



# 覺海慈航度香江（續）

## Crossing Hong Kong on the Ship of Compassion in the Sea of Awakening (continued)

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### 06. 絕糧待斃

觀音洞濕氣嚴重，不是安身之處。上人克服諸難，把洞外一塊大石移去，搭個小茅蓬，沒想到卻招來了魔障……

上人自述：

我看見不少老修行在大眾的地方，多數是躲懶偷安，不肯多做；等自己住茅蓬，他就什麼都能做了。為什麼呢？因為自己的事情再不做，就沒有人做了。像某人在竹林禪院住的時候，一天到晚睡覺。等自己住茅蓬了怎麼樣？他真精進，把茅蓬的四周都整理得乾乾淨淨的，他做的籬笆非常地漂亮；可是他在叢林裡，一點力都不肯出。還有一個人道場裡裝老修行，一副很愚蠢的樣子，什麼也不做。等自己住茅蓬，這個也會做了，那個也會做了；雖然很笨，但是他會

### 06. Running Out of Food and Awaiting Death

The Guanyin cave was excessively humid and therefore, uninhabitable. After overcoming many difficulties, Venerable Master moved a large stone, which was originally located outside of the cave so that he could build a small hut. Unexpectedly, this led to many demonic obstructions.

**Narrated by Venerable Master Hua:**

I noticed that quite a number of seasoned cultivators are lazy and unwilling to contribute when they live in a community; however, they would do everything on their own when they are in their thatched hut. Why? If they do not do work themselves, no one else would do it for them. Such as so and so when he was living in the Bamboo Grove Monastery (Chuk Lam Shin Yuen), he slept all day long. Later, when he lived in his own hut, he became very diligent. He would make sure the surroundings of his living compound were clean and tidy. He even made some beautiful fences. But when living in the monastery, he didn't make any effort to help. There was another person who pretended to be an experienced cultivator in the monastery. He

做。為什麼呢？因為他認為茅蓬是他的，叢林不是自己的。

我和他們的性情正是相反，在叢林裡我歡喜做，自己住小茅蓬就隨隨便便、馬馬虎虎了。觀音洞是人家原先造好的，我住在那兒不增也不減，天天坐那個地方，什麼也不做。因為那個洞太濕，後來才修個小茅蓬，不得移動一塊大石頭，工人做不了了，我才搬走它，這就是我的性情。

記得當時我用的兩個工人都是大個子，都很有力量，一個工人有六呎多高，另一個有五呎八。我叫他們把石頭搬走，這塊石頭有兩噸那麼重。他們兩個人用鐵棍來撬，撬了半天，大約有四個鐘頭吧，沒有法子把它移動，一分都移不動，一點辦法也沒有。回來對我講，說是這塊石頭要用炮轟，不然的話，沒有法子搬得動。我到那兒看一看，我說：「這塊石頭不用炮轟，你們兩個人搬不動，我現在和你們兩個人來打賭，如果我要搬動，你們兩個人今天的工錢不要，如果我搬不動，我給你們雙倍的工錢，你看好不好？」啊！他們就說「那當然可以啦！」

他們怎麼撬不動呢？他們是用鐵棍一撬它，它底下有力量，往土上撬也不動的，那個土當然沒有那個石頭力量大。我一個人就搬這個大石頭，我怎麼能搬得動呢？我就在這大石頭底下空隙邊墊上一塊石頭，這麼用鐵棍往前一撬，撬起來了。我花了大約二十分鐘就把石頭搬給走了，大石頭就從上邊跑到下邊去，它自己就搬家了。

我對他們講：「你們兩個人一天吃幾頓飯？」「吃三頓。」「你們一天賺多少錢？」他們說他們賺多少錢。我說：「我要是去做工，人

made himself look clumsy and stupid, and didn't do anything at all. But while living alone in his hut, he managed to do this and that. As clumsy as he was, he had managed to get many jobs done. Why? Because he considered the hut to be his, however, the monastery was not.

Contrary to their behavior, I was very fond of working in the monastery, but when it came to my own hut, I was very casual and lax. The Guanyin cave was built before I came and I didn't make any changes while living there. I sat there everyday and did nothing else. Later on, I built a small thatched hut, because the Guanyin cave was too damp to live in. To build the hut, I had to move a large stone. The workers I had hired weren't able to move it, so I moved it myself. Such was my character.

As I recalled, the two workers I had hired were very tall, muscular, and strong. One was 6 feet tall while the other was 5 feet 8 inches. I asked them to move this stone which weighed around two tons. Those two workers tried to use an iron rod to move the stone. After trying for almost half a day, about four hours, they weren't able to move it, not even a bit. There was nothing they could do. They came back to me and said, "You have to use some explosives to remove the stone because there is no other way to move it." I went over and had a look. I told them, "We don't have to use explosives to move this stone. You two just couldn't move it. Now I will make a bet with you: if I am able to move it, both of you will work without any wage today; however, if I can't move it, I will double your pay. What do you say?" Then they said, "Sure, no problem!"

Why they weren't able to move the stone? It was because they used an iron rod to lift (the stone), exerting a force from beneath. If this force was leveled against the earth, you can't move the stone since the earth is not as hard as the stone. How was I able to move the big stone myself? I first placed another piece of stone between the gap of the big stone and the earth before using the iron rod to pry. As a result, the big stone moved. It took me about twenty minutes. The big stone itself rolled down from the top, and was moved.

I asked them: "How many meals do you two eat a day?"

"Three meals."

"How much do you make daily?" They told me how much it was. So I told them: "If I were to look for a job, everyone would have wanted to use me instead of you two, because I only eat one meal a day and I can do what you can't." They were speechless.

A year later, I finished building a small hut just outside of Guanyin Cave. It was made of wood and covered with bitumen paper (a kind of roofing felt); it about 15x15 feet. Finally, I had shelter. Once

人都會要用我，不用你們。因為我一天只吃一餐，你們做不了的工，我能把它做了。」說得這兩個工人沒話講。

過了一年，我在洞外邊造一個小小的茅蓬，用木頭搭好，再用蠟青紙糊上；大約十五呎乘十五呎的小地方，總算有瓦遮頂了。

茅蓬一造起來，這時候魔障也來了。我旁邊的鄰居心生妒忌，偽造謠言，他告訴竹林禪院說我有很多錢，說：「不要供養他了，他有錢造茅蓬，怎麼會沒有錢吃飯呢？」當家師信以為真，再也不供養我。那時候真沒有人供養了。沒有人供養，我就想：自己有一點少少的東西把它吃了，就在那兒打坐了。我也不告訴任何人說我沒有飯吃了，我也不出去，誰也不見的，餓死、我這就算了。把洞內存下的乾糧慢慢用來充饑，勉強撐半個月。這時候什麼也吃光了，真的絕糧了，就坐著等餓死。因為我一向的宗旨是「凍死不攀緣，餓死不化緣，窮死不求緣；隨緣不變，不變隨緣。」

【後記】唐果善居士口述：

我1950年皈依，但是不懂佛法。有一次，我帶親友到觀音洞探望師父，看見師父鉢裡有菜飯，以為吃了可以增壽健康，大家逕自就把它吃光了，後來才知道那是師父到竹林禪院拿回來的午齋，我們趕緊買麵包給師父，那天師父就靠那點麵包過一天，回想起來真是罪過！



the hut was completed, demonic obstructions came along. My neighbor became jealous, spread rumors, and informed Bamboo Grove Monastery that I had a lot of money. He said, "You should stop supporting him. If he has money to build a hut, how could he have no money for food?" The monastery manager believed what he had said and stopped offering food

to me. At that time, I had no one to support me at all. Without anyone's support, I told myself: "After taking a small amount from the food I was given before, I will sit down and meditate." I didn't tell anyone that I was out of food, neither did I go out nor see anyone. If I starved to death, so be it. I slowly ate the dried food that was left in the cave to overcome my hunger and which lasted for barely two weeks. After that, I totally ran out of food, so I meditated and awaited death by starvation. This is because my principles have always been:

*Freezing to death, I do not scheme.*

*Starving to death, I do not beg.*

*Dying of poverty, I ask for nothing.*

*According with conditions, I do not change.*

*Not changing, I accord with conditions.*

#### 【Postscripts】：Upāsikā Tang Guoshan Narrates

I took refuge in 1950, but I didn't really know Buddhism. At one time, I brought my relatives and friends to Guanyin Cave to visit Master Hua. We saw some food in the master's bowl. We thought that by eating the food, it would increase longevity and make us healthier; hence we ate the food without asking. Only later we realized the food was actually the lunch Master had brought back from Bamboo Grove Monastery. We then rushed out to buy some bread for Master. That day, he lived on the small amount of bread we bought. Looking back, I feel still guilty.

◎待續

◎To be continued