

Excerpts from the Instructional Talks Given by Venerable Master Hua in 1969 before Five American Monastic Disciples Went to Taiwan for the Full Ordination

1969年宣公上人於五位美國出家弟子 赴臺灣求受具足戒前開示節錄

October 27, 1969

I eat only once a day because I know that many of the world's people are starving and I wish to offer my food to them. Eating only once a day at noon is in accord with Shakyamuni Buddha's rules.

In cultivating the Way, do not look at the faults of others. Speak of their strengths instead. This is to have "virtue with respect to the mouth." If you don't have that kind of virtue, then no matter what you say, no one will believe you. With virtue in the three karmas of body, mouth, and mind, you will be respected at first sight. People will know by your bearing that you have virtue.

一九六九年十月二十七日

我每天只吃一餐，是因為我知道世界上仍有很多人在饑餓，而我希望將我的糧食布施給他們。日中一食是根據佛制定的。

修道人不見他人過，只見他人好，這就是修「口德」。如果你沒有口德，無論你說什麼，別人都不會相信。相反的，如果你有身口意三業的福德，當別人第一眼看到你時，就會尊敬你。他們從你的言行舉止，就可以看出你的德行。

1969年，
五位美國出家弟子赴臺灣求受具足戒，
臨行前與宣公上人合影。

A photo was taken with Venerable Master Hua
in 1969 before five American monastic disciples
went to Taiwan for the full ordination.



October 28, 1969

No one is to have a special style. We are a group and no one is first or last. Don't praise or slight others, and don't listen to them when they praise or slight you. You must do everything correctly and show them that Americans can cultivate the Way.

Don't listen to praise and don't praise yourselves. Maintain "virtue with respect to the mouth" at all times and never speak of anyone's faults. If people start gossiping, just go away. Don't "dirty your ears". These small things are the easiest to violate and are therefore the most important. Don't even think of other people's weaknesses.

October 29, 1969

Let me tell you what my work is: it is hard labor, like that of a brick maker. Bricks are made from mud and are used to make buildings, but if you let the mud dry by itself, it will crumble. You must fire it first, and then it won't fall apart. For a year, the five of you have been fired and fired and now the time is ripe. You are bricks that won't fall apart and turn into mud. The bricks are fired, and later they will be used to build a house, a Dharma house, which will have a firm and solid foundation.

Protect one another; protect one another's vows. ❀



一九六九年十月二十八日

自己不要有一個特別的樣子，我們是一個團體，沒有一個人是第一或最後。不要諂媚或看輕別人，也不要在乎別人讚嘆你或輕視你。你們要很正確的做每一件事，讓他們看看美國人也是可以修行的。

不要聽人家讚嘆你，也不要讚嘆自己。隨時注意「口德」，不要講別人的是非。不要老想別人的不是，如果有人對你講別人的不是，你就走開，不要髒了耳朵。人很容易在這些小地方犯錯，所以這點特別重要。

一九六九年十月二十九日

我告訴你們，我的工作是什麼？我是做粗活的，就是一個磚瓦匠。磚是用泥造的，造好了就用來蓋房子。如果你把泥放著讓它乾了，那泥就會碎掉。泥一定要用火來燒過，才不會碎裂，而成為磚。一年來，你們五個人都經過多次的火煉，現在是時候了。你們就像磚一樣，不會再分散碎裂成泥了。這些磚，就是用來建房子，建一座地基堅固的法房子。

你們要彼此保護；要保護彼此的誓願。 ❀