



Devoted in Nursing, Retired but Not Tired

As I have always said, a bodhisattva who wanders the world must be armed with the courage of a lion, the heart of a child, and the endurance of a camel. Nursing is a stressful profession where few can endure without these qualities. That is why I refer to nurses as Guanyin, the Bodhisattva of Compassion in white robe, the relievers of suffering.

There is no suffering comparable to sickness. People in sickness lose their temper easily, placing tremendous strain on caregivers. Look at our bodhisattvas. Although they are saddened by the verbal abuse of their patients, they dry their tears, calm their mind, and move on with a smile. They dress wounds with serious ulceration without a flinch, and demonstrating the courage of a lion by enduring what others cannot. This genuine love from within is the heart of a child. Unaffected by circumstances, they always leave their woe behind, and stand firm by their post with a sense of mission.

Equally important is the endurance of a camel. There are many who studied nursing, only few become nurses. People nowadays are more demanding and less grateful, concern only



with their own feelings. They overlook the fact that it is nurses' selfless love that care for them and their families, and instead bring only grievances. Standing by one's post with the initial inspiration is the endurance of a camel.

Nursing is a tasking profession and is in need of company from experienced ones. When it comes to experienced nurses, I think of head nurse Lin Chi-Hui. After retiring from NTUH, she came to serve in Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital as the first team of nurses since the hospital's inauguration. She is over 90 years old and still devoted.

She suffered a fracture from a fall a few years ago. With a plaster, she was back to work. When I visited her, she said, "who said I am old?" "You are old in age, but not in person," I replied. Some advised her to retire, to which she replied, "I can retire, but I will not leave." Although she had retired and became a consultant, she continues to accompany young nurses in the hospital, retired but not tired.

Bodhisattva has no age differences. We must treasure every moment while we are able. Nursing is about caring. I hope our nursing staff can support each other, persevere, and together look after the sick and the suffering.