

My Father

我的父親

A Talk by Bhikshuni Heng Yuan at the CTTB Buddha Hall on May 7, 2015
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Every time I have an opportunity to bow this repentance for the past few years, I think about my father because he passed away eight years ago during the Ten Thousand Buddhas Repentance.

In my mind, my father was a very honest person. He was from Vietnam. His name was Thi Do. He was in the army during the Vietnam War and he was usually ordered to go to watch over towns and cities. He used to fly the jet plane during the war. At night it was usually very boring so he and his soldier buddies would gamble a lot and they would drink and smoke. He used to pride himself that he was very healthy. When other people would get drunk after five bottles of beer or wine, he could take up to twice that amount and still not be drunk. Later, when North Vietnam took over South Vietnam, he escaped to America.

The first home I had was in Southern California, close to L.A., it was a very small apartment. My father had a room specially dedicated as a Buddha Hall. He decorated his altar very simply, it was a very tall standing closet, there was one picture of Shakyamuni Buddha in a golden frame and underneath it was a small incense burner. It was extremely simple. In my

最近幾年每次有機會拜萬佛寶懺時，我都會想起我父親。因為八年前，就是萬佛城舉行萬佛寶懺的時候，父親就在那個時候過世。

在我的心目中，我父親是個很老實的人。他來自越南，名叫杜仲試。他在越戰的時候當過飛行員，駕駛噴射機。常常會被派去守不同的城市。晚上很無聊，所以，他跟他的同僚就會賭博、喝酒跟抽菸。他那時候還年輕，自己覺得很健壯。他說，別人也許喝五瓶酒就醉了，他可以喝十瓶都不醉，以前他常常為此感到自豪。後來北越佔領南越的時候，他就逃難到美國。

在美國，我小時候住在南加州一棟很小的公寓，在洛杉磯附近。父親有一個小房間，特別當作佛堂。我爸爸佈置佛龕非常的簡單：一個高高的櫃子，上面請了一張釋迦摩尼佛的佛像，我父親用金色的相框，框起那張佛像，下面有一個很小的香爐，就這麼簡單。在我的記憶裏，每次見到父親，他都是帶著病，完全不像他描述年輕時那樣。印象中，父親每次都是在那佛堂安靜地拜佛。我也沒問過他，拜佛時候想什麼？我也不曉得，父親拜佛的時候有沒有念佛號？

我那時候放學回家，就跟妹妹一起玩。我常



When I serve my parents in filiality,
I vow that sentient beings.
Will serve the Buddhas skillfully,
And protect and nourish everything.
孝事父母 當願眾生 善事於佛 護養一切



When I have something to give,
I vow that sentient beings.
Will be able to renounce everything,
Without any love or attachment in their minds.
若有所施 當願眾生 一切能捨 心無愛著



In taking refuge with the Buddha,
I vow that sentient beings.
Will perpetuate the Buddhas' lineage,
And bring forth the unsurpassed resolve.
自皈依佛 當願眾生 紹隆佛種 發無上意

memory, he was always very ill and not at all like what he said when he was younger. He was always bowing in that Buddha Hall. I never asked him if he thought of anything when he bowed or if he recited the Buddha's name when he bowed. I just remembered he bowed a lot.

After school, I played with my sister. I remember my mother was always very stern, telling us to keep quiet because my father was resting and he was very sick. When we played we got a little noisy and my mother would be very upset.

Many years later my father told me that he had something wrong with his liver and he had gone to see a doctor. The doctor told him it was because when he was young he drank too much alcohol and his lungs weren't good too from all the cigarettes he smoked. The doctor had told him he only had two weeks to live. If he rested a lot he might be able to live a little longer. My father went home and all he did was bow. After two weeks of bowing, he went back to the doctor. The doctor was very surprised and said that he wasn't very sick anymore. I don't know when my father started believing in the Buddhadharmā, we hadn't encountered Dharma Realm Buddhist Association (DRBA) yet, but he had more faith in the Buddhadharmā from that time on.

Every Sunday my father started taking my family – my mother, my sister and I went to many different Vietnamese way places in Los Angeles. We went to a different way place each time. It wasn't visiting like a tourist. I thought my father was looking for something but I didn't know what it was and I never asked him.

One day a Vietnamese-Chinese friend of my father said he had heard that up north (California) there was a

常記得母親都會很嚴肅地跟我們說不要太吵，父親在休息——因為他生病了。可是，玩耍的時候還是會有些吵，母親會因此非常不高興。

很多年以後，有一次父親對我說，那時候他的肝臟出了問題。醫生跟他說，他得了肝病，是年輕的時候喝了太多酒，還有肺也有問題，因為吸了太多菸。他活不久，大概就只剩兩個禮拜的生命，叫我父親多多休息，也許他的生命會延長一些。所以，我父親回到家就一直拜佛。拜了兩個星期之後，他回去醫生那裏檢查。醫生很驚訝地跟我父親說，好像病症已經消失了。我不知道父親什麼時候開始信佛，當時我們也還沒遇到法界佛教總會。可是我相信從那個時候起，我父親對佛法就更加有信心。

從此，我父親每個星期天都會帶著我母親、我還有我妹妹，去洛杉磯不同的越南廟。幾乎每個禮拜我們都會換一座寺廟；我知道我父親不是去觀光，我覺得他好像在尋找什麼，但我不曉得父親是在找什麼，我也從沒問過他。

有一次，他的一位越南華僑朋友，跟我父親說：聽說北加州有一位法師講法的時候，天龍八部、天人、鬼神都會來聽法，他想去看看熱鬧，就約我父親和幾個朋友去到萬佛城。他們回來的時候，我記得看到我父親的朋友很失望的樣子，他龍也沒

Dharma Master who when he spoke the dharma, all of dragons, heavenly beings, ghosts and spirits would come to listen. He really wanted to go and see that and he asked my father and some other friends to take a look at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) with him. When they came back, I remember my father's friend's disappointment because he didn't see any dragons, heavenly beings, ghosts or spirits. My father was extremely happy; he said CTTB was the monastery he had in his mind. It was very simple but very pure in feeling. There was an atmosphere of cultivation. The way he described CTTB was like a fairytale to me and my sister. So we really wanted to come here. My father also said the best thing about it was there was an elementary and high school here. He thought the best place to raise his two children was at the monastery. Most people would not think that raising a family at the monastery was an ideal thing but to him it was the perfect place. He took us to Gold Wheel Monastery every Sunday for a whole year before coming to live at CTTB.

Our application was accepted and we were able to come to live at CTTB. About after one and a half years after that, my sister and I left home under the Venerable Master. Years later, my father said that during that time he really didn't want to let us leave home but he didn't dare to say so because he believed in cause and effect. His younger brother wanted to leave the home life when they were in Vietnam and my father didn't understand and he actually obstructed my uncle from doing it. My uncle didn't leave home, he got married and made a lot of small mistakes and even spent some time in jail. It caused a lot of pain for my grandmother and his family. My father thought if he hadn't obstructed him in his desire to leave home, things would have been different. As much as he didn't want to say good-bye to my sister and me, he didn't dare not support our leaving home.

A few years later, my mother, because she had some conditions that she didn't fulfill on the outside, she left CTTB. My father stayed at CTTB until 2007 when his old illnesses surfaced again. Besides his old sickness of his liver and lungs, he also had some other new illnesses. The doctors said this time it would be very painful but I was there with him and I don't think he left painfully; he left peacefully. I think this is pretty miraculous. It was during the Ten Thousand Buddhas Repentance.

I'm so grateful to DRBA for allowing me to have a chance be filial and take care of my father during his last days. The Venerable Master said that bowing to the Buddha is the best method to cure illnesses. I watched my father for many years and I believe this is true.

We have one more week of the Ten Thousand Buddhas Repentance. The Venerable Master said in Buddhism, as long as you're sincere, there will be a response. If you have illnesses, this is a great time to bow, maybe it will go away or if you want to increase your blessings, this is also a great opportunity for that. I hope that we can all use the remaining time sincerely and finish bowing the Ten Thousand Buddhas Repentance. Amitabha! ❀

看到，天人也沒看到，神也沒看到，鬼也沒有看到，覺得很無聊。可是我父親卻非常高興，他說，萬佛城就是他心中想像的道場，很樸實，很清淨，有一股修行的氣。而且，聽父親形容萬佛城的時候，就好像神話一般，我跟我妹妹好想過來萬佛聖城。他說這裏還有小學跟高中，他認為在道場裏面把我跟我妹妹撫養成人，是最理想的。其實，別人不認為在道場養家，是一個理想的方式。不過，我爸爸覺得這是一個最好的地方。在搬到萬佛城的前一年，每個星期天，父親都帶我們到金輪寺去。

我們通過申請，來到聖城住。差不多一年半以後，我跟妹妹就有機緣跟上人出家，當了小沙彌尼。其實，很多年之後，有一次跟我父親談話，他說，當時他很捨不得；不過他不敢對我們說不能出家，因為他非常相信因果。他有一個弟弟，年輕的時候，在越南想要出家，那時候他年輕無知，不認為出家是件好事，就阻礙他弟弟出家。後來，他弟弟沒有出家，成家之後，犯了很多小過，甚至坐過牢，做很多讓祖母和家人傷心的事情。我父親常常想，如果當時讓我叔叔出家，也許結果會不一樣。後來父親自己學了佛，很捨不得兩個女兒一起出家，不過，也不敢不支持我們出家。

幾年後，我母親因為有一些世緣還沒了，就離開了萬佛城。不過我父親還是留下來，直到2007年，舊病復發，他除了原本的肝病、肺病還有其他的病痛。醫生說，這些病加起來應該是很痛苦的，不過臨終時，我覺得父親離開得很安詳。當時正在拜萬佛寶懺，我覺得這是很不可思議的一個現象。

我非常感激法總讓我有機會回去盡孝道，在我父親臨終的時候，能夠回去照顧他。上人說，拜佛是最好的治病方法，我記得我爸爸過去就常常拜佛，我相信這個是真的。

萬佛寶懺還剩一個多禮拜，上人說，在佛教裏，只要有誠心，就一定會有感應。萬佛寶懺是很好的機會，如果有什麼病痛，很誠心的話，也許病痛就會沒有了。如果想要增加福報的話，這也是很好的機會，希望我們共同誠心拜完萬佛寶懺。阿彌陀佛！❀