

save the lives and souls of many, he endured all kinds of trials and hardships. Speaking of this still brings tears to our eyes.

In 1949, after the mainland fell, contact with fellow Dao members there was lost and his livelihood cut off. Elder Liu resolutely supported the expenses of spreading the Dao by selling dried tofu. From one of his poems, we can see how much hardship he bore for the sake of living beings:

“Basket in hand, I tread the streets at dawn,
calling at doors to sell five-spice tofu.
My voice hoarse from shouting with no one to heed,
I feel only muscle fatigue and aching legs.”

He would not return home until all the tofu was sold, which was often after midday. Even when extremely hungry, he was unwilling to spend on a steamed bun to stave off hunger. His personal frugality was likely beyond ordinary imagination—he ate only thin rice porridge without oil or vegetables, wore homemade clothes, and lived in extremely simple conditions.

After four relocations—from Jianguo Road to Siwei Street, then to Gongyuan Road, and finally to Kaiyuan Road—it was only in 1969, when disciples built a better temple, that his housing problem was resolved.

As for trials and tribulations, as Elder Liu himself once said: “I have endured every hardship, and trials have beset me for decades; I have bowed and exhausted myself in service.” To bear sins for the disciples and rescue all beings from suffering, he shifted merit to others and took blame upon himself, willingly “carrying the black pot” with painstaking effort and without complaint. In another poem of self-reflection and remorse, he wrote:

“My roots are dull, my karmic debts heavy,
my wisdom dim, my offenses deep.
Trials I have brought upon myself—
how dare I blame Heaven or Man?
I have failed my soaring vow,
holding only an empty wish to save the world.”

Much of my conduct is unworthy,
truly ashamed before the grace of my Master.”

We disciples could not read this without weeping aloud.

In matters of temple regulations and etiquette, the standards Elder Liu set have been lifelong models for us. I remember when he visited the Grand Elder, he would always stand respectfully with hands lowered, in utmost reverence. Once, after receiving a letter from the Grand Elder instructing him to go south at the beginning of the next month, he began on the first day to walk to the station every morning to greet him, continuing without interruption, rain or shine, for over half a month.

In the year of Renzi, when he suffered a severe neck ailment and could not move, the Grand Elder came to visit him. Even so, Elder Liu insisted on prostrating from his bed. All present disciples were moved to tears. This shows a glimpse of his constant sincerity.

He often admonished us: “In cultivating the Dao, the foremost thing is that words and deeds are consistent, sincerity is constant, and one’s whole heart fulfills vows and does meritorious deeds—this is how to repay Heavenly Grace and the Virtue of the Masters.” He also said: “If one cannot cultivate one’s own character, how can one save the people of the world? If there is no small harmony, how can there be great harmony? Cultivating the true Dao is only for Lao Mu’s salvation of the Original Beings, bringing them ashore; there is no other intent to seek fame or gain.”

“As for ‘repentance’ and ‘refinement,’ these are for advancing in ‘manifesting virtue, then renewing the people.’ Do not be arrogant, do not be greedy. First, correct your faults and temper. Know that having affinities and destiny is precious—do not give up on yourself. Always remember to cultivate patience, tolerance, and proper timing.”

After Elder Liu was summoned back to Heaven, he was, by imperial decree of the August Heavenly Mother, conferred the title “Great Virtue True Lord”—truly a well-deserved honor. We disciples, remembering the source as we drink the water, can only strictly follow his compassionate teachings, united in heart and effort, to fulfill his unfinished vow, thereby bringing comfort to his spirit in Heaven.

Respectfully recorded by disciples in Tainan

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