

【點點滴滴憶上人】

【Memories of the Venerable Master】

# The Way 道

A talk given by John (Chin Dao) Vu at the Buddha Hall of CTTB on June 27, 2018

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Buddha, Bodhisattva, The Venerable Master, Dharma Masters, Good Advisors, and Dharma Friends. Today it is my honor to give a short Dharma talk and the topic is “The Way” which is also related to my Dharma name.

The Buddha has found the way to end all sufferings, birth, and death. Out of compassion, he gave us a roadmap called the Buddhadharma on how to get there. Throughout history, many people have followed this roadmap to travel on a long journey to end suffering, birth, and death. Some were successful, but many were not, so people began to analyze the map to find the best way to travel. Eventually, they came up with different approaches, although the destination was still the same.

One group believed that they must strictly follow the originally written map by the Buddha as it was the only way to travel. The fact was the Buddha did not put it in writing, but it was later written by the assembly of his disciples. This group had a lot of influences in countries like Burma, Thailand, Sri Lanka and South East Asia.

Another group carefully studied the map, analyzed all details,

諸佛菩薩、宣公上人、各位法師、各位善知識和各位佛友，今天很榮幸在這裡作一次簡短講法，題目是「道」，正好與我的法名有點關聯。

佛陀找到斷除諸苦、了生脫死的道路，出於大悲心，他留給我們名為「佛法」的路線圖，教導我們如何到達目的地。縱觀歷史，許多人依循這份路線圖，展開斷除諸苦、了生脫死的長途跋涉。有人成功了，但很多人却没能如願。於是，人們開始分析這張路線圖，希望能發現最佳路線；終於，他們找到各種不同的途徑，儘管目的地是相同的。

其中一個隊伍分析發現，必須嚴格遵循佛陀最初的描繪，因為這是唯一的通道。然而事實上，這份路線圖並不是佛陀親手繪製的，是後來經過弟子的薈萃結集而成。這個隊伍在緬甸、泰國、斯里蘭卡和東南亞影響很大。

另一團隊仔細研究這份路線圖，分析每個細節，並採訪在此道跋涉的人，以便識別山河、沙漠和其他諸多的干擾和障礙，從而幫助後人安全前行。這個團隊在中國、西藏、日本、韓國和越南有很大影響。

於是，我們有了兩份略微不同的路線圖，然而都是指引到同一終點，因為都是根據佛陀指明的方向。作為佛弟子，我們都得遵循一份路線圖，不論是兩個

interviewed people who had traveled on that road to identify obstacles like mountains, rivers, desert and other distractions so they can help others to travel safer. This group had a lot of influence in countries like China, Tibet, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam.

Today, we have two slightly different maps, but both are pointing to the same destination because both are based on the direction that the Buddha had pointed to. As disciples of the Buddha, we all follow the map, regardless of which one so we can get to the destination of ending sufferings, birth and death.

However, on this journey, there are different types of travelers. Some are old, some are young, some are strong, and some are weak; some are well educated and some are not. Some walk fast, and some walk slowly; some are quiet, and some are noisy. Some are always in a hurry, even pushing others out of the way, and some are calmly watching the scenery along the way as they walk. Some travel in groups and some prefer to travel alone.

As the journey is long and hard, some people need to find a place to sleep then decide to keep on sleeping instead of continuing on the journey. Others stop by villages to rest and meet people there so they decide to settle down instead of continuing the journey. Some stop to eat at restaurants and enjoy the food so much then forget about the journey. Others visit casinos to gamble a little, win some money, so they decide to stay at casinos to make more money. Some meet kings and queens who offer them government positions so they decide to get a job instead of taking on burden of a long journey.

There are people who prefer to travel comfortably by car or bus and there are companies who promise them easy transportation to Nirvana; of course, for a price. Some transportation companies even claim that they have a better map with many shortcuts so people can get there faster and easier. Others promise better transportation by airplanes which can get there in an instant, of course for much higher prices. Today these companies are doing very good business as people have to wait in line to buy tickets to Nirvana.

However, there are people who travel the direction pointed out by the Buddha. They organize into groups, so they can help others to go with them. They are willing to sacrifice themselves for the benefit of others. They dedicate everything for the sake of others. They understand that the journey is hard, and the road is long with many distractions so they are willing to provide additional guidance, support, and assistants if travelers stumble or fall.

Even with all the noble intentions, working in a group is not easy. There are issues such as people not getting along, or are not willing to share the burden, or do not agree on the overall approach, or have a hidden agenda and are not committed to supporting each other. Fortunately, there is a person who knows about these issues as he had traveled this road many times before and had led many groups to

裡面的哪一個，這樣才能到達斷除諸苦、了生脫死的目的地。

然而途中，有各式各樣的旅行者，或老或少，或強或弱，有些學富五車，有些則目不識丁。有些人步伐輕快如風，有些人步履緩慢蹣跚；有些人安詳沉靜，有些人煩躁喧嘩；有些人總是行色匆匆，甚至推搶他人給自己讓路，有些人則是寧靜地欣賞沿途風光；有些人組團互助跋涉，有些則獨立前行。

旅途漫長而艱辛，有些人中途勞倦暈頓，然後決意沉睡，半途而廢。有些人在沿途村莊停留憩息，結識了當地居民，於是決定就此定居，不再前行。有些人駐足餐館，享受豐盛佳肴，然後忘了目的地。有些人路過賭場小賭一把，僥倖贏了些小錢，便決定留在賭場贏取更多財富。有些人遇到國君、王后賜予官職，於是便定居經營謀生，而放棄漫長的跋涉。

有些人喜歡舒適地坐轎車或巴士旅行，有些公司則保證輕易送達涅槃，當然，這要付出代價。有些運輸公司，更是聲稱擁有多條捷徑的更好路線圖，不僅能迅速到達，而且不費吹灰之力。有些公司承諾可以搭乘飛機，頃刻抵達，當然價格高昂。今日這些公司的業務開展得如日中天，因為等待購票去涅槃的旅客大排長龍。

然而，有些人則依照佛陀指示的方向不懈前行。他們組織起團隊，這樣可以幫助其他人跟他們同行。為了他人的利益，他們願意犧牲自己，奉獻一切。他們深知旅途艱辛又漫長崎嶇，因此對不慎摔跤或絆倒的旅行者，樂意給予額外的指導、支持和援助。

然而即使有崇高的志願，團隊工作並不容易，總是有合不來、不肯分擔工作、不認同決策、各懷鬼胎、不願支持別人等等的問題。幸運的是，有個人深諳一切，因為他已經在這條路上往返跋涉多次，帶領無數的團隊抵達目的地。

他清楚所有的問題、所有的障礙、所有的險境和所有的誘惑，同時也洞悉那些騙人的旅遊公司。為了引導正確的途徑、確保團隊

reach the destination at different times.

He knows all the issues, all the obstacles, all the dangerous paths, all the temptations, as well as all the false travel companies. To guide them on their journey, and make sure the group will work in harmony, he gave them six principles. He said: "As long as travelers follow the Buddha's roadmap and these six principles, they will get there."

I am sure by now you know who he is. Some of you had the good fortune to meet him but many did not but we all know his six guiding principles. As we are traveling on this path, we must constantly remind ourselves of the six principles and uphold them carefully. We know that the road is treacherous and the journey is long with many obstacles. It lasts many lifetimes and eons but as long as we are sincerely following the Buddha's roadmap and uphold the six principles, we will get there. However, we will not just get there for ourselves but also help others to get there too.

I have thought a lot about the Venerable Master. We owe him a lot. I remember the Venerable Master once told me that there are many, many talents at CTTB but what he wants is cultivators. I hope that we can all reflect on ourselves and identify with some travelers that I have mentioned previously on who we are, what our goals and mission are, and what are we doing now on our journey.

We have a very difficult mission ahead. The Venerable Master already gave us a vision and a mission to propagate Buddhism in this modern time. It is not easy, but we should all work together in harmony to bring forth the proper Buddhadharma in this world. The strength is in all of us working together in harmony. The heart of the group is the Sangha and all of us laypeople, Dharma protectors. We are vowing to follow our role to support the Sangha, to propagate the Dharma in this world.

**Question from the audience:** How did you meet the Venerable Master?

**Answer:** I met the Venerable Master the first time when he went to Gold Summit Monastery in Seattle. At that time, I had no idea who the Venerable Master is. I had some vague information that he is a very special person.

When we went to Gold Summit, Dharma Master Minh Chieu, who is also one of his disciples, asked me to sit at the feet of the Venerable Master. He asked me to translate from English to Vietnamese, which was a surprise because I was not prepared for it. Even I'm fluent in both English and Vietnamese, translation of the Buddhadharma is not easy because there's a lot of terminology that I was not familiar with. The Venerable Master spoke in Chinese. Dharma Master Heng Sure translated into English and I translated from English into Vietnamese. Throughout the translation, I kept on praying that I would not make mistakes because I was really

的和諧，他制定了六大宗旨，他說：「只要遵循佛陀的路線圖和這六大宗旨，你們一定能到達目的地。」

我相信你們已經知道他是誰了，有些人很幸運見過他，不過很多人沒那麼幸運。但是我們都知道他的六大宗旨，在這條道路上跋涉時，我們必須不斷地用六大宗旨提醒自己，並認真地遵守。我們知道修行的道上崎嶇不平、路途遙遠、障礙重重，必須經歷多生多劫；但是，只要老實遵循佛陀路線，維護好六大宗旨，我們終究都能到達，而且不僅自己到達那裡，還要幫助其他人一起到達。

關於上人，我想了很多，並且對他感激不盡。記得有一次上人告訴我，萬佛城有很多很多人才，但他要的是修道人。我希望我們都能反省一下自己，看看在前面所提的各式各樣旅行者中，我們屬於哪一種？這趟旅途的目標和使命是什麼？我們又在做什麼？

在前面等著我們的，是一項非常艱巨的任務。為了達成現代弘揚佛法的目標，上人給了我們願景和任務。這不是一件容易的事情，但是我們應該齊心協力在世間建立正法，唯有大家團結在一起，才能夠發揮力量。僧團是這個團隊的核心，身為在家護法的我們，都發願扮演好自己的角色來支援僧團，在世間弘揚佛法。

**聽眾提問：**你如何遇見上人的？

**回答：**第一次遇見上人是在西雅圖金峰寺，那時我不知道上人是誰，只聽說他是一個非常特別的人。

上人來金峰寺講法，明照法師讓我坐在上人的腳邊，負責把英文翻譯成越南文。這項任務讓我有些吃驚，因為我根本沒有準備，即使我的英文和越南文都不錯，但是翻譯佛法一點也不簡單，很多佛教術語我都不熟。上人用中文講，恆實法師口譯成英文，我再把英文翻成越南文。整個翻譯過程，我一直默默求佛加持，千萬別讓我出錯，我真的很擔心。

每次碰到我有困難的地方，上人就會放慢速度，然後叫恆實法師解釋給我聽，於是我就翻譯出來。類似的情況發生好多次，每當我卡在一些佛教術語時，上人總是讓恆實法師仔細

afraid.

Everytime I ran into some difficulty, the Venerable Master would slow down and told Dharma Master Heng Sure to explain it to me so I could translate it correctly. It happened many times when I stumbled into some terminology. Then the Venerable Master would tell Dharma Master Heng Sure to explain it to me carefully. I thought, “How did he know I had a problem with translation? How did he know that I did not understand the terminology and Dharma Master Heng Sure was able to explain it to me?”

I asked myself, “Can he read my mind?” The Venerable Master stopped and told Dharma Master Heng Sure, “Tell him I do not read minds.” That really made me confused. I was really scared and thought “How does he know what I think?” Venerable Master laughed and continued the Dharma talk. I sat there and my mind went crazy. That is the first experience with the Venerable Master.

After the Dharma talk and we were about to leave, the Venerable Master called me and gave me a business card. That was unusual because among many people, he only gave a few people, only one or two, a business card. He said “I will see you later.”

I have not seen the Venerable Master for many years, over 20 years because of my life and many things. One day I asked myself, “I have been a cultivator, my family has been Buddhist for many generations. Everyday we recite Sutras in the morning and in the evening but I make no progress.” I told my wife, “We need to have a master to guide us; you cannot cultivate by yourself based on Sutra recitation and rituals.” At that time the Venerable Master had already entered nirvana. I told my wife, “Maybe we need to go to CTTB.” Because when I opened my drawer, I had hundreds of business cards but on top of them, was the Venerable Master’s business card.

I think at that time, this is the master that I wanted to come to see but he already entered stillness. I felt very sorry that I missed an opportunity. I felt very sad and regretted not be able to meet the Venerable Master again. At night in a dream he came to see me.

We had a long conversation. He took me to a very beautiful place with lots of children and young people, thousands of them. He held my hand and showed me that place. I had no idea where it was, maybe it was a school or something like that. Since he was holding my hand, I felt a little uncomfortable because I don’t think I can walk next to the Venerable Master. I let my hand go and walked behind him, as I could not walk next to him.

I do not remember everything in our conversation but remember one thing. He told me he never left us. As long as we cultivate, he’s always supporting us and guiding us. Since then I came here and tried the best I can to cultivate. The Six Principles has been my guideline since then. Amitufo. ❀

解釋給我。我在想：「他怎麼知道我翻譯的時候遇到問題？他怎麼知道我不懂這個術語，所以恆實法師就解釋給我聽？」

我問自己：「他能讀我的心？」突然上人停下來，對恆實法師說：「告訴他，我沒有他心通。」這令我更加困惑，我真的害怕起來，心想：「他怎麼知道我在想什麼？」上人笑了起來，然後繼續講法；而我坐在那裡，腦海一片混亂。這就是我和上人的第一次經歷。

上人講完法之後，我們也準備要離開，這時上人叫住我，給了我一張名片。這並不尋常，因為當天來了那麼多人，只有一、兩個人收到上人的名片。上人對我說：「後會有期。」

那天之後，因為生活和諸多旁騖的關係，二十多年都沒再見過上人。有一天我問自己：「我一直都在修行，佛教是家族裡世代相傳的信仰。雖然每天早晚誦經，但是我一點進步也沒有。」我跟我的太太說，我們需要一位善知識來引導我們，我們不能光靠誦經或是佛教儀式自修。那時上人已經圓寂了，我跟她說：「或許我們應該去一趟萬佛城。」因為當我打開抽屜，數以百計的名片映入眼簾，最頂上放著的就是上人的名片。

原來上人就是我一直想見的善知識，但是現在他已經入滅了。我為錯失這個機會感到非常遺憾，我為不能再見到上人感到非常難過和後悔。當天晚上我就夢見他了。

我們兩個人聊了很久，他帶我到一個非常美麗的地方，那裡有成千上萬的小孩和年輕人。他牽著我的手，向我介紹這個地方。我不知道那是哪裡，或許是學校之類的地方。因為上人牽著我的手，這讓我有點不自在，因為我認為自己不能走在上人身邊。於是我抽出手，退到上人身後，因為我真的不能與上人並肩而行。

我不記得我們聊的全部內容，唯獨一件事永生難忘。他告訴我，他從來沒有離開過我們，只要我們認真修行，他永遠都支持我們、引導我們。從那以後，我來到了聖城，努力認真修行，六大宗旨也成為我畢生的依循準則。阿彌陀佛。❀