



白山黑水育奇英（續）

White Mountains and Black Waters Nurture Rare Talent (continued)

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Venerable Master Hsuan Hua's Biography

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BIOGRAPHIES | 人物誌

35. 裏二外八

因為孝名遠播，不但在家人受感動來護持，甚至出家人也來供養。有位唐玉明老居士，發心每天親自送飯。當時是夏天，正逢雨季，道路泥濘不堪，上人體恤唐居士年紀大，對他說：「雨下不停，往返困難。我這兒備有乾糧，可吃上二十多天，你等天晴再來。」唐老居士信以為真，等到天氣放晴後送飯來。他這時候才知道上人端坐用功，已經有二十三天未進粒米。上人告訴他，每日專心禪坐，不覺飢餓。上人修行是行人所不能行的、忍人所不能忍的、吃人所不能吃的，「裏二外八」的故事，可以略窺一斑。

上人自述：

我在守孝的時候，還有一件事情不知道對不對？有人說是對，有人說不對。說對的人，他就說好；說不對的人，他就說是

35. Inside Two and Outside Eight

Because of my filial piety, my name was widely known. Not only lay people but also left-home people came to make offerings to me. An elderly layman, Mr. Yuming Tang, decided to bring meals to me every day. Since it was during the summer rainy season, all the roads were very muddy. Out of compassion, the Venerable Master told him, "It keeps raining and the road is too muddy to walk on. I have plenty of dry food and it will last for more than twenty days, so you do not need to come back until the rain is over."

Convinced, Mr. Tang did not return until the sun shone again. Upon his arrival, he discovered that the Venerable Master had been meditating for 23 days and had not eaten anything. The Venerable Master told him that he had concentrated on meditating and did not feel hungry at all. This is the way the Venerable Master cultivated—practicing what other people cannot practice, tolerating what other people cannot tolerate, and eating what other people cannot eat, which can be observed in the following story called "Inside two and outside eight."

As told by the Venerable Master:

During my mourning period, something happened and I am not sure if

壞。什麼事情呢？那時候村子很多人供養我，有的買一點這個東西，有的就送一點那個東西；總而言之，都是可以吃的，可以穿的這些東西。

我在墳上守孝的時候，有個叫止一的比丘，止就停止的止，一就一個的一，他意思大約也就是一天只吃一餐。這個比丘的神通大的很，什麼神通呢？能吃。他也是一天吃一餐，這一餐吃多少東西呢？可以裝十磅這麼大的碗，他可以吃三大碗！他吃得快得很，真和那餓鬼吃東西是一樣的。他想我在守孝，怕我沒有東西吃；他送了一竹筐的「裏二外八」——北方的窩窩頭。因為做窩窩頭的時候，兩個大拇指放在裡邊，其他八個手指頭放到外邊這麼做，所以窩窩頭又叫「裏二外八」。

我一天吃兩個，三個禮拜才吃完。當時天氣熱得不得了，我那時候什麼也不管，沒有把它拿到外邊去吹吹風，或者曬一曬；最後這些窩窩頭裡邊、外邊，都長了差不多有一寸半那麼長的毛。窩窩頭壞成這個樣子，如果把它丟了，這是人家供養的；尤其是一個比丘送的，我那時候僅僅是一個沙彌。若不丟它，這東西真難吃，又辣又臭，從來都沒有吃過那麼難吃的東西；現在想起這個味道，甚至於還要作嘔。我那時候把毛拿走了，還是吃了。

有人到那兒去，看我吃這個東西，就叫我不要吃，說吃了會生病。我說：「生病？什麼叫病？」「你在這兒生病，就不能修行了！」我說：「那死了更好，何況病呢！」吃完了也沒有病，什麼事情也沒有！當時真是把身心都放下了，所以吃這種東西也可以吃，我相信當時怎麼難吃的東西，我都可以吃的。

【後記】有一個從吉林省來的老太太，給上人送飯。上人閉目，不吃也不看；老太太說：「你慈悲慈悲我吧！」上人還是不動，也不睜眼。她給上人叩了很多響頭，叩得額頭起疤包，嘴裡不住地說：「白孝子，你慈悲慈悲我吧！」直到上人睜眼看看她，她才心滿意足地走了。因為她相信上人看看她，能消她業障，她往生一定會去好的地方。

☞待續

it was right or not. Some people thought it was right while others disagreed. What was it? At that time many people in the village came to make offerings to me, mostly food or clothing.

There was a bhikshu named Zhi-Yi. Zhi means “stop” and Yi means “one,” which together means approximately “one meal a day.” This bhikshu had spiritual power. What kind of power? Eating. He too ate one meal a day, but how much did he eat for one meal? He ate three big bowlfuls, which each contained about ten pounds of food. He ate as fast as hungry ghosts. When he learned that I was in mourning, he was afraid that I would starve, so he sent me a huge bamboo basket full of “inside two and outside eight” – a special bun in northern China. In the process of making these buns, two thumbs are placed inside the bun, while the other eight fingers are kept outside. That is why such buns are called “inside two and outside eight.”

I ate two buns a day, and it took me about three weeks to finish them all. The weather was unbearably hot, and I didn't pay much attention to anything. I didn't take the buns outside so they could dry in the sun. As a result, some hairs [of mold] about one-inch long grew out from both sides of the buns. The buns were badly spoiled, but I could not discard them because they were offered by a bhikshu, and I was only a novice monk at that time. Those buns were really hard to eat! They were the most rancid and stinky buns that I have ever tasted. Even now as I recall the flavor, I become nauseated. I picked all the hairs out of the buns and ate them anyway.

Someone came to visit and saw me eating the buns. They told me not to eat them, that I would get sick. I replied, “Sick? What is illness?” The visitor said, “If you get sick here, you cannot go on cultivating!” I said, “Death is fine for me, not to mention sickness!” Yet In the end I didn't get sick from eating the buns. Nothing happened at all! I had really had let go of everything, so I could eat such bad food. Back then, I believed that I could eat any kind of food, no matter how bad it tasted.

Addendum: An old lady from Jilin Province took a meal to the Venerable Master. The Master closed his eyes and neither looked at her nor took the food. The old lady said to him, “Please have mercy on me!” The Venerable Master still didn't move or open his eyes. She bowed so many times that her forehead became bruised from knocking it on the ground. She kept saying, “Filial Son Bai, please have mercy on me!” The Venerable Master finally took a look at her, and she felt satisfied and left. She believed that once the Venerable Master took a look at her, her karma would be eliminated, and she would certainly be reborn in a good place.

☞To be continued