

〈特載〉

一場邂逅一種機緣

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往往精心策劃的事，在轟轟烈烈地登場之後，不久即消逝的無影無蹤；而看起來像是偶然的相遇，卻往往勾起一段奇妙的機緣。在人的一生當中，有許多偶然與巧合交錯出美麗的火花。回憶一段十八年前的往事——1989年3月，由家師星雲大師帶團前往大陸參訪，那是海峽兩岸第一次佛教團體的學術與宗教交流，特聘傅偉勳、唐德剛教授為學術顧問，在北京會晤了金觀濤與劉青峰教授。時間過得飛快迅捷，一晃眼十八年就過去了。去年八月我到香港演講，特別安排到香港中文大學參觀中國文化研究所，走著走著竟然看到在辦公室平台外面寫著「金觀濤教授」幾個字，馬上想起十八年前的那段回憶，便走進去打個招呼；除了不期而遇的喜悅外，當下更邀請他們夫婦倆能夠來南華大學演講。

我與他們二位有些相似之處，在大學時都是讀科學的，金教授在北大讀化學，劉教授讀物理，我在台大時則就讀數學系，但後來我們都轉而關心文化問題以及生命的問題。可能目前台灣的大學生們對於金教授與劉教授不是很熟悉，其實他們夫妻在早年合寫了一本代表之作：《興盛與危機》。該書探討一個非常重要的問題——從歷史的觀點論中國社

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會；這是自古以來中國的知識分子所共同面臨到的一個如何承先啟後的問題，即如宋代理學家張載曾經說過的：「為天地立心，為生民立命，為往聖繼絕學，為萬世開太平。」這幾乎是所有知識分子的一個抱負與使命。這也是一個傳承的工作，傅偉勳老師曾經提出一個觀點：「批判的繼承與創造的發展」，一語道出這個工作是永無止盡的使命，如今我們也還一直在探討這個問題。上述所敘，只因為去年8月於香港中文大學的一場相遇在偶然，冥冥中透露著奇妙的機緣——金教授與劉教授終於在去（2006）年12月8日來到南華大學，也與南華師生譜出一場學術與思想的交流，特別以「從中國文化看終極關懷理念型態」為題發表專題演講。主要演講內容與生死課題息息相關，演講完畢，與會師生迴響熱烈，開放問答也精采非凡，是以將其內容整理並特載於《生死學研究》期刊第六期，希望與關心此一議題的讀者分享之。

〈*Feature*〉

A Chance Meeting as a Wonderful Opportunity

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Often, a meticulously thought out plan, after a brief but powerful performance, quickly fades into obscurity. Meanwhile, a seemingly accidental encounter may sometimes invoke a wonderful opportunity. In life, there are many extraordinary sparks of chance and coincidence. Looking back to eighteen years ago, in the March of 1989, led by my mentor Venerable Master Hsing Yun, a Buddhist group based in Taiwan visited the mainland China. It was the first cross-strait academic and religious exchange the respective Buddhist societies. Our guest academic advisors Professors Charles W. H. Fu (Fu Weixun) and Tang Degang met with Professors Liu Qingfeng and Jin Guantao in Beijing. Time flew by quickly, and before realizing it, eighteen years had gone past. Last August I went to Hong Kong to give a series of lectures, and especially arranged to visit the Chinese Cultural Institute of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Walking around, I chanced upon a name plaque outside of an office that read "Professor Jin Guantao". In reminiscence of the past, I entered to say hello. In the midst of the surprise and joy from the lucky meeting, I invited the couple to give a

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There was a lot of common ground between the two of them and me. We all pursued conventional science majors in college. While attending the Beijing University, Professor Jin studied chemistry, Professor Liu studied physics, and I studied mathematics while I was in the National Taiwan University. But eventually we all turned to concern ourselves with cultural issues and the philosophy of life. Perhaps contemporary students of Taiwan are not familiar with Professors Jin and Liu, but years earlier, they've already co-authored a work representing their viewpoints, "*Prosperity and Crisis*" (《興盛與危機》). The book explores a very important issue – the probing of Chinese society from a historical perspective. How to inherit the forebears' legacy to invoke upon future generations; this has been a subject repeatedly revisited throughout history by the educated elite of China, yet still presents itself as a challenge. As the Neo-Confucian philosopher Chang Tsai (Zhang Zai) of the Song Dynasty said, "To reveal the core essence of nature for heaven and earth, to ascertain the mandate of life for all walks of people, to continue the sublime teachings for the sages and saints of the past, to establish universal peace and harmony for ten thousand generations to come." 「為天地立心，為生民立命，為往聖繼絕學，為萬世開太平。」 This seems to be the ambition and task for all educated elite. This is a generation-bridging mission, and as Professor Fu once proposed, "To inherit critically and to develop creatively". There is no end to this mission, and to date we still pursue it intensively.

As stated above, it was only due to last year's chance meeting in Chinese University of Hong Kong, a wonderful kind of opportunity, Professor Jin and Professor Liu, in December 8th of 2006, came to speak in Nanhua University, and initiated an exchange of scholarly studies and ideas with the professors and students of Nanhua. They spoke in particular on "Patterns of Idea of Ultimate Concern from the

Chinese Cultural Perspective." The main topic closely probed at the study of life and death, and was given a warm reception by the audience at Nanhua. The open session question and answer between the speakers and the audience was similarly vigorous, and the entire experience has been incorporated into the sixth volume of the "Journal of Life and Death Studies" (《生死學研究》期刊), in the hopes of sharing the fruits of the discussion with a wider audience.