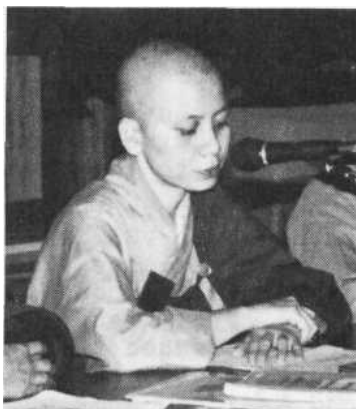


The Bodhi Mirror



Shramanerika Heng Sheng

沙彌尼 恒生

Shramanerika Heng Sheng (Dharma name Gwo Yun) was born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 1955. Because her childhood was fraught with illness, from a very young age Heng Sheng was aware of the principles of cause and effect and of karma, and was determined to seek a way out of samsara, and to travel a path that led from suffering to bliss. In 1979 she started going to temples with her friends, and joined in the ceremonies and Dharma assemblies. When her eyes fell on the adorned features of the Buddha and Bodhisattva images, a feeling of profound faith and admiration welled up in her heart. She resolved to help living beings, propagate the Buddha Dharma, and walk the Bodhisattva path.

Her father passed away around that time. The Buddha Dharma afforded her solace and an inner serenity that could not be rivalled by any worldly pleasure. In 1984 she said goodbye to her family and came to study at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. Her mother was heartbroken, unwilling to see her go to a country so far away from home. Although for a long time Heng Sheng had wanted to leave the home-life, she never said anything for fear of hurting her mother's feelings. She continued to honor her mother's unspoken wishes until her mother passed away in November of 1987. After a period of mourning, Heng Sheng was able to don the gray robes and precept sash of a novice nun in July, 1988. Her life-long wish had come true.

Recently Heng Sheng graduated from the Laity Training Program, and is currently enrolled in the Sangha Training Program at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. As a laytrainee, Heng Sheng taught art courses with a Buddhist perspective at Instilling Virtue School. After leaving the home-life, she taught a Buddhist studies course at the school. She is active now as a library assistant in the Buddhist books division of Dharma Realm Buddhist University's library. In addition to keeping up with the rigorous schedule of ceremonies, bowing, and repentances; the classes in Buddhist doctrine, Chinese culture, science, and philosophy; as well as the many other demands of monastic community life,

she still finds time to pursue her individual practices. For the past two years she has been committing the Shurangama Sutra to memory.

Toward the end of 1988, Dharma Master Heng Sheng joined the Dharma Realm Buddhist University delegation's seven-week Dharma propagation tour of Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, and Hong Kong. Throughout each day she took her turn in leading the assembly in reciting the Great Compassion Mantra and Gwan Yin's name, in conducting ceremonies, and in playing the Dharma instruments. In the evening, she was one of the speakers at the nightly Dharma lectures and a principal speaker in Malaysia. Her themes included family relationships, education, cause and effect, and the Sangha/Laity Training Program. She delivered her talks in Mandarin Chinese and in English.

Heng Sheng rejoices in her good fortune to live in a pure place where all are dedicated to lofty spiritual goals and the selfless wish to benefit and rescue all living beings.