I turned to the mantra of "No expectations. Just let it be; everything is okay."

To Dharma Masters,

My name is Trang Khanh Nguyen 莊慶阮 , my Dharma name is Than Trang (Chin Zhuang 親莊) . This letter is being written as the year 2024 comes to an end and the year 2025 begins.

I first learned about the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas through Dharma Brother Toan Tran (a member of the Viet DRBA Translation Group) in 2009. I was in my last year of college at the time. While my friends had already secured jobs during their internships, I had not. Dharma Brother Toan advised me to join a Dharma translation group after I became disheartened. I consented to take part despite my poor English, and we started translating Dharma excerpts from the book called *Timely Teachings*, published by BTTS. I concentrated on Dharma translating to distract myself from the stress of unemployment. After I had been translating Dharma for about three weeks, a friend of mine recommended that I apply to a bank. I was shocked when I received an interview invitation. With a "no expectations" mindset, I ended up getting hired at a bank, offering one of the best salaries at the time. However, I had to put Dharma translating on hold as my workload increased.

It wasn't until 2023 that I had to stay at home due to medical issues. During that time, unsure of what to do, I emailed the Viet DRBA Translation Group and asked if I might join them in translating again. We later organized a translation group in Vietnam with seven people. We were lucky to meet Reverend Heng Sure via Zoom, and he provided some Dharma translation advice. On September 22, 2023, I humbly wrote an email to request permission from the Reverend for our group of four to take refuge online. He replied that taking refuge is a very important step, and therefore, receiving the precepts requires doing it in person. However, for young individuals like us, getting a U.S. visa is quite challenging.

Over a year later, by November 2024, we learned that Reverend Sure would be traveling to Taiwan to conduct a Transmission of Precepts for the Deceased Ceremony and a Three Refuge Ceremony. I started looking into how to apply for a visa to Taiwan, but my application was denied because I was unemployed. I thought to myself, "Let it be," but something inside of me continued to push me forward. I kept searching online till I came upon a helpful travel agency. However, when the agency agreed, there weren't enough people to form a group of at least ten persons to qualify for discount packages. I felt under pressure to wait because the deadline for visa acceptance was drawing near. For the second time, I turned to the mantra of "No expectations. Just let it be; everything is okay." Once I let go completely, the required number of people came together that very day.

Our Vietnamese delegation, consisting of twelve members from various provinces, gathered at Tan Son Nhat Airport, Vietnam, to depart at noon on December 7, 2024, arriving in Taiwan at 7:00 p.m. and staying at a hotel. On December 8, 2024, we gathered at the Dharma Realm Buddhist Books Distribution Association in Taipei to participate in the Deceased Transmission Ceremony.

During the Transmission of Precepts for the Deceased Ceremony conducted by Reverend Heng Sure, I was holding a memorial plaque for my aunt, who passed away in August 2024. Before that, when my aunt was gravely ill in a hospital in the United States of America, I set up a plaque for her at Gold Buddha Monastery in Canada, where the chanting of the Earth Store Sutra took place. After my aunt passed away, I continued by setting up a memorial plaque for her during the Emperor Liang Repentance Dharma Assembly at Gold Buddha Monastery, Canada, in September 2024.

While participating in the Transmission of Precepts for the Deceased Ceremony, I tried my best to stay focused and visualize my aunt. As everyone chanted the name of Amitabha Buddha, I closed my eyes and had a vision of my aunt in a calming golden

light. Following the light, I saw Amitabha Buddha glowing brightly, accompanied by the Holy Assembly. Then, my aunt turned and began to follow Amitabha Buddha. I'm not sure if it was my imagination or something else, but the golden radiance was incredibly bright, calm, and comforting. Additionally, I sensed a pure light in the ritual itself.

On December 9, 2024, after having lunch in Taipei, we moved to Hualien to check into our hotel and then proceeded to the Shou Feng bus station as instructed by Dharma Master Heng Yun. Four taxis were scheduled to transport us to the Amitabha Monastery around 6 p.m. Dharma Master Heng Yun showed the gathering a video presentation of Venerable Master Hsuan Hua's life and teachings.

The travel from Taipei to Hualien took five hours and was delayed due to traffic caused by aftershocks from an earthquake earlier in the month. The local travel partner in Taiwan had previously inquired about vegetarian restaurants and travel times to best accommodate our group. They also contacted the temple for guidance. Due to time constraints, they couldn't arrange it in time and sought the monastery's permission to provide the evening meals for our group, offering to donate in return as they couldn't find a suitable vegetarian restaurant. Although the temple does not typically serve meals in the evening, Dharma Master Yun was very compassionate and kindly agreed to prepare very delicious meals for our group.

On the morning of December 10, 2024, we gathered again in the main Buddha hall of Amitabha Monastery for the 24-hour Eight Vegetarian Precepts Ceremony. The afternoon was spent participating in the Three Refuges and Five Precepts Ceremony, which ended at 4 p.m. with a group photo with the Dharma Masters. I was very happy and grateful to have fulfilled my wish to take refuge with DRBA, as well as to have received the Eight Vegetarian Precepts from Dharma Masters at the monastery for the first time. A couple of months before, I had practiced taking the Eight Vegetarian Precepts on my own at home.

On the morning of December 11, 2024, our delegation headed to Daoyuan Airport, Taiwan, to return to Vietnam.

I am deeply grateful to Dharma Master Heng Yun for her compassion in granting an additional twelve spots for our group to participate in the Transmission of Precepts for the Deceased Ceremony. She was someone I had never met before this trip. But approximately two months before, I took up the book Innocent Little Ghosts and read it from beginning to end without even knowing the author's name. I only discovered later that the author was Dharma Master Heng Yun. I was struck by her calm manner and great compassion when I finally had the opportunity to meet her in person one evening at the monastery.

Once again, I want to express my gratitude to Venerable Master Hsuan Hua for guiding us with the right Dharma. I am also grateful to Reverend Heng Sure. Dharma Master Heng Yun, and other Dharma Masters in the United States and Taiwan who had put in a lot of effort in organizing these wonderful Dharma events. Furthermore, I am grateful to the Viet DRBA Translation Group for providing us with information about these special Dharma events in Taiwan; to Dharma friends Karen and Tam, who had traveled half the world from the United States to Taiwan to assist us with the translation; and also to Dharma friends in Taiwan who welcomed us and assisted us with warm hospitality.

Namo Amitabha Buddha.

Trang Khanh Nguyen 莊慶阮 (Than Trang - Chin Zhuang 親莊)

Translated into English by Phuong Lan Thị Nguyen 芳蘭氏阮 (Than Phuong - Chin Fang 親芳)