Hà Nội, December 28, 2024

Namo Amitabha Buddha

After the recent Refuge-taking trip, countless emotions have lingered in my heart, yet it feels so difficult to fully express them in words. Thus, I entrusted Thien Phong's heartfelt letter to convey some of my feelings. I was encouraged to share my thoughts, therefore I would like to humbly note down a few words of my own!

The sentiments that Thien Phong and my Dharma friends conveyed through the letter are also the very words I want to convey. But in addition, I would also like to share some small yet profoundly precious memories from this journey.

When I first heard that Reverend Heng Sure would be visiting Taiwan to conduct the Refuge Ceremony, I thought how wonderful it would be if I could go. However, many obstacles arose, and I lost heart, hesitating and doubting whether I could make it happen. Thankfully, I received encouragement from Khanh Trang. Watching she tirelessly search for a tour company and gather enough participants, I told myself, "This physical body may not be saved, but I must save this Dharma body and wisdom life!" With that thought, I gathered my resolve and did everything I could to complete the preparations for the trip to Taiwan.

Thanks to the blessings of the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, the right conditions aligned, and the journey came to fruition.

In the late afternoon before the day of the Refuge Ceremony, as I held a bowl of noodles prepared by the Monastery, I was overwhelmed with emotions. I thought to myself, "I've finally come home!". After years of wandering, I had finally become a disciple of DRBA Sangha and could call the Venerable Master Hua "Sư Ông" (Venerable Grandmaster)!

It was my first time participating in the Evening Recitation at the Monastery. It was so peaceful! It was also my first time attending a Refuge Ceremony in such a solemn Dharma assembly. I still vividly remember Reverend Heng Sure's gentle smile as he stood in the courtyard, waiting for the line of people to enter the dining hall - like a father lovingly watching over his children. I am deeply grateful to the Dharma Masters, Ms. Karen, Ms. Tâm, and all the volunteers who patiently guided and supported us in every detail, big and small (so many that I cannot list them all). Their efforts allowed our quest for the Dharma to be completed perfectly.

Buddha Dharma is the light that guides me through the darkest nights! Good and Wise Advisors are the countless favorable conditions that strengthen my virtuous affinities, motivating me to advance diligently on the Way.

Once again, I sincerely express my gratitude to the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, the Dharma Masters, Ms. Karen, Ms. Tam, the volunteers, and all my Dharma friends who cared for and supported me throughout this journey. All of you have contributed to this extraordinary opportunity! I wish everyone peace of mind and body, and joy in the Dharma!

Namo Amitabha Buddha

With Deep Reverence and Gratitude,
Disciple from Vietnam Bow in Respect,

Nguyễn Thị Lan Phương 阮親芳 (Qīn Fāng)