In 1992, Venerable Huili embarked on a journey to Africa. He established the first “Amitofo Care Center” (ACC) in Malawi during 2004, dedicated to caring for African vulnerable children and where more than 85% of world’s HIV-positive children live. Today, many years later, the founder continues with his compassionate practice of Buddhism in Africa traveling to all corners of Africa, and helping countless precious young lives. Nowadays, he is known as the “African monk” or “Monk dad” in the eyes of thousands of children.

August 3rd is the day that made us experience mixed feelings such as happiness and disappointment, our brother Tian Xing, not by blood but by heart, had registered into a university. After the morning classes, Tian Xing said a few words of encouragement to the older children, and took his leave in front of Everyone, Monk Dad, the dean, our nurses, the teachers and all the others.

At 10:00am, he left ACC with blessings from his classmates, the dean and teachers, and stepped on another important milestone in his life. We asked Tian Xing: “How are you feeling now?” and he replied with, “I'm very nervous! Because in the days to come, including studying vigorously, everything in life will be dependent on myself now!”

I couldn't agree more. For children, learning to live an independent life in college will be the biggest challenge you face, but we believe that after years of study at ACC, it would be easy to face such problems. Tian Xing was the first high school graduate sent by the Lesotho ACC, to study at a University of Lesotho. All of us are extremely happy for him! We want to tell all the children: “ACC will always be your home, and our door will always be open for you! After university it is important you not only excel academically but in your principles as well no matter when or where you are, don't forget our blessings." There are ups and downs in the journey of life, you must have a strong will and display your wisdom so you can create your happiness!”