

從造飛機到協助蓋廟 —武親道居士

From Making Airplanes
to Helping Build A Temple
—John Vu

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武親道出生於世代信佛的越南家庭，父親曾任越南一所佛教大學的副校長。武親道孩提時，就皈依佛門受五戒並吃素。他經常跟著父母上道場誦經，直到高中畢業後到美國深造為止。在美國求學，總計獲俄亥俄大學生物學士、內華達大學生物學碩士；以及西雅圖太平洋大學電腦學士、卡內基美隆大學電腦碩士。

武親道曾在波音公司任職20餘年，做到資深副總裁，也是開發波音777機型的軟體總工程師與技術院士，率領兩萬人團隊，首創將波音777的設計與製造從數碼資訊直接進入生產製程，不再需要製造全尺寸模型機，將開發新飛機的時間減少了60%。

2010年從波音公司退休後，應邀回母校卡內基美隆大學創辦生技創新與計算碩士班，並出任首屆碩士班主任。四年之內，就將該學程的排名提升至全美第一。

武親道回憶生平唯一一次親炙宣公上人，是因隨同越南佛友到金峰寺聆聽上人開示。他被一位越南方丈指定在現場負責翻譯越南文。當時他發現凡是不懂或聽不清楚的字眼，上人就會停下來，讓弟子為他解釋。因為次數很多，武親道不禁心想：莫非上人有

John Vu was born to a traditional Vietnamese family that has practiced Buddhism for many generations. His father was the provost of a Buddhist university in Vietnam. As a young child, John Vu took refuge, received the five precepts and followed a vegetarian diet. He went to temples and recited sutras with his parents. After high school he attended university in the U.S. where he received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Ohio; a Master of Science in Biology from the University of Nevada; a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Seattle Pacific University; and a Master of Science in Computer Science from Carnegie Mellon University.

Mr. Vu worked for Boeing for over 20 years. He was a senior vice president and the Software Chief Engineer and Technical Fellow for designing and developing the Boeing 777. Leading a team of 20,000 people, he initiated new procedures that allowed Boeing to design and build the 777 directly from digital information. It was manufactured without a “Mockup” and reduced development time by 60%.

He retired from Boeing in 2010. Later he was invited to establish the Biotechnology Innovation and Computation Master Program at his alma mater, Carnegie Mellon University and become director of that program. In four years, this master program became the top one in the United States.

John Vu recalled his only opportunity to meet with Venerable Hua when he joined a group of Vietnamese Buddhists to go to Gold Summit Monastery for Venerable Hua’s lecture. He was assigned the job of translating into Vietnamese by a Vietnamese Abbot. Throughout the lecture, every time he hesitated on a term, the Venerable Master would stop and asked his disciple to clearly explain the meaning to him so that he could translate.

他心通？此時上人對他笑笑，讓弟子告訴他：「上人沒有他心通。」

後來有聽眾提問：「為什麼像上人這樣真真實證的人也會生病？」上人答覆說：「有些病是來自多生之前，當時還沒修習佛法，所造的業到現在成熟，因而受報。」武親道心想：「這是不是表示上人有宿命通，知道他自己的前世？」上人看看他，再度讓弟子告訴他：「上人並不知道自己的前世。」武親道不敢多說話，只覺得這一切實在太奇妙了。當天上人還給了他一張名片，要他多修行，下回再見。但他因為工作忙碌，一直到上人入涅槃，都沒有再見到上人。

多年後，他意識到光是每週去一次道場，平日自己誦誦經，看看佛書，這樣修行是不夠的，他想找位明師指點修行。有一天正好在抽屜裏看到上人的名片，他很後悔沒有抓住機會向上人學習。那年的上人涅槃紀念日，他與同修梅卿一起到萬佛聖城參加法會。

見到上人銅像那一刻，武親道感覺彷彿見到自己的父親，當場納頭便拜，並向上人懺悔自己沒有及早前來受教。當晚夢見上人，上人教他從研究持誦大悲咒與楞嚴咒開始，好好修行。夢中上人跟他講了很多話，醒後他了解上人依然與我們同在。武親道說：「上人生生世世引導大家修行，我們應該遵照佛陀的真正教誨，更努力修行，並讓法輪常轉。」

2007年他與同修一起在萬佛聖城皈依並受五戒；2014年他們再度到萬佛聖城求受菩薩戒。武親道並應邀加入萬佛聖城妙覺山計劃的項目經理團隊，協助推動妙覺山計劃的工程興建。他豐富的行政管理經驗，對於這項計劃的溝通協調，起了很大的作用。

武親道指出，近年高科技界掀起一股打坐學佛的熱潮，以求減輕壓力。很多冒牌的「佛學大師」因此應運而生。他認為，要找尋明眼善知識，最好的辦法就是自己認真持戒，持戒的人心境清明，自然就容易遇到真正的善知識。❀

This happened so many times he wondered if the Master could read his mind? At that point, the Venerable Master looked at him and smiled, and then he asked his disciple to tell him that, “The Master does not read minds.”

Following the lecture, one of the questions was, “How could someone who truly practiced like the Venerable Master can be sick?” The Venerable Master answered that some sicknesses had to do with his past lives. Before he knew about the Buddha’s teaching and began to practice it, he had already planted some bad causes and results that were now coming to fruition. Upon hearing these words, John Vu wondered, “Does that mean the Venerable Master knows about his past lives?” The Venerable Master looked at him and asked his disciple to tell him that, “The Venerable Master does not know about his past lives”, At that, he became truly amazed and did not know what to think so he kept quiet. The Venerable Hua gave him a card that day and told him to cultivate more and that someday they would meet again. But John Vu’s job kept him very busy so he did not have another chance to meet the Venerable Master because a few years after that visit, the Master entered Nirvana .

Mr. Vu continued to lead a busy life for many years, until one day he realized that he could not cultivate just by reading books, reciting sutras, going to the temple once a week. He wished to find a Master who could guide him to cultivate better. One day he found Master Hua’s card in his desk drawer and he thought of the Venerable Master. He blamed himself for not knowing how to seize that opportunity to study with Master Hua until it was too late. That year, on the anniversary of the Venerable Master’s nirvana, he and his wife Mai Khanh went to City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) to pay their respects.

Upon seeing the Master’s statue, he felt as if the Master was his father so he bowed immediately. He expressed how sorry he was and that he could have come to see the Master earlier. That night, he dreamed that the Master came and talked to him. The Master told him to study and recite the Great Compassion Mantra and the Shurangama Mantra to begin with. They discussed several things and by the time John woke up, he knew that the Master was still here with us. John said, “Master Hua will continue to guide us throughout our many lives. All we have to do is to put more effort in our cultivation by following the true teaching of the Buddha and keep the Dharma wheel constantly turning.”

John Vu and his wife took refuge and the five precepts at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas in 2007. They came to CTTB again in 2014 to take the Bodhisattva precepts. John was also invited to join the project management team for building the International Institute of Philosophy and Ethics (IPE). His many experiences in administrative management have been very helpful in communication and negotiation for the IPE project.

Mr. Vu noted that it’s now trendy in the high tech field to meditate and study Buddhism for stress management, but many fake Buddhist “Gurus” have also emerged. John suggests that the best way to find a good and wise Master is to uphold precepts seriously because the mind will become clear when one upholds precepts and it will be much easier to meet a good and wise Master. ❀