



A Traveling Kalyāṇamitra's Final Journey —In Memory of David Rounds

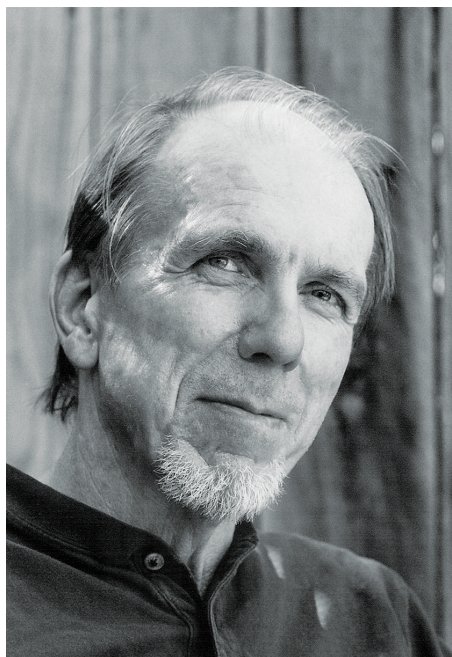
一位同修善知識的最後旅程 ——紀念阮果舟居士

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Brimming with literary and musical talents, David Rounds was considered a “Great Renaissance Man” by many who knew him. He was an early disciple of the Venerable Master Hsuan Hua (Disciple Guo Zhou), and also known as a *Kalyāṇamitra*, an “admirable, spiritual friend,” within the Buddhist lay community. He wrote poems, essays, novels and children’s stories, as well as composing beautiful Buddhist liturgy in English, including praises to Earth Store Bodhisattva, Guanyin Bodhisattva and Amitabha Buddha in the Daily Recitation book at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas.

Over the course of his life, he worked as a journalist, a newspaper editor, editor of a scholarly journal, and a high school English teacher. More recently, he shared his literary talents generously as co-leader (with Dr. Ron Epstein) of a committee that published a new translation of the *Shurangama Sutra* through the Buddhist Text Translation Society.

阮果舟居士（大衛·榮德）才華橫溢，在文學和音樂方面都頗具造詣，常被熟悉他的人們稱為「具有文藝復興氣息的人」。在佛教團體裡，他也被大家看作是一位善知識——善友助伴。阮果舟不僅作詩、寫文章和小說，為孩子們寫故事，他還譜寫優美的佛曲、包括英語地藏讚、觀音讚和彌陀讚。

阮果舟曾從事過新聞記者、報刊編輯、學術刊物編輯工作，他還曾經擔任過高中英語老師。近些年，他無私地將自己的文學才華和造詣傾注於佛經翻譯，他與易果容博士共同擔任佛經翻譯委員會一個翻譯小組的領導者，重譯出版《楞嚴經》新英譯本。



David was born in New York City on December 26, 1942. He graduated summa cum laude from Harvard University in 1964. It was through Ron Epstein, David's classmate at Harvard, that he met the Venerable Master Hsuan Hua in 1966 when the Master traveled to New York City.

Four years after that meeting, David was driving through the Oregon countryside, and accidentally drove into the midst of a herd of cattle; he hit one of the cows which exploded through his windshield and crushed the rental car. He was unharmed in the accident, and it just so happened that a rancher passing by was about to fly a four-seater plane to San Francisco, and offered him a ride to San Francisco.

He went to visit the Buddhist Lecture Hall in Chinatown and shared his realization that four years earlier when he first met the Venerable Master in New York that Master Hua had already seemed to know and hint that this incident with the cow would occur. David told the Master that he was not going to eat beef anymore. The Master replied, "You are not going to eat any meat anymore." David realized that he was now a disciple of a spiritual teacher.

David's wife, Sue, immediately began exploring vegetarian cooking and within two months, she and David both became lifelong vegetarians. They moved

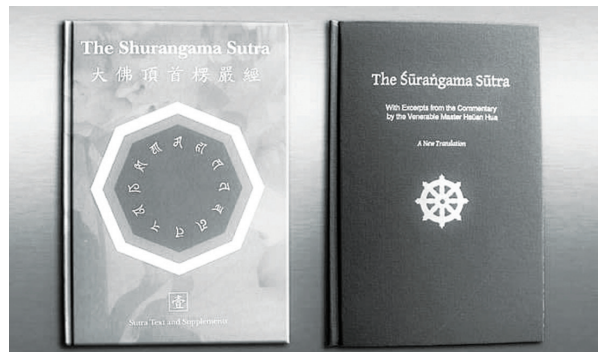
Editor's Note: This translation of the Sutra is available as a free pdf download for all who would like to read and cultivate according to its teachings at: <http://www.buddhisttexts.org/surangama.html>

阮果舟 1942年12月26日出生於紐約，1964年他以最優異成績畢業於哈佛大學。1966年，當宣公上人去紐約弘法時，阮果舟通過哈佛校友易果容介紹，遇到了上人。

四年後的一天，阮果舟意外地駕車進入俄勒岡州鄉下一個放牛的牧區，他租借來的車子撞及一頭母牛，母牛撞破了擋風玻璃，租來的車子全毀，但他安然無恙。而此時農場主正要駕駛四人飛機飛往三藩市，於是順道載阮果舟來到了三藩市。

然後阮果舟去了唐人街的佛法講堂，分享了他的感悟。早在四年前，他第一次在紐約遇見宣化上人時，上人就已知並暗示他今天發生的車禍事故。也因此，阮果舟向上人承諾，他將再也不吃牛肉了。宣化上人回答他：「不僅是牛肉，你應該不吃任何肉。」阮果舟意識到：從今以後他將是這位精神導師的弟子了。

阮果舟的妻子果載居士立刻開始研究純素食烹飪，並在兩個月的時間內也隨丈夫一同成為終生素食者。阮果舟夫婦於1973年搬遷到加州居住，以便學習佛法。他在納帕找到了報社編輯的工作。1979年他們移居至萬佛城。夫婦倆曾多年參與法界佛教總會的工作與活動。阮果舟曾在萬佛城的越南難民營裡，教授英語課程。當時數千位越南難民來到萬佛城，得到生活的照顧和相關的教育，以便漸漸適應美國的生活。阮果舟還曾任教於萬佛城內的培德中學，並擔任法界宗教研究院的「東西



to California in 1973 to study Buddhism, and David landed a job in Napa as the editor of a local newspaper. They later moved to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas in 1979, and became even more active in the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association (DRBA). David taught English for the Buddhist Council for Rescue and Resettlement, which invited several thousand refugees in the aftermath of the Vietnam War to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, where they were hosted, educated, and acclimated into life in America. David also taught at Developing Virtue Secondary School located on the CTTB campus, and he served as Editor for the journal of the Institute of World Religions, Religion East & West.

After many years volunteering full-time with DRBA, David also worked as an English teacher at Anderson Valley High School and retired thirteen years later. In 1996, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, and in 2017 suffered a stroke. On March 24, 2019, the nineteenth day of the second lunar month which was Guanyin Bodhisattva's birthday, he bade farewell to the Saha world at the age of 76.

On June 8, 2019, there was a memorial service held for him in the newly renovated south wing of Dharma Realm Buddhist University (DRBU) with nearly 200 people in attendance from DRBA, DRBU, and Anderson Valley High School joining his family and lifelong friends as they remembered his life.

Dharma Master Heng Chih noted that David Rounds had been appointed by the DRBA Board of Directors to serve on the Legal Committee which worked quietly to ensure that DRBA remained within the statutes and laws that govern its status as a 501-C-3 non-profit organization. "As the Master Planning of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas was being formed, that Legal Committee contributed valuable information and support."

Dharma Master Chih remembered that she went to David and Sue in the early days of CTTB to learn how to execute poetic forms applicable to translations from Chinese to English, and how to best address grammar and syntax in translations that attempted to take monosyllabic Chinese and bring its meanings accurately into polysyllabic English with all its idiosyncrasies.

After sharing her remembrances, Dharma Master Chih invited those in attendance to explore the new translation of the *Shurangama Sutra* by David Rounds and his team, noting that the beauty and clarity of *Shurangama Sutra's* classical Chinese Buddhist



方宗教」期刊主編。

在專職服務於法界佛教總會若干年後，阮果舟在安德森谷高中擔任英語老師十三年，直至退休。1996年他被診斷罹患帕金森症，後於2017年中風發作。阮果舟於2019年3月24日辭世（巧合的是這一天正是農曆2月19日，觀世音菩薩的生日也正是這一天）阮果舟在這個特別的日子裡告別娑婆世界往生，享年76歲。

為果舟居士舉行的追思會於2019年6月8日在法界佛教大學新的教學大樓舉行。來自法界佛教總會和法界佛教大學將近200人出席了追思會，同時參加的還有來自安德森谷高中，來自瑜伽市，以及遠道而來的終生摯友，直系親屬和他的妻子。

比丘尼恒持法師特別說明了，阮果舟曾經被法界佛教總會董事會任命為法律委員會成員，該委員會是為了保證法界佛教總會始終處於501-C-3規定要求下，符合非營利組織的標準。「法律委員會自從上人創立萬佛城以來，一直為貫徹上人的宗旨而提供著深具價值的資訊與支援。」

恒持法師回憶起她早期在萬佛城遇到果舟和果載，並向他們學習如何將偈頌翻譯得符合中譯英的需要，學習

text had been well-rendered into what will certainly become a classic English Buddhist text. She also shared one of his translation's of one of Master Hua's verses as follows:

*The Buddha-Dharma's wondrous truths cannot be put in words,
And when there is enlightenment, one syllable's too many.
Still, since confusion weighs so heavily on living beings,
If one has skill, then for their sake, Dharma may be spoken.*

David's son, Nathaniel Rounds, pointed out that his father was always writing. Five books were published during his lifetime and the sixth book, *Sun Return* was published one month after his passing. Among those books, *Celebrisi's Journey* is a semi-autobiographical novel.

"In fact, I can't recall any point in my life that my father was not in the midst of writing some essay or book... He was too modest to accept any credit besides that of co-editor with his colleague and Buddhist Studies scholar Ron Epstein for the new English translation of *Surangama Sutra*, I do not doubt he crafted the sentences which fill its 628 pages," said Nathaniel.

Dr. Martin Verhoeven, DRBU Dean of Academics (formerly Bhikshu Heng Chau), revealed that David joined him and Rev. Heng Sure on the three-step-one-bow pilgrimage for a few weeks. At that time, David Rounds wanted to enter the monastic life, but also wanted to stay with his family. Venerable Master Hua knew the paradox in his mind very well. The Venerable Master said, "David's feet are now on two boats: one boat is going upstream and the other downstream."

Dr. Raymond Yeh also recollected that David was a great cultivator, and even while suffering from the tremor of Parkinson's, he bore it with equanimity.

Terri Nicholson, Dr. Ron Epstein's younger sister, first met David in the 1970s. As a longtime friend, she visited David quite often and recited Guanyin Bodhisattva's name for him after his stroke. Terri remembered that David used the term "Chinglish" to refer to some of the early English translations, which were more or less translated character by character directly from Chinese. He worked to more skillfully render translation into English of Buddhist texts from Chinese.

There were more than a dozen people who offered warm remembrances of David at the memorial service. David's former colleagues from Anderson Valley Unified School District shared their memories of his extraordinary language skills, his sense of

如何在翻譯中最好地使用語法和語句，嘗試著將單音節中文的正確意思，用多音節英語準確地翻譯出來，並保留原文中的精髓。

恒持法師請人檢閱阮果舟和他的團隊新譯的《楞嚴經》，發現他們的英語翻譯很好地將中文經意的優美、明達呈現了出來，成為最經典的英語譯本。法師為大家分享了由阮果舟翻譯的宣公上人一首偈頌：

佛法妙理本無說，
覺後一字更嫌多；
唯因眾生迷障重，
善巧方便來說說。

果舟居士的兒子阮果船提到果舟居士總是在不停地寫作。他在世時已經出版了五本書，在他離世後一個月，第六本也已出版。在這些著作中，「西雷布里斯的旅程」是一部半自傳體小說，除了小說中主人公西雷布里斯最後出家修行，其他都符合他的生平。

阮果船還回憶道：「事實上，在我記憶裡，父親總是在持續寫作，不是在寫文章就是在創作小說。父親非常謙虛，幾乎從不接受任何榮譽。除了接受和他的同事以及佛法學者易果容共同編輯《楞嚴經》英譯新版的殊榮。然而我從不懷疑，他是傾其心血，琢磨推敲經文中的一字一句，盡其所能來參與翻譯這628頁英語譯本。

果廷居士也透露了，阮果舟曾與他以及恒實法師一同度過的幾週三步一拜的朝聖之旅。那個時候，阮果舟想要出家，但同時他也不捨與家人分離。宣公上人非常清楚大衛當時矛盾的心情，上人還曾這樣說過：「果舟現在腳踏兩條船，一條船正要駛向上游，而另一條船卻朝下游行駛。」

無論如何，葉祖堯博士總結說：「果舟居士是一個了不起的修行人，面對帕

humor, passion for teaching and loving-kindness for his students. Among them, Lynn Zimmerman, the former principal of Anderson Valley Elementary School, especially thanked the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas for bringing David to Ukiah.

Dr. Susan Rounds, David's wife and the president of DRBU, was the last one to speak. Sue said that during their fifty-four year marriage, David changed the direction of her life several times. First and foremost was the decision to move to California. Secondly, when they were in California, She wanted to advance from her career as a teacher into teacher education but she didn't have the necessary PhD. David encouraged her to get one, so she did.

Then in the Fall of 2014, after she retired as director of the Dominican University Ukiah campus Credential Program, David talked her into accepting the presidency of DRBU. DRBU earned WASC accreditation two years ago under her leadership. [WASC (the Western Association of Schools and Colleges) is the Accrediting Commission for Colleges and Universities, including those in Northern California where DRBU is located.]

Sue told people that even though Parkinson's disease took a terrible toll, it also marked a time in David's life when he had an extraordinary burst of creativity and finished many of his literary and musical works. Before falling ill, David loved traveling and meticulously planned each trip. He even learned some of the local languages before visiting to countries in Africa, Europe and South America. Sue said, "He was an insatiable student of languages, including his own. He virtually taught himself Chinese when we moved to CTTB and was fluent enough to converse and also to participate in translation efforts."

Several Dharma Masters recited Amitabha Buddha's name for David non-stop for eight hours after he passed away. For the traveling aficionado that he was, this trip to the Western Pure Land was his last one. This time, there was only one boat sailing upstream for him, and hopefully, when the time is right, he will turn the boat around to return to this Saha World to rescue living beings after he reaches fruition in the Western Pure Land. ❀

金森症的打擊與折磨，他處之泰然。」

易果參在七零年代遇到阮果舟，並成為了終身朋友。她常常探望果舟，在他中風病發後，為他稱念觀世音菩薩名號。易果參記得在經文翻譯的初期，大衛創造了「中式英語」這個詞彙。

在追思會上，數十位友人都熱烈發言追憶阮果舟。他的老同事們，來自於安德森谷聯合學區的同仁們，紛紛分享了他們記憶中大衛：語言能力超群，幽默詼諧，熱愛教育工作，對學生親切關愛。在他們中，琳·紫莫曼，安德森谷小學前校長，尤其感謝了萬佛城，將果舟居士帶來了瑜伽市。

果載居士是最後發言的。她說，在她和果舟五十四年的婚姻生活中，果舟好幾次改變了她生活的方向。第一次也是最重要的一次便是遷居加州的決定。第二次，在她們居住加州時，她想要從原來的教師職業轉向教師培訓師，但這需要博士學位。果舟鼓勵她攻讀博士學位，最終她如願以償。

2014年，從多明尼肯大學瑜伽分校師資碩士班主任退休後，果舟勸說她接受出任法界佛教大學校長的職務。從2014年起，果載居士便擔任了法界佛教大學校長，並在她的首任任期中帶領法界佛教大學兩年前獲得WASC的認證。WASC(即美西中小學及大學聯合協會)是為其管轄範圍內，也包括萬佛城所在的北加州地區的中小學及大學頒發認證的機構。

果載居士告訴大家，在面對被診斷為帕金森綜合症這一殘酷事實面前，果舟迸發出非凡的創造力，不懈地完成他的寫作及音樂創作。在陷入病患前，果舟熱愛旅行，並熱衷於為旅行做細緻周密的安排。他甚至會提前學習當地語言，例如去往非洲、歐洲、南美洲等地。果載說到：「他在語言方面好學不倦，包括他自己的母語。在他搬到萬佛城居住後，他自學中文，直到足夠流利能進行對話交流，並最終投入了佛經翻譯事業。」

在阮果舟往生後八小時內，數位法師為其不间断地念阿彌陀佛佛號。他生前熱衷於旅行，而如今去往極樂世界將是他最後的旅程。此時此刻，應該只有一艘向上游行駛的船隻渡他過河，願他在到達彼岸成就菩提時機成熟後調轉船頭，重回娑婆救度無邊有情。❀