal and teacher for many years, sparing no effort in planting the roots of the Buddhadharma among youths. Though currently retired from her position, she wholeheartedly offers any assistance to fellow teachers.

Dai's initial Buddhist practice primarily consisted of Buddha name recitations, finding sutra studies to be of secondary importance. She eventually began investigating sutras and meditation, but maintains her primary goal of being reborn into the Western Pure Land. Having battled with emotions from the loss of loved ones, Dai experienced the condition of entering and ceasing existence to be out of her control. Without becoming enlightened, she cannot leave the cycle of birth and death.

Buddhism involves studying in the threefold training--precepts, concentration, and wisdom. It is a long journey. And it is important to possess proper knowledge and views to avoid entering a wrong and pointless path. Precepts serve as the foundation. If the foundation is not solid, neither are the other principles. Dai firmly believes in the Venerable Master's vision for strict precepts in Way places to help build strong foundations, and that if we resolve to attain enlightenment and practice diligently and vigorously, the Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, and the Venerable Master will surely guide and support us.