

With Great Compassion for All Living Beings, Guan Yin Bodhisattva Rescues Someone Whose Life Was Hanging By a Thread.

觀音慈悲愍眾生
命懸一線終得救

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BODHI FIELD | 菩提田

A couple of weeks ago, I told a story about the first Three Steps, One Bow pilgrimage (1973-1974) and how Manjushri Bodhisattva helped Heng Ju Shr and Heng Yo Shr at the time. Particularly how he gave Heng Ju Shr a teaching on the importance of lovingkindness and compassion for those nearest to us. Tonight I will tell a story about another person in a far more dangerous situation, who was also saved by a Bodhisattva.

This happened in 1978. The previous story was told to me by Heng Ju Shr, but it was not something that I was an actual witness to. However, I was fortunate to be a direct witness with the last part of today's story. Therefore, I can verify that this account is true. This story is about one of the Venerable Master's disciples, Guo Lei, or Douglas Powers. In August 1978, the Venerable Master took about ten people to visit Malaysia for a lecture tour. These people included two monks, two nuns and about six lay people including Doug, Heng Sure Shr and Marty (former Heng Chau Shr) were in the middle of their own Three Step, One Bow pilgrimage. Venerable Master took them to Malaysia for one and a half months, letting them bow in place. Doug was part of this group, but he went to Hong Kong for a month first and then joined the delegation in Malaysia later. Near the end of their six-week stay in Malaysia, Doug had an idea of climbing the Annapurna Mountains

幾週前，我講了恒具師和恒由師在三步一拜（1973-1974）途中遇到的一件事，還有文殊菩薩如何幫助了他們。特別是文殊菩薩如何教導恒具師，給予我們身邊的人關懷和慈悲是多麼的重要。今晚我會講另外一個故事，是關於有一個人在極度危險的情形下，菩薩如何救了他。

事情發生在1978年。之前那個故事是恒具師講給我聽的，但是我並沒有親眼見證。幸運的是，今天要講故事的尾聲部分，這可是我親眼所見，所以我可以證實這個故事是真的。這件事發生在上人的弟子果勒（Douglas Powers）身上。1978年8月，上人帶了十個弟子去馬來西亞弘法，其中有兩位比丘，兩位比丘尼，還有包括果勒在內的六位居士。恒實師和Marty（前恒朝師）還在他們自己的三步一拜途中。上人也帶他們到馬來西亞去了一個半月，讓他們在當地繼續拜。果勒也在弘法團中，但是他先去了香港一個月，後來才去馬來西亞和弘法團會合。在六週的行程快要結束的時候，果勒冒出

in the Himalayas, several of which are over 25,000 feet high. While the delegation would go on to Singapore, Thailand, and Hong Kong, staying at each place for about a week, Doug wished to leave the delegation and go to Nepal to climb the mountain.

Doug talked to the Venerable Master about his wish, saying that if he did not leave right away the mountain would have more snow and be difficult to climb. The Venerable Master told him to stay with the delegation group for three more weeks, and then go climb the mountain. The Venerable Master even told him that he guaranteed that there would not be more snow if he left later. However, Doug still wanted to leave right away. He told the Venerable Master that if he waited, the transportation costs would be much greater. The Venerable Master said he would pay the extra cost and again encouraged him to wait. Yet Doug still insisted on leaving. He told the Master that he felt that it was the right time to go and if he traveled later on it would be more difficult. The Venerable Master assured him that if he waited he would not encounter any difficulties. So the Venerable Master had clearly told him three times to wait till later to go on his trip to climb the Annapurna Mountains. Although Doug had run out of reasons on why he couldn't wait till later, he still went ahead and left right away.

He had to travel across Malaysia to Thailand, then to Burma before getting to Nepal. Shortly after he started his journey, he realized that things were not going the way he had originally planned. It seemed that every place he went there were problems. In Southern Thailand political radicals even shot at his bus. Although the bus escaped and no one on the bus was injured, other people close by were killed. Things just started going wrong. He soon realized that it would have been much better if he waited for three weeks as the Venerable Master had told him. After encountering one difficulty after another, he finally arrived in Nepal and started to climb one of the mountains of the Annapurna range.

After reaching a point on the mountain about 10,000 feet above sea level he had a very strange experience. Doug and a friend from Germany had found a flat space near a cave on the mountain and had set up their camp there to rest for the night. In the middle of the night he woke up. To this day he swears that he must have been well over 100 or more feet from the edge of the mountain. However, to his shock and horror in the pitch-black darkness he took just a few steps and found himself falling off the mountain. Fortunately after falling about 40 feet he hit a cliff that jutted out from the mountain. If not for the cliff, he would have fallen 10,000 feet to his certain death. When he hit the cliff, he was knocked unconscious.

He did not know how long he was knocked out, but when he regained consciousness, he started to moan in the darkness. He had split open a wound on the right side of his skull, had damaged some nerves that caused one side of his face to be paralyzed, broken several ribs and one of his feet, and had compacted his chest. Although alive, he was in pretty

一個想法，他想去爬喜馬拉雅山中的安娜普納群山，這其中有些山有超過25,000英尺那麼高。當時弘法團要繼續前往新加坡、泰國和香港，並在每個地方停留一週，可是果勒卻希望獨自離開去尼泊爾爬那座山。

於是，果勒把他的心願告訴上人，說如果他不上去的話，山上會下更多雪，而增加爬山的困難。結果上人要他和弘法團一起再多住三週，然後再去爬山。上人甚至向果勒保證，即使他晚些離開也不會下更多的雪。可是，果勒仍然想馬上動身，於是又跟上人說，如果他繼續等下去，交通費用會貴很多。上人又告訴果勒，他會支付多出的費用，所以又勸他留下來等一等。

可是果勒執意要啟程。他告訴上人，他覺得這正是動身的時候，如果他晚些時候再去的話，會有更多的困難。上人向他保證，如果他晚些時候再啟程，他不會遇到任何困難。所以，上人總共三次，很明確地告訴他等一段時間再啟程去爬山。雖然果勒再也找不到其它理由了，他還是自顧自地即刻啟程去爬山了。

首先，他要穿過馬來西亞去泰國，然後途經緬甸，再到達尼泊爾。他出發不久後，便發現旅途並不像他計劃得那樣順利。好像他到達每一個地方都遇到一些麻煩。他在泰國南部遇上激進分子暴亂，巴士中了流彈。最後，雖然那輛巴士逃離了那裡，巴士上的人也沒有受傷，可是附近其他的人被槍殺了。一切都不太順利。他突然意識到，如果他聽了上人的話，等三週再出發，情況會好很多。最後，經過一個又一個難關，他終於到達了尼泊爾，開始爬安娜普納群山中的一座。

當果勒到達山上一個海拔一萬英尺的地方時，他遇到一件非常奇怪的事情。他和他的德國朋友在一個山洞附近找到一塊平地，於是他們搭好帳篷，在那裡過夜。夜裡他醒過來，至今他還很肯定，當時他距離懸崖邊至少有100英尺。可是，在一片漆黑中，他竟然才走幾步就掉下山崖，他非常驚恐。好在他下落了大概40英尺後，碰到一個突出的山崖。如果沒有這個山崖，他就會跌落一萬英尺，必死無疑。他碰到山崖以後，受到撞擊然後就不省人事了。

他也不知道自己被撞暈了多久，當他清醒

bad shape. His German friend up at the camp eventually heard Doug's cries and discovered that Doug had fallen over the edge and was badly injured. Unable to reach him, he went to seek help from some local residents. He knew a father and son, who lived nearby on the mountain. Together they somehow lifted him back up with some ropes to the cave on the flat area where they had originally camped for the night. He lay in the cave in terrible pain for days. Since they were in such a remote area on the mountain, it took two days for others to report the accident, and then another two days for medical help to arrive.

During the four days, Doug was not only in excruciating pain, but also had an immense fear of death. He was concerned that help might not reach him in time, and scared that he was going to die. The key to his survival was the recitation of the name of the Bodhisattva of Great Compassion, Guan Shi Yin, whenever he was conscious. He had to do it intensely and with lots of concentration, so that he would not be aware of the pain and fear. When he was not sincere with the recitation, the pain and fear would come back. So he kept reciting Guan Shi Yin Bodhisattva's name and visualized the Bodhisattva as much as he could.

After four days the rescue team came by helicopter. They took him to the closest airport and then put him on the next 747 passenger plane to Bangkok, Thailand. On the plane he laid on a stretcher across four passenger seats, accompanied by a doctor sent by the US Embassy. Once he reached Bangkok, it was decided that it would be better to have the extensive surgery and medical care he needed in America, where his weakened immune system would give him a better chance for recovery. Thus they put him on another 747 passenger plane back home to San Francisco. Again he lay on a stretcher across four seats on the plane. Once the plane landed, they rushed him to a hospital for operations and surgery that lasted over ten hours. The initial surgery was followed by other extensive surgeries and a series of micro-surgeries. This incident on the mountain had occurred in September.

At that time, the Venerable Master came back to the United States with the rest of the delegation group. He was expecting to see Doug in Hong Kong at the end part of the trip, but Doug did not show up. Two months after the delegation had returned (the delegation had returned at the end of September), the Venerable Master asked Heng Guan Shr and myself in Gold Mountain Monastery (on 15th Street) what had happened to Doug. At that time, nearly all of the monks, nuns, and lay-people who lived in Gold Mountain and the Translation Institute (the women's residence) in San Francisco had moved to the City of 10,000 Buddhas over a year earlier. So only a few people lived at the monastery in San Francisco. The permanent residents at Gold Mountain included Heng Guan Shr, myself, and the Venerable Master's Chinese secretary, Mr. Zhou Guo Li, who was also from Manchuria, China. The Venerable Master would usually spend three days at the City of 10,000 Buddhas and four days at Gold Mountain Monastery

過來的時候，開始痛苦地在黑暗中呻吟起來。他的頭骨右側撕裂，損傷了一些神經，導致他半個臉都癱瘓了。他還摔斷了一隻腳和幾根肋骨，壓迫著他的胸部。雖然他還活著，可是身體損傷很嚴重。最終，在帳篷裡的德國朋友聽到他的呼救，發現他已經掉下懸崖，身受重傷。可是他的朋友沒辦法接近他，於是他的朋友只好去找當地人來幫忙。

他的朋友認識一對住在附近的父子。於是大家一起用繩子把果勒拉上來，拉到之前的那個洞穴。他在山洞裡痛苦地躺了好幾天。因為他們在這偏遠的山區裡，所以人家花了兩天時間才將這個事故上報，又花了兩天時間等待醫療救援。

在這四天裡，果勒不僅忍受著巨大的疼痛，還有對死亡的極度恐懼。他害怕如果救援無法及時趕到，自己就會這樣死去。而他最終活下來的關鍵是，只要他有意識，就會稱念大慈大悲觀世音菩薩的名號。他必須非常密集地、精神高度集中地誦持，這樣他才能不去關注自己的疼痛和恐懼。如果他念誦的時候不夠誠心，疼痛和恐懼就會再度襲來。所以他就一直稱念觀世音菩薩的名號，並且努力觀想觀世音菩薩的形象。

四天以後，一輛直升機載著救援隊前來。他們把他帶到最近的機場，然後把他送上下一班去曼谷的747客機。在飛機上，他躺在一個占四個座位的擔架上，由一位美國大使館派來的醫生照顧。他到達曼谷以後，大家決定馬上送他去美國進行大型手術和治療。因為他的免疫系統已經很虛弱了，也許他在美國康復的機率會大一些。所以他們把他送上一架去三藩市的747客機。他又一次躺在占四個座位的擔架上。飛機一著陸，他就立刻被送往醫院進行了超過十個小時的治療和手術。一開始，他動了一個手術，後來又動了一系列大大小小的手術。這個山上的事故發生在九月份。

那時，上人和弘法團其他成員回到美國。他本來以為會在行程快結束時在香港遇到果勒，但是果勒並沒有出現。弘法團回來兩個月後（他們在九月底回到美國），在15街的金山寺，上人問恒觀師和我，果勒怎麼了。那時，幾乎所有住在金山寺和譯經院（女眾住所）的比丘、比

each week. So Heng Guan Shr phoned Doug right away to find out what had happened.

As I recall it must have been late November or December. Doug came over to Gold Mountain Monastery to tell the Venerable Master and us what had happened. I remember what he looked like at that time as he was still recovering from his accident. He was in pretty bad shape and one side of his face drooped down. It was two months after the accident, and he still had to undergo more surgeries to fix various parts of his body including his face.

When Doug visited, the Venerable Master asked him. “How many times did I ask you not to leave?” Doug replied, “Three times.” “Three times, and you still went!” Then the Venerable Master’s tone became more serious as he said, “Basically you died. The Bodhisattva came and saved your life.” At that time, I had already known Doug for several years. After that I noticed that he became even more devoted to the Venerable Master. He even made a personal vow to devote his life to uphold and protect the Venerable Master’s teachings.

Several months later, Doug told the story of what had happened to the great assembly at the City of 10,000 Buddhas. It was at that time that the Venerable Master not only mentioned how Guan Shi Yin Bodhisattva saved his life, but also told Doug, “The Bodhisattva came and saved your life, so don’t make a mess in this life. Do something good in this life.”

A footnote concerning the Venerable Master’s Chinese secretary, Mr. Zhou Guo Li: Mr. Zhou Guo Li took care of the Chinese correspondence for the Venerable Master. He was also the editor of the twenty some volumes of the Chinese of *the Flower Adornment Sutra with commentary* that the Venerable Master had lectured. Now people listen to the lecture tapes and may question why some parts and stories were omitted and not published. When Mr. Zhou Guo Li compiled the drafts in Chinese, he would always go over his work with the Venerable Master. I still recall him on a weekly basis, kneeling in front of Venerable Master with his clipboard in hand, going through the details of his work with the Venerable Master. He would often ask if certain parts- especially stories- should be taken out and published in separate books. There were some stories or special Dharma talks that were originally spoken during these Sutra lectures, that were published separately. Mr. Zhou Guo Li was very careful to make sure that all of his work was approved by the Venerable Master.

Question from the audience at the City of 10,000 Buddhas: “Was Doug pushed out the cliff?”

Answer: “Doug never said he was pushed off. He remembered though, that he was far away from the edge of the mountain. It seems that some other force may have been involved, but he was not pushed off.” ❀

丘尼、居士都在一年多以前搬到萬佛聖城去了。所以只有幾個人住在三藩市的道場裡。金山寺的常住包括恒觀師、我，還有上人的中文秘書從中國東北來的周果立。通常，上人每週會在萬佛聖城住三天，在金山寺住四天。所以恒觀師馬上給果勒打電話，詢問他到底發生了什麼。

我記得那時已經是十一月底或十二月了。果勒到金山寺來，告訴我們到底發生了什麼。我記得他那時的樣子，他當時還在恢復期。他看上去損傷嚴重，有一邊的臉垂下來。雖然已經是事故發生後兩個月了，為了修復他身體的各個部分，包括他的臉，他還需要去做更多的手術。

果勒來的時候，上人問他：「我說了多少次你不要去？」果勒回答：「三次。」「三次，可你還是去了！」然後上人的語氣變得很嚴肅：「基本上你已經死了。是觀世音菩薩來救了你的命！」那時，我認識果勒已經幾年了。經過這件事情以後，我發現他對上人更加虔誠了。他甚至發願要用他的一生來護持上人的法。

幾個月後，果勒在萬佛聖城給大眾講述了他的這段經歷。正是在那個時候，上人不僅講了觀世音菩薩如何救了他的性命，還告訴果勒：「是觀世音菩薩救了你的命。所以這輩子不要再任性胡為了。好好用這條命去行善。」

關於上人的中文秘書周果立：周果立先生負責處理上人的中文文書工作。他還負責編輯了二十多本中文版的《華嚴經淺釋》。現在很多人在聽上人的講經錄音帶時，都奇怪為何有些段落和故事都省去而沒有收錄在書中。其實周果立在編排文稿時都會與上人核對。我還記得他每週都會跪在上人面前，拿著他的筆記，向上人匯報一些工作細節。他經常會諮詢上人某些部分，特別是故事，是否需要單獨拿出來另行出版。現在有一些故事或特別的講法片段，其實是上人原來在講經時講的，現在單獨拿來出版。周果立先生非常仔細地確保上人審核過他所有的工作。

萬佛聖城的聽眾提問：果勒是被推下山崖的嗎？

答：果勒沒有說過他是被推下山的，但他記得自己離懸崖邊挺遠的。好像有某些其他力量的作用，但他不是被推下山的。 ❀