



覺海慈航度香江（續）

Crossing Hong Kong on the Ship of Compassion in the Sea of Awakening (continued)

宣公上人事蹟編輯委員會新編

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53. 禪七奇事

慈興寺開光後，每次打觀音七、佛七都有上百人來參加；晚上講經到十點，聽經的人大都是四、五十歲以上的居士，他們要走很遠的路才能到山上……

慈興寺每年至少要打十個禪七，多則二十個七，有很多從大陸逃難來的法師也在此修行。禪七的時候，上人很嚴格，除了上廁所以外，不可離開禪堂一步。

有一位九十幾歲的老弟子，他很有錢，修行老掛念著給自己蓋大房住，生病也只想著要吃燕窩；上人要他發願，他總是稱病，不肯發願。有一次打禪七，到第三支香時，女眾都聽到鐵鍊聲，還有無常鬼呼喚他的名字；接著就聽到他大叫，狀甚恐懼。原來是他前世欠債不還，還殺人滅口，如今債主現形拘索命債。幸虧有上人幫忙調解，但要他懺悔超度冤魂，並發願護持道場，事情才得以了結。

☞待續

53. Marvelous Stories from the Chan Retreat

After the opening ceremony of Tze Hing Monastery, whenever a Guanyin or Buddha recitation retreat was held, more than a hundred people would come to participate. In the evenings, Dharma talks would conclude around 10 PM. Most of those who attended were lay disciples in their forties and fifties, many of whom had to walk long distances to reach the monastery...

Each year, Tze Hing Monastery hosted at least ten weeks of Chan retreats, with some years extending to as many as twenty weeks. Many Dharma Masters who had fled mainland China found refuge here, dedicating themselves to cultivation. During the Chan retreats, the Venerable Master enforced strict discipline—no one was allowed to leave the Chan Hall except to use the restroom.

One such retreat included a wealthy elderly disciple, over ninety years old. While meditating, his mind would drift to thoughts of building a grand house for himself, and whenever he felt unwell, he longed for swiftlet nest soup. The Venerable Master urged him to make Bodhi resolve, but he refused, often using his poor health as an excuse.

Then, during the third incense session of the retreat, the laywomen in the hall suddenly heard the clanking of chains and the eerie calls of impermanence ghosts calling his name. Moments later, he let out a terrified scream. It was revealed that in a past life, he had owed a debt he refused to repay and had even killed his creditor to silence him. Now, the spirit had come to claim his life. Fortunately, the Venerable Master intervened and mediated the situation. However, the elderly disciple had to repent sincerely and conduct a liberation ceremony to free the souls of his past victims. He was also required to vow to support the monastery. Only then was the matter peacefully resolved.

☞To be continued