



© Yola Wong K

After a ten day tour of Taiwan hosted by the Los Angeles I-Kuan Tao Temple, I requested to spend my summer vacation in Taiwan to learn more about cultivating Tao, Chinese language and Taiwanese culture. So how did I get to the Philippines? Buddha's virtue. The temple, hosting me for the first month, Tien Jing Dao Yuan, has been propagating the Tao and established a temple in the Philippines for almost three years. Thus, they visit regularly to provide encouragement and support to the sprouting Tao members in Taguig, Philippines approximately 45 minutes from Manila. It was my fortune that they were planning to go again during my stay and requested if I wanted to join. This is my first time to Asia and not sure when I'd have another opportunity like this so I agreed to tag along for the five day trip. I am thankful for this expedition as it provided me with exposure, which may not be viewed by most tourists, to the Pilipino daily life and Tao integration in the cities of Taguig, Batangas and Quezon.

In Taguig City, we were hosted by the Living Water Inc. owners and temple owner Mame Bell and Edward. We are grateful to them for providing us with food, lodging and transportation during our stay in the Philippines. The original agenda was to provide presentations for their staff members who recently received Tao. However, upon arrival we were notified that there was a change in plans as the company had two days of training for new clients and franchises. Thus, initially we did not have time to interact with the staff or owners, but it allowed us to visit the other cities and learn how Taiwanese have acclimated to the Pilipino culture and their means of cultivating and propagating the Tao there for over thirty years.

In Batangas City, we visited temple owner Mr. Huang who is married to a Pilipino lady together having three children. We are very thankful to them as they took time from their busy schedules of running an auto parts store to welcome us with vegetarian lunch and great conversation. Mr. Huang hosted us sharing some wonderful insights of his Tao journey and miraculous events that deepen and strengthen his faith. We also got a tour of their beautiful villa retreat style temple which displayed deities of Jesus Christ, Buddha Maitreya and Ji Gong Living Buddha. They hold bi-weekly classes on Sunday afternoons to teach the community and Tao members how to improve their health, the functionality of the major organs and importance of vegetarian diet.



# 在菲律賓的一貫道

◎ 中譯 林殷實

在洛杉磯一貫道中堂主辦的 10 天台灣之旅後，後學要求利用暑假期間繼續留在台灣學習修道、中文及台灣文化。後學怎麼會去菲律賓呢？菩薩慈悲！後學第一個月住的中堂是天淨道院，此道院已經在菲律賓當地設立中堂並傳道近三年了，因此天淨道院的道親常常去菲律賓 Taguig 市（離馬尼拉約 45 分鐘車程），成全當地的新道親。後學有幸，住在天淨道院的期間，他們計畫再去一次，並問後學是否要參加。後學第一次來亞洲，也不確定是否還有這樣的機會，因此就隨同參加這次的菲律賓 5 天之旅。很感謝能有這趟旅程，因為它讓後學看到菲律賓的日常生活，及 Taguig、Batangas 和 Quezon 三個城市的傳道狀況，這是一般觀光客所不可能看到的。

在 Taguig 市，我們受到 Living Water 公司的老闆夫妻 Edward 及 Mame Bell（壇主）的招待；在菲律賓期間，很感謝他們提供交通及食宿。本來的計畫是要對他們最近求道的員工上道義課程。然而到達那裡時，我們被通知須改變計畫，因為公司要舉行二天新客戶及加盟店的訓練。因此一開始我們並沒有機會和他們的員工及老闆互動，但也因此我們可以參訪其他城市，並了解台灣人如何適應菲律賓文化，及三十多年來修道、傳道的方法。

在 Batangas 市，我們去拜訪黃壇主，他太太是菲律賓人，他們有三個小孩，經營汽車零件店，非常忙碌；很感謝他們抽空與我們歡晤並招待我們素食午餐。黃壇主和我們分享他在修道過程中一些美妙的體悟，還有一些令他們對道深信不疑的奧妙事件。我們也去參觀他那美麗的天主教僻靜風格別墅式中堂，裡面供奉著天主教神祇、彌勒佛，以及濟公活佛。他們每兩週的星期日下午開班，教導社區鄰居及道親如何強健身體、主要器官的功能及素食的重要。

In Quezon City, we met with lecturer Peter Tseng who is not married and devoted his life to propagating the Tao in the Philippines, since the age of 28. We are very appreciative to him and his mother for a wonderful Taiwanese style vegetarian lunch and providing us with Tao literature both in English and the Pilipino local language, Tagalog. This was a great meeting for me as he spoke very good English and allowed me to ask several questions about his cultivation experience. I asked all the questions that I had been asked while in Taiwan and additional skeptical antidotes that arise from secular minds. I enjoyed the dialogue and was rewarded with great advice and some chocolates (which are yang and good for women to balance the yin of a vegetarian diet). He provided a lot of wisdom (too much to include in this short article) from the book knowledge essentials to the rituals worship meditations and practical suggestions of both. His most pressing point, I found was that one must cultivate one's own self, don't try to change others, change yourself from within (have a sincere heart) and everything will fall into place harmoniously.

Having learned from such a wise man and the week winding down from the business demands of company trainings, we were able to utilize and share advice to the staff of Living Water. It's amazing how things come full circle; in Taiwan I was learning how to recite the *Heart Sutra* and then was given an opportunity to share this experience in the Philippines. After reading the sutra a few times together, I explained that I gained more clarity of its meaning after reading it 1000 times (which isn't too bad if you spread it over time) and that they can also utilize the sutra's mantra as tool to be calm if feeling stressed out or overloaded on the job. They are very fortunate to have a temple just steps away in their workplace which resonates Buddha's presence and embodies tranquility needed for those hectic days. We had the opportunity to worship with the staff Tao members at the Living Water office temple and also with the owner, Mame Bell, at her home shrine. I've learned that being a temple owner is a great responsibility and truly respect that they have taken on this venture of being a shrine owner. They are very privileged as many Tao members who have been cultivating Tao for several years have not yet had this honor. So I encourage them to truly appreciate this great fortune, keep the faith, continue strong and cultivate on.

Overall, the five days in the Philippines visiting three different cities was quite enlightening. It provided great exposure for me to witness why, how and importance of propagating and practicing I-Kuan Tao. This experience brought to life the words found in Chapter 42 of the *Tao Te Ching*, which describes how people react to the Tao, conceptions of it and utilizing it. In addition, the trip personally showed me how much of my objectives of cultivating Tao I gained in Taiwan and allowed me to witness my growth. I am thankful to Tian Jing Dao Yuan for this opportunity and all the wonderful Tao members in the Philippines for their hospitality.



在 Quezon 市，我們會見了 Peter Tseng 講師，他未婚，從 28 歲開始就在菲律賓全心全意地傳道。很感謝他及他媽媽招待我們很棒的台灣式素食午餐，並且用英文和菲律賓當地話（他加祿語）為我們講述道學。對後學來說，這次的會談很棒，因為 Peter 講師說一口好英語，後學可以問一些有關他修行經驗的問題；後學問了所有自己在台灣被問過的問題，以及其他的世俗疑問。後學很喜歡這次的談話，而且也得到很好的忠告和一些巧克力（它屬於陽，對女生很好，可以平衡素食中的陰）。Peter 講師提供了許多智慧語言（多到無法寫在這篇短文中），從書中的知識要義到禮節儀式的凝思及兩者可行的建議。後學發現 Peter 講師最強調的是：一個人必須要涵養自己的本性，不要試著去改變他人，從自己內心先改變（真誠地），這樣每件事自然就會水到渠成。

從這麼有智慧的人身上學習之後，加上這週 Living Water 公司的商務訓練也鬆緩下來了，我們就有時間和其員工分享交流。令人讚嘆的是：同樣的事情又發生了！在台灣後學學習背誦《心經》，而在菲律賓就有這個機會分享後學的心得。在我們一起讀《心經》幾次之後，後學告訴大家：在讀了一千遍之後，後學更加清楚經義；而分幾次讀完（一千遍），其實也不會太難；如果覺得壓力大，或是工作負荷太重，也可以運用經文的咒語當作靜心的工具。他們很幸運地在工作場所中近在咫尺就有一個中堂，能得到佛光普照，並提供他們繁忙日子中所需要的寧靜。我們有機會和中堂的道親員工一起在 Living Water 公司的中堂禮拜仙佛，還有跟壇主 Mame Bell 在她的家庭中堂禮拜仙佛。後學了解到：當一位壇主，要負很大的責任。而且很敬佩他們能承擔壇主的責任。他們很特別，許多其他修道多年的道親都沒有這樣的榮幸，所以後學鼓勵他們要珍惜感恩這個大好的機緣，保持信心，繼續堅定修持。

總之，在菲律賓這 5 天，參訪了 3 個不同的城市，也得到相當的啟發。讓後學見證到修道及傳播一貫道的重要。這生活中的經驗可以印證《道德經》第 42 章，它描述人們如何應對道，了解道的概念及運道。此外，這趟旅程，讓後學體會到自己在台灣所達到的修道目標，以及個人的成長。感謝天淨道院給後學這次機會，及所有菲律賓道親的熱情好客。