

# Shifu Breathes Compassion, Wisdom, And Omnipresence

## 師父示現慈悲、智慧和無所不在

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“Cry and there’s a dark room in hell awaiting you,” said Shifu once. I want to be Shifu’s good disciple and I try not to cry; nonetheless, there have been times I can’t help crying when I get to know more and more about Shifu.

Shifu is not the first Venerable Master that I started to follow or took refuge with. It wasn’t until two years after I became a Buddhist that I found myself drawing nearer and nearer to Shifu.

The first time I read Shifu’s life stories, I was impressed, but that was it. Some months passed before I read them again. Now I read Shifu’s stories and watch Shifu’s Dharma talk videos almost every day. I am more and more amazed.

What led to Shifu’s change from a fearless fighter in his childhood to a peaceful master no matter what was tossed at him?

What traits of Shifu in his late teens drew people to him, young and old?

Why did Shifu leave behind the monasteries he set up in Hong Kong and come to live in a window-less basement in San Francisco?

How much patience and determination does it take for anyone to go from having thousands of followers for years to suddenly having very few followers for five, six years?

What inner qualities must Shifu have radiated to attract the first American followers who could barely understand Chinese?

Such rhetorical questions can go on and on. For me, Shifu puts a living face to Buddha. Shifu breathes Buddha’s

師父曾說：「哭一哭，地獄有個小黑屋。」我想做師父的好弟子，所以盡量不哭：然而，有好多次，當我越來越瞭解師父，我就止不住的哭了起來。

師父不是我最早皈依、追隨的法師。直到成為佛教徒兩年後，才發現自己越來越接近師父。

初次閱讀師父的事蹟，令我印象深刻，卻也僅只於此。幾個月後，又看了一次。現在，我幾乎每天都會看師父的事蹟和講法的視頻，對師父也益發讚歎。

是什麼讓師父從一名兒時無所畏懼的戰士變成一位事事泰然處之的法師？

是什麼特質讓年少的師父能夠吸引老少前來親近他？

為何師父要離開他在香港建立的道場，來到三藩市，棲身在一個沒有窗戶的地下室？

要多少的耐心和決心讓人放下擁有追隨多年的數千名信眾，一轉眼，在五、六年間只有寥寥可數的信眾相隨？

師父必須具備哪些特質以吸引最初那些幾乎不懂中文的美國弟子？

這些問題可以無止盡的問下去。對我來說，師父讓佛陀變得鮮明。師父的舉止之間無一不是佛陀慈悲、智慧和圓滿的教導。

我生性多慮。現在，當我感到擔心，我

teachings of compassion, wisdom, and omnipotence.

I am a worrier by nature. Now when I am worried, I try to remind myself that Shifu is always looking out for you and me. Shifu once said, "If you believe me, really far is really near."

I can't say that I am applying all of Shifu's six principles in my life, but I keep trying my best. Shifu promises that all his disciples will eventually become Buddhas; I vow to go to Buddha Land right at the end of this life, under Shifu's wing. ❀

會試著提醒自己，師父時時照看著你和我。師父曾說，「若你相信我，天涯若比鄰。」

不敢說自己將師父的六大宗旨應用在生活中，但我始終盡力而為。師父承諾，他所有的弟子終將成佛。我發願盡形壽要追隨師父，往生佛國。❀

## 楚石梵琦禪師《西齋淨土詩》 (Poems No.25)

### Chan Master Chushi Fanqi's Pure Land Poems of the West Studio

海鹽天寧寺楚石梵琦禪師  
西齋結社 英譯 / 楊維光 修訂

Ming Dynasty Chan Master Chushi Fanqi of Tianning Monastery in Haiyan County  
English Translation by West Studio Club / Revised by Yong Wei Kwong



蓮台得坐最高層。  
我許凡夫願力能。  
頃刻人心翻作佛。  
斯須水觀化為冰。  
玉抽瑪瑙階前樹。  
金匝琉璃地上繩。  
無限天華滿衣裊。  
十方佛國任飛騰。

We ordinary people, by the power of our vows,  
Are able to attain a lotus seat of the highest grade.  
In an instant, the human mind turns into the Buddha-mind;  
In a moment, the contemplation of water transforms into that of ice.  
Growing before the carnelian stairs are jade trees;  
Everywhere on the lapis lazuli ground are golden paths.  
With our pouches filled with limitless heavenly flowers,  
We are free to soar to the Buddhalands of the ten directions!