



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

69. 常仁大師

常仁大師是吉林省雙城縣正黃旗四屯人，生於清朝末年；未曾讀書，而稟性純樸，得天獨厚。十八歲時，受楊一廬墓守孝影響，自訂每日給父母叩頭的規矩。十年後，父母在十八日內相繼病故，王孝子即結廬守孝；守孝期間，他不語，僅食生米麵（即生米粉）。三年將滿，本擬潛往千廣二山修聖行，後經貴人指點：「你誠心守墓，孝感動天，德化群倫。緣在雙城，非在千廣山也。」

廬墓六年，禪定三昧成就卓著，不可思議境界現前。神通妙用，潛移默化，度人無量。守孝期滿日，周圍四十八村父老兄弟聯合舉行盛大慶祝儀典，並宣誓結盟擁護三

69. The Great Master Chang Ren

Great Master Chang Ren was born at the end of the Qing Dynasty and was from the Fourth Pure Yellow Flag Village in Shuangcheng County. Despite the fact that he never went to school, he had a unique quality of innocence and purity. At the age of eighteen, Master Chang Ren, influenced by the known filial son Yang Yi who was mourning by his parents' grave, decided on his own to bow to his parents every day. Ten years later, both of his parents fell sick and passed away within eighteen days from each other. Filial Son Wang (Master Chang Ren) then observed a three-year period of mourning by their graveside. During that period, he made a vow of silence and only ate raw ground rice powder. Upon the completion of the three years, he planned to go to the Qianshan Mountain and Guangshan Mountain area to cultivate the Way. The recluse sage who advised him to cultivate the way, said, "You were sincere in observing the graveside mourning and your filial respect moved the Heaven. Your virtue will spread and influence your fellow multitudes. Your affinity lies in Shuangcheng County, not in the Qianshang and Guangshan mountain areas."

He observed the mourning for a total of six years, achieved great Samadhi and encountered inconceivable states. He had wonderful spiritual powers, with which he took across countless people. At the completion of his filial observance, all the people, young and old, from around the forty-eight villages held a large celebration on that

寶，啟建三緣寺，永作道場。

常仁大師於民國28年（西元1939年）接北京上房山清池老和尚法，回寺舉行陞座大典。3月17日，師之誕辰，有數千里之外居士親來道賀，甚多達官貴人等約五千餘眾，日本軍區司令官亦來參禮叩拜。平房乃軍事秘密禁區，不准通行，是日亦開放任人往來，真乃盛極一時之創舉，咸嘆為稀有。上人躬逢其盛，即以偈賀之曰：「舜其大孝感動天，象為之耕鳥耘田。吾師今日更至孝，天人同慶佛開顏。」

慶祝陞座後，決議興建叢林，增加僧舍，留單接眾，成立十方常住，然需款頗鉅。當時有某富商欲獨力包修，而常仁大師婉卻之。大師說：「十方道場應由十方檀越布施種福，所以我的意願要次第行乞化緣，集腋成裘，群策群力，眾志成城，而為萬姓植德本。」於是邀上人沿門募化，不越貧而從富，不越賤而從貴，大慈平等，廣度群機。

日本無條件投降後，中國的厄運尚未結束，東北復被俄人侵佔，搶掠燒殺，攔路打劫，無惡不作。上人看時局動盪不安，提議停工，以待機緣。大師不以為然，仍披精進鎧，作眾生良福田；三緣寺建造畢，1946年雲遊四方（上人時年二十九，啟程到內地參方），圓寂於北京拈花寺，世壽七十有二，戒臘二十二。

上人贊曰（1985年11月22日）：

得天獨厚，返璞歸真。
一字不識，萬法自臻；
至德至孝，能義能仁。
譬如眾星，皆拱北辰。

◎待續

occasion. The people pledged their support to the Triple Jewel and initiated the construction of the Sanyuan Monastery, so there would be an everlasting Bodhimanda.

In 1939, Great Master Chang Ren went to Fangshan Mountain in Beijing to receive the transmission of Dharma from Venerable Master Qingchi. After he returned to the monastery, they held a great inauguration of abbotship, which is called the Ascending the Seat Ceremony. On the 17th day of the third month, which was the birthday of the Master, laypeople from over a thousand miles away came to personally offer their congratulations. Over five thousand dignitaries including government officials were present. The commander of the Japanese occupation army in the region also came and offered his congratulations. Pingfang was a restricted military district that was off limits to ordinary people, but that day everyone could come to the region for the event. The celebration at that time was an extremely fantastic and rare occurrence. The Venerable Master Hua also attended this event and offered his congratulations with a verse:

*Shun moved the Heaven with his great filiality,
Birds came to help him sow the seeds and Elephants helped him plow the fields.
My teacher today has utmost filiality,
Humans and gods are both moved to celebrate, The Buddha smiled.*

After the ceremony, the assembly wanted to build a monastery, so that the increasing sangha members and wandering monks could come to stay. The monastery was meant to be open to “the ten directions,” the general public. The project required a large sum of money. At that time, there was a wealthy merchant who wanted to take over the project and build the temple himself, but Great Master Chang Ren refused his offer. The Master said, “A monastery of the ten directions should be open to the donors of the ten directions and allow them to plant their blessings. Therefore, my intent is to have monks going to each household to beg for alms and receive donations. By utilizing people’s resources, we can make a mickle. There is great strength in unity. By doing so, we help the multitudes to plant the foundations of virtue.” Therefore, the abbot invited the Venerable Master to help with alms round in a manner of equanimity. This means that they did not pass the poor to go to the rich, or pass the lowly ones for those of high ranks and status. The alms round should be done with great compassion and equanimity, with the aim of crossing over the vast multitudes.

After Japan’s unconditional surrender, China’s disastrous fate had not ended. Manchuria was then occupied by Russians who raped and pillaged towns, committing all kinds of evil. Seeing that the situation became so tumultuous, Venerable Master Hua suggested that the construction projects be temporarily suspended until future conditions ripened. Great Master Chang Ren did not agree and vigorously continued on with the construction, so people could plant blessings. At the completion of the construction of Sanyuan Monastery in 1946, Great Master Chang Ren travelled around. In the same year, he reached Beijing, and entered Stillness in Nianhua Monastery at the age of 72, and at the precept age of 22.

(At that time Venerable Master Hua was twenty-nine. He embarked on a journey to visit various temples and monasteries in the inland area of China).

Venerable Master Hua praised Great Master Chang Ren with a verse (composed on Nov. 22, 1985).

*Unique being his quality, he returns to simplicity and innocence
Although illiterate, he commands myriad Dharmas.
Being utmost virtuous, filial, benevolent, and righteous,
He is like the Polar Star that is surrounded by many planets.*

◎To be continued