



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

75. 斬手救母

二十多歲的高德福因母病心急，到三緣寺準備砍手求佛垂憐，令他母親的病早日痊癒。因為他的孝心，感動上人親到大南溝屯，為他母親治病……

上人自述：

離我廟上十八里路，在大南溝屯子有個人叫高萬峰，他太太是抽鴉片煙的。她後來有病，躺在床上，病得連鴉片也不能抽，嘴唇乾得就像火燒過似的，舌頭也黑色了，七、八天沒吃東西。他兒子叫高德福，大約二十來歲，為救母親，暗自發願要到三緣寺，在佛前剃手，想以誠心求佛菩薩保佑他的母親病好。

四月初八浴佛節那天，有很多人來三緣寺拜佛。下午一點多鐘的時候，他用報紙包著一把菜刀來到廟上。在佛前上香之後，他跪到佛前，

75. Chopping Off His Own Hand to Save His Mother

When he was in his twenties, Gao Defu became panicked and grief-stricken because his mother was very sick and near death. Gao Defu was desperate to help his mother quickly recover, so he went to the San Yuan Monastery to pray for the Buddha's mercy. In order to show his sincerity, he planned to cut his hand off in front of the Buddha's image. His sense of filial respect was so strong that it moved Master Hua to visit Da Nan Gou (Great South Ditch) Village to cure Defu's mother.

The Story in the Venerable Master's Own Words:

Five or six miles away from our temple, there was a man named Gao Wanfeng, who lived in Da Nan Gou Village. His wife was an opium addict. One day she fell ill and became bedridden. She was so sick that she could not even smoke opium any more. Her lips were as dry as if they had been burned by fire. Her tongue had turned black and she had not eaten anything for seven or eight days. Her son Gao Defu, who was in his twenties, really wanted to save his mother, so he secretly made a vow that he would go to the San Yuan Monastery and chop one of his hands off in front of the Buddha's image. He thought

把報紙打開，拿出菜刀想要剁自己的左手。旁邊的人看到，趕忙捉住他的右手，說：「你幹什麼？你幹什麼？」他說他母親有病，怎麼樣也治不好，他想剁手表示誠心，求菩薩讓他母親再活幾年。

一般人都拿我們方丈和尚當活菩薩、活佛那麼看，當時有位李景華居士是方丈和尚最忠實的信徒。聽說他這樣情形，李景華就帶他去見老方丈。李景華說：「方丈和尚你慈悲！幫幫他忙！」老方丈和尚說：「幫忙，一定幫忙！你去把安慈找來。」方丈和尚叫李景華來找我，我就去見方丈和尚。

我到方丈寮，向方丈和尚頂禮之後，站在一邊。我說：「方丈和尚，有什麼事情叫我做？」方丈和尚用手指他說：「他很孝順，為救他母親要剁手。」我說：「剁了一隻手？還是兩隻手？」「都沒有剁。」我說：「那怎麼叫剁手呢？根本就沒有剁嘛！」

方丈和尚沒什麼辯才，只說：「他們不讓他剁嘛！你可憐可憐他，去救一救他母親！」我說：「人家來找你，不是找我，怎麼要找我幫忙呢？我不管這個閒事！」方丈和尚說：「什麼叫找你找我，你能幫就幫一幫他，他這麼誠心。」我說：「你不能老給我找事，給我添麻煩！」方丈和尚說：「你可以嘛！能做得就幫忙人，結結緣！發發慈悲！」

我當時年紀輕，但是也不願意管閒事，我對高德福說：「我沒有辦法，你回去！」雖然這麼說，他還是跪著。其實他求我，我不去也是一樣。我雖然是不理他，他不知道我已經為他迴向，已經幫他解決他母親的問題，他不知道還在那兒跪著落淚。高德福這種孝心有點是真心，我就說：「可以試一試，我到你家去看看。你先走！」他說：「你知道路？」我說：「不要管我，你自己先走就好了！」

這戶人家離我廟上有十七、八里路遠，他騎腳踏車先走，我走小路。等我到他家的時候，已經傍晚五點多鐘，他還沒有到家。他家裏的人都不認識我，擋著不讓我進屋，說：「我們家裏有病人，沒有錢，你不要到我們這兒來化緣！」出家人到什麼地方，一般人看見都很討厭的，都說：「我們沒有錢，你不要來化緣。」所以我說餓死也不化緣，就是因為這個。你們難以想像，我過去所遭遇的那些情況。我對他們說：「我不化你們的緣！你們家有人到我們廟上要剁手，你們知道不知道？我是來給他安裝手來的。」他們一聽，才讓我進屋裏。我坐到炕上，也沒有人理我。

大約等了五分鐘，他回來了，很驚奇地說：「你怎麼

by doing so, he would be able to show his sincerity so that the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas would bless his mother and cure her illness.

On the eighth day of April, according to the lunar calendar, is the celebration of Buddha's birthday, also known as Bathing the Buddha's Day. On this day, many people came to the San Yuan Monastery to bow to the Buddha. Around one p.m., Gao Defu came to the temple with a knife wrapped in newspaper. First, he burnt some incense, and knelt down in front of the Buddha. He unwrapped the newspaper and took out the knife, prepared to cut off his left hand. People next to him saw this, and rushed to grab his right hand, saying, "What are you doing? What are you doing?" Defu replied that his mother was sick and there was no way of curing her. Thus he wanted to cut his hand off to prove his sincerity to the Bodhisattvas, praying that his mother could live a few more years.

Ordinary people regarded our Abbot as a living Buddha or Bodhisattva. When Li Jinghua, who was the most sincere and loyal disciple of the Abbot, heard Gao Defu's story, he brought Defu to the Abbot, saying, "Abbot, please be compassionate! Please help him!" The old Abbot said, "OK, OK! Please go find An Ci and ask him to come here." When I heard from Li Jinghua that I was being summoned, I went to see the Abbot immediately.

I went to the Abbot's room, bowed to him, and said, "Abbot, what do you want me to do?" The Abbot pointed at Gao Defu and said, "He is a filial son, and would rather cut his own hand off than see his mother die." I asked, "Has he cut one hand or both?" "He hasn't cut either yet," replied the Abbot. I said, "How come you are talking about cutting off hands, when no hands have been cut off yet?"

The Abbot was not very eloquent and didn't want to argue with me. He simply stated, "They stopped him. Please show your mercy and save his mother." I said, "He came for you, not for me. Why should I help him? I don't want any trouble!" The Abbot said, "It doesn't matter if he came for you or for me. If you could, please help him. He has such sincerity." I said, "You should not always be finding trouble for me." The Abbot said, "I know you could help. Please help him and create good affinities. Please be compassionate!"

I was young, but didn't want to poke my nose into others' business. I told Gao Defu, "I cannot do it, please go home." Though he heard what I said, he kept kneeling. In fact, it didn't matter whether I went to his house or not. He didn't know that I had already dedicated my own merit and virtue to his mother and that her problem was solved. He didn't know this,



1987年，水陸空法會期間，
高德福（中）一家人攝於萬佛聖城山門前。

During the Water, Land and Air Ceremony in 1987,
Gao Defu (in the middle) and his family took this picture
in front of the gate of three arches at the entrance of CTTB.

先到了？你坐什麼車來的？」我說：「我跑路來的！」
「你怎麼跑得這麼快？」我說：「你從大路走，我從小路上走，當然比你快了！」他立即叫全家都過來給我叩頭頂禮。那時候我是不穿鞋，也不穿襪子，他們都覺得我很特別。

我用黃裱紙給閻羅王寫了一張疏文，疏文說：「我是誰，現在我在姓什麼人的家裏，門牌幾號。因為他母親有病，他到廟上要斬手供佛，我現在請閻羅王特別開恩，一定要把這個人放回來；不放回來，我就和你不客氣！」他們全家很誠心地跪著，等我把這張黃裱紙燒了，大家才休息睡覺，這個病人還是人事不省。

第二天清早，這個病了七、八天，不吃東西、不喝水、不說話、也不睜眼睛的人，自己從炕上坐起來，說：「吉子！吉子！」高德福的小名叫吉子，說：「吉子，吉子！你給我拿一點粥來，我要喝粥，口渴得不得了！」高德福一聽母親會說話，歡喜得不得了，趕快跑到他母親的面前，說：「媽媽，你好啦？」他媽媽說：「這麼多天，我也不知道自己跑到什麼地方去了；沒有太陽，也沒有月亮，也沒有燈光，到處都是黑咚咚地，什麼都看不見。想回家，也不知道家在什麼地方，眼前就這麼恍恍惚惚地發黃。」

高德福問：「那你怎麼好的？」她說：「昨天晚間，我遇到一個出家人，他穿著很破的衣服，他把我送回來的！你以後要見著窮和尚，無論如何要給他一點錢，結

so he kept kneeling and crying. He had true filial piety. So I said, "Maybe I can try. Let's go to your house: you go first!" He asked, "Do you know how to get there?" I said, "Don't worry about me, just go home!"

He lived about 8.5 to 9 miles from my temple. He bicycled back first, and I went another way. When I got to his home, it was about 5p.m. and he had not arrived yet. Nobody in his home knew me so they didn't want me to come in. They said, "We have a sick person at home. We don't have any money. Please don't come here to beg alms." Some people see monks as being very annoying, and they say, "We don't have money, please don't beg alms." Because of this, I said, "Starving to death, I beg for nothing." You could not imagine what I had encountered in the past. I told them, "I am not begging alms from you! Your family member came to our temple trying to cut his hand off. Do you know that? I came to fix the problem." Hearing what I said, they let me in. I sat on the bed and nobody talked to me.

After I waited there for about five minutes, Gao Defu came back. He was surprised to see me and asked, "How come you got here first? Did you take a bus?" I said: "I ran here." Then he asked, "How come you run so fast?" I replied, "You took the main road, and I used a short cut, so, of course I was faster than you!" He immediately called all his family members to bow to me. At that time, I was not wearing any shoes or socks. They all thought I was very special.

I found a piece of yellow worshipping paper on which I wrote an article to King Yama, stating who I was and where I came from. I gave him the address of the family and explained how the son came to our temple trying to cut his hand off as an offering to the Buddha. I requested King Yama's mercy, and asked that he let Defu's mother back. I wrote, "If you don't let her come back, I will be hard on you!" As I was writing this, his family continued to kneel sincerely, waiting until I finished and burned the paper. Only after I was done did they all go back to sleep. Meanwhile, the patient was still unconscious.

The next morning, after seven or eight days of laying with her eyes closed, not drinking, eating, or talking, the Gao Defu's mother sat up in her bed and called, "Ji Zi, Ji Zi!" (which was Defu's nickname). She said, "Ji Zi, Ji Zi! Please bring me some porridge. I want porridge, I am very, very thirsty!" Gao Defu was so happy to see his mother talk again. He ran close to her and asked, "Mom, are you better?" His mother said, "For so many days, I did not know where I went to. There was no sun, no moon, no lights--it was so dark everywhere that I could not

結緣。」她兒子聽她這樣講，說：「這個和尚長什麼樣子？」她說：「這個出家人很高的！我若看見，我會認得。」她兒子就往我那兒一指——我那時還在炕上躺著呢！說：「你看看，在炕上躺著那個和尚是不是？」他媽媽一看，說：「是他，就是他把我送回來的。」就這麼樣子，全家人都跑過來跪著叩頭，都要皈依我。他們也沒去打聽這個師父是好師父、是壞師父，有沒有道德，全家都皈依了。我心想：「這回我要是向你們化緣，一定可以修個廟，但是我不化這個緣！你們昨天不讓我進門口，我不會和你們化緣的！」我就是這種性格。

我用過「寶印手」兩次，在東北高家用過一次，在香港也用過一次。在東北是不得已，不能不做。我用過「寶印手」之後，她病好了，但麻煩也就來了。這個說他有病，那個說他也有病，病人就多了。我說：「你們這些有病的人都欠打了！」我拿著一個拂塵，給每個病人打三拂塵，然後問這些人：「你還有沒有病？」「不痛了，好了！」我說：「你們都是欠打的，讓我打一打就沒有病了！」

他媽媽由此病好了，又多活了二十年。1987年，我曾經叫高德福、高德祥、高家新、高德祥的太太他們一家五、六個人，到萬佛城這兒來看看。

see anything. I wanted to come back, but didn't know how to get home. I saw yellow in front of my eyes and felt like I was in a trance.

Gao Defu asked, "How did you recover?" She said, "Last night, I met a monk dressed in tattered and worn out robes who sent me back. If you see a poor monk, you must give him some money to create affinities." When he heard this, Defu asked, "What did the monk look like?" She said, "He was tall. If I see him, I will recognize him." Her son pointed at me, while I was still lying on the bed, saying, "Please take a look. Is he that monk?" His mother said, "Yes, I was sent back by him." So all the family came to bow to me and asked to take refuge with me. They didn't go to check with others whether I was a good teacher or whether I had virtue. They just took refuge with me. I said to myself, "If I ask for money, they would surely give me enough to build a temple. However, I won't ask for it. Yesterday, they didn't even let me in, so today I won't ask them for money." That's my personality.

I have used the Precious Seal Hand (one of the Forty-two Hands) twice: once when I was in the Gao home, and subsequently I also used it again in Hong Kong. In Manchuria, I did it because I was left with no choice: I had to use the Precious Seal Hand to help Defu's mother recover. However, this also brought many troubles: soon another person came and said he was sick, and yet another told me that he didn't feel well. Before long there were so many patients. I said, "All you sick people need to be beaten!" I used a horse hair whisk and hit everyone three times. Then I asked them, "Are you still sick?" "No, No. I am recovered." I said, "You guys all needed to get a good beating. After this beating, you will all be healthy!"

Defu's mother was healthy ever since and she lived another twenty years. In 1987, I invited Gao Defu, Gao Dexiang, Gao Jiaxin, and Gao Defu's wife, and five or six of them came to visit the City of the Ten Thousand Buddhas.