



# Selflessly Planting Seeds 無私的播種人

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I attended Developing Virtue Boys School from 1991 to 1998 as a student. I wanted to tell you a few stories about my experience here at the school. It's very funny for me to say that I came here almost 30 years ago because for me, it seems like just a moment ago. The place seems the same-the same stairs, the same Buddha Hall, but so much time has passed by.

My mother didn't like the principles that her parents gave her. She didn't like eating meat, nor did she like intoxications. She believed association with cultivators was the best type of relationship. Therefore, when I was 5 years old, my mother was looking for a school where there were spiritual principles taught, where the boys and girls were separate and where the aim was to become a good person.

Even though we were living in Berkeley, she found a school in West Virginia and she drove all the way there. She volunteered at the school, but she was very concerned that the teachers were neglecting the children, so she didn't send me there. My mother eventually moved back to the Bay Area and decided to try to teach me herself. I didn't concentrate on my studies, and I also was disobedient so I didn't learn very much.

My mother refused to send me to school though. She was approached by someone who said, "Your son can barely read, he can barely write. He has to be educated, he has to go to school." My mom replied, "But I need to find the right school. For me the most important thing is his association, who he's with. I don't want to send him to these schools where they don't teach any principles."

My mother was a cultivator and this was before you could Google everything, so she had no way of really looking for the right institution. She prayed. She thought, "I want a school where the boys and girls are separate, where they accept spiritual values, where they don't eat meat, fish, eggs, onions or garlic." She meditated on this very sincerely.

我從1991年到1998年在培德小學就讀。今天想跟你們分享一些關於在學的過往和故事。說來感慨，第一次踏進這個地方是將近三十年前的事情，今晚眼前的台階、佛殿，一切都和當年初見的一模一樣，然而時間卻過了這麼久。

我的母親不喜歡她父母教育她的方式。她不喜歡吃肉，也不喜歡喝酒；她認為與修行人在一起，是最好的一種人際關係。因此當我五歲的時候，我母親開始尋找一所重視靈性教育的學校，應該是男女分班，目標是將學生教育成為好人的學校。

即使住在加州柏克萊，母親一路開車到西維吉尼亞州，找到她覺得不錯的學校，並且在學校裏當義工。但是，學校的老師並不關心孩子，這一點令她感到擔心，所以沒有送我去讀。最後她搬回舊金山灣區，決定自己教我。然而我不是很專心，也不聽話，所以沒有學到什麼。

雖然如此，母親還是拒絕送我去學校上學。有人跟她說：「妳兒子幾乎無法閱讀，幾乎不會寫字。他必須受教育，必須去上學。」母親的回答是：「但我需要找對學校。對我而言，孩子跟誰在一起、受誰的影響，才是最重要的。我不想把他送到那些什麼做人道理都不教的學校。」

母親是個修行人，在谷歌搜尋發明之前，她無法像現在這樣上網去尋找學校。於是她求助於靜坐，心中祈求：「我想要一所學校是男女分班，是注重精神價值，是不吃肉、魚、蛋、洋蔥或大蒜。」她非常誠心地打坐。

有一天，住在Guidiville路後面的一位女士拜訪母親，告訴她這裏有一間佛寺，裏面有一所學

A lady that lived in the back on Guidiville Road visited my mother and told her that there was this Buddhist Monastery that had a school and she should come here and see it. She called up to schedule an interview. I was 11 years old at the time, and we came to the administrative office where John Chu greeted us and sent us to the interview room.

At that time, the principal of the school was Heng Chau, who did the three-steps-one-bow pilgrimage with Heng Sure, and there was also Mr. Kellerman, (former Heng Jau). They were both very serious and strict looking. Mr. Kellerman took out a big book and had me start reading it, which I couldn't read. I opened the book and flipped the pages; the font was very small and I had only practiced reading simple books, so it was very difficult for me. I was very nervous and I had failed the test.

Somehow, they still accepted me and IGDVS became the first school that I ever attended. At that time, there were mostly dharma masters teaching at the school. The faculty included Heng Wu, Heng Ru, Heng Chau, Heng Jau, Heng Tsung, Heng Lyu, and Heng Jang—so many different cultivators were teaching at the school.

I realize now, and believed that the Venerable Master had put some very qualified people in the school. I could see that he cared very much about the school, because he assigned his disciples who were very educated, experienced, and knowledgeable to deal with these young, wild boys.

I just want to share some small memories and lessons that I've learned. My first teacher was Heng Wu who was very tall. He created a very nice learning environment for us. One time I said something wrong because I misread the text. After being corrected, I said, "Oh, I see how I'm wrong." He complimented me for that. If we all did our homework, he would take us once a week to get ice cream.

By then Dharma Master Sure had completed his bowing pilgrimage and had so many stories to share. He taught us the *Standards for Students*. He had a board and every time we memorized a chapter, he'd put down a star. He told us fascinating stories of his incredible heroic pilgrimage of taking three steps and one bow.

When I was a little older, Jin Yong Shr came to the school and became our physics teacher. At that time, I was extremely nervous, because I wasn't good in biology and physics seemed impossible. After seeing the grade of my first quiz, I knew I wouldn't do very well in physics.

A lot of physics did not make any sense to me. I went to Jin Yong Shr and he said, "Just read the text and accept it for now, and you may understand it in the future." I took his advice, "Ok,

校，並建議她來看看。媽媽打電話來約了面試時間，那時我才十一歲，我們到辦公室之後，朱居士接待我們到面試的房間。

當時面試官是學校的校長，就是跟恒實法師一起完成三步一拜的恒朝法師，另外一位是凱勒門先生（當時的恒兆法師），他們兩人看起來都很嚴肅、很嚴格。凱勒門先生拿出一本厚厚的書，要我讀給他聽，但是我根本無法閱讀。我打開書，然後一頁一頁地翻。書裏的字很小，而我只能閱讀那種很簡單的小冊子，所以這對我來說非常困難。我很緊張，認為自己一定過不了關。

然而，他們仍然接受了我入學，這裏就成為我讀的第一所學校。那時候，學校的老師大多是出家人，有恒無、恒茹、恒朝、恒兆、恒聰、恒律、恒章，好多好多修行人在學校。

我現在了解並且相信，上人安排這些優秀的人在學校裏，足見他對這所學校的用心。因為他讓這些學養兼備，又經驗豐富的弟子，來推動教育我們這些年輕野孩子的使命。

這裡分享學生時期的一些回憶和所學。我的第一位老師，是個子很高的恒無法師，他為我們營造一個非常良好的學習環境。有一次我說錯話、念錯課文，被老師糾正之後，我說：「哦，我明白我錯了。」為此他還誇獎了我。如果我們都做了功課，他會每週帶我們去吃一次冰淇淋。

另外一位老師—恒實法師，那時候他已經完成三步一拜，所以有好多的故事可講。他也教我們《弟子規》，他有一個板子，每次我們背完一個章節，他就會在板子上貼一個星星。他告訴我們好多三步一拜期間發生的精采故事，我們都覺得他是不可思議的英雄。

等我年紀大一點，近永師來到男校教書，成為我的物理老師。那時我非常緊張，因為我的生物不太好，物理就更不用說了。看完第一次小考成績之後，我知道一定學不好的。

很多物理學原理對我而言實在不合邏輯，幾乎所有的原理都是。我跑去找近永師，他安慰我：「現在你先記起來，並且接受它，將來慢慢就會明白了。」於是我接受他的建議：「先這樣吧，雖然不合邏輯，但我就讀它並且接受它。」沒想到在那之後，我的物理成績竟然大幅提升。

恒律法師還沒有做方丈之前，他是我們這幾個

it doesn't make any sense to me, but I'll just read and accept it." Then, I improved dramatically in his class.

Before Dharma Master Lyu was abbot, he taught Chinese to a small group of beginners. We weren't very studious. One day he came in and said, "Today we're going to play Chinese bingo. If you want to get them all in a line, you have to answer these words." All of a sudden, we were paying close attention.

I also want to share another story. After I was here for five years, one of my good friends decided to go to public school. He said that I should come with him because they offer a better sports program, more options, less school time. There were so many reasons that he tried getting me to see.

So I went for a one-day trial. As a teenager, I was excited to go to a school where there were girls. I went to the school and saw that it was big. There were so many different people there, and different groups. I thought, this is fine, I can fit right in here.

That evening, I was in the Confucius hall and I don't know how Dharma Master Lyu knew about my decision. He came in, touched my shoulder, and looked at me in the eyes with deep compassion. He asked, "Are you leaving the school?"

When I looked back at him, I said, "No."

I realized that there are these very special moments that keep us connected. When I was younger, everything moved quickly, and there wasn't much time to reflect. I realized that it's through associating with cultivators and people with compassion that they can help guide and protect young people.

Many years later after I graduated and went to college, I started working. I was working for a company and my boss always worked me very hard. He was paying me for work, which made me think of working out of good will instead of for benefits. I then remembered my copy of an early edition of the commentary on *Earth Store Sutra* that a friend had given me. I had looked at it and wondered, "What did Master Hsuan Hua want from the school? Why did he start it? What did he want from it?"

I'm still trying to answer that question. Seeds have fructify definitely have been planted and while these seeds may take a very long time to achieve fruition, but they are indeed planted. I realized that Master Hsuan Hua has been planting incredible seeds through the Developing Virtue Schools.

In conclusion, I just want to say that unlike a manager or company CEO who wants something from each employee, Master Hsuan Hua always unconditionally gives to others. He offers his benefits to everyone, and his sacrifices produce the rest. ❀

小孩的中文老師。我們中文程度很差，而且不太用功。有一天他進教室說：「今天我們來玩中文賓果。如果你們想讓棋子連成一行，就必須回答這些中文問題。」一下子，大家都非常專心聽課了。

我再分享一個故事。在男校讀了五年之後，我一個好朋友決定去讀公立學校，他說我應該跟他一起去，因為那個學校有更好的體育課程，給學生更多方面的選擇，上課時間也比較少。總而言之，他講了很多理由要我一起去看看。

結果我去試讀一天。當時青少年的我，其實很高興能去一所有女生的學校，這也是我去那所學校最主要的原因。那所學校很大，有很多不一樣的人、不一樣的團體，我心想：「不錯啊，我挺能適應這裏的環境。」

當天晚上在道源堂，我不知道恒律法師怎麼知道的。他走到我身旁，拍拍我的肩膀，很慈祥地看著我的眼睛。他問我：「你要離開學校了嗎？」

我看著他，回答：「沒有。」

突然間我意識到，原來老師和學生是如此心心相繫。當我年輕的時候，一切都發生得那麼快，沒有太多時間反省。然而我明白，就是這種與修行人以及富有慈悲心的人互動，才能引導和保護年輕人。

許多年後，我從男校畢業，讀完了大學並開始工作。我在一家公司上班，老闆總是要我賣力地工作，當然他也付我薪水。但是我開始思考工作的目的，工作應該是出於善念而做，而不是為了牟利而做。我想起一位朋友給我的一本早期出版的《地藏經》淺釋，讀完這本淺釋之後，我不禁好奇地問：「師父上人創辦這所學校，他希望獲得什麼？他為什麼要辦教育？他想要得到什麼？」

直到現在，我還在尋找問題的答案。這些種子肯定已經撒下了，即使可能需要很長的時間才會結果，但它們確實已在土壤裏了。我也意識到，原來師父上人藉由培德中學，播下了許多不可思議的種子。

總而言之，我想說的是，不同於一個只要求回報的經理或老闆，師父上人總是無條件地為別人付出。他布施自己的利益給每一個人，而他的犧牲奉獻，激發出更多人願意為他付出。❀