



鄉下小孩——吳碧河居士

A Child From The Countryside— Upasaka Wu, Pi-He

編輯部文 / 趙玉玲 英譯 By Editorial Staff / English Translation by Yu-ling Chao



菩提臺 BODHI STAND

吳碧河居士出生於台南。兒時生活困苦，但貧困的環境淬鍊出他堅忍的個性。二十四歲上台北工作，二十五歲締結良緣，三十三歲初結佛緣。

初入佛門始於好友陳吉雄邀請參加的禪修課程，其中更有朝山禮佛。雖然第一次禪修對他來說樂少苦多，但不服輸的個性也讓他堅持到底，終究讓他完成禪修課程。經過這次禪修課程後，他認為佛法不只是如此，因緣未足，尚未遇到善知識（高僧），這一生不能白來。

後從陳吉雄師兄處得知美國萬佛聖城有位宣化上人德行很高，希望兩家如有因緣一同去親近。一年後，萬佛聖城舉行兒童夏令營班，而兩家孩子又年級相當，因此一因緣踏上萬佛聖城，初禮師父上人。

在聖城晚間參加妙語堂的對聯課時，對上一聯，上人微笑點頭說好，不過也在黑板上寫下「執著不能成正果」這七個大字。這七字如大明咒，吳居士恆記在心，並也幫助他在往後的人生困境中能安然度過，得失之間能取捨平衡。

十幾年來為生活忙碌，近來隨著年紀增大，生活穩定，心中感諸行無常，對生死亦較不恐懼。尤其是這幾年在法界佛教印經會參加共修，在法師教導中，脾氣漸小，身心也較柔和，感到佛法真不可思議。

種種因緣曾促成他與王珠慶師兄、陳金光師兄代表台灣信眾至美國向師父請法。師父上人已經答應，但因緣又幻化，師父圓寂了。但這請法橫遍三際，超越時空，相信因緣際會時終究會完成的。

Upasaka Wu, Pi-He was born in the countryside near Tainan, Taiwan. His family was poor. But the poverty and hard work of his childhood made him a stoic and persistent person by nature. He left for Taipei to work at the age of 24, at 25 he married, he encountered with Buddhism when he was 33.

His fellow cultivator Chen Jixiong invited him to attend a Chan retreat, and the retreat even included Three Steps One Bow. Though it seemed more bitterness than sweetness to him at that time, the hardships from his childhood made him one not to quit and he persevered to finish all the events. After this experience, he thought that there should be more to Buddhism than that. The cause and conditions are not mature yet, so he has not encountered any good spiritual guide (high monk). He cannot go through his life empty handed.

Some time later Mr. Chen told him that there was a Dharma Master, the Venerable Master Hsuan Hua, who was propagating the Buddha dharma in the United States and was founding the “City of The Ten Thousand Buddhas” (CTTB). He thought if they had good karma and the opportunity, they should go to meet the Venerable Master together. A year passed, The CTTB held a youth summer camp. Since the two families children at similar age, they took their children to attend the CTTB’s summer camp. This is the first time he bowed to Master Hua.

One evening he attended a couplet class at the Wonderful Words Hall at CTTB, he came up with a couplet matching the meaning of the assigned article. The Venerable Master nodded his head with a smile and said “good, good”. Then he wrote “執著不能成正果”(attachment cannot lead to proper fruit) on the blackboard. This 7-character Chinese phrase is like a great bright mantra in his mind which helped him later in his life. Whenever he faces a dilemma it helps him maintain balance and to get through it.

For more than a decade he was busy making a living, and perhaps because he is aging and life is more stable as well, he feels impermanence and has less fear of life and death. Especially attending Dharma assemblies in the Dharma Realm Buddhist Books Distribution Society for all these years, under the guidance of Dharma Masters, his temperament has become more gentle and his personality more mild. The power of Dharma is incredible.

Various causes and conditions resulted that later, he and fellow cultivators Zhu-Qing Wang, Jin-Guang Chen planned to go on a trip to the United States as representatives of the Taiwanese followers to request the Dharma from the Venerable Master. Although the Venerable Master agreed to this, the causes and conditions changed and Master entered cessation. However, this request of Dharma cuts across the past, present, and future. It is beyond time and space, we believe it will eventually be completed when the causes and conditions are right.