



護法居士——史派克 Dharma Protector — Spike Morelli

文/譯：本刊編輯部

By Editorial Staff



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菲立普（史派克）·莫瑞理曾在世上許多地方住過，如今他與同修定居萬佛聖城，並將聖城視之為「家」。

史派克出生於意大利佛羅倫薩的一個天主教家庭，從小就接受宗教薰習。青少年時期曾接觸聖方濟修會的修士，留下深刻印象。這些修士實踐力行他們所信仰的宗旨，能夠做到言行相符。

及長，他以高科技企業家身份從佛羅倫薩到倫敦闖天下，進入林登實驗室，先後擔任作業工程師與系統工程師。隨後赴美，與人合夥成立新創科技公司，並曾任職於高科技公司，包括世界級的谷歌公司在內。史派克也成立非盈利輔導組織Lean Startup Cycle，為新創公司以及新上路的企業家提供免費諮詢協助。這一切努力的背後，是對自由的深刻追尋。

當他與同修於2012年到萬佛聖城參加觀音七時，有一晚聽到果勒居士在法界佛教大學的演講，他深感震撼。當時果勒說：「宣公上人曾對一羣拜見他的嬉皮說，你們以為你們很自由嗎？你們認為誰才擁有真正的自由？是你們還是我？最後證明宣公上人纔是真正自由的人之後，這些嬉皮成了上人的弟子。」同樣的，史派克認識到最終的自由，意味著身心不再受妄想控制，於是他決定皈依了三寶。

回首來時路，史派克說：「小時候，我希望爸媽給我自由；入學後，希望老師給我自由；進入社會工作後，希望老闆給我自由。然後我自己當了老闆，發現依舊不得自由。」

2012年，史派克的同修決定搬進萬佛聖城，史派克當時每週末奔馳於矽谷與萬佛聖城之間。直到一年半之後，當史派克在即將調職谷歌新部門之際，是他同修力促他下定決心，揮別高科技世界，來到聖城一起修行、追尋自性。

奇妙的是，在萬佛聖城，他的修行重點正是持戒。他說：「我對戒律的觀點已經改變。過去我認為戒律是在限制我能做與不能做之事；如今，我視戒律為幫助我省察自己習氣的辦法。」

史派克與同修同於2014年都受了菩薩戒。史派克感覺那是他一生中，最快樂的時刻之一。他說：「我們有機會與僧團相處較長的時光，平時我能跟僧團互動的機會極其有限。（學戒）那個星期，我們每天跟三位法師上課。我很喜歡跟他們相處，我覺得他們是以無限的耐心在教導我們。他們努力教化我，我此生從未遇到這樣的老師。」

在一個特殊因緣下，他自2014年起，開始每日持誦地藏經。地藏菩薩慈悲的大願深深感動他，而每日誦經也帶給他與同修心靈上的寧靜，並對大乘（菩薩道）有了新的體認。

史派克在萬佛城協助解決各項科技問題與需求，支援法界佛教大學的科技發展，還幫助各譯經羣組以及僧團，透過現代科技以弘揚佛法。

每月他有數個週日到君康素菜館幫忙擀麵，以便做包子；有時也幫忙建築維修部門。

雖然這些工作頗耗體力，但對他保持正念很有助益。目前他每天持誦地藏王菩薩聖號一千遍以上。最近，他全力協助易果居士，為法界佛教大學召開「佛教徒倫理與科技」研討會。

被問及他的長期目標時，史派克說：「我的目標就是護持萬佛聖城這個真修行的道場；和促進這個社區的和諧。」



Filippo “Spike” Morelli has lived in many places, but now, living in the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) with his wife Angela, he has found a place he calls home.

Born in Florence, Italy and raised Catholic, Spike was exposed to religion and religious life from a young age. He mentions spending time as a young adult with Franciscan monks, who left a positive impression on him - they were “walking the talk” and living life practicing what they believed in.

His work as a technology entrepreneur led him from Florence to London, where he worked as a systems engineer at Linden Lab and other companies, and to the United States, where he co-founded a start-up company to improve online education, worked for Google, and co-founded Lean Startup Circle, while serving as a mentor and coach to startups and young entrepreneurs.

Underlying all of this, however, was a deeper search for freedom.

When he and his wife Angela came to attend a Guan Yin session in 2012, he was struck by a story about Master Hua that Doug Powers shared in an evening lecture at Dharma Realm Buddhist University. “Master Hua said to a group of hippies who came to see him, ‘Do you think you are free? Who do you think is truly free – you or me?’ After proving to them that he was, they became his students.” The same happened to him as he realized that ultimate freedom meant freedom from the deluded mind.

Looking back, Spike says, “As a child I wanted freedom from my parents, as a student I wanted freedom from the teachers, when I started working I wanted freedom from my boss, and when I was my own boss I found that wasn’t freedom either.”

Angela decided to move to CTTB in 2012. Spike had to commute between Silicon Valley and CTTB on a weekly basis. One and half years later, when Spike was about to switch to a new department of Google, Angela urged him to leave high tech world and move to CTTB in search of their Buddha Nature.

Oddly enough, at CTTB he has made precepts a large part of his practice. He says, “My view on precepts has shifted. I used to perceive them as rules that would limit what I could and couldn’t do. Now I see them as a support mechanism to keep my habitual mind in check.”

He and Angela took the bodhisattva precepts in 2014. For him, it was one of the most joyful moments in his life. He says, “We got to spend a lot of time with the Sangha. Usually, my opportunity to interact with the monastics is quite limited. That week, we had classes every day with three monks, and I really enjoyed being in their presence. I saw that they taught with incredible patience, they were there for me, just like no other teacher I had ever encountered.”

He also started reciting *Earth Store Sutra* on a daily basis under a special cause and condition in 2014. He has been deeply moved by the great compassion of Earth Store Bodhisattva’s vow and the daily recitation has brought him and his wife much peace and a new understanding of the Mahayana path.

At CTTB, he has been helping with the community’s technology issues and needs, supporting DRBU in its tech development, the various translation groups and the Sangha in their use of technology to spread the Dharma.

He also helps kneading the dough for making Chinese bun at the Jun Kang vegetarian restaurant a few Sundays a month and with other odd jobs like the general repairs in Buildings and Grounds when an extra pair of hands is needed.

Even though it’s a laborious work, he feels that it greatly helps him on his mindfulness practices and silent recitation, which includes reciting Earth Store Bodhisattva’s name over 1,000 times a day. Most recently, he helped Ron Epstein organize a DRBU discussion on Buddhist ethics and technology.

Asked about his long-term goals, he says, “My goal is to support CTTB in being a harmonious community for serious cultivation.”

