



法界佛教總會檳城分會推手——阮金興居士

The Impetus Behind Dharma Realm Buddhist Association Penang Branch — Layman Kim Heng Guan

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阮金興出生於馬來西亞檳城，從小跟祖母上寺廟拜拜。13歲時，曾短期出家一星期，受沙彌十戒，過午不食，上殿過堂，學習法器唱誦；阮金興學得興致盎然，說：「可能因為有緣，所以不覺得困難。」數年後，又嘗試了一次短期出家。

1978年宣公上人因弘法來到檳城馬來西亞佛教總會。阮金興一見到上人，立即認定是自己的師父。由於已皈依過五位師父，而上人的原則是，已皈依別的法師，就不需要再皈依上人，但可以在上人座下受戒，因此阮金興未得皈依上人。儘管如此，他已決定此生都將追隨上人。

Kim Heng Guan was born in Penang, Malaysia. From a young age, he always followed along his grandmother's visits to the temple. At the age of 13, he participated in a short-term leaving home experience for a period of one week with other people. They abided by the Ten Shramenera precepts, (which included not eating after noon), attended ceremonies in the Buddha Hall, and learned to play the Dharma instruments and lead recitations. Kim Heng Guan enjoyed his time and experience. He said, "Perhaps my affinities with Buddhism has made the learning process so much easier." Years later, he took another try at a short-term leaving home experience.

In the year 1978, the Venerable Master came to the Buddhist Association in Penang with a Dharma delegation. Once Kim Heng Guan met the Venerable Master, he immediately recognized him as his teacher. Prior to that, he had already taken refuge under five different masters. Yet, the Venerable Master had previously established the principle that if one has taken refuge under other masters, there is no need to take refuge under him; however, people would still be allowed to take precepts with him and take him as their precept master.

從小受英文教育的他不懂中文，但聽上人開示，倒是完全聽得懂，自己也深感驚訝。1979年阮金興第一次到萬佛聖城，參加地藏七並受五戒。親見上人教化美國弟子，非常佩服。當時21歲的他趁機請示自己是否該出家，因為家人都不同意。上人說：「是你要出家，不是我。問你自己，不要問我。」上人勉勵他好好修行，好好護持佛法。

回到馬來西亞後，他總是對人提起上人的法如何了不起。沒想到當他再到萬佛城時，上人竟然呵責他：「你不要給我打廣告！假如有人誹謗我的話，你還要跟他們頂禮。」

當時阮金興覺得給上人打廣告，應該很好啊，為什麼上人這樣呵責他？以後聽上人的開示，才瞭解問題在於自己驕傲我慢的心態。因為假如在外面講自己師父好，別人就會認為，難道我的師父不好嗎？這就起了衝突，對修行是很大的障礙。

1995年阮金興前來萬佛聖城參加上人涅槃法會。儀式結束後，阮金興和幾位佛友信步邁入道源堂，心中滿是對上人的依依不捨。正在此時，只見恒實法師也來到道源堂，對他們說：「上人交代過，你們這些留下來的，是最後一批果字輩弟子。」當時阮金興的感恩實在無法言喻：「原來上人一直知道我的心願，想成為他的皈依弟子。」

公元2000年，有感於檳城非常需要上人的正法，阮金興捐出一棟樓房，檳城分會得以在2002年正式成立。十餘年後，檳城分會已不敷使用，阮金興也協助另覓地點，以便接引更多善信。

阮金興的修行法門以持誦佛菩薩聖號與坐禪為主，平日早晚各坐一個小時，也喜歡持誦〈大悲咒〉。他的目標是繼續追隨宣公上人弘揚佛法，因為「上人的大願還沒有完全達成。」 ❀

Because of this very reason, although Kim Heng Guan never took refuge under the Venerable Master, he had decided that he would follow along the Venerable Master's footsteps for the rest of his life.

Ever since he was young, Kim Heng Guan had received an English education and was not familiar with the Chinese language. He was taken aback when he listened to the Venerable Master's Dharma talk and realized that he was able to fully understand the Chinese language. Later in 1979, he came to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas for the very first time. He participated in the Earth Store Session and took the Five Precepts as well. He was impressed when he saw first-hand how the Master taught his American disciples. At the age of 21, he was eager to leave the home life and asked the Venerable Master if he could leave the home life. Yet due to the opposition from his family members, the Venerable Master told him: "You are the one that wants to leave home, not me. Don't ask me, ask yourself." The Venerable Master encouraged him to cultivate properly and abide and protect the Buddhadharmā.

After returning to Malaysia, he would always tell people about the Venerable Master's greatness. Little did he know that when he went again to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, the Venerable Master reprimanded him by saying: "Don't go around advertising for me! If anyone slanders me, you are the one who will be bowing to them."

At that time, he thought that it was a good thing that he was advertising the Venerable Master. But why did he get scolded for it? After listening to the Venerable Master, he then understood that the problem was about his own pride and ego. The meaning behind the Venerable Master's words was that if you spread word about how great your master is, then other people will think to themselves, is my master not good enough? This will lead to conflict, which is a big hindrance in cultivation.

In 1995, he came to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas to attend the Venerable Master's Nirvana Ceremony. After the ceremony ended, he and a few Dharma friends entered the Confucius Hall. They met Dharma Master Heng Sure who told them that: "The Venerable Master had informed us that the remaining few of you are the last batch of 'Guo' disciples." At that time, he was filled with an inexpressible amount of gratitude that the master had always known his wish.

In the year 2000, he felt that Penang truly needed the proper Dharma from the Venerable Master, so he donated a building. As a result, the Penang branch was then established in 2002. More than ten years later, he has contributed in the search for more places to answer to greater needs.

The Dharma method that Kim Heng Guan cultivates is that of reciting the names of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, as well as sitting in Chan meditation. He meditates for an hour both in the morning and evening and enjoys reciting the *Great Compassion Mantra*. His goal is to follow in the Venerable Master's footsteps and propagate the Dharma, as the Master still has vows that have yet to be fulfilled. ❀