



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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48. 慈興禪寺開光（一）

甲午年（1954）春天，慈興禪寺左院別墅與客堂的修建完畢，預備於農曆三月十六日（國曆4月14日）準提菩薩聖誕日，舉行西方三聖開光典禮……

三月十三日起，連拜三天〈大悲寶懺〉，十五晚上放〈三大士焰口〉。當時正是春夏之交，連日陰雨綿綿，大地猶如籠上一層白紗，十步以外人影模糊。連續多天烏雲密布，看樣子雨還會下好一陣子。大眾都很擔憂此次大典，會因雨而掃興。豈料十五日晚，突然雲散雨停；開光典禮當日，既無太陽又沒下雨，風清氣爽，十分舒適。

這天，從早晨到中午，大嶼山島、青山荃灣乃至香港九龍，蒞臨者前呼後擁，絡繹而至。當地紳商、學校團體、漁農樵販，各界善信約一千多人

48. The Opening Ceremony of Tze Hing Chan Monastery (I)

During the Lunar Year, Jia Wu 甲午(1954), in spring, the construction of the left court of Tze Hing (Cixing) Chan Monastery, its villa, and its guest hall were completed in preparation for the Opening Light Ceremony for The Three Sages of the Western Pureland and the birthday of Cundi Bodhisattva on the sixteenth day of the third lunar month (April 14).

On the thirteenth day of the third lunar month, there were three successive days of holding the Great Compassion Repentance. On the fifteenth night, the “Three Great Knights Liberation Blazing Recitation” Dharma Assembly convened. It was the end of spring and the beginning of summer, and the days were always cloudy, and it rained continuously. For many consecutive days, dark clouds densely covered the sky. The earth seemed to be covered by a layer of white muslin cloth. Figures blurred beyond ten steps. It looked like it was going to rain for quite a while longer. The Assembly feared the rain would affect and dampen such a big ceremony. Surprisingly on the fifteenth night, the clouds cleared, and the rain stopped. Even though there was no sun, it did not rain on the inauguration day. There was a light breeze, and the air was refreshing; it was very comfortable.

On this day, guests from Lantau Island, Qing Shan, Tsuen Wan, and even Kowloon, Hong Kong, streamed continuously to Tze Hing Monastery from morning to afternoon. More than a thousand people attended the Opening Ceremony. There were locals, those from the gentry, business people, school communities, fishermen, farmers, woodcutters,

參加開光典禮，所預備的齋菜一百桌全坐滿了。十點普佛，正午舉行開光典禮。佛殿但見人頭鑽動，內外擠得水洩不通。當地人士說，這次慈興禪寺左院的開光典禮，打破該島數十年來任何慶典參加人數的記錄。

左院佛殿西方三聖開光典禮圓滿，大雄寶殿也陸續修建完成，並擇定於六月十九觀音菩薩成道日，舉行大雄寶殿三如來金身開光典禮。

上人自述：

我從來沒有什麼人緣，可還有點天緣。大嶼山慈興寺準備在三月十六那天開光，可是連著幾天下大雨，雨水多得連地都氾潮了，地很溼很溼的，人的衣袍都溼了，都像水洗的似的。在開光的前一天，我預備了一百桌齋菜，梁果筱對我講：「師父！天下雨，您預備這麼多齋菜，如果沒有人來怎麼辦啊？沒有人來，這個齋菜就要剩了，就很容易變壞變臭了……」我聽她這麼講，就把她罵了一頓，我說：「妳這個不懂事的人，有人吃、沒有人吃，關妳什麼事？臭了也不叫妳吃嘛！妳管它臭不臭幹什麼？這麼多事！」罵得她也不敢講話了。

「法不孤起，仗境方生」，既然有弟子這麼擔心，我得想法子叫它晴天囉！我就坐下來，叫我這幾個龍弟子：「你不要下雨了，我這兒要開光，你再下雨怎麼可以？人都不來了！」我還在那兒打坐，他們看見這個地，自然而然，很快就乾了，地上的水也都沒有了，天也不下雨了，這是十五那天晚間。第二天是十六，既沒有太陽又沒有雨下，上山下山也不會累得一身汗。

☞待續

and hawkers. Fully occupied were the hundred tables prepared with vegetarian meals. People bowed at the Universal Bowing Ceremony at ten o'clock, and the Opening Ceremony started at noon. The place was very congested. One could only see the heads of people in the Buddha Hall, packed inside and outside. The locals said the Opening Ceremony of Tze Hing Chan Monastery had an unprecedented record number of participants compared to all the ceremonies held over the past decades on the island.

Completed were the Opening Light Ceremony for the Three Sages of the West in the Buddha Hall on the left court and the renovation of the Main Buddha Hall. The ninth day of the sixth lunar month, the day Guanyin Bodhisattva accomplished The Way, was set to be the Opening of The Light Ceremony of The Three Tathagatas in the Main Buddha Hall.

The Venerable Master's Account:

I do not have much affinity with people, but I have a little with the heavens. Tze Hing Monastery on Lantau Island prepared to hold its Opening Ceremony on the sixteenth day of the third lunar month, but it rained heavily for a few days. It rained so much that it caused the ground to be very wet, and people's clothes were wet as if soaked in water. I prepared a hundred tables of vegetarian dishes the day before the Opening Ceremony. Leong Kuo Siu told me, "Venerable Master! It has been raining, and you have prepared so much vegetarian food. What if no one comes? If no one comes, there will be leftovers of vegetarian food that would quickly go bad and smell bad." When I heard her saying this, I scolded her, saying, "You know nothing. Whether people are eating or not, what business has it got to do with you? If the food spoils, I will not ask you to eat it! Why do you care if it goes bad? So meddlesome!" I scolded her until she dared not speak.

"The Dharma does not arise alone; it arises according to conditions." Since I had a disciple so worried, I had to think of ways to make the day clear! Thus, I sat down and told a few of my dragon disciples, "You cannot continue to rain. It should stop as I need to hold the Opening Ceremony here, and if you do not stop the rain, people will not come!" I was still meditating then, yet the people saw that the ground had naturally and quickly dried out; there was no water on the ground anymore. The sky had stopped raining on the night of the fifteenth day. The next day was the sixteenth; there was neither sun nor rain, so the people who went up and down the mountain would not be sweating even when tired.

☞To be continued