



# Insights on Taking the Lay Bodhisattva Precepts

## 在家菩薩戒心得分享

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**Bill :** Amitabha everyone. My name is Bill. My Dharma name is Chin-Wei.

Earlier today, a Dharma brother approached me and asked if I could share my experience with the Lay Bodhisattva Session for five minutes. My first thought was, five minutes? That's a long time. My second thought was, I don't want to do this. But I said to him, "Yeah, okay, I'll do it." And seriously, I appreciate this opportunity to express my gratitude for being here. I actually feel like I'm the luckiest man in the world to have experienced CTTB and the lay Bodhisattva precepts.

It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me. What I can do is just talk about my experience. I showed up ten days ago on a really hot day, and they gave me my room number — Annex 6, Room 8. I couldn't find it. I found Room 7, but I could not find Room 8. I ran around the whole city asking people, "Where's Room 8?" Finally, I found the right Dharma brother who showed me where to go, and I found my room. I was in the room for about two days by myself.

And I was just hiding in that room. I was afraid to leave and go out in CTTB. I was just full of fear. But then, on Sunday night, two roommates showed up: Tim and Peter. They were so excited to be here. And they had so much energy. Their energy was affecting me. I started to pick up on that. We put on our robes and went to the sessions. I don't think Peter has missed one session the whole time he's been here. I tried to keep up with him, but I couldn't. It's okay, though.

We keep showing up to classes and ceremonies. We went to our first class together, the three of us, and it was great to finally meet Dharma Master Jin Yong.

I've been getting emails from him for two years or more regarding the lay Bodhisattva precepts. I was able to talk to

比爾：阿彌陀佛，大家好。我的名字是比爾，法名是親偉。

今天早些時候，有位師兄問我，是否能在菩薩戒圓滿後，用五分鐘的時間跟大家分享心得。我的第一念是：「五分鐘？也太久了吧！」我的第二念是：「我不想接受任務。」但我卻回答他：「噢，好的，我可以分享。」老實說，我非常感謝能有這個機會表達此次參加受戒的感恩之情。我真覺得自己是世界上最幸運的人，有機會來到萬佛聖城受在家菩薩戒。

對我來說，這真是千載難逢的機會。以下分享個人心得。十天前，我來到聖城，艷陽高照，我分配到的房間是第六棟，8號房。我找不到8號房，只看到7號房，但就是找不著8號房。我跑遍整個聖城，到處問人：「8號房在哪？」最後，遇到一位師兄，由他帶路，才找到自己的房間。我一個人待在房間裏待了大約兩天。

我躲在房裏，不敢踏出房門走進聖城；心裏相當害怕。週日晚上，另外兩個室友來了，他們是提姆和彼得。他們非常高興能到聖城，兩人活力充沛，他們的能量影響了我，我開始感受到那股參加受戒的喜悅。我們一起搭衣，上殿過堂。我想彼得到聖城的這段時間，沒缺過任何一堂課。雖然我無法跟上他，但也無妨！

我們只是不斷地上殿過堂和上課。

Dharma Master Jin Yong before he went back to Taiwan earlier this week. I told him to please keep sending me the emails; I enjoy reading them. He has been sending them from Taiwan, so I'm still receiving them. I must say that all the Dharma Masters' teaching in the classes is very good.

I can tell that they put their heart and soul into the classes. Also, the students and my fellow Dharma Brothers in the class are amazing. They're all very smart and well-educated, and I try to keep up with them. I'm really enjoying the classes. I mentioned to my Dharma Brothers and my roommates that I feel like a young student again, so I appreciate the Dharma instructions. I'm so glad my wife was able to gently persuade me to come here.

Also, I'm glad I survived yesterday's bowing session. After three hours of bowing, I thought, what a great way to die. I thought we were going to bow forever, but I'm okay. Now that I've studied and received the lay Bodhisattva precepts, I believe the hard work is just starting.

I believe that I'm going to have to repent and reform a lot. I'm glad that the text doesn't say, "if I break a precept," but "when I break a precept," so that I can repent and reform. I hope everyone is enjoying CTTB and the beautiful weather we're now having. Thank you.

**Quoc Khanh Ngo:** I'm from Seattle, Washington State, and I come from the Gold Summit and Snow Mountain Monastery in Seattle. Today, I got a message from a Dharma Master, who asked me to come and share some experiences and reflections regarding the Bodhisattva's precepts for laypeople.

I want to share a bit about my experience before coming here. By the time I got the announcement from CTTB about transmitting the Lay Bodhisattva Precepts, the manager of the Gold Summit Monastery came to me and asked me, "Are you planning to attend this one?" I told her right away, "No, Dharma Master."

She asked, "Why?" I said, "It's so scary." The

我們三人一起上了第一堂戒律課，很高興終於見到聯繫已久的永法師。這幾年，我一直收到永法師所發的在家菩薩戒相關電子郵件。在他返台之前，有機會和他交流，請法師繼續發電子郵件給我。我很喜歡讀永法師發的信。他回到台灣後，還是持續發郵件給我。我必須說，所有在課堂上授課的法師們都非常用心。

我能感受到法師們傾囊相授。此外，上課的學生，也就是戒子們，都相當出色。他們資質聰穎、學識淵博，我試著跟上他們的腳步。我真的很喜歡上戒律課。我跟師兄們和室友說，我覺得自己彷彿又回到學生時代，我很感謝這次的戒律課，也很感激我太太能善巧地勸我到聖城。

我很高興自己挺過昨天的拜懺。拜懺三個小時之後，我心想，自己真是死得其所。我當時感覺我們會拜到盡未來際，但最終還是熬過去了。雖然我已經學習並受了在家菩薩戒，但我相信真正的修行才剛要開始。

我相信自己需要不斷地懺悔和改過。我很高興，課堂上不是說「如果」犯了戒會如何，而是說「當犯戒時」，能夠通過懺悔和反省來恢復清淨。希望大家在聖城一切安好，並享受這裏的好天氣，謝謝大家！

**吳國慶:**我來自華盛頓州西雅圖的金峰寺及雪山寺道場。今天，一位法師讓我來分享一些有關在家菩薩戒的經驗和心得。

我想先和大家分享一些我來聖城之前的經歷。當我收到萬佛城要傳授在家菩薩戒的通知時，金峰寺的當家法師問我：「你打算參加這次的受戒嗎？」我馬上回答她：「不參加，法師。」

她問：「為什麼？」我說：「太可怕了。」法師說：「回家去，想一想，過一夜再做決定，之後告訴我。」因此，我開始向一些法友們請教。

我問其中一個法友：「既然你已經受過菩薩戒了，能不能跟我講講這是怎麼回事，難度有多大？」他告訴我：「哦，太可怕了！要作很多犧牲。你要放棄很多才能持守戒律。」

我心想：「天啊！」但我決定再徵求另一個人的意見。第二個人告訴我：「哦，受菩薩戒很好啊！因為一旦你受了菩薩戒，你就會升職為經理，

Dharma Master said, “Go home, think about it overnight, make a decision later, and tell me.” So, because of that, I went around and asked for some advice from the good people among my Dharma friends.

I asked one of them, “Since you have already received the Bodhisattva’s precepts, tell me how it looks and how difficult it is?” That person told me, “Oh, it’s so scary. There are a lot of sacrifices [you need to make]. You have to give up a lot to [uphold the precepts].”

I thought, “Oh my gosh.” But I decided to get a second opinion. The second person answered me, “Oh, it’s good to take them, because after you receive the Bodhisattva’s Precepts, you will be promoted to be a manager. No harm in that.” So, that night, I stayed up all night and thought about this seriously.

I reviewed all that I have done and cultivated up to the present. I’ve done a lot, but how is my future? I don’t know. I’m old now and probably will die soon.

So, how about my future? In my next life, what will I come back as? I don’t know. But my dream is to be like the Buddha told us. But how secure [am I about my future]? How secure? I’m not sure at all.

The *Lotus Sutra* states that the only way to end birth and death and be free from all afflictions is to be a Buddha. That’s it—that’s liberation.

But I’m unsure how to be that way, so what can I do now? And suddenly, the words from the *Lotus Sutra* came to my mind. “Buddha vehicle” or “Bodhisattva vehicle.” Those are the only vehicle that can help me.

The Bodhisattva is related to the Bodhisattva precepts. I said, “Ah, maybe this one helps me because I need guidance, security, and something that guides me.”

I need the framework to follow that path in order to secure my future as a person. So, I decided to take this time and opportunity to take the precepts, but I needed to get permission. From whom? From my mother.

Since my father already passed away, I take care of my mother. I have to be around with her.

I need to talk to her if I am to leave for a while and be away from home for about two weeks. So, I came to my mom and said, “Mom, can I go to California, to CTTB, to stay there for two weeks to attend the Lay Bodhisattva precepts?” She said, “What for?” I told her again.

Amazingly, she said, “The Lay Bodhisattva precepts? Do you

這沒什麼不好啊。」於是那晚，我徹夜未眠，認真思考這個問題。

我回顧了我到目前為止所做的一切修行。我已經做了很多事，但我的未來呢？我不知道。我現在年紀大了，可能快要去世了。那我的未來會怎樣呢？來世我會以什麼形式回來？我不知道。但我的夢想是成為佛陀告訴我們的樣子。可是，我的未來有保障嗎？有多大保障？我一點也不確定。

《法華經》說，唯一結束生死、解脫一切煩惱的方法就是成佛。只有這樣——那才是解脫。

但我不確定怎麼才能那樣，所以現在我能做什麼呢？突然，《法華經》中的話語浮現於我腦海。「佛乘」或「菩薩乘」——這是唯一能幫助我的法門。

「菩薩乘」令我馬上想到「菩薩戒」。我心想：「啊！也許這個剛好能幫到我，因為我需要指引、保障和某種可以引領我的東西。」

我需要一個框架來遵循這條道路，以確保我未來的人生。因此，我決定利用這次機會受戒，但我需要獲得允許。從誰那裏？——我的母親。

因為我父親已經去世了，所以由我照顧母親。我必須陪伴她。如果我要離開一段時間，大約兩週時間不在家，我需要和母親談談。所以我來到我母親跟前，問她：「媽媽，我可以去加州的萬佛城，待兩週，參加在家菩薩戒嗎？」她問：「為什麼？」我再次向她解釋。

令人驚訝的是，她說：「在家菩薩戒？你想成為菩薩嗎？哦，是的，你可以去。」我說：「哦，那真好。」

接著我回家，需要得到第二個人允許：我的太太，現在也是我的法

want to be a Bodhisattva? Oh, yes, you can do go.” I said, “Oh, that’s good.”

Then I went home to ask the second person I needed to get permission from: my spouse, now my Dharma friend. I asked her, “Can you go with me this time to CTTB to do the same thing like me?” She said, “No, it’s so scary. You take the precepts first. If you survive and come back, I will do it.”

Lastly, I asked permission from my children, who are now grown up. I explained to them what I had to do and the benefits of that.

Then, I left for the CTTB. And now, I’m here and have attended the classes and have received the transmission.

For the last week, I’ve enjoyed the heat here. It’s doubly hot here compared to the weather in Seattle. But it’s so good. When I came here, the heat hit my face right away, and I have to say, I enjoyed it.

During the Bodhisattva classes, I belonged to the Vietnamese group. Honestly, I feel that all the Vietnamese people in my group and actually everyone in other groups, like the English or Chinese groups, are my friends. This time, I also met some people again from the trips that I’ve done before. We saw each other again, and this time, we had a very good time. We are like friends, Dharma friends.

Regarding the Bodhisattva classes, the teachers were very compassionate and very detailed in explaining all the things about the threefold articles of faith and fourfold articles of indestructible faith. That helped us a lot in actualizing good confidence and full determination to follow the Bodhisattva precepts. With this kind of understanding in full detail, we know and feel confident now.

Today, we have already completed the full ceremony of the Bodhisattva precept transmission. But a new journey starts, and I feel confident.

When I’m driving, I need a GPS to guide me. But now, on the path to Buddhahood, the Bodhisattva precepts act like a GPS for me. I have just entered the destination toward Buddhahood.

Then it will say, “Congratulations. Welcome to the new system navigation. You go!” Number one, no killing. Number two, no stealing, and so on and so forth. Amitabha. ❀

友。我問她：「這次你能和我一起去萬佛城參加菩薩戒嗎？」她說：「不去，太可怕了！你先去吧。如果你受戒回來還活著，我再去。」

最後，我問我的孩子們，他們現在已經長大成人。我向他們解釋了我要做的事和這件事的好處。然後，我啟程去了萬佛城。現在，我已經在萬佛城了，參加了全部課程並接受了菩薩戒的傳授。

過去的一個禮拜，我享受著這裏的炎熱天氣。這裏的溫度比西雅圖熱了兩倍。但感覺非常好。當我來到這裏時，熱浪立即撲面而來，我不得不說，我很享受。

在菩薩戒課程中，我屬於越南組。老實說，我感覺越南組的所有成員，其實還有其他組，比如英語組和中文組，都是我的朋友。這次，我還遇到了以前我來萬佛城時遇到過的一些人。

我們又一次相見，這次我們相處得非常愉快。我們就像朋友，法友。

關於菩薩課程，老師們非常慈悲，詳細地解釋了三種信和四不壞信的內容。這些解釋幫助我們增強了信心，決心遵循菩薩戒。通過這些詳細的理解，我們現在充滿信心。

今天，我們已經圓滿完成了菩薩戒的傳授儀式。但新的旅程才剛開始，我感到很有信心。

當我開車時，我需要一個導航來指引我。而現在，在成佛的道路上，菩薩戒就像我的導航系統。我剛剛輸入了成佛的目的地。

然後，它會說：「恭喜！歡迎來到新的導航系統。出發吧！」第一，不殺生；第二，不偷盜，等等。阿彌陀佛。❀

