



宣化上人事蹟（中國篇）

Events in the Life of the Venerable Master:
The China Period

White Mountains and Black Waters Nurture Rare Talent (Continued)

宣化上人事蹟編輯委員會新編（2009年）
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11. 讀書要訣（續）

上人自述：

另外，上廁所是讀書最快的地方，那雖然是短短的一個時間，可是你那時候讀書，很好讀的，想不起來的也想起來了。為什麼呢？這是一種三昧。你在那個時候，什麼妄想也沒有，你專心讀書，全都記起來了！我連那個時候也不空過。一般聰明的小孩子，他離開課本，就和書分家了；我得到這個方法，我是和書本合而為一，所以讀得快，記得也快，念一遍四書五經就全記得了。

我最後的那位老師叫郭錦堂，字如汾，是個秀才，山東人。這位老師學問很好，他看我讀得快，他讀什麼書，就給我講什麼書；他隨講，我隨懂，再讀更容易了。好像〈報任少卿書〉是古文最長的一篇，大約有二千三百多個字；老師讀了一宿，就能背得出那篇文章。他對我說他怎麼讀那篇文章，讀得怎麼樣快，然後說：「看你的了！」這時剛吃完午飯，可以睡一個鐘頭午覺；我沒睡覺，用這一個鐘頭看這篇文章。這篇文章實在很難背的，但是我很專一；看過兩遍，我已經能背得出了。第二天我背給他聽，把他嚇壞了：「你——，我都要讀一宿，你讀一個多鐘頭就會了！」

11. The Secret of Studying (Continued)

As told by the Venerable Master:

Also, another place for studying quickly is in the restroom. You spend a pretty short time there, but it gives you some time to study. You can think of things you don't usually remember. Why? You are in a state of samadhi. You are not distracted in the restroom. You can focus on studying and memorizing. I didn't waste time even in the restroom. Most smart kids forget about the books as soon as they leave the classroom. When I discovered this method of study, I become one with the books. Therefore, I was able to study and memorize things very quickly. When I read the Four Books and the Five Classics, I was able to memorize them by reading them just once.

My last school teacher was Guo Jingtang, atyle name Rufen. He was a scholar from Shandong. This teacher was exceptionally knowledgeable. He noticed that I could learn quickly and decided to teach me what he was reading. I understood as he taught, which made it easier when I reviewed the lessons. One time he spent the night studying "Bao Ren Shao Liu Shu," the longest essay in classical Chinese (about 2,300 characters), and had it memorized by the next day. He told me how fast he memorized the essay and how he had done it. Then he said, "Now it's your turn." I had just finished lunch and had an hour for napping. Instead of taking a nap, I spent that hour reading the entire essay. It was very difficult to memorize but I concentrated. I could recite it after reading it twice and on the second day I recited in front of him. Shocked, he said, "You are unbelievable! It took me an entire night to memorize it and you just needed an hour!"

【後記】據悉上人的老師郭如汾，是一位當地有名的教書先生和中醫，他在上人出家後不再教學。一天，有一對夫妻，抱一個一歲多的孩子來找他治病。郭如汾一看這孩子很快就要死了，吃藥也沒用，就開一個簡單的藥，要他們帶回家再吃，明天不用再來。這對夫妻走到半路，這小孩子就斷氣死了。他們想訛詐郭如汾的錢就去告狀，說他開藥，把他們的孩子給藥死了，郭如汾因此被關了一年多，他始終一直不認罪。後來他被放出來，生氣就回山東了。

12. 跪念地藏經

皈依上常下智老和尚後，上人即修禪習定，讀誦佛經。上人十五歲第一次看見《地藏經》，從此天天跪念《地藏經》，膝蓋跪破也不惜。上人對經典至誠恭敬的精神，實在不是常人可及！

上人自述：

開始修行，就念《地藏經》和《法華經》。十五歲那年冬天，我第一次遇著《地藏經》。以前沒有看過佛經，這是頭一次看到佛經。好像是在妙蓮長老那兒得到這個《地藏經》，是他用筆寫，然後再印的。我得到他寫的《地藏經》，回去就開始念。北方的精進香可以燃兩個鐘頭，我點一支香，跪著慢慢念；念完一部，香也燃完了。

我是在中午的時候念，一天念一部。念了一個時期，把膝蓋都跪破了；因為是在磚地上跪著的，什麼也不墊。本來也有墊子，但是我不用，愚癡到把膝蓋都跪破，還是不用墊子！這是我頭一次念《地藏經》的經驗，那時的體會是一言難盡的，身心都覺得很清淨舒暢。我那時候蠢得那個樣子，不願意墊墊子，就願意叫膝蓋破了、流血，覺得這是應該的。你們現在膝蓋沒有破、沒有流血，跪在地下，一定要有個墊子來墊著；痛一點點，就覺得對不起自己的膝蓋。由這個證明，你們是比師父聰明得太多了！

待續

Note: It was said that Guo Rufen was a famous teacher and doctor of Chinese Medicine in the local area. He discontinued teaching after Venerable Master Hua became a monk. One day a couple brought a year-old baby and asked Guo Rufen to help cure his illness. Guo diagnosed that the illness was terminal and the baby would die soon. He prescribed a simple medicine and told them to feed it to the baby after they got home; there was no need to come back the next day. The baby died on the way home. The couple devised a plan to blackmail Guo Rufen for money so they accused him of poisoning their baby. Guo was arrested and sentenced to over a year in jail but he never pleaded guilty. He was so upset that, upon his discharge, he left the area and returned to Shandong Province.

12. Kneeling to Recite the *Earth Store Sutra*

After Master Hua became a pupil of Elder Master Chang Zhi, he practiced Chan meditation and recited Buddhist sutras. At the age of fifteen, he read the *Earth Store Sutra* for the first time. From that point onwards, he recited the sutra daily on his knees. The skin of his knees broke open from the long kneeling, but he didn't care. The respect and sincerity he showed towards sutras was beyond that of ordinary people.

As told by the Venerable Master:

I recited the *Earth Store Sutra* and *Lotus Sutra* after I started practicing Buddhism. In the winter when I was fifteen, I encountered the *Earth Store Sutra* for the first time. I had never seen any sutra before. I think I got the sutra from Master Miaolian, who copied it by hand. I went home and start reciting it. In northern China, the long-burning incense stick can burn for two

hours. I lit one and recited the sutra on my knees. After I finished reciting, the stick also finished burning.

Every day I recited the sutra once around noon time. After some time, the skin on my knees broke open because I knelt on the brick floor without a cushion. One was available, but I never used it. I was so foolish that I damaged my knees yet still did not use the cushion. It is difficult to describe my first experience reciting the *Earth Store Sutra*. Both my body and mind were in a state of peace and joy. I was so foolish at that time. I thought that my knees were supposed to bleed. Now all of you don't need to bleed or hurt your knees. When you kneel on the floor, you insist on using a cushion. If your knees get hurt in the slightest, you feel you have mistreated them. This shows that you are way smarter than your teacher!

To be continued

