



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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32. 貧富平等

上人的弟子有貧有富，有長有幼，貧窮的，有的家境窘迫、生活拮据、有的幫人傭工、幫人煮飯。無論弟子是什麼狀況，上人對待老人、窮人、不幸者和小孩子，都是一律平等的好。以至任何接觸上人者，無不豎起大拇指稱讚其慈悲。孩子們喜歡親近在上人身邊，大人更願意領受上人的教化……

許湘君居士口述：

我的父母親都是從大陸來到香港，因譚果式的媽媽而認識師父。父親是虛雲老和尚的弟子，師父說不用再皈依。

母親皈依師父時，師父用香板打我媽媽的，師父問她：「妳知道我為什麼要用香板打妳嗎？」母親搖搖頭望著師父，師父說：「妳現在是我的弟子，我用香板打妳是替妳消災。」母親依舊用疑惑的眼神望著師父，師父又說：「妳父親往

32. Rich and Poor are Equal

Among the Venerable Master's disciples, some were poor while others were rich, some were old and some were young. As for the poor, some lived in straitened circumstances, and some served as servants and cooks. Regardless of their financial circumstances, the Venerable Master treated the elderly, the poor, those in difficult circumstances, and children all equally well. Therefore, people who had met the Venerable Master all truly praised him for his compassion. Children liked to be around the Venerable Master, and adults were more than willing to receive his teachings.

Dictated by Upasika Xiangjun Xu:

Both of my parents came to Hong Kong from Mainland China, and met Shifu through Tan Guo Shi's mother. Since my father was the disciple of Elder Master Xu Yun, Shifu said he didn't have to take refuge again.

When my mother took refuge with Shifu, he hit my mother with the incense board. Shifu asked her, "Do you know why I hit you with the incense board?" My mother shook her head and then looked at Shifu. He said, "You are my disciple now. I helped quell your disasters by hitting you with the incense board." My mother still looked at Shifu confusedly, so Shifu spoke again, "You didn't hasten home for the funeral of your father when he passed away, so I hit you with the incense board." It was during the war of

生時，妳沒有去奔喪，所以我用香板打妳。」那時中日抗戰，母親懷孕，所以沒有回去奔喪，母親很驚訝師父怎麼連這個都知道。

因為家境不好，小孩必須分擔家務；我們想到西樂園去參加共修，只得每星期輪流去。我們家住的是違章建築，破破爛爛的，師父到過我家，不會因為我們貧窮就看不起我們。

有一次母親生病很嚴重，家人都以為她不會好；但是隔天，她跟家裡的人說：「我會好的！我不會怎樣。昨天夢見師父來看我，我絕對會好，真的！」後來她真的一天天的好起來。我們有時會在山上用齋，師父吃得很簡單，有時只是辣椒配饅頭。

【附記】譚果式居士敘述：

孩子們都很喜歡師父，而不是害怕他，因為他對孩子們非常友善。對於年紀大的弟子，比如我的父親，師父一直不允許我父親見到他時就磕頭，師父說：「你的年紀這麼大，不用了！不用頂禮。」我家裡並不是特別有錢，但還說得過去；我們也有傭人、司機，所以我什麼家事也不會做，甚至連怎麼洗頭髮都不知道。我遇到師父之前，脾氣很不好，儘管父親經常教育我們要一視同仁，我還是會欺負他們，認為他們是比我低下的傭人。

後來遇到了師父，師父教了我很多東西，我改了很多，性情也就此改變。因為在我們去西樂園參加法會的時候，我家裡的女傭、廚師有時候也去。媽媽讓他們在廚房幫忙。我家的傭人也可以和我們一起坐著聽師父講經說法，對我來說這是一個大的轉變，我意識到了人人平等，不論貧富貴賤，只要你真正修行，不管有多窮，也會獲得無上的智慧；如果不修行，縱使是富人最終也一樣死亡，一樣逃脫不了輪迴的。後來，我家有兩個傭人都因聞法而出家了。

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resistance against Japan, and my mother was pregnant, so she didn't hasten back home for the funeral. She was very surprised at that Shifu knew that.

Because we were not financial well off, all the children in family shared the housework. We had to take turns in order to attend the Dharma Sessions at Western Bliss Garden Monastery each week. We lived in a shabby improvised structure in a shanty town. When the Venerable Mater visited our home, he didn't look down upon us because we were poor.

Once my mother was seriously ill, and no one thought she would recover. However, she told the family one day, "I will recover! Nothing will be wrong with me. I had a dream that Shifu came to see me last night, I absolutely will be well, truly!" Indeed, afterwards, she gradually became better. Sometimes, we had meals on the mountain. Shifu ate very simple food. Sometimes, he merely ate plain buns with chili.

[Postscript] Narrated by Upasika Tan Guo Shi:

The kids all liked Shifu, and were unafraid of him, because he was very kind to kids. Shifu never allowed the elder disciples, like my father, to bow to him when he would visit. Shifu said, "You are so elderly. No need to bow!" My family was not extraordinary rich, but still quite well off. We had servants and drivers. I didn't need to do any housework. I didn't even know how to wash my hair. I had a very bad temper before I met Shifu. Although my father often taught us that we should treat everyone equally, I was a bully and thought the servants were inferior.

Afterwards, I met Shifu. Shifu taught me a lot, and hence I changed a lot. My temper changed as well. Sometimes our cook and housemaid went along with us to the Western Bliss Garden Monastery attended Dharma Assembly. My mother asked them to help in the kitchen. Our servants could sit together with us to listen to Shifu's Dharma Talk, which was a huge change for me. I realized that everyone was equal. Whether rich or poor, as long as you truly cultivate, anyone can gain unsurpassed wisdom, no matter how poor you might be. If you don't cultivate, then no matter how wealthy you may be, you will eventually die and fail to escape the revolving wheel of the six. Later on, two of our servants left home, because they listened to the Dharma Lectures.

To be continued