

逆水行舟到彼岸—悼念比丘尼恒宗

Going Against the Flow to Reach the Other Shore —In Memory of Bhikshuni Heng Dzung



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2015年8月30日晨八時，恒宗師於金佛寺安詳往生，享年78歲。由於當日乃星期日例行法會，是以法師得在佛友們的助念下，走完人生最後一程。荼毗後，得翡翠舍利子十餘顆，並有若干舍利花。

法師原籍廣東，1937年出生於香港。幼年即跟隨母親誦念觀音菩薩聖號，自此與佛教結下不解之緣。法師生前曾親口敘述一段死裏逃生的經歷，從此對觀音菩薩更加深信不疑：1963年，她還是在家人時，一個夜晚，她帶著老二入睡。凌晨二時，忽然夢見一個眼神銳利的女人，頭上包著褐色頭巾，對她說：「趕快離開這裏。」

她隨即從夢中驚醒，毫不遲疑，立刻跳下床，抱著老二到樓下廚房。安頓之後，又衝回臥室，帶老大下來。這次才剛踏入廚房，就聽見一聲巨響，跟著停電，電話也不通，屋外是狂風暴雨呼嘯怒吼不已。

等到風雨停息，再回到樓上臥室，只見床上與地面佈滿無數玻璃碎片，原來臥室窗戶全都被風雨吹凹擊破。如果她跟小孩

On the morning of August 30th, 2015, at Gold Buddha Monastery Dharma Master Heng Dzung peacefully passed away at the age of 78. As it was a Sunday and there was a regular Dharma Session taking place. Many Dharma friends joined in recitation to send her off on her final journey. After cremation, more than a dozen shariras in emerald color and sharira flowers were found in her ashes.

Dharma Master Dzung, whose ancestral home is in Guangdong province, was born in Hong Kong in 1937. From very young, she followed in her mother's footsteps in reciting Guanyin Bodhisattva's name. Her affinities with Buddhism started then. She once told the story of barely escaping with her life. She had a deeper faith in Guanyin Bodhisattva since that incident. She had a dream one night in 1963. She was lying on the bed with her second-born child around two in the morning when a woman with piercing eyes and a brown kerchief around her head demanded: "Get out of here!"

Awakened by the intensity of the dream, she jumped from the bed immediately, grabbed her baby and raced down to the kitchen. Depositing the child there, she raced back upstairs to get her first-born as well. No sooner had she arrived back in the kitchen than she heard a tremendous crash. The electricity went off and the phone went dead. Outside a fierce storm raged.

Once the storm subsided, she went upstairs to see what the crash had been. There in the bedroom she had just abandoned lay millions glass shards--all across her bed and the floor. All the windows in the room had caved in. Had she and the baby been in that bed, they would have been badly hurt and

還躺在床上，肯定非死即傷。當時她立即意識到，是觀音菩薩救了她和兩個孩子的命。

一生劬勞勤苦的她，自移民加拿大，結識金佛寺後，未嘗一日不聽經聞法。在金佛寺草創之初，鮮少人知，又弟子們謹守上人凍死不攀緣、餓死不化緣、窮死不求緣的家風，因此度日維艱。但每月功德箱裏總有一包錢，足令僧眾勉強撐持下去。這包供養金後來得知，是來自於當年在旅館做清潔工的恆宗師。恆宗師窮其一生勤勤懇懇，自從認識宣公上人的法後，便以無比堅誠的信心，將此身心奉獻給佛教，絲毫不留半分。

比丘尼恆持在金佛寺當家時，恆宗師還是在家人，持法師憶及恆宗師每個月都將薪水支票簽名後，原封不動投進金佛寺的功德箱，也不跟任何人提及此事，甚至連自己的珠寶首飾都投入功德箱。持法師表示：「我認為她是將首飾全部捐完為止。」當時恆宗師對佛教的信仰以及對上人的信心，都讓持法師深受啓發。

有一次上人打電話到金佛寺，問持法師有哪些人在？持法師說：「露西（宗法師的俗名）在這裏。」上人就呵責問道：「你們沒讓露西給你們做中飯吧？你們可不能叫她做飯，她不是給你們做飯的。」

持法師說：「事實上，她沒給我們做飯。我也向師父報告了，師父好像就是要強調，別讓她給我們做飯。師父不介意她來金佛寺打掃，但就是不能給我們做飯。」

法界佛教總會一度擁有舊金山吉利旅館，恆宗師生前曾在那裏服務。比丘尼恆薰師當時也在吉利旅館與恆宗師共事，她還記得恆宗師每天勤奮工作，一有空就誦經。恆宗師說：「修行人就是不能空閒偷懶，不要浪費時間。」這樣的言教、身教，讓恆薰師至今仍然銘記在心。

恆宗師生前以《金剛經》、《地藏經》為日課。綜觀其一生，一如她所說：「勤奮向上不退轉，逆水行舟到彼岸。」修行的前輩們，遺留給後人不同面向的修行典範，恆宗師便是其一。❀

likely killed. She knew right away that Guanyin Bodhisattva had saved her and her children.

Dharma Master Dzung worked hard all her life. When she migrated to Canada and was introduced to Gold Buddha Monastery, not a day went by that she did not study the Buddhadharma. In the early days of Gold Buddha Monastery, few knew about the place. The Venerable Master's disciples upheld the three great principles which are "Freezing, we do not scheme; Starving, we do not beg; Dying of poverty, we ask for nothing." Therefore there were very few offerings and it was hard to make ends meet. However, there was always at least one bag of money in the donation box every month. This offering was just enough to sustain the monastery. Later, they found out the donation was left by Dharma Master Dzung who was then still a layperson and worked as janitorial crew in a hotel. She was very hard working. From the time she encountered the Venerable Master's teachings, she developed undeterred solid faith in the Buddha's teachings and contributed whole heartedly to Buddhism.

Bhikshuni Heng Chih related that when she was the manager of Gold Buddha Monastery (GBM), Dharma Master Dzung was still a layperson and she would bring her salary cheques to the monastery, endorse them, and put them in the donation box—always without saying anything to anyone. She gave her whole salary month after month. She would even slip her jewelery in the GBM donation box, "Until I think she must have given all her gems to Buddhism." Dharma Master Heng Chih said, "I was inspired by her faith in Buddhism and her trust in the Master."

One time, when Venerable Hua called GBM, he asked who was there and Dharma Master Heng Chih said, "Lucy (DM Dzung's layname) is here." Then the Master scolded and said, "You nuns are not having Lucy cook your lunches, are you? You cannot do that; she should not have to cook for you."

Dharma Master Chih said, "In fact, she didn't cook for us and I did tell ShiFu that, but he seemed to want to make a strong point about not having her cook for us. He didn't mind that she cleaned the monastery—he just didn't want her to cook for us."

Dharma Master Dzung was once assigned to work for Geary Hotel in San Francisco, which DRBA once owned. Bhikshuni Heng Syun also worked there. She remembered that Dharma Master Dzung worked very hard and would recite sutras whenever she had a little time. Dharma Master Dzung said, "A spiritual cultivator cannot slack off, be lazy or waste time." Her teachings in words and action were indelibly imprinted on Dharma Master Heng Syun's mind until now.

Dharma Master Heng Dzung recited the *Vajra Sutra* and *Earth Store Sutra* everyday. Looking back on her life, it matches a saying she used to say: "Diligently move forward and do not retreat, going against the flow to reach the other shore." Often times, our senior practitioners are models for us and Dharma Master Dzung is one of them. ❀