

白山黑水育奇英（續）

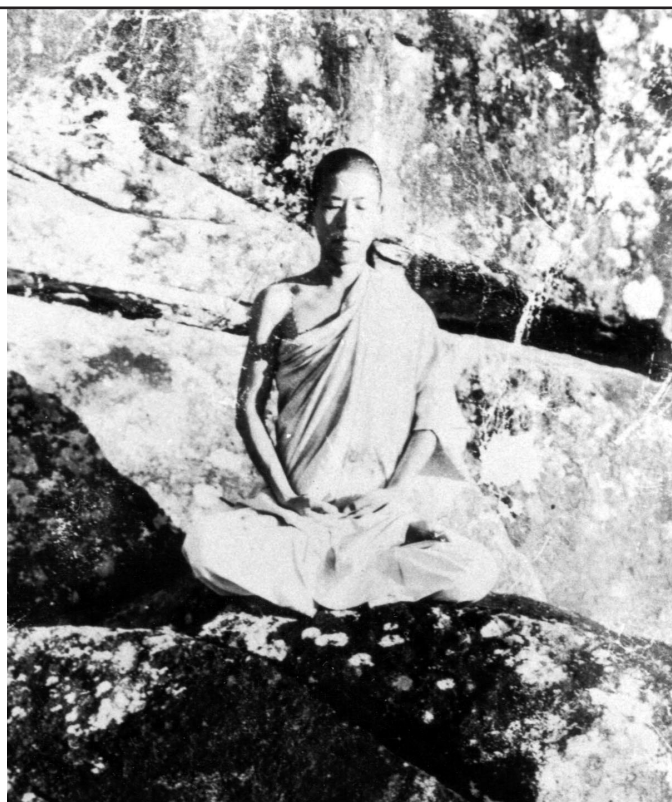
White Mountains and Black Waters Nurture Rare Talent (continued)

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Venerable Master Hsuan Hua's Biography
Translated into English by Genglin Zheng and others



BIOGRAPHIES | 人物誌



48. 大盜守孝

大盜改惡向善成孝子，為鄉里割肉祭天，以愚誠感動天地，不久真的雨過天青，足證大惡之人只要肯回心向善，和大善人無二無別，這是「放下屠刀，立地成佛」最好的實例。

上人自述：

（一）受傷懺悔去守孝

在我東北的家鄉，我有一個最好的朋友，很知己的同參道友，他和我是同道。怎麼同道呢？因為我在家的時候為母親守孝，他也為母親守孝。可是他和我不同的地方是什麼呢？他沒守孝以前，是個做強盜的，到處去打劫綁票。

有一次他搶人財寶，被人開槍打傷

48. The Requirements for Taking Refuge in Him

A great bandit turned away from evil and towards goodness and became a filial son. For the sake of benefiting his hometown's villagers, he cut off his own flesh and offered it to Heaven. With this "foolish" sincerity, he moved Heaven and Earth. Before long the sun broke through the clouds and the sky became clear. That shows how greatly evil people need only be willing to turn their hearts towards goodness to become no different from greatly virtuous people. This is an excellent example of the saying: 'Letting go of his knife, a butcher instantly becomes a Buddha.'

Story in Venerable Master's Own Words

In my hometown in Manchuria, I had a best friend. He really understood me and was my fellow cultivator. In what sense was he my fellow cultivator? Because when I was at home, I observed filial respect towards my deceased mother, which he did as well. Yet, in what sense were we different? We differed in that before he observed filial respect, he was a bandit who kidnapped and robbed people.

Once when he was robbing someone, the person shot him in the arm. His wound took more than half a year to heal and yet still hadn't recovered. He

胳膊。這個傷醫治半年多也不好，他想：「人家用槍打我，如果這一槍把我打死，我這個生命不就沒有了？我做土匪，搶人家的東西，現在受傷，拖延這麼久的時間，這一定是罪業太深了！」

頓時他生出懺悔心，於是他發願：「我這個傷，如果在一個禮拜之內好了，我到父母墳前守孝，不再做土匪！」很奇怪的，他的傷沒有幾天都完全好了；他也不食言，真的去父母墳上守孝。

怎麼樣叫守孝？是子女捨不得父母，雖然父母死了，他還在墳旁邊守護著父母的墳，這叫守孝。活人這樣守死人，雖然沒有意思，你要能做得到，就變成有意思，因為這種事情不容易做的！你天天什麼也不幹，就在那墳旁守護著；一天、兩天可以，一守要守三年，一般人是無法犧牲這麼長的時間守孝的。中老年的人心性有點定了，守孝三年，甚至六年還不要緊，年輕人就不容易做得到。不要說旁人，我當初坐在墳旁邊，沒有人陪著，我知道這是很苦的一件事。他那時候二十一歲，一個做土匪的人，居然能發心來守孝，這是不容易的！

在沒有守孝以前，他拜一個師父，這個師父叫中一法師，給他取名字叫尤智慧。這位法師有些神通，教他怎樣打坐用功。他正用功，你說怎麼樣？來了一條火龍；火龍就纏到他腰上，纏了三轉，把他燒得又熱又痛。正在危難的時候，他師父就來了，降伏火龍，火龍也皈依了，後來就給這個尤孝子當護法。

◎待續



thought to himself: "That person shot me, and if that shot had killed me, I wouldn't be alive today, would I?"

I have been a bandit, robbing and stealing people's wealth. Now I am wounded and the wound has lasted for so long—this must be because my karmic offenses are so grave.

He suddenly became repentant and vowed: "If my wound heals within one week, I will observe filial respect at my parents' graves and give up the life of a bandit." Quite uncannily, his wound healed completely in just a few days. He therefore upheld his vow and went to his parents' graves to observe filial respect.

What does it mean to observe filial respect? When a child's parent has died, the child protects his or her parent's grave by staying at its side. This is called observing filial respect. Those who are still living keep vigil by the side of those who have passed away. It may seem meaningless, but once you can do it, what once seemed meaningless becomes meaningful, because of the difficulty in accomplishing it. Day in and day out, a person does nothing except keep vigil by the gravesite. That person may be able to endure it for one or two days, but if asked to stay for three years, that would be beyond his or her capacity of self-sacrifice. Those who are elderly or middle-aged may find it bearable, because they have a relatively settled disposition. They may be able to do it for three or six years, but for young people, it is a very difficult task. Yet, there's no need to mention other people. I myself knew it was a very bitter thing to do the day I started the observance, since no one was there to accompany me.

As for him, he was only 21 years old, and was formerly a bandit. How surprising it is that he could make the resolve to observe filial respect. It is really difficult!

Before he observed filial respect, he bowed to a teacher. This teacher, called Dharma Master Zhongyi (中一), gave him the name You Zhihui (尤智慧, Outstanding Wisdom). This Dharma Master had some psychic powers and taught him how to exert great effort in meditation. When he was intensively applying effort, guess what happened: a fire dragon approached him. The dragon wrapped himself around You Zhihui's waist three times. The dragon burned him and inflicted scorching pain upon him. At that critical moment of danger, his teacher arrived and subdued the fire dragon. The dragon then took refuge. Thereafter the dragon became a Dharma-protector of Filial Son You.

◎To be continued