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# 受戒儀式後的殊勝體驗

## Remarkable Experiences After the Precepts Ceremony

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在萬佛城受了菩薩戒後的第二天，我回到聖荷西家中。之前的一周時間，探討六重戒和二十八輕戒及其含義，非常寶貴。感謝法師們辛苦準備教材；感謝他們在幫助我們準備受戒期間，所展示的耐心與慈悲。

寫這篇文章是想跟大家分享我觀察到的幾件極不尋常的事情；受戒儀式之前，整整一周，天氣晴朗炎熱。但受戒的那天，天上有一片雲罩，使氣溫降低，感覺起來像在80度範圍，一改前幾天90度以上的炎熱。

法師改變了儀式中的觀想部分，以方便我們觀想。觀想步驟，要求我們在頭腦裏想像，或設想一望無際的藍天，並想像雲朵鋪滿了天空。這些雲朵是慈悲、智慧、佛法、喜悅、平靜、六波羅蜜，等等。接著，設想這些雲化作雨落下，讓我們的身體收受雲所包含的種種善，即戒體。在受戒的行程中，我發現自己的注意力集中在觀想的開頭部分，以至於落後了一頁左右。不知不覺，觀想部分過去——我錯過了！我沒有完成觀想！事先在儀式冊上貼了提示，還是沒能使我與儀式同步。不用說，我心裏悶悶不樂的。

儀式結束了，依舊悶悶不樂。我找到一位法師，我向他描述了如何自己可能錯過了接受戒體。法師安慰我說：「別擔心。」告訴我「慢慢地努力增進戒體」。他的話語解除了我的部分焦慮，但接下去，我們離開大殿時所發生的，實在非同尋常。大殿周圍密密地下著微微細雨；當我感覺雨點落在我的頭上、肩上，我清醒地意識到雨的譬喻——在觀想步驟，我們本來就是需要用這個譬喻來接納戒體的。根據歷史記錄，八月初降雨的機率在3%以下。我當下意識到，即便早先在大殿內沒有得到，現在在大殿外正在飄落的難得的細雨裏，我已經得到了戒體。我安心了，之前的鬱悶一掃而光。



After receiving the Lay Bodhisattva Precepts at CTTB, I returned home to San Jose the next day. The week spent exploring the Six Major and the Twenty- Eight Minor Precepts and its implications were invaluable. Being able to ask the Dharma Masters questions in regard to the Precepts as to what was acceptable or not in this age of modern technology was very helpful. I would like to thank the Dharma Masters for their hard work in preparing teaching materials for the classes as well as exhibiting patience, compassion and kindness in getting us ready to receive the Precepts.

I am writing this article to share a few observations that I have found to be just remarkable. The weather for the entire week prior to the day of the Precept Ceremony was sunny and hot. But on the day of the ceremony there was a cloud cover which cooled the temperature down to what felt like the 80's instead of the 90 plus degrees of heat on previous days.

A part of the ceremony called the contemplation was changed so that we would have an easier time completing this part. We were to imagine or visualize a vast blue sky in our mind, and that clouds would fill up the sky. These clouds would be called compassion, wisdom, Dharma, joy, equanimity, the Six Paramitas, and so on. Then these clouds would rain down on us to deliver into our bodies all the goodness contained in the clouds – the precept substance. We were told that this was a critical part of the ceremony. As the ceremony proceeded, I

我從萬佛城回家的當晚，我太太為我準備了簡單的晚餐。她在一盤蔬菜麵條上澆了蘑菇濃湯。蘑菇濃湯以前也吃過。我才吃了幾口麵條就噎住了，好像什麼東西梗在氣管裏，我咳了好幾分鐘才恢復正常。我忽然意識到該看看濃湯罐頭上的說明。果然不出所料，湯裏摻了大蒜粉，大蒜粉是我應回避的五辛之一。難道剛才吃到時噎住，不是非同尋常嗎？打這以後我把儲藏櫃裏的食品的配料都仔細讀過，把可吃和不可吃的分開來。這件事給我一個教訓，凡我所食用的食品都仔瀏瀏覽其配料。

一兩天後，鄰居的一個男孩出來遛狗，經過我時，我正好站在通向我家的車道。以前我看過他遛另一隻狗，所以向他問起這隻狗，他停下來回答我的問題，我向這隻狗走近了幾步；男孩警告我這隻狗挺警覺的，我於是退了幾步，以免招惹這隻狗。狗坐了下來，臉朝著我；接著，牠的頭連續上下點了好幾次。當時我不太明白自己所看到的，但我相信自己的確看到所發生的事情。我們的對話結束後，那隻狗仍然面朝我坐著，男孩催促牠離開，牠沒有反應。男孩子於是鄭重地說：「牠想留在這裏。」狗和男孩終於繼續往前走。我站在那裏，不太確信剛才自己見證了什麼。我的反應是，「天啊！這真是非同尋常！」之前擔心自己沒有得到戒體，現在還需擔心嗎？在這些難以置信的經歷之後，我不再懷疑了。阿彌陀佛！

found myself concentrating on the beginning part of the contemplation so much and then I realized I was a page or so behind. The contemplation step was past – I missed it! I didn't finish the contemplation! Even placing post-it reminders in my ceremony book did not prevent me from being out of step. Needless to say, I was upset with myself.

After the ceremony was completed, still upset, I found a Dharma Master and described to him how I may have missed receiving the precept substance. He consoled me by saying, "Do not worry", and that I'll have time to "work on and grow my substance". His words relieved some of my anguish?, but what happened next as we were exiting the Buddha Hall was truly remarkable. There was a very light, gentle rain falling all around the Buddha Hall. As I felt rain drops on my head and shoulders, I was fully aware of the rain metaphor we were to use in the contemplation step in order to receive the precept substance. Historical records show that a chance of rain in early August was less than 3% probability. Immediately, I thought to myself, if not inside the Buddha Hall, then certainly outside, in the rare rain that was falling, I had received the precept substance. I was no longer upset and was at ease.

On the evening of my return home from CTTB, my wife prepared a simple dinner for me. She set down a plate of mushroom soup sauce on top of noodles with some vegetables. After a few bites of the noodles with the sauce which I have eaten before, I started to choke as it felt like some food was lodged in my wind pipe. I was coughing for several minutes before I was back to normal. Then it occurred to me to read the label on the soup can. Sure enough, the soup had dehydrated garlic in it, one of the five pungent plants I am to avoid eating. But was it remarkable that I choked when I did? I have since carefully read the labels on the foods stored in my pantry and physically separated the foods I can eat from those I cannot eat. This incident has taught me to be more diligent in screening the ingredients in the foods I ingest.

A day or so later, a boy in my neighborhood was taking his dog out for a walk and was walking past me while I was standing in the driveway to my home. I had seen him walking another dog and started asking him questions about this dog at the end of his leash. So he stopped walking to answer my questions as I took a few steps closer toward the dog. He warned me that the dog was very protective so I backed up a few steps not wanting to provoke the dog. The dog sat down, facing me. He then proceeded to nod his head up and down several times in succession. I wasn't sure of what I was seeing except that I saw it happened. When our conversation ended, the dog was still facing me in his sitting position and did not respond to the boy's urging to leave. The dog maintained the same seated posture even after several pulls on his leash signaling him to leave. The boy then stated, "He wants to stay here." The dog and the boy finally continued on their way. I was standing there, unsure of what I had just witnessed. My reaction was, "Oh, my goodness! That was remarkable." Should my earlier anxiety about not receiving the precept substance be of concern to me now? Experiencing these amazing events leaves me with no doubts at all. Amitufo!

