「第一家庭」不可思議的經歷

The Inconceivable Experiences of the "First Family"

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加拿大溫哥華金佛寺護法居士鄭 滿祥全家四代同堂,共計25口人。 每逢法會及大型活動時,經常都是 全家出動前來金佛寺,由於人數眾 多,因而贏得「第一家庭」的美 舉。

鄭滿祥與同修羅果宿於1970年移 民溫哥華。1984年金佛寺成立時, 羅果宿感覺金佛寺有真正的修行氣 氛,不是拿香拜拜的旅遊景點。等 到長媳來加國照顧孫輩後,她才得 以抽身參加金佛寺的法會。

羅果宿於1985年皈依上人,1995 年到萬佛聖城受五戒,成為當時全 家唯一吃淨素的人。鄭滿祥的學佛 Moon Cheung Chang, a Dharma protector of Gold Buddha Monastery (GBM) in Vancouver, Canada, has an extended family of twenty-five people from four generations. They often come together to GBM for Dharma sessions and big events. They have been dubbed "The First Family" because of the big number of their family members.

Moon Cheung Chang and his wife Irma Chang immigrated to Vancouver in 1970. When GBM was first founded in 1984, Irma came and felt the temple's atmosphere was one of true cultivation. It was not a tourist attraction that provided only incense for people to offer. Irma wanted to attend the Dharma sessions at that time, but it was not until her first daughter-in-law arrived in Vancouver to take care of her grandchildren that she had time to attend GBM's Dharma sessions.

Irma Chang took refuge with the Venerable Master Hua

因緣那時尚未成熟,每次回到家鄉宴客,總是應親友要求,點活雞鴨海產,現宰烹煮上桌,且堅持付賬,為此造下殺業,或因而招來日後多病的體質。

2008年耶誕節,羅果宿到金佛寺參加法會,鄭滿祥與兩個女兒鄭慕貞、鄭慕賢一起去吃港式飲茶。餐畢,鄭滿祥全身發抖。緊急送醫,陽曆年就在醫院度過。羅果宿當時發願,如果鄭滿祥能在農曆年前出院,她要擔任農曆新年法會〈三千佛懺〉的懺主,結果如願。

那次〈三千佛懺〉期間,兩個女兒每 天陪同鄭滿祥前來參加上供,以及傍晚的 迴向。從此,每逢週末以及每月初一、十 五,兩個女兒就輪流休假,陪同老父母到 金佛寺參加共修。遇到念誦《地藏經》的 日子,教她們上香的恒宗法師經常以廣東 話說:「地藏菩薩不可思議,佛菩薩不可 思議。」她們怎麼也無法理解,「到底什 麼是不可思議?」

一次,鄭慕賢翻閱英文版「護生的故事」,看了許多殺生與吃肉的果報實例後,發願從此長齋。鄭滿祥和鄭慕貞也跟著吃全素,因為當時鄭慕賢是家中主廚。2009年三月,鄭滿祥、羅果宿、以及兩個女兒一起到萬佛聖城參加觀音菩薩聖誕慶祝法會,鄭滿祥跟兩個女兒都報名受戒。

2009年受戒回溫哥華後不久,鄭滿祥就 咳嗽,其後轉為肺炎,住院一個月不但未 好轉,還開始跟逝去的親友「對談」。最 後連睡三四天不醒,體溫極低,指甲都變 成青黑色。醫生已放棄治療,將他送到安 寧病房。

那個週日,家人到金佛寺參加浴佛儀式,帶回浴佛水,用海綿沾進他的嘴裏。沒想到鄭滿祥居然出現生命跡象,體溫回升,指甲不再青黑,臉上也有血色,精神逐漸恢復。醫生來上班,見到這對姐妹還在醫院,深感驚訝,問她們:「現在情況如何?妳們怎麼還在這裏?」

更令人意外的是,離開安寧病房後,當 護士取下鄭滿祥身上的插管時,已經臥病 in 1985 and received the five precepts at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas in 1995. She became the only vegetarian member of her family. However, Moon Cheung's causes and conditions for studying Buddhism had not yet ripened. Whenever he went back to his hometown in China, he always invited his relatives and friends to a restaurant for a feast. They ordered live chicken, duck and seafood. Moon Cheung always insisted on paying the bill, which perhaps was one of the reasons why he later became ill, because of the killing karma he created.

In 2008, Irma went to GBM for a Dharma session on Christmas, but Moon Cheung and their daughters Rosa and Ana went to a Chinese tea restaurant. After the meal, Moon Cheung was trembling all over and was immediately sent to the emergency room. He was hospitalized and spent New Year there. Irma made a vow that if Moon Cheung could be discharged from hospital before the Chinese New Year, she would be the repentance host for the *Three Thousand Buddhas' Repentance* bowing session at GBM during the new year. Her wish was fulfilled.

During the bowing session, the two daughters accompanied Moon Cheung to GBM every day for a meal offering and a merit and virtue dedication session in the late afternoon. Since then, Rosa and Ana have taken turns leaving work to accompany their parents to GBM weekly and on the first and the fifteenth of the lunar calendar each month. When it was time to recite the *Earth Store Sutra*, the Dharma Master who taught them how to offer incense told them in Cantonese that Earth Store Bodhisattva and all the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas are inconceivable. However, Rosa and Ana could not understand why or how they are inconceivable.

Once, Ana happened to read the book *The Love of Life*. She then resolved to be a vegetarian after reading many stories about the retributions of killing and eating meat and seafood. Moon Cheung and Rosa also switched to a vegetarian diet because Ana was the cook of their family. Later in 2009, Moon Cheung, Irma, Rosa and Ana came to the City of Ten Thousand for the celebration of Guan Yin Bodhisattva's Birthday. Moon Cheung, Rosa and Ana took precepts together.

Not long after Moon Cheung went back to Vancouver, he started coughing, which later turned into pneumonia. After being hospitalized for one month, he started talking with deceased relatives and friends. Finally he slept for three or four days without waking up. His body temperature decreased significantly. His fingernails became black and blue. Doctors gave up hope on him and sent him to the comfort care unit.

Moon Cheung's family went to GBM for Bathing the Buddha ceremony that Sunday. They fed Moon Cheung the water from Bathing the Buddha with a sponge feeder after coming back from GBM. Unexpectedly, Moon Cheung's vital signs and complexion got better. His body temperature rose, his fingernails were no longer black and blue and his energy returned. When the doctor came to the hospital the next day, he was surprised to see these Rosa and Ana at the hospital and asked, "What's the situation? Why are you still here?"

To everyone's surprise, after leaving the comfort care, when the nurse took

一個月不曾下床的這位85歲老先生,忽然 要上廁所,並在姐妹倆協助之下起身步行 如廁,令醫護人員十分驚奇。鄭慕貞說:

「那時我們終於懂了什麼是不可思議。」

2010年,鄭滿祥二度感染肺炎,再次跟 過世親友談話,還嚷著要吃鮑魚。鄭慕賢 趕緊念誦觀世音菩薩名號,過了一夜,鄭 滿祥就不嚷了。兩個星期後順利出院,家 人都覺得不可思議。

另一個不可思議的經驗是,鄭滿祥大 約自70歲起,後頸出現小肉瘤,逐漸長成 直徑10公分大的硬瘤。由於生長的位置佈 滿神經,醫生不主張開刀。自從他開始吃 素後,這個肉瘤就停止生長,而且日漸軟 化,不再影響行動。

這些實例,讓慕貞與慕賢兩姐妹對念誦《地藏經》產生興趣。慕貞說:「(英文版)《地藏經》已經成為我們的聖經,每天持誦。」姐妹倆每逢週末就到金佛寺掌廚,也常邀請哥嫂們與他們的兒孫來家和父母聚餐。她們堅持做全素料理,發現稚齡晚輩也愛吃。慕賢笑說:「別說小孩子不愛吃素,我們做的素菜,例如腐球,好吃又營養,小朋友百吃不厭。」◆

off his catheter, 85-year-old Moon Cheung who had been bed-ridden for one month walked to the bathroom for a bowel movement. Rosa and Ana helped him up from the bed and walk to the washroom. All the doctors and nurses were amazed. Rosa said, "At that moment we came to realize what 'inconceivable' truly meant."

In 2010, Moon Cheung was diagnosed with pneumonia for the second time, and he began talking to deceased relatives and friends again. He even asked for abalone. But after Ana recited Guan Yin Bodhisattva's name through the night, Moon Cheung stopped asking for abalone. Two weeks later, he was discharged from the hospital. His family members truly thought that this was an inconceivable state.

Another inconceivable experience was when a lump started to grow on Moon Cheung's lower neck when he was around 70. This hard lump grew to be around ten centimeters in diameter. Because the lump was at the base of the neck where there are many nerves, doctors advised against performing any surgery to remove the swelling. But ever since Moon Cheung became vegetarian, the lump stopped growing and has become much softer.

Rosa and Ana now are interested in reciting the *Earth Store Sutra* after personally witnessing these inconceivable states. Rosa said, "The (English version of) *Earth Store Sutra* has become our Bible; we recite it on a daily basis." She and Ana go to GBM every weekend to cook and invite their brothers, sisters-in-law, and their children and grandchildren to come back home for weekend dinners. Rosa and Ana insist on fixing vegetarian dinners for their family. They have found that even young children love vegetarian food. Ana says with a smile, "Don't tell me kids don't like vegetarian food. They love our vegetarian dishes, such as the delicious and nutritious Tofu balls; kids never tire of them."