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青荷 英譯

再回聖城： 談簽證過程的小波折

My Return to CTTB: Small Twists and Turns in Obtaining the Visa

A talk given by Shen Hong Lan at CTTB
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English Translation by QingHe



BODHI FIELD | 菩提田

我本人學歷不高，中專畢業，我一生中只跟十個數字打交道，那就是做會計工作。我於2008年有幸第一次來到萬佛聖城。剛來時，萬佛聖城給我的印象，就好像是西方極樂世界。我穿過山門進了寺院一看，真是奇花異草，各種各樣的鳥都有。在中國大陸我們只能在花園或公園裡看到這些，所以，我看了就覺得太好了！太美了！萬佛聖城的修行人看起來個個很清淨莊嚴，都是值得我們學習的。我心想：如果在這地方修行，確實很不錯，妄想都會少的，這麼好的一個環境，要好好地學習佛法。由於我做一輩子會計，我給人一個很嚴肅的面孔，來這邊學習佛法以後，我自己感覺我這樣是不對的！應該對人要的和藹，我就從自己的性格方面開始改變，對佛法更進一步地深入瞭解，要求自己一定要好好地修行。

2009年5月份由於我同修生病，我只好戀戀不捨地離開萬佛聖城，回去照顧他，但不幸的是，2010年12月份，他就往生了。我有三個子女。因為孩子們長大後都成家立業，我只和我同修過著二人世界的生活；他一走，打亂了我的生活習慣，我確實有點兒受不了，而且還伴隨著莫名的恐懼和孤獨。所以白天就有一個鄰居陪著我，晚上是我的小女兒陪著我。但是時間一長，總不是辦法，妨礙了別人的正常生活。後來我的女兒跟她的姐姐商量，說：「唉呀！乾脆叫媽媽回美國吧！一來可以換換環境改變心情，二來可以經常去萬佛聖城好好修行。」我覺

I am an accountant and have spent much of my life dealing with numbers. In 2008, I had the blessing of coming to visit CTTB for the first time. When I arrived, I felt as if I was in the Pure Land, with exotic birds and flowers all around the city. In China, such sights are only seen in public gardens and parks, so I was greatly attracted by the beauty of CTTB. In addition, the monastics look virtuous and adorned, and are a good role model for all of us. I thought: it would be nice if I could live here and cultivate in such a wonderful environment. My false thoughts would most certainly lessen. Due to my profession, I am very stern and serious. As I learned more about Buddhism, I felt I should change my attitude and be more amiable to others. I must work hard in my cultivation so that I can further my understanding of the Buddhadharma.

In May of 2009, my husband became ill, forcing me to reluctantly leave CTTB and go back to China to take care of him. Unfortunately, he passed away in December of 2010. I have three grown children who all have their own families; my husband and I live alone. After he passed away, my life was completely disrupted. Due to the onset of loneliness and fear that followed his passing, a neighbor had to stay with me during the day and my youngest daughter had to stay with me at night. But after a while, I decided that being a burden on other people's lives was not a permanent solution. My daughters suggested that I move to America because a different environment would make me feel better, and I could visit CTTB anytime I want. I thought that this was a good idea and agreed.

The process of obtaining an immigration visa to the US in China requires a trip to Guangzhou province, which is 27-28 hours

得這個主意不錯，就順便答應了。

辦理赴美移民簽證需要到中國大陸的廣州，那裡距離我們居住的東北需要廿七、八個小時的車程。經過勞頓的旅途，我們休息一宿，第二天就把資料送去簽證中心，第三天就去排隊面簽。面簽那天發生的事情特別奇怪，排隊輪到我的時候，簽證官沒叫我的名字，而是叫我同修的名字；我心想：「好奇怪！這是怎麼搞的？怎麼把他的名字叫出來了呢？難道這裡有重名的人嗎？」我四處張望，看究竟叫這個名字的人是誰？簽證官叫第一聲的時候，沒有人應答；叫第二聲的時候，就在離我約廿步遠的地方，一道身影唰地一下就過來了。我覺得很奇怪，這裡沒有風啊，怎麼會有這現象呢？待我再次定睛觀看時，顯像出來了，就是我同修的身影，他面對著簽證官。我所站的位置前面有根柱子，我就斜著身子看，看究竟是誰來簽證，可是簽證官對面的那個座位上根本沒有人。我心裡很納悶：難道他的靈魂真的來了嗎？隨即心生恐懼。馬上簽證官就叫了我的名字，我過去後，那個簽證官翻了翻我的材料後，說：「妳把妳的資料送到那邊去，就是收集材料的那個地方，他會告訴妳該怎麼辦？」管資料的人告訴我，缺醫院或派出所開具的我同修的《死亡證明》原件。我們按照規定補齊了資料。當資料又被再次遞上去的時候；回覆是：缺《死亡證明》公證書，待辦完後郵寄過來。無奈，我們只好回家辦理，並迅速將資料郵寄到廣州領事館。

2010年的春節過後，廣州領事館寄來《回館通知》。我和我的大兒子又去了一次廣州。結果被拒簽了，而且收回了我的綠卡。拒簽的時候，我回問簽證官說：「我這次來簽證都是按照你們的要求一一準備的資料，為什麼會被拒簽呢？」他說這個事情是他們上司決定的，不能改變了。我說：「不改變，你得給我一個答覆啊！為什麼沒有簽上啊？」他答不出來。最後告訴我：「妳過幾個月再來吧！」「我再來再出現今天這個現象，怎麼辦？」「不會的，妳再來吧！」回家後，我仔細反省了一下，是我自己業障的問題。我一直檢討自己，我想：「我同修剛走，我就去簽證，七七還沒到呢！依世間的常理來講，確實不應該，這是我的錯，我不應該去！」所以以後每次拜佛的時候我就跟他商量，我說：「你應該支持我去，讓我自己在家確實不行。另外，我到萬佛聖城去，我好好學佛、拜佛，我給你迴向，這樣多好啊！」同時，我也虔誠地祈求佛菩薩加持

away from the Northern region where I live. After the long journey and resting for the night, we would deliver the necessary materials to the Visa Center the next day, and do the interview the day after. A very weird thing occurred on the day of the interview this time. When it was my turn, instead of calling my name, the officer called my husband's name. I thought, "How weird! Why are they calling my husband's name? Is there someone here who shares the same name?" I looked everywhere for this mysterious person, but no one came forward. After the officer called again, I saw something flash by in the corner of my eye, but there was no wind, not even a breeze. When I looked closer, I saw the figure of my late husband facing the officer. Wondering whether my husband's spirit had really come, I became scared. The officer called my name soon after, and after looking through my materials, told me: "Take your stuff to the officer over there; he will tell you what to do." The second officer said that they needed the original copy of my husband's verification of death certificate. We had done what we were told, but then they said it needed to be notarized. All we could do was go home, notarize the documents, and send them in as quickly as possible.

After the Lunar New Year in 2010, we received a notice from the Visa Center in Guangzhou to come back, and I returned to Guangzhou accompanied by my eldest son. Unexpectedly, not only was I refused a visa, but my Green Card was also revoked. I asked the officer, "I provided all the required documents. Why am I being refused?" He said that the decision had been made by a superior and could not be changed. I insisted: "If it can't be changed, then at least give me an answer. Why am I being refused?" The officer could only say, "Just come back a few months later." "Well," I asked, "if I come back and the same thing happens, what then?" He replied, "It won't happen, just come back later." I went home and reflected carefully, and discovered that it was my karma, because I did the wrong thing. Although the seven-week-long mourning period for my husband was not over yet, I was already applying for a visa. This was not proper on my part. So whenever I bowed to the Buddha, I would talk to my husband and tell him, "You should support me in going to CTTB because I really am not doing well by myself. Furthermore, when I am in CTTB, I will be able to learn the Buddhadharma, bow to the Buddha, and transfer merit to you. How wonderful that would be!" Simultaneously, I prayed to the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas to ask them to make my dream come true.

I went to the Visa Center in Guangzhou again in July of this year. During my first day there, problems arose when I was getting a physical checkup. I have chronic high blood pressure, but I forgot to take my medication that day. Due to a blood pressure

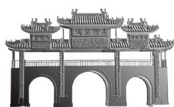
我去美國的願望得以實現。

今年的七月份我又去了廣州申請移民簽證，頭一天去體檢中心檢查身體的時候，問題又來了。我有高血壓的老毛病。那天檢查身體需要空腹進行抽血化驗。結果我忘記吃降壓藥了。當測量血壓的時候，我的血壓高壓達到198；醫生說，這麼高的血壓不能注射疫苗，以免發生危險。我小女兒急忙返回賓館去取降壓藥。我一個人靜靜地坐在椅子上等候著，開始默念著觀世音菩薩的聖號。大概廿分鐘左右，我的血壓就奇跡般地降下來了；到醫生那裡一檢查，果然可以紮針了，待我小女兒急衝衝地趕回時，我已經注射完疫苗。檢查身體這關過去了，該簽證了。結果在簽證的頭一天我就病倒了，臉色蒼白，不吃不喝，連起來的力氣都沒有了。我小女兒一看，馬上給我播放隨身攜帶的〈藥師灌頂真言〉，見我略有好轉，又加播了〈地藏王菩薩滅定業真言〉，我才慢慢從床上坐了起來。晚間的時候，我一直不斷在念觀世音菩薩聖號和《普門品》，第二天終於奇跡般地站起來去領事館遞交了材料。第三天去面簽。這次確實很順利，第一名就叫了我，是一個美國男士查看了我的材料。他說：「妳這資料沒問題，妳已經簽上了。」言語很客氣！

所以這次返美簽證的順利，完全得益於諸佛菩薩的加持，內心感恩備至。今生能夠學習佛法，並來到美國萬佛聖城的大道場來修行，實乃三生有幸！眾生的業障深重，怎知佛菩薩的方便善巧、慈悲救拔？在現實生活中的坎坎坷坷的經歷才更能彰顯佛法的偉大！❀

measurement of 198, the doctor said that it was not safe to give me the necessary vaccinations. While my youngest daughter rushed back to the hotel to get medication, I waited for her and silently recited Guan Yin Bodhisattva's name. About twenty minutes later, my blood pressure had miraculously dropped. Upon second check, the doctor announced that it was safe to do the vaccination. By the time my daughter had returned, I was already done. After the physical was the visa application and interview. But on the first day of the interview, I fell ill. Not only was I pale and weak, I could not eat or drink, or even muster the strength to get out of bed. My daughter immediately played a recording of *Medicine Master's True Words for Anointing the Crown*. Seeing that my condition had improved slightly, she followed up with a recording of *Earth Store Bodhisattva's True Words for Eradicating Karma*. I was gradually able to sit up in bed. That night, I continually recited Guan Yin Bodhisattva's name and *the Universal Door Chapter*. Unbelievably, I was able to get up the next day and go to the Visa Center to submit my applications. On the third day, I went to do the interview. This time around, everything went very smoothly. I was the first person to be called for the interview, and the American officer who looked over my application was very polite and approved it without further ado.

I am very thankful to the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas for helping me acquire my visa. I am truly fortunate to be able to learn the Buddhadharma and come to CTTB to cultivate. With our heavy karmic obstacles, how can living beings know of the expedient methods and compassion of the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas? It is only through the adversities in our lives that we see the greatness of the Buddhadharma at its best. ❀



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