

韓國龍仁市國際佛學院到訪

International School of Buddhist Studies in Korea Visiting CTTB

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國際佛學院九位韓國比丘尼與一位女教授居士於十一月十五日至十六日訪問萬佛聖城二日。國際佛學院位於韓國首爾市的近郊龍仁市，其屬於韓國佛教中的曹溪派，以英語教導尼僧佛學。她們訪問主要目的是希望從美國佛教中學習。對於：「如何區別文化與佛教？什麼是根本的，什麼是表層的？」「對於現代社會中人們生活需求的變化，我們應如何調整？」等等問題，更想找到答案。

喜捨院尼眾對他們的來訪予以熱誠歡迎並安排交流研討會。易象乾博士，一位大學教授並擁有卅餘年的修行經驗，分享他的專業知識及宣公上人早期如何教導西方弟子的經驗。葉祖堯博士夫婦在「日常生活領導力」的講座中暢談如何運用佛法以解決每天所面臨的問題。在法大教學樓，喜捨院尼眾與韓國尼眾有兩場交流，以小組研討和問答方式進行溝通。彼此分享修行上的經驗與困難，激勵出很多有見地的討論。

討論中，喜捨院尼眾獲悉韓國曹洞宗女眾出家條件為高中畢業，年齡在五十歲以下。沙彌訓練四年，傳大戒每年一次，剃度一年兩次。韓國曹洞宗沙彌尼受訓四年，學戒、法器、唱誦、與同修和合。為降伏我慢和我執，須和合共事並聽從同輩和長輩的話。

午齋後，一位韓國客僧在廚房和齋堂見到高中女同學在負責清理打掃，她拿出攝影機拍攝記錄，並說：「現在年輕學生願意服務大眾，真是太難得了！我得拍下來，回去讓我們國內年輕的一代學習！」隨後，一行人

Nine Korean bhikshunis, accompanied by a lay professor, from International School of Buddhist Studies (ISBS) came to visit the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) for two days: Thursday, Nov. 15th and Friday, Nov. 16th. ISBS is located in a small city of Yongin near Seoul. They are of the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism. The institution teaches the nuns Dharma in English. Since the school offers an English immersion program for bhikshunis, this group wishes to find inspiration from Buddhists in the United States. The purpose of this trip was to find some answers to questions such as: "What is Buddhism and what is culture? What is essential and what is superficial? "How do we adapt to the changing needs of the people in the modern world?" etc...

JGH bhikshunis extended their warmest welcome and arranged discussion sessions and workshops for the visiting bhikshunis to help address their questions. Dr. Ronald Epstein, who has taught for over 30 years in the universities and a long-time practitioner, shared his profound insights. He also told stories of how Venerable Master Hua taught Americans in the early days. In addition, Dr. Raymond Yeh and Mrs. Yeh gave a workshop on Everyday Leadership Skills which incorporated Buddhist principles to daily life as strategies to solve problems that we face every day. Two discussion periods were arranged in the University Building for the JGH and Korean nuns to have a more personal interaction as well as for questions and answers. The discussion periods were very insightful and stimulating as the two groups shared their experiences and the difficulties they face in cultivation.

During the discussion periods, JGH nuns also learned that in the Jogye Order, in order to enter the monastic life, a nun must have a high school diploma and is below age 50. As a novice, they must receive four years of training. Ordination ceremonies are held every year whereas the shaving-head ceremonies are done twice a year. As a Korean novice in the Jogye Order, they will receive four years of training, in which they will learn precepts, Dharma instruments, chanting and work harmoniously with others as well as listening to both peers and elder nuns as a form to reduce their ego and let go of their attachments.



參訪培德女中，與同學問答。這場誠懇的交流充滿了歡樂與溫暖。韓國法師與學生的坦誠相接，讓雙方都留下深刻的印象。

韓國尼僧表示聖城的作息精進，生活簡單，職責繁重。宣公上人竭盡心力在西方弘揚佛法，他老人家留下的四大志業尚有許多工作待做。如何調整，使我們能更加有效地回應現代社會中人們的需求，將是我們不斷深思的問題。❀

After lunch, one of the Korean bhikshunis saw our high school girl students helped clean up in the kitchen and the dining hall. She brought out her camera and started to record it. She said, "It's rare to see teenagers doing hands-on service work nowadays! I'm going to show this to the youths in my country!" Later, they went to visit the girl school, interacted with the students in a Q&A format. The heart-to-heart interaction was filled with laughter and warmth. What connected the Korean nuns and the students was the candidness from both sides. As a result, it left a deep impression on both groups.

The Korean nuns commented that the schedule at CTTB is rigorous; the living condition is simple, and the responsibilities are many. To propagate Buddhism in the West, Venerable Master Hua had worked so hard and left us great work from his four legacies. How do we change to become more effective and responsive to the needs of people in the modern world remains a question we need to reflect on. ❀

