

I remember the year 1995, after the Venerable Master entered Nirvana, there was a Water, Land and Air ceremony. Then there was a transmission of the Lay Bodhisattva Precepts at CTTB. At the time, the preceptees attended classes at their individual DRBA branches. Each branch manager would give recommendations for those who qualified to receive the precepts at CTTB. Unlike today, all preceptees are gathered to have classes at CTTB.

During this time, I frequently came to Berkeley to learn Buddhism. Dharma Master Sure taught us the precepts every week. After finishing the course of the 6 majors and 28 minor

記得1995年，師父入涅槃後不久，舉行了水陸空大法會，並在萬佛城傳在家菩薩戒。那時候戒子要去法界佛教總會各分支道場上戒律課，然後分支道場的負責人會將合格的戒子推薦到萬佛城，不像今天所有的戒子都是集中在萬佛城上課。

那時我經常去柏克萊學習，實法師每週給我們上戒律課。上完六重二十八輕在家菩薩戒後，實法師問我們對學習的戒律有沒有問題？我就問他，關於我的情況。我母親八十多歲了，她經常和我一起去柏克萊寺。法師也知道我女兒才五歲，每次我母親或者我女兒生病，我要

Sincerely Holding The Precepts Leads To A Spiritual Response

Excerpted from Cuc Chung's Talk on April 3, 2015 at the Buddha Hall of CTTB

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Bodhisattva precepts, Master Sure asked if we had any questions regarding the precepts we had just learned. I asked him about my situation. I have an 80 plus year old mother who often came with me to the Berkeley Temple. Master Sure knows that I also have a 5 year old daughter. Each time my elderly mother or my young daughter get sick, I would have to take them to the doctor. Every time I would have to ask my supervisor at work to leave early. I never clarified that the doctor appointments was for my family. My question is, have I violated the precept of lying in this case?

Master Sure replied that although this is my duty to take care of my family, I still have committed the offense according to the precept. He taught me to always be upfront and not be vague about my circumstance. He asked if I could stay on a straight path and be truthful from this day forward. I said yes, I would have to ask my supervisor to take vacation time. However, if someone else claimed the day off before me, I was not able to take it because at each of our work department, only one person can take vacation at a time. I was being vague since I thought my sick leave time does not count as vacation time.

I needed time off to attend the ceremony. At this point, I thought maybe I don't have enough blessings to receive the Lay Bodhisattva precepts. As the

帶他們去看醫生。每次我跟我上司請病假，要早點離開公司，但我從來也沒告訴他，我其實是帶我家人去看醫生。我的問題是：這樣算不算犯了妄語戒呢？

實法師回答我，就算照顧好家人是我應盡的責任，我依然違反了戒律。他教導我盡量要提前講清楚自己的情況，不要含糊不清的打擦邊球。他要求我從此以後用直心辦事，要真誠。我答應了，我會和主管請正常的假期。但是這種情況下，如果我請假當天，同部門若有人在我之前已經休假，我就不可以再休假，因為公司規定每個部門一次只允許一個人休假。我之前之所以不和主管講清楚，而是跟他說我要請病假，因為病假不算在正常休假天數裏。同時我也需要時間參加法會，我想我當時還沒有足夠福報來受菩薩戒。

誠心持戒獲感應

節錄自鍾果菊於2015年4月3日萬佛城大殿講法

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ceremony day got closer, I asked my supervisor for 8 days off to attend the Water, Land and Air ceremony at CTTB. He told me I didn't have enough vacation time and he cannot approve my request. I asked if I could take leave without pay. He agreed reluctantly for this time only and said if it happens again, he would fire me. Upon hearing this, I was not happy at all and was very worried about losing my job. But thinking about going to the CTTB, I put aside my worry and looked forward to the ceremony. I would bow to Guan Shi Yin Bodhisattva and the Venerable Master every day for my affinity to ripen in order to get to participate in the Dharma Assembly.

During the ceremony, there were 4 halls to recite the sutras at CTTB at the same time. I chose to attend the hall of the Emperor Liang Jewel Repentance. The whole ceremony was indescribably magnificent and adorned. I was so delighted because I was able to attend such a wonderful ceremony at CTTB. Throughout the 8 days at CTTB, I felt very pure. I thought without the permission from my supervisor for taking the time off, I would not have been able to attend it. I would have missed this rare opportunity and not know when I would get another chance again. I was so grateful to my supervisor that I transferred the merit and virtue to him.

When I returned to work, My supervisor changed his attitude towards me completely. He was very kind and easy going with any of my requests. Furthermore, he told me from now on, whenever I wanted to take the day off, I just have to write the request down in his notebook. If I wanted to take sick leave or vacation time, it would all be fine. I am so happy things went so smoothly and that my supervisor was very generous to grant my request. In this case, I don't have to worry about breaking the precepts for telling lies for taking sick leave to take my mother or my daughter to see the doctor.

Not too long after, President Clinton passed the law about Family Care. It applied to workers allowing them to use sick leave to take care of their family including of their parents, spouse and children. With my nice supervisor's kindness, plus the new law, I would never have to worry about violating the precepts.

In conclusion, when we are very serious and sincere about upholding the precepts and want to avoid violating the precepts, the Buddha and Bodhisattva will bless us and support us to have conditions to receive the precepts. With the encouragement from the Bodhisattva, we all will be able to uphold the precepts and be able to fulfill our responsibilities with our family at the same time. I believe when one is sincere about cultivation, Buddhas and Bodhisattvas will definitely fulfill one's wish. ❀

隨著法會日子越來越近，我問主管我可不可以請八天假，去萬佛城參加水陸空大法會。我主管說我沒那麼多休假日，他不批准。我再問他，可不可以讓我請無薪假？他很不情願的同意了，並說，只此一次，下不為例。如果下次還有這種情況，他就要辭退我。聽他這麼說，我非常不開心，也很擔心會失去這份工作。但是想到要來萬佛城，我就把這些不愉快都放在一邊，心裏很期盼法會。我每天向觀世音菩薩、師父上人頂禮，希望因緣成熟，我可以來參加法會。

在法會期間，聖城有四個壇同時誦經，我選擇參加梁皇寶懺。整個法會都非常莊嚴殊勝，不可思議，可以參與其中我極其歡喜。那八天在聖城，我覺得很清淨。如果我主管不准我假的話，我就沒辦法來參加，那我也會失去這個稀有的機會，不知道要等多久才有下一次。我很感激主管，就把功德迴向給他。

當我回到公司，我主管對我的態度完全轉變，變得非常好，對我的要求也很隨順。他還跟我說，從今以後，任何時間只要我想請假，只要把我的要求寫在他的記事本就可以了，無論我要請病假還是正常休假，都沒有問題。我很開心一切都變得這麼順利，我主管這麼慷慨滿我的願。這樣子，我就不用擔心，在請病假帶我母親和女兒去看醫生時，會去觸犯妄語戒的問題。

不久，克林頓總統通過了一項關於家庭看護的法律，就是允許工作的人利用病假去照顧家人，包括自己的父母、配偶、子女。加上之前我主管的善意，以及這條新法律，我怎麼都不用擔心會犯戒了。

總結來說，當我們非常認真誠心去持戒、想要避免犯戒時，佛菩薩會加持我們，支持我們，讓我們有因緣可以受戒。我們可以好好持戒的同時，也可以履行我們的責任來照顧好家庭。我相信，一個人只要真的想修行，佛菩薩一定會滿他的願。 ❀