



White Mountains and Black Waters Nurture Rare Talent (continued)

宣公上人事蹟編輯委員會新編2009年 鄭耿琳 等人 英譯 A new edition by the Committee for the Publication of Venerable Master Hsuan Hua's Biography Translated into English by Genglin Zheng and others

BIOGRAPHIES 人物誌

46. 占海拜師

古人為了能了生脫死,不畏艱苦,跋山 涉水,尋師訪道;遇著善知識,又能係教奉 行,去志不移。關占海拜師的故事,令我們 深切體會能做上人的弟子,是我們無上的福 報。

上人自述:

關占海跟他叔父各處去求道,求了三年, 再加後兩年,前後共五年,也沒有找著師 父。他對我非常好,逢年遇節買好多東西送 給我,當時我只以為他對我有好感而已。有 一次,我同他到三緣寺,見廟上方丈和尚, 我以為他會拜方丈和尚做師父,他也沒有 拜。

在回去的半路上,經過一個樹林,他一把

46. How Zhanhai Requested the Master to Be His Teacher

The ancient people were unafraid of suffering; in order to put an end to birth and death they crossed mountains and waded waters seeking a master of the Way. When they met a good and wise advisor, they would follow the teaching and vow never to change their minds. The story of how Guan Zhanhai requested the Venerable Master to be his teacher makes us deeply appreciate that being the disciple of a Venerable master is a supreme blessing.

Story in Venerable Master's Own Words

Guan Zhanhai and his uncle searched here and there for the Way for three years, when adding another two years that they spent, it would have been a total of five years that they searched for a master without fruition. Guan Zhanhai was very kind to me. He brought me many nice things on New Year's Day and on other holidays as well. I thought it was just because he liked me. Once, I brought him to Sanyuan Monastery to visit the Abbot. I thought perhaps he would request the Abbot to be his master, but he didn't.

On the way back, as we were passing a grove of trees, he suddenly

抓住我袖子,跪在我面前。我說:「你做什 麼?」他說:「求道這麼多年,最相信的就是 你,我現在一定要拜你做師父!」我這時候假 裝發脾氣了,把袖子往下一甩,轉過身就走 了。我走了大約有半里多路吧?回頭看,他跪 在那兒哭。

我又走回去,到他面前說:「你做什麼?」 他說:「你一定要收我做徒弟,要不然我就跪 死在這兒!」「你跪死在這兒是最好了,沒有 人給你償命,你自己願意跪的。」我又走了。 走出約有一里路,他還在那兒跪著;這回跪得 我有點忍不住了,我只好回去,勉強收他做我 的皈依弟子,這是我在東北收的第一個徒弟。 沒皈依之前,他就吃齋;皈依之後,他就持 午,練習坐單,脅不著蓆。這個徒弟對我最孝 順不過,他無論什麼事情都常常記掛著師父。

【後記】據悉上人守孝三年以後,他把他 所有的書裝進大木箱裏,送去背蔭河關占海 家。等到家裏的人得知上人在三緣寺的消息, 上人已經剃度出家了。 clutched my sleeve and fell to his knees in front of me. I asked him, "What are you doing?" He said, "During all the years I've spent searching for the Way, the one I've trusted most is YOU. Now, I must have you as my master!" At that time, I pretended to be angry; I brushed him aside and left him. After walking about half a mile, I turned around and saw the boy still kneeling and crying.

I returned to him and asked, "What are you doing?" He begged me, "Please take me as a disciple, otherwise I will remain kneeling here until I die." I said, "Excellent! If you remain kneeling here until you die, no one will compensate you for your loss of life, because no one asked you to kneel." Then, I left him. After walking about a mile, I saw him still kneeling there, and this time I was unable to bear it anymore. Feeling compassion for him, I turned back and accepted him as my disciple. Guan Zhanhai was my first disciple in Manchuria. He was already a vegetarian before taking refuge with me. After taking refuge, he practiced eating only one meal a day at noon, and sleeping while sitting-up. He was truly filial and always thinking of his teacher.

[Postscript] Having mourned for three years, the Venerable Master packed up all his books in a big wooden box and sent them to Guan Zhanhai's house at Beiyin River County. By the time the Master's family heard that he was in Sanyuan Monastery, the Venerable Master had already shaved his head and left the home-life.

soTo be continued

BIOGRAPHIES

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你能以把這個聽經的時間,認為是特別重要,那你做佛教徒,是再沒有什麼可說的了。 If you can regard the Sutra lectures as being especially important, then you have pretty much fulfilled your duties as a Buddhist.

問:誦經完畢之後,是不是一定要迴向? 上人:迴向就是著相,不迴向也是著相。「著相頭頭錯,無為又落空」,你凡是有所執 著,都是與佛法不相應的。

Q: Is the transference of merit required after each sutra recitation?

A: To transfer merit is an attachment. Not to transfer merit is also an attachment. "If you are attached to marks, then you are going the wrong direction, but if you don't try anything at all, you will fall into the pit of nihilism." Whenever you become attached to anything, it's not in accord with Buddhism.