



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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Venerable Master Hsuan Hua's Biography
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20. 印經造像

佛是覺者，具足慈悲睿智。如果世上沒有佛像，我們如何憶念佛陀的偉大人格，又如何能生起信心？若無信心，如何能長養一切諸善法？

佛之經典，都是闡揚聖教，利益眾生的法寶，它的價值與意義猶如黑夜裏的指路明燈一般重大。如果世上沒有諸佛經典，則天上人間，將如同漫漫長夜一樣不見光明，對於芸芸眾生的我們，如何長養菩提慧命？

翻印佛經、流通三藏寶典，就是救人慧命的首要工作，也是符合佛陀本懷。所以在香港時期，上人從未一時一刻怠疏弘揚佛法的悲願，先後大量印行《法華經》、《普門品》、《地藏經》、《金剛經》、《楞嚴經》等，送到各地分散流通。

又聘請畫師將虛雲老和尚的生平事蹟繪圖印出，上人並作偈

20. Follow the Example of the Venerable Master

The Buddha is an awakened one, replete with compassion and wisdom. If there were no Buddha's images in the world, how could we be mindful of Buddha's lofty character? Then how could we bring out our faith? If there was no faith, how could we nourish and grow all wholesome dharma?

Buddhist Sutra texts are Dharma treasures that propagate the sacred teachings and benefit living beings. Like streetlights in darkness that show us the way, they are so valuable and important. If there were no Buddhist Sutras in the world, both the heaven and human realms would be as if immersed in an eternal darkness. So how can we cultivate and develop our Bodhi Wisdom as an ordinary being?

Reprinting Buddhist Sutras and getting the precious Tripitaka classics into circulation is the primary work to rescue one's "wisdom life". This also matches the original intention of the Buddha. Therefore, when the Venerable Master stayed in Hong Kong, he never slacked off on his compassionate vow to propagate the Buddhadharma. He printed many Sutra texts in large quantities, including the *Lotus Sutra*, the "Chapter of Universal Door," the



慈興寺三如來。
Three Buddhas in Cixing Monastery.

語，是一本不可不看的聖人傳記——《虛雲老和尚畫傳集》。

另外，上人鑒於造像之需，不惜重資聘請技巧卓越的雕塑師傅來雕塑佛像，讓如來的莊嚴法相，刻畫入微，盡其精緻，以深入佛子的心中，使眾生見像起信、生歡喜、發大心、立大願。除西樂園的三如來金身之外，上人更不畏籌募艱難，塑造西方三聖、釋迦如來、藥師如來、護法韋馱菩薩、伽藍菩薩聖像，以供奉於大嶼山慈興禪寺內。

上人大量印送經典、塑造如來金身，是為了使三寶能盛傳於世，佛教從之亦中興。佛子共此一心，則佛教將如赫日當空，照徹於天下；如朗月高懸，輝映於世間。這也是上人一生為法的目標。

Earth Store Sutra, the *Vajra Sutra*, the *Shurangama Sutra*, and so forth. These books were sent to multiple places for distribution and circulation.

He also hired a painter to put the details of the Venerable Master Xuyun's life into pictures, printed them into a book, and composed verses for each painting. This biography, *A Pictorial Biography of the Venerable Master Xuyun*, is an important book for us to read.

The Venerable Master commissioned the making of numerous Buddha images. They were created by highly skilled artistry, beautifully adorned and resplendent. In this way, the images would deeply enter the minds of Buddhist disciples; upon seeing these images, the living beings would establish faith, feel joy, bring forth the Bodhi mind and make great vows. Aside from the three golden Tathagata images in the Western Bliss Garden Monastery, the Master also conquered the great challenges of fundraising and built more images of the Buddhas. These images are enshrined in the Cixing Monastery of Lantau Island, which includes the three sages of the Western Land, Shakyamuni Tathagata, Medicine Master Tathagata, the Dharma Protector Weituo Bodhisattva and Qielan Bodhisattva.

The Venerable Master's purpose in printing and distributing many classics and Sutras, and commissioning golden images of the Tathagatas, was to propagate the Three Jewels widely in the world so Buddhism could thrive. If the disciples of Buddhas work together, Buddhism would be like the sun shining on the entire land or like the moon illuminating the world. This is the target of



虛雲老和尚畫傳集

A Pictorial Biography of the Venerable Master Xuyun.

上人自述：

我到什麼地方，佛經就有很多；我在東北沒有旁的財產，有的就是佛經。那時候在香港想找一部經書非常困難，所以我儘量提倡印經，我用在印經的錢，大約港幣有一百多萬。我先印《法華經》、《楞嚴經》，我們早期在美國講《楞嚴經》所用的本子，就是在香港講《楞嚴經》的時候印的。我這麼一提倡，香港其他的佛教團體以後也發起印經，所以現在香港的佛經很多。

印經，這是弘揚佛法的一個辦法；你一方面印經，一方面又開你智慧了。為什麼你沒有開智慧呢？就因為功德小；沒有功德，你就少智慧。臨來美國的時候，把大約價值十幾萬的佛經統統送給人，一人這麼一大包；本來預備慢慢送給人，但是為了要來美國，我也沒有地方放，所以才把佛經趕快送人。我最歡喜的就是印佛經，這也是弘法的一部分，希望每一個人對印經這個工作盡點心。

西樂園藏經很多，有《大藏經》，又有其他的經典。《大藏經》是我用了很多錢在日本請的，還有其他很古的

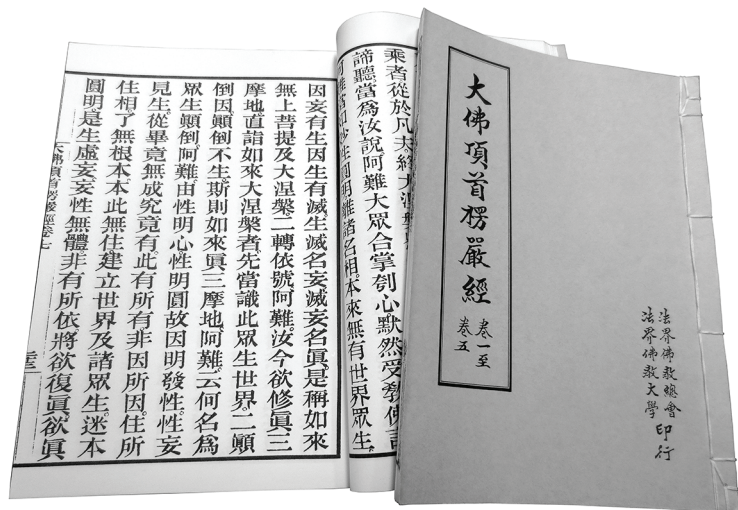
the Venerable Master's lifetime effort for Dharma.

Venerable Master's Narration:

Wherever I go there will be plenty of Buddhist Sutras. When I was in the Northeastern China, I did not have any other personal property except Buddhist Sutras. At that time, it was very difficult to find the printing of Sutras in Hong Kong; therefore, I tried my best to advocate sutra printing. I spent more money on printing Sutras than anything else; roughly speaking, I spent over one million Hong Kong dollars. First I printed the *Lotus Sutra* and the *Shurangama Sutra*. The *Shurangama Sutra* books we used during our early days in the United States, were the ones printed in Hong Kong when I was lecturing on *Shurangama Sutra* there. Some time after announcing how important it is to sponsor the printing of Sutras, other Buddhist groups in Hong Kong also started printing sutras. So today we can find a lot of Buddhist sutras in Hong Kong.

Printing sutras is one way to propagate Buddhadharma. When you are printing sutras, your wisdom grows. Why is your wisdom so limited? It is because your merit and virtue is limited. If you do not have merit and virtue, you won't have a lot of wisdom. When I was about to leave for the US, I gave away for free the Buddhist sutras, having a total value of over a hundred thousand Hong Kong dollars. Everyone got a huge package. Originally I planned to give them away gradually. However, since I was coming to the US, I did not have a place to store those books; therefore I had to do it quickly. I enjoy printing Sutras the most; it is indeed a part of dharma propagation. I hope everyone would place some emphasis on the printing of Sutras.

There were many Sutras in the Western Bliss Garden Monastery, including the *Tripitaka*. I spent a lot of money to get the *Tripitaka* from Japan. There were also other ancient classics and Sutras that can't be purchased anywhere today. There was a bhikshuni who used to do physical work for people because she was illiterate. Since I wasn't there at that time, she abandoned all the Sutras and distributed them freely. Today Ms. Tan told me: "I didn't dare tell you about this, because if I did,



楞嚴經 The Shurangama Sutra.

經典，現在根本就買不著。有一個比丘尼原來是給人家做工的，一個字也不認識，因為我不在那兒，她把所有的經典都不要了，送到佛經流通處去。今天譚居士告訴我說：「我不敢告訴您呀！我告訴您，您一定會發脾氣！」我說：「妳還沒猜到呢！不要說送到佛經流通處，她把經典都燒了，我都不管！現在我這個師父，不是過去那個師父了。過去在香港常常發脾氣，常常罵人，現在你就怎麼樣子，我都不罵了！」雖然不罵，但是心裏也還是不高興有這種的徒弟，太無知識了！

我希望美國徒弟，不論認識中國字、不認識中國字，也不要將中國的佛經放到火爐裏燒了，就是複印的都要很注意的；隨便把它放到火裏燒了、隨便毀壞，將來會一生比一生愚癡。佛的經典無論是中文、英文的，都要特別保護，經典壞了該把它修補好。不要像這個徒弟似

you would get angry!” I replied: “You guessed wrong! Even if she had burned all the Sutras, I would not care, let alone sending them for free distribution! I’m not the master I used to be. I used to get angry often and scolded people in Hong Kong. Now no matter what people do, I will not scold them!” Although I don’t scold them anymore, I’m upset to have this kind of disciple who is simply too ignorant!

I hope that my American disciples, whether they know Chinese or not, will never burn Chinese Buddhist Sutras or photocopies of them in fire. If you burn them or destroy them casually, you will be more stupid life after

life. Chinese or English Buddhist Sutras need to be carefully protected; if they are torn, they should be repaired. Don’t act like this disciple. Don’t do stupid things. Pay special attention and be careful! Since she was illiterate, I didn’t tell her how important Sutras are, so she didn’t know. She thought distributing Buddhist texts for free was the right thing to do and place to send them. She didn’t know it was a complete mistake! Buddhists must respect Sutras. Otherwise your wisdom won’t be revealed.

Why is this disciple was so stupid? Let me tell you a little bit of the causes and conditions. She was a horse in her previous life.



大藏經 The Tripitaka.

的，盡做這種黑暗不亮的事。你們各位對這一點要特別注意！因為她不認識字，我也沒有對她講經典怎麼樣重要，所以她不知道，以為送到佛經流通處去，這是得其所哉了，孰不知這完全是一種錯誤！學佛的人一定要尊重經典，尊重經典才能開智慧。

這個徒弟為什麼這樣愚癡呢？我告訴你們少少的因緣。這個人前生是一匹馬，所以今生做人還是不改馬的習性。她跟著我很久，我曾經教她佛法，但是她都忘了；她宿世業障很重，所以就做很多顛倒的事情，也不信什麼因果。為什麼她不信因果？在《因果經》說得很明白：「見說果報不信聽」，你和她說因果循環報應，她不相信；「初脫畜生得人身」，她頭一次脫去畜生的身得到人身，所以她不相信這是果報；不是她不願意往對的做，只是生性是這樣的，因此很多事情都會做錯。

我今天對譚居士說：「我現在不罵人了！一切事情都是成住壞空，有什麼可罵的呢？」這本來是很可惜的一件事，但是世間的事就是這樣子，這兒成了，那兒又壞了；這兒住，那兒又空了。我要是在香港，她絕對不會做這種的事情，我可以看著她。現在我來到美國這兒，相信美國這兒的人不會這樣子；等我走了，那我就知道了。

我在香港的時候，單單造佛像，記得前前後後造了有這個一百多尊，我造了然後送給人。現在在檀香山這中華佛教會，有西方三聖，就是我送給他們的；是三如來或者西方三聖？這是二十多年以前的事情。

我希望佛像到每一個人的心裏去；每一個人心裏都有一尊佛像，每一個人家裏也有一尊佛像。這樣子，也是重重無盡。

She was with me for a long time and I taught her the Buddhadharma but she forgot it all; her past karmic obstructions were very heavy so she did many stupid things and she didn't believe in the law of cause and effect either. Why didn't she believe in cause and effect? It says very clearly in *the Sutra of Cause and Effect* :“One doesn't believe in cause and effect when one is told.” You tell her about the cycle of cause and effect and retribution but she doesn't believe it. “Being an animal in her past life, one was just reborn as a human.” She had just left her animal body and was reborn in a human body. So she didn't believe that this was her retribution. It is not the case that she was unwilling to do the right things. It was her habit to do wrong things.

Today I told Ms. Tan: “I no longer scold people! Everything goes through the stages of formation, dwelling, decay and emptiness. Then why should I scold anyone?” Although this was a pitiful matter, it is just how things are. When some things form here, others decay there; when some exist here, others disappear there. If I were in Hong Kong, she would never do such things because I would watch her. Now I'm in America so I believe people in America won't act like that; however, I don't know how they will behave after I leave.

When I was in Hong Kong, I remember I made over one hundred Buddha statues in total and gave them to people. The statues of the Three Sages in the West at the Chinese Buddhist Association at Honolulu were gifts from me. Were those the Three Buddhas or the Three Sages of the West? That was more than twenty years ago.

I hope that the image of the Buddha will enter the minds of people. When each person has a Buddha image in his or her heart and every home has a Buddha image, then such situation will be infinitely [meritorious].

待續

To be continued