



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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46. 慈興禪寺（四）

【後記】

為了使慈興寺能夠順利興建，上人發願要燃指供佛。上人請一位法師幫忙把手指紮好，準備燃指供佛，弟子們聞風而至，非常恐慌。弟子對上人說：「師父您若燃指弄傷身體，如何把工程完成？」弟子跪下來求上人切莫燃指，當時上人含淚請法師把手指上的布解開，在床頭天花板寫了兩個大字：「死了！」平日從大澳碼頭步行到慈興寺，也要兩三個小時，上人卻三步一拜拜到慈興寺，就為了早日把慈興寺興建完成。

二次世界大戰時，香港游擊隊把國清禪院挪用作基地，日本人與游擊隊開戰，在這裡殺了很多人。日本人又用寺院作為審訊間諜的地方，殘害了很多人。戰後沒有人清理，荒地上有很多骸骨，上人用很多時間超度那裡陣亡的死難者。上人在慈興寺時，常朝著一個方向持咒，如果他

46. Tze Hing (Cixing) Chan Monastery (IV)

【Postscript】

In order to successfully complete the construction of Tze Hing Monastery, the Venerable Master vowed to burn a finger as an offering to the Buddha. The Venerable Master invited a Dharma master to tie the finger in preparation for the burning of his finger as an offering to the Buddha. When the disciples heard about the news, they rushed, panic-stricken to the temple. The disciples said to Venerable Master, “Master, if you burn your finger, it will injure your body, then how can the project be completed?” They knelt down and begged Venerable Master not to burn his finger. At that time, Venerable Master tearfully asked the Dharma teacher to untie the cloth that was wrapped around the finger. He then wrote two huge Chinese characters that read: “Already dead!”— “死了”— on the ceiling. It usually took two to three hours to walk from Tai-O Pier to Tze Hing Monastery. The Venerable Master bowed once every three steps to Tze Hing Monastery with the hope that the construction of Tze Hing Monastery would be completed soon.

During World War II, the Hong Kong guerrillas made Kwok Chin Chan Temple as their military base, and during the battle between the Japanese army and the guerrillas, many people were killed there. The Japanese also made use of the temple as a place to interrogate spies, and had cruelly tortured and killed many people. There was no one to clean up after the war, hence there were many skeletons on this abandoned land. The Venerable Master had spent a lot of time praying for, and rescuing those victims who had died in the battles. When the Venerable



宣公上人（圖中）、恒益法師（圖左）。
The Venerable Master Hua (the middle),
Dharma Master Heng Yi (the left.)

不發一言，便知在超度他們。慈興寺的鬼多得出了名，煮飯時火會無緣無故地熄了。有趣的是，上人還對當時仍是居士的恒益師說：「鬼見到妳，個個都給嚇跑了！」

恒益師跟上人說：「師父，要在大嶼山這裡蓋廟嗎？這地方這麼高，沒水、沒砂、沒石，怎麼蓋啊？」然而這一切都難不倒上人。沒有砂，就到山窪和溪邊去挖，然後再淘洗，就像淘金似的，所以每粒砂都很珍貴。沒有石頭，山上多的是，先把大石頭挖出來，因為自己不會打，就請工人把石頭打成長方形，每塊石平均是六十到八十斤重，打一塊要二毫半（港幣）；但是搬運的事就得自己來，用肩膀扛石塊翻山越嶺，要過兩個山頭，走了很遠的路才到慈興寺，由此可見興建的艱難和辛苦。有了砂和石頭，還得要有水泥，一袋水泥價錢是二毫半，如果請工人擡，一袋還得要六毫子，為了省錢，只好自己扛水泥，一趟山路走下來得花三、四個小時。 ㊟待續

Master was in Tze Hing Monastery, he often faced one direction to recite mantras. When he did not utter a word, we knew he was liberating those victims. Tze Hing Monastery was famous as being haunted by a lot of ghosts, and even while cooking, the fire would go out for no apparent reason. Interestingly, Venerable Master told Dharma Master Heng Yi, who was still a lay person then: “When the ghosts see you, they will be frightened away.”

Dharma Master Heng Yi said to Venerable Master, “Master, you want to build a temple at Lantau Island? That place is so high; there is no water, no sand, no stones, how are you going to do that?” But all these difficulties did not deter Venerable Master. If there was no sand, he could go to the valleys and rivers to dig, and pan it: just like mining for gold. Thus every grain of sand was very precious. If there were no stones, there were a lot up in the mountain. First, he dug out the large stones, and because he did not know how to cut the stones, he asked the workers to cut them into a rectangular shape. Each stone had an average weight of sixty to eighty catty. Cutting a stone costs twenty five cents (Hong Kong Dollar); and we had to carry the stones ourselves. So we carried the cut stones on our shoulders, crossing over mountains, passing over two hills, and walking a long distance to reach Tze Hing Monastery. Hence, we could see the difficulties and hardships of the construction of Tze Hing Monastery. Though there were sand and stone, we still needed cement. A bag of cement costs twenty-five cents, and if workers were hired to carry it, the bag would cost an extra sixty cents. Therefore, in order to save money, we carried the cement ourselves, and each trip going along the mountain path took about three to four hours. ㊟To be continued