

【點點滴滴憶上人】

【Memories of the Venerable Master】

# Did You Have Lunch Today?

## 中飯吃了嗎？

A talk given by Bhikshu Jin Gong at the Buddha Hall of CTTB on June 16, 2018

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施無畏 中譯



I will talk about the Venerable Master. He could bring benefit to millions of people, but he would sometimes look after just a few persons. Here is a story of how he did both.

The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas was founded on July 1, 1976. That was a year when California had very little rainfall. 1976 was the tenth driest year ever recorded. The rainfall was 57% of normal. The next year, 1977, was worse. 1977 was rated the very lowest year of rainfall ever recorded. It was at 37% of normal.

California had lost half a billion dollars of agricultural income due to the drought. The Russian River runs through Mendocino County, the home of CTTB. In 1976, it had the lowest water recorded in its history. In 1977, it set another record. That year it had less water; it was at 6% of normal.

上人能夠利益無數的眾生，但有些情況下，他也會照顧少數某些人。今晚跟大家分享的這個故事，就是他如何兼顧兩者。

萬佛聖城成立於1976年7月1日，那年加州降雨量非常的少，只有正常平均降雨量的百分之五十七，是加州排名第十的乾旱年。但是隔年1977年，情況更糟，只有正常平均降雨量的百分之三十七，再創美國史上的降雨新低。

這場乾旱，造成加州農產品損失高達五億元。貫穿曼都仙諾郡的羅思河，1976年的水量創歷史新低；但是這個紀錄很快就在隔年打破，1977年的水量只有正常流量的百分之六。

針對這個現象，氣象學家解釋有一個高壓氣團籠罩在太平洋上空，範圍達四英里高、兩千英里長，沒有人知道它是如何形成的，而且為什麼持續這麼久。



Meteorologists said there was a high-pressure zone over the Pacific Ocean. It was 4 miles high and 2000 miles long. No one knew what had formed it and why it persisted for 2 years. The high-pressure ridge was causing unusual weather for the whole country. Snow fell in Florida for the first time ever recorded. Florida is the southernmost state after Hawaii and usually has very warm weather. Alaska is the northernmost state and had an unusual heat spell.

In the middle of February 1977, the winter rains were over for California. There was no prospect of any rain until the next fall or winter. The Venerable Master announced we would have a day of recitation for rain in Golden Gate Park. Here are a few quotes from the Venerable Master:

“Every problem can be solved by Buddhism. The Buddha’s wisdom and radiance are like the sun because they shine on the entire earth, lighting up even the most remote corners of darkness. With this body of yours, you ought to do some work and make a contribution to the world. We should know that nothing in this world comes easily. How can we expect reward when we do not put in the work?”

We went to Golden Gate Park to recite for rain on February 19, 1977. We spent 12 hours in the park, reciting almost every minute. One nun described the experience as “joyous intensity.” Here’s part of a newspaper report, written 4 days after on Wednesday, February 23.

“The high-pressure ridge which had been sitting about 450 miles off the Pacific coast from southern Alaska to central California began breaking up Saturday after causing most of this winter’s unseasonable weather

這個巨大的高壓氣團，造成當時整個美國氣候異常。佛羅里達州是繼夏威夷之後美國最南端的州，氣候一向暖和，竟然破天荒下雪了；美國的西北角的阿拉斯加，應該是非常冷的地方，當年也遇上熱浪來襲。

1977年二月中旬，加州的冬雨即將進入尾聲，但仍看不出有下雨的跡象；如果再不下雨，就得等到下一個秋冬才有可能降雨。上人當時就宣布，要在金門公園舉行一天的祈雨儀式。以下是上人講的幾句話：

「每一個問題都可以用佛法解決，佛的智慧和光明就像太陽一樣，因為它普照大地，令每一個黑暗的角落都光亮起來。你們應該利用這個色身來做一些事，為世界謀福利。世界上沒有什麼事情是輕而易舉的，又怎麼會有不勞而獲的事呢？」

1977年2月19日，我們到金門公園念咒祈雨。我們念了十二個小時，每一分鐘都沒有間斷。一位比丘尼形容，祈雨帶來內心的歡喜。2月23日星期三，祈雨後的第四天，新聞報導這樣寫道：

造成全國冬季氣候異常，大太平洋外海450英里、從阿拉斯加南部延伸到加州中部的空高氣壓脊，上週六突然開始減弱。

「我們不知道為什麼會這樣，」國家氣象局西雅圖觀測站的主任預報員保羅艾里斯說，「但是高壓氣脊的瓦解，代表降雨是有希望的。」

乾旱嚴重的太平洋西北方，星期天終於下雨了。星期一的一場暴風雨，為久旱的加州





across the nation. “We just don’t know why these things happen,” said Paul Ellis, chief weather forecaster for the National Weather Service’s Seattle station. Ellis said that the disintegration of the ridge was a hopeful sign.

“Rain began falling Sunday over the drought-stricken Pacific Northwest. A storm that blew in off the Pacific on Monday dumped 1 1/2 inches of rain on central California.”

That is what the newspaper report said. And here is my story: When we planned the recitation, the Venerable Master said, “I will not eat until it rains.” All of us who participated joined in; we would not eat until it rained! This was February. It did not look like there would be any rain until September or October. I do not know how many of us would do that today, if we set out to recite for rain. But we had great faith in the Venerable Master and were willing to fast with him.

I think all the lay people like myself had taken a practice of eating one meal a day at noon. Of course, all the monks and nuns ate just one meal a day. We ate the lunch we brought to Golden Gate Park. That evening, we had no dinner. We never had dinner anyways. The next morning, we had no breakfast. Well, we didn’t have breakfast anyway.

The next day, unexpected clouds gathered over San Francisco. The Venerable Master asked that lunch be prepared as usual. By noon, a brief but intense rain fell over the area surrounding San Francisco. I was not at Gold Mountain for lunch that day but I saw the rain and had lunch. That evening, the Venerable Master met me at door as I came for evening recitation. He asked if I had had lunch. I bowed to him and thanked him. Amitufo. ❀



中部帶來一吋半的雨量。

以上是新聞報導說的，而我所理解的情況是這樣的：祈雨儀式將要開始的時候，上人說：「如果沒有下雨，我就不吃飯。」結果跟著一起祈雨的也都發願不吃飯，如果沒有下雨的話。那時候是二月份，一直到九月、十月都不可能會下雨。我不知道如果祈雨發生在今天，在座的各位會不會也跟著絕食？但是我們對上人非常有信心，因此都願意跟他一起絕食。

那時候像我這樣的在家人，幾乎都是日中一食；出家的比丘、比丘尼更不用說，當然也都是日中一食。所以那天到金門公園去祈雨，大家在那裡吃完午餐之後，晚上就沒有吃晚餐，當然我們本來就沒有吃晚餐；隔天早上也沒有吃早餐，當然日中一食本來就不吃早餐。

祈雨的隔天，三藩市的上空竟然出現了雲團，上人則吩咐按照往常去準備午餐。接近中午時分，三藩市下了一場滂沱大雨。那天我不在金山寺吃午餐，但因為看到下雨，所以我就開始吃午餐。晚上去金山寺參加晚課的時候，上人在門口看到我，就問我：「中飯吃了嗎？」我頂禮上人，然後謝謝他。阿彌陀佛！❀