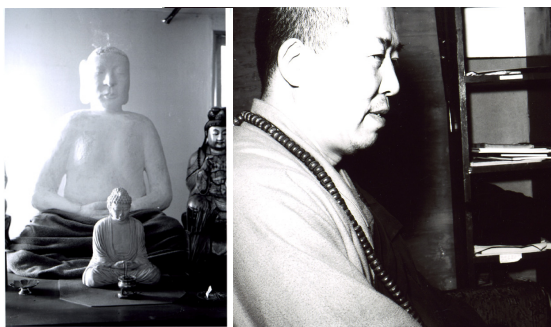


# The Story of My Mother and the Venerable Master

## 母親與上人的故事

Spoken by Bhikshu Heng Lai at Gold Summit Monastery on August 11, 2014 ● Chinese Translation by Chin-Ben Ling and Chin-Xi Ma  
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Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, the Assembly, Venerable Master, Amitufo! Today is the Ullambana Day, and I'm supposed to talk about Ullambana. I can tell that story about my mother.

When I started going to Gold Mountain back in 1971, my mother thought I was crazy. She said, "What are you doing?" So I tried to tell her all my experiences with Shr Fu, but that was a mistake because how could she possibly believe that? She always thought I was a little bit crazy, actually. She said to me, "You might be losing your mind." In fact, it was several years after I came to live at Gold Mountain, that Shr Fu had me come up and tell my story. Then he used to make me do it all the time after that.

Over the years, she settled down a little bit and came to accept the fact that I was a monk. She used to come to Gold Mountain once in

諸佛菩薩、各位佛友、師父上人，阿彌陀佛！今天是盂蘭盆節，我應該講一講關於盂蘭盆的內容，我想可以跟大家說說我母親的故事。

1971年，當我開始去金山寺的時候，我母親認為我瘋了。她說：「你在幹什麼？」於是，我試圖把我跟著師父的所有經歷告訴她。但這是一個錯誤，她怎麼可能相信這一切呢？她其實一直認為我有點瘋狂，她對我說：「你大概是走火入魔了。」事實上，師父也是在我住進金山寺之後好幾年，才讓我公開對大家說我的經驗；從那之後，只要有機會他就叫我說。

幾年後，她慢慢平靜下來，漸漸地接受了這樣的事實：我是一個和尚。有一段時間，她常來金山寺，或在一些特殊的日子來，或帶了

awhile, on special days or to bring a lunch offering. She met the Master a couple of times but never really talked to him.

One day she told me that Shr Fu had called her and talked to her for a time with the former Heng Kuan translating. I didn't know about this until my mother told me. She said, "He was so kind. I've never talked to Shr Fu before." My mother told me that he told her not to worry and that everything was going to be OK. I later asked Heng Kuan about it and he certified it. He said, "Oh yeah, we called your mother and talked to her for quite awhile."

A few weeks later, my mother was stricken with advanced cancer. It had already metastasized, which meant that she didn't have long to live. They put her immediately in the hospital and I began to understand why Shr Fu called her. When she went into the hospital, Shr Fu told me, "Just be next to her and help make her comfortable. Recite the *Earth Store Sutra* for her and everything will be OK."

I told Shr Fu that the doctor wanted to give her chemotherapy, and he said, "He can do what he wants, but it's not going to do her any good. So a few weeks later, she passed away. She was relatively young, actually. She was only 58. I'm much older than she was now. My father also died when he was young. He was only 53."

A few days after she died, I had a dream. She invited me to go to lunch with her. We went to a restaurant and sat down. I asked her how she was doing and how was everything. She said everything was OK and that Shr Fu came and helped her. She wouldn't have this kind of comfort now, if it wasn't for him. I am always very grateful to Shr Fu because I really had no ability to help her like that.

For the next few months, every once in awhile, I'd go out to lunch with my mother in my dreams. She'd invite me out to lunch with her and we'd go to another restaurant. When she no longer invited me to go to lunch anymore, I told Shr Fu about these dreams. He said, "That's OK, she's gone off to rebirth, so that's why she's not inviting you out to lunch anymore."

That always impressed me - the enormous power of the Bodhisattva that Shr Fu certainly was. He was able to help all living beings in all kinds of conditions and he manifested great compassion. If you have the Bodhisattva way, your mind is that - compassion, and it's not just talk, it is really going on. It just shows the great minds and vast vows Bodhisattvas have, because I always thought, Shr Fu was so busy trying to save all of his disciples, how can he take care of my mother, who hasn't even taken refuge? It just shows what a great heart he had to do that, and I'll always be thankful to Shr Fu for that.

**Question:** What about your father? Did he ever meet Shr Fu?

**DM Lai:** My father used to be in the Marine Corps in World War II and had to fight the Japanese. He was able to meet Shr Fu before he died in 1973 - that was only a couple of years after I was living in the monastery.

午餐來供養。我母親曾與師父見過幾次面，但從未與他真正交談過。

一天，母親對我說，師父給她打電話談了很久，是前恒觀法師翻譯的。在母親告訴我之前，我並不知道此事。母親說：「師父是如此的慈祥，我以前還從未與他交談過。」她還跟我說，師父告訴她，不用擔心，一切都會OK的。後來我問恒觀，他說確有其事：「是的，我們給你母親打電話了，還談了許久。」

幾個星期後，我母親被檢查出是癌症末期，而且癌細胞已經轉移。這意味著她將不久於人世，於是她立即被安排住院。到這時候，我才明白師父為什麼會打電話給她。當她住進醫院後，師父對我說：「陪在她身邊，儘量讓她舒服些。要誦《地藏經》迴向給她，這樣一切都會OK的。」

我跟師父說，醫生要給我母親做化療，上人只是回答：「做什麼治療都可以，但對你母親都沒有任何好處。」就這樣，幾週後母親去世了。那時她只有58歲，其實算很年輕，我現在的年齡都比她大了。父親也是蠻年輕的時候就走了，去世時只有53歲。

母親去世幾天後，我做了一個夢，夢裏她邀請我和她共進午餐。我們來到一家餐館就座後，我問她現在怎麼樣，一切都好嗎？她說一切都OK，因為師父來幫助她了；如果沒有師父，她不會像現在這樣舒適安逸。我一直非常感謝師父，因為我確實沒有能力來這樣幫助我的母親。

在接下來的幾個月裏，我時常會夢見與母親一起吃午飯。總是她提出邀請，然後我們會去別家餐館。當我不再夢見她來邀我出去吃午飯，我才把這些夢境講給師父聽，師父說：「OK沒問題，她已經往生了，所以也不再邀請你去吃午餐了。」

這件事給我留下很深刻的印象：菩薩的力量是如此廣大，師父正是這樣一位菩薩。他能夠幫助各種處境裏的眾生，示現他的大慈悲心。如果你有菩薩道，你的心就是慈悲，這不是口頭上說說，而是真實不虛的。這件事正顯示了菩薩的大悲心和大願力，因此我常想，師父如此忙於度他所有的弟子，怎麼還能關心我的母



He had a massive heart attack. Shr Fu said that my father left his body very quickly. When people die very fast or they die violently, they leave their bodies right away. Otherwise, if they die a more natural death, they hang around their body because you don't know where else to go. Most people are so confused by birth and death that they just hang around there. When you leave very quickly like that, when you die quickly, you tend to go right off.

I'm sure, although I had no dreams of my father, that Shr Fu took care of him the best that he could. My father never took refuge or anything, but he did respect Shr Fu very much, even more than my mother in a strange sense. My father went to college in San Diego before he went into the Marine Corps. When he was in college, a swami from India, came and he had some Way about him - he had some *chi*; he had some kung fu.

The swami was in an auditorium lecturing all these young college students. This is like 1940, or the 1930's - a long time ago - before World War II started. He was telling them about the Way. He was telling them about cultivation, basically. My father described it to me, that the swami had spiritual power - he opened his hands up and many birds flew in through the windows of the gymnasium and gathered around him. My father knew that there were real spiritual beings and he always suspected that Shr Fu had that kind of power, although Shr Fu never demonstrated it. My father kind of respected Shr Fu, because he knew that he had some Way about him. My father didn't understand it, but he knew that Shr Fu had something. ❁

親，一個甚至沒有皈依的人。這也正體現了師父的大悲心，我將永遠感謝師父。

問：那你的父親呢？他有沒有見過師父？

來法師：我父親在二戰中服役於海軍陸戰隊，與日本兵作過戰。他在1973年去世前曾經見過師父。他是在我住進道場兩年後，因為心臟病發作而去世的，師父說父親的神識很快就離開了他的身體。當人暴死或者猝死時，他們的神識會馬上離開肉體。而人在自然死亡後，他們的神識會在肉體周圍徘徊，因為不知道要去哪裏。大多數人對生死是如此的糊塗，他們就在屍體附近徘徊。相反，如果死得快，神識也離開得快。

儘管父親死後，我沒有夢見過他，但我確信，師父肯定盡了最大的力量幫助他。我父親從未皈依或做過什麼，但他甚至比母親更恭敬師父，這好像有點奇怪。父親在進海軍陸戰隊之前，曾就讀於聖地牙哥的大學。在校期間，有一位印度的大師來校，他是有一點道的——就是一些「氣」，一些功夫。

二次大戰之前，大約在1930年代，這位大師在禮堂裏為年輕的大學生演講，介紹「道」給他們認識，主要是講關於修行方面的。父親曾對我描述過這件事：這個大師具有一種神力——當他把手掌向上翻開時，附近好多的鳥都從禮堂的窗戶飛進來，聚集到他的周圍，因此父親相信這種超自然能力的人是確實存在的，而他也始終懷疑師父就是這樣的人，儘管師父從未對他示現過這一點。父親很恭敬師父，因為他知道師父身上有某種「道」，雖然他並不明白是什麼，但他知道師父是有某種力量的。 ❁

