

夢見說有大勢至菩薩在居士林這兒講《彌陀經》。第二天，看見報紙上說是印光老法師在那兒講《彌陀經》，所以就來了。

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印光老法師就告訴她：「你不要亂講！不要對人講這種話！」這個學生因為老法師這麼吩咐，不叫她講，她也就不敢講了；以後就皈依老法師，沒有過三年，老法師就圓寂了。圓寂之後，這位學生才把這個夢告訴大家。這時，大家才知道印光老法師是大勢至菩薩化身來的。在當時沒有人知道，等過去了，人們才知道。人就是這樣子，對著面就不認識，等走了：「哦！這個就是誰啊！」他就知道了；知道，也晚了！❀

the Elder Master, “Actually, I’m not a Buddhist. I had a dream in which someone told me that Great Strength Bodhisattva was lecturing the *Amitābha Sūtra* at the Lay Society. The day after the dream, I saw an ad in the paper, saying that Elder Master Yinguang was lecturing the *Amitābha Sūtra* here.” And so she came.

Elder Master Yinguang said to her, “Don’t speak nonsense! Don’t say this to anyone.”

She wanted to tell people, but she followed his instructions. She also took refuge with him. In less than three years, the Elder Master entered nirvana. After he had entered stillness, she told everyone her dream. Everyone then knew that Elder Master Yinguang was a transformation of Great Strength Bodhisattva. No one knew while he was alive but after he died, everyone knew. That’s how people are. When something is right in front of them, they don’t recognize it. When it’s gone, they say, “Oh! So that’s what it was!” But by then, it’s too late to do anything.❀

皈依 Taking Refuge

摘自宣公上人《法華經淺釋》

An Excerpt from Venerable Master Hsuan Hua’s Commentary on *Dharma Flower Sutra*

皈依三寶是很困難的一件事，現在你們有善根，所以能皈依三寶。你們皈依三寶後，就是佛的弟子了；你們的師父是本師釋迦牟尼佛，我是來幫助你們、教你們怎樣修行。佛教不同於其他的外道，外道都說他自己怎麼好、什麼都好；這個佛教的好，是從你自己那兒來的。你做得好就好，做得壞就又壞了，佛不能幫你改變你自己，這是要你自己願意改變你自己，願意變好。

你們皈依之後，要自己往好的做，旁人不能幫著你。現在我對你們講一句很重要的話，什麼重要的話呢？就是皈依之後，一天要比一天好，不要一天比一天壞。

你們當中皈依的人，不是在今生皈依，恐怕有的在多生多劫就皈依過，所以，雖然不是中國人，卻皈依一個中國師父，那麼言語也不通，能發心來皈依，這是不可思議的境界。這個你要生一種信心，當下你就知道你不一生一世種諸善根才能有這種的因緣。❀

Taking refuge is very difficult. Now all of you have good roots and can take refuge. You have taken refuge and become the Buddha’s disciple. Your teacher is Fundamental Teacher Śākyamuni Buddha. I am just helping you by teaching you how to cultivate. Buddhism is not like other religions that advertize how good they are, how everything about them is good. In Buddhism, what is good comes from yourself. When you do good, your life will be good. When you do things that are unskillful or bad, your life will not turn out well. The Buddha cannot help you change. You yourself have to want to change and become good.

After having taken refuge with the Three Jewels, you should work to be good. No one can do it for you. I want to tell you something important. What is it? After taking refuge with the Three Jewels, you should improve yourself every day. Don’t become worse day by day.

It is not only in this lifetime that you have taken refuge with the Three Jewels. Some of you have already done so in countless lifetimes and eons past. Therefore, even though you are not Chinese, you take refuge with a Chinese teacher; despite being Americans, you take refuge with a foreign teacher. You resolve to take refuge with the Three Jewels even though we do not speak the same language. How amazing! When such faith arises, you should know immediately that you have planted good roots for more than one lifetime.❀