

The Bodhi Stand



Upasika Lin Ming-Hwei

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Born in Taipei, Lin Ming-Hwei majored in business in senior high school, and then attended art college for four years. Her first contact with Buddhism came when a friend introduced her to the *SUTRA OF THE PAST VOWS OF EARTH STORE BODHISATTVA*. She was also very moved and inspired by the biography of Vinaya Master Hung Yi (弘一). That marked the beginning of her interest in the Buddhadharma. In 1987, Lin Ming-Hwei visited the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas for the first time. Finding the atmosphere very conducive to contemplation and serious study and practice, she applied for acceptance to the Laity Training Program, and entered the program in the summer of 1988. At present she maintains a busy schedule of work and study in the Laity Training Program. In addition to attending the daily ceremonies, which include chanting, recitation of the *AVATAMSAKA SUTRA*, and bowing the Great Compassion Repentance, she also takes courses in Buddhist doctrine, Chinese philosophy, Chinese language, culture, and art. Central to her study of Buddhist doctrine is the core course called "Activating the Development of Inherent Wisdom" (now concentrating on the *NIRVANA SUTRA* and the *SHURANGAMA SUTKA*), and the lecture series on the *AVATAMSAKA SUTRA*. Her Chinese philosophy courses presently focus on the *ANALECTS* of Confucius, investigation of the human nature, and the five elements philosophy. Her art courses currently stress Chinese calligraphy, and her Chinese language study involves matching couplets and classical Chinese prose. She is also making progress in her study of English by attending E.S.L. courses and by having the opportunity to speak English and hear it spoken, since course work and activities at the Sag'ely City of Ten Thousand

Buddhas are conducted bilingually (in Mandarin Chinese and English). This full and challenging schedule, which covers not only a wide range of academic subjects but also provides religious, vocational, and ethical training, keeps Lin Ming-Hwei busy and happy. To date she has also committed to memory a large part of the *ESSAY ON BRINGING FORTH THE RESOLVE FOR BODHI*.

Concerning hopes for Buddhism, Lin Ming-Hwei says, "My wish is that the Buddhadharma can be incorporated into the family. That way it will be easy for most people to understand and embody in their daily lives. Buddhism should be integrated into the social fiber. It should not be divorced from mundane life. As the Sixth Patriarch said, 'The Buddhadharma is in the world, not apart from enlightenment to the world.'"