人瑞級長期護法居士 一郝定堅

A Long-time Dharma Protector now Almost A Centenarian
—Ding Jian Hao

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加拿大温哥華金佛寺有位出生於1918年的人瑞級護法居士,好樂佛法之心與護法的誠心正如其名:郝定堅。郝居士於1979年自馬來西亞移民温哥華,1980年代,有一天漫步温哥華中國城時,聽説附近新成立一座佛教道場,還有兩位三步一拜的洋和尚講經,便前往一探究竟。

進入金佛寺之前,郝居士遇見 當時尚未出家的恒樂師。兩人結 伴一起去聽經,從此成為好友。 當時的金佛寺距離她家走路不過 The almost a centenarian Dharma protector with the Gold Buddha Monastery in Vancouver, Canada, was born in 1918. Her admiration for the Buddhadharma and sincerity for protecting the monastery is like her Chinese name: Ding Jian Hao which literally means firm and stable. She emigrated from Malaysia to Vancouver in 1979. One day in 1980's when she strolled around Chinatown in Vancouver, she learned that there was a new Buddhist temple nearby and two western monks who did three-step-one-bow pilgrimage were speaking the Dharma there. She decided to check out this new Buddhist temple.

Before entering Gold Buddha Monastery, she met Dharma Master Heng Le who was then still a layperson. They kept 十分鐘,她就經常前往金佛寺幫忙煮飯做菜。時間長了,自己也成為全素食者。之後,郝居士想到萬佛聖城,但不敢一個人出遠門,就約了恒樂師同行。

在萬佛聖城聽到宣公上人說,温哥華的居士要當金佛寺是「家」,要多回金佛寺這個家。郝居士不懂普通話,但她也不知道為什麼,宣公上人的東北腔普通話她竟然聽得懂,而且將上人的開示牢記於心。她也趁此機會報名三皈五戒,法名郝果堅。

回到温哥華之後,她往返於兩個家之間,樂在其中;其後又受了菩薩戒。1993年,好友恒樂師因緣成熟出家了。郝居士因為幾個外孫年紀還小,需要她幫忙照顧,因此無法跟好友一起出家。

郝居士在馬來西亞時,原本跟隨家人 信民間信仰。她還清晰記得自己五、六 歲時,曾經嚴重腹瀉高燒,病魔來勢洶 洶,情况頗危急。她的母親十分擔心, 有一晚為她祈禱之後,夢見觀世音菩 薩。第二天,郝定堅的重病,竟然奇蹟 式痊癒。

1960年代末期,郝居士動過一次手術。手術前,小女兒在家中為她誠心念誦觀世音菩薩聖號,忽見觀世音菩薩經過眼前。當時小女兒雖然不在醫院陪伴,但心中已很篤定,知道這項手術將順利成功。

兩次病癒經歷,都有家人獲得觀世音菩薩感應;這讓郝定堅相信自己跟觀世音菩薩很有緣。學佛之後,每天的功課就是念誦《普門品》以及108遍大悲咒,近年則改為全日念佛。每次傳授八關齋戒,郝定堅總是儘量参加,不願錯過這個可以往生極樂淨土的良機。

郝定堅自己學佛念佛信心堅定,女兒 女婿以及孫輩也都受她影響學佛,並且 跟她一樣,將金佛寺當成「家」,經常 回家参加法會與活動,盡心盡力護持道 場,協助正法久住於世。◆ each other company listening to the Dharma talks and have been good friends ever since. The old Gold Buddha Monastery was only 10-minute walk from her home so she frequently went to GBM to cook and help in the kitchen. Since she cooked vegetarian dishes there, after some time she became a vegetarian herself. Later, she wanted to go to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, but was afraid of going on this long journey by herself alone. She asked Dharma Master Heng Le and the two of them went on the trip together.

At the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, she heard that Venerable Master Hua told laypeople from Vancouver to take Gold Buddha Monastery as their home and they should go back to this home at Gold Buddha Monastery as frequently as possible. She didn't know Mandarin but somehow she inexplicably could understand Master Hua's Mandarin and Manchurian accent. She didn't know why, nevertheless, she remembered Venerable Master Hua's instructional talks well. This trip was when she took refuge and the five precepts and received her Dharma name, Guo Jian Hao.

After this trip, she enjoyed going back and forth between her two "homes". Later she took the Bodhisattva Precepts as well. In 1993, her good friend Dharma Master Heng Le's causes and conditions ripened and she left the home life accordingly. But Ms. Hao's grandchildren were very young and needed her to care for them so she couldn't leave the home life with Dharma Master Heng Le.

Before coming to the United States, Ms. Hao and her family believed in a folk religion. She can still remember vividly that when she was five or six, she fell ill with terrible diarrhea and a high fever. Her illness was so serious that she was in a critical condition. Her mother worried a lot and prayed for her. One night, her mother saw Guan Yin Bodhisattva in a dream. Miraculously, Ms. Hao recovered the next day.

In the late 1960s, Ms.Hao underwent surgery. Before the surgery was performed, her younger daughter sincerely recited Guan Yin Bodhisattva's name at home. All of a sudden, her daughter saw Guan Yin Bodhisattva in front of her. Even though her daughter was not by her bed at the hospital, she knew that the surgery would go smoothly and successfully.

Due to these two experiences of recovering from illnesses and her family members' responses from Guan Yin Bodhisattva, Ms. Hao believes that she has affinities with Guan Yin Bodhisattva. Since becoming a Buddhist, her daily practice includes reciting the *Universal Door Chapter* of the *Lotus Sutra* and reciting the *Great Compassion Mantra* 108 times. In recent years, her daily practice is reciting Amitabha Buddha's name all day long. She also tries her best to attend the transmission of the Eight Vegetarian Precepts every time when they are transmitted because she doesn't want to miss the opportunity to be reborn in the Western Pure Land.

Ms. Hao has a firm belief in Buddhism and in reciting Amitabha Buddha's name which has influenced her daughters, son-in-law and grandchildren. They all study Buddhism and take Gold Buddha Monastery as their own home just like Ms. Hao does. They often come back to this home for Dharma assemblies and events; and do all they can to protect the monastery and help the proper Dharma remain in the world.