



community

[Enough classroom] Hong Kong native students Sri Lanka girls defend religious freedom to fight in Hong Kong to build Buddhist temples

Author: Huang Yanping Release date: 2017-07-13 08:00 Last Updated: 2017-07-13 16:06

- Speaking of Sri Lanka, you may think of the beach, Ceylon black tea, but there are still many of the hometown of foreigners in Hong Kong. Born in Hong Kong 20-year-old college girl Himie parents are foreigners, but she never thought to know the hometown culture, until she met a social enterprise, a monk, a Buddhist center and a group of fellow, she finally understand What does "ayubowan" mean over the years? Then she found that there were many different religious temples in Hong Kong, but why did not there be a Sri Lankan Buddhist temple?
- She strives to build the temple, but also for equality. She would like to work in the Equal Opportunities Commission in the future. "I want to serve the people of Hong Kong," she said.

Hour do not love Sri Lanka culture favorite "Yes! " Card and gillian

In the center of Buddhism, Himie was in the crowd, and she was busy, and everyone said, "Ayubowan" was like a Sri Lankan man.

But the original 1 year ago her Sri Lankan dialect (Sinhala) speak fluent, speak good is English and Cantonese. Sri Lanka culture, religion are no interest, free love only to the library, the hour is the favorite Twins Gillian and "Yes!" Magazine, flash card, "now seems not out" Yes! Unfortunately. "Every week to buy, my mother will scold - every week are wasting \$ 12."

Himie's parents believe in Sri Lankan Buddhism and will bring Himie to Thai temple on Sunday, but Himie knows only to follow the rituals - worship the gods and eat the vegetarian food in the temple. "I am in Hong Kong, why do I need to know the culture of Sri Lanka?" Thai temple that are Thai, she did not understand, even more did not want to understand.



Himie (left) every Sunday will come to the Buddhist center, and everyone together spiritual, lectures. (Gong Huisuo)



In 2014, she was friends to pull multicultural social enterprise "love peer", met the person in charge, chatting she learned that the greeting "ayubowan" originally means "wish you longevity." She was surprised: "He knows more than I do." With the Yuen Long minority community group, a group of friends asked her to understand how to use Sri Lanka to speak different words, she was blank, hesitated For a while, can only say do not know. She said: "Do not know the truth is really ugly - Mom and Dad are Sri Lankans, why do not you know." So she went back to do the data collection, and go home to ask parents different words.

Last year, she met a monk who came to Hong Kong through her relatives, who opened a Sri Lankan Buddhist Cultural Center in Hong Kong last October. "Every night he speaks a Buddhist story of teaching Buddhism, "She is more active with the Sri Lankans," he said, "they were going to work until six o'clock on Sundays and slept for half an hour to go back to work."

Let her feel the love of Sri Lanka. "Every time you come to have to eat, there are 10 people have been asked, did not eat dinner, hurry to eat." Himie said with a smile: "your belly as their belly." She really entered the Sri Lanka culture.

But the Buddhist center is not easy, the initial site is located in Prince Edward, but was complained about noise - that is just chanting the text, chatting voice. They will move out after 1, 2 months, and finally settled in To Kwa Wan site. "There was a lot of people living in the building recently, and our shoes had no place to put (the place where Buddhism was going to take off the shoes), and we were afraid of others." Himie said helplessly. And the rent to share, but why most of the majority of foreign workers, salary is not much, but still monthly donations.

"There are mosques in Hong Kong, there are Thai temples, why are we (Sri Lankan Buddhism)?" Himie said. By the government approved the construction of the temple, only a year to pay a nominal levy of 1 yuan. Himie says the temple can make Sri Lankans together and support each other. In addition, the country has an annual "for the monk" tradition, to invite a monk in the temple for 4 months, but because there is no temple, this ceremony has been unable to implement in Hong Kong. Moreover, Sri Lankan Buddhism and Thailand or Chinese Buddhism is different, itself has been divided into Thailand, Burma, the three factions, such as the Thai factions to shave eyebrows, Burmese do not shave, Mencius did not mention. The temple of Sri Lanka is divided into four categories - the monastery, the monastery, the Buddhist academy, the alan (the place of practice), the largest temple, the pagoda, the temple, the bodhi tree, the lecture hall, the library and the monks' Its usefulness.



In the past she was the most familiar to Sri Lanka, or food. (Gong Huisuo)

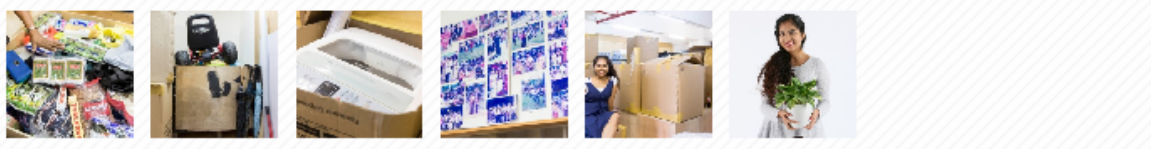
For the construction of temples in the case of government departments shirk each other

At the end of last year, the monks had offered to find a place to build a temple. She has been a small minority of cultural activities, a member of the district councilor, who is now involved in his follow-up, and another Sri Lankan uncle has written a letter. Himie is responsible for calling the different departments. To many departments, the Lands Department, the Home Affairs Bureau ... "Himie sighed:" (to us) to fall off, so hard, and sometimes say, wait a few months (let us again). "

"If we have a piece of land, we can contribute to this community slowly." At present, their activities are open to the locals, and from time to time the people of Hong Kong come together to go to the Buddhist class. In the associate degree of reading English communication she is more here on Sunday to teach Chinese classes - after all, almost only in the village with her to understand Cantonese, she wanted to let the local integration into the local. She hopes that after the temple in the future, we can share their culture with the people of Hong Kong, "and help the poor, for example, to provide food."



Now they can only squeeze in the small Buddhist center lectures, decoration is their own to do. (Gong Huisuo)



"Everyone is very hard in Hong Kong" I hope that the opportunity to eliminate injustice

"It's hard to live in Hong Kong, not the Sri Lankans, but everyone else," said Himie. "For example, if you want a house, but the government does not, you will have to be forced together." The first step in changing the fate is an equal opportunity - so she said, "I want to work at the fair." And her own cultural background, but also let her feel the inequality between men and women, "they believe that girls should be less work to stay at home, I do not like this, we should be equal."

In addition, a child because of the skin black, she often students laugh at her "dirty"; grow up, apply for tutorial community, to the scene, others see her black skin, immediately said there is no vacancy. But she did not lose confidence in this, recently also participated in the youth square of the promo film, to encourage other young people to adhere to the faith.

Visit the day to the Buddhist center, need to comply with the traditional wearing a symbol of pure white, Himie wearing a white coat, and then put on a blue skirt. This is a native Sri Lankan Sri Lankan girl, after re-understanding of Sri Lanka, said there is the hometown, and Hong Kong is where she grew up. She said firmly: "I want to serve the people of Hong Kong."



Went to the shipping company, she saw other Sri Lankans old photos in Hong Kong. She also came from Hong Kong all the time. (Gong Huisuo)

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