Going Within: Shirley MacLaine in Taiwan’s New Age Religion

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1. What is the New Age in Taiwan?
2. Why C.C. Wang (1941-) and Terry Hu (1953-) are important
3. Shirley MacLaine
4. How MacLaine influenced Wang and Hu
“A strange mix of spirituality and superstition is sweeping across the country” – Otto Friedrich (journalist)
Terry Hu (left) and C.C. Wang (right) on holiday in Egypt in the late 1980s or early 1990s.
[Ancient Future]
(1990)
By Terry Hu
Revolution in the Heart: Stride into the New Age of Light and Love (1997)
By C.C. Wang
Wang in the USA

C.1964-68
人在天涯 [Far Away from Home] (1977)
海灘的一天 [That Day, on the Beach] (1983)
Out on a Limb

Stills from the *Out on a Limb* telemovie (1987)
“... looking back, I can say that making that simple, lazy-afternoon decision to visit an unusual bookstore was one of the most important decisions of my life” (MacLaine 1984, 46).

“There are few times in your life when you can point to a simple act and say it changed everything... it was meant to be... it felt almost guided” (telemovie).
Wang in Taiwan c.1984
“My two children were still small and once a fortnight I would take them to the public library. As they freely browsed books in the reading room I would also borrow some books to read. My psychological state at that time made me inclined to borrow books with psychological and metaphysical content.

Among these books was a particularly thick one. I would pass it over every time because the name “Seth Material” did not make any sense to me at all. Finally I realized because I had read all the other books and that this was the only one left, I had no option but to take it home. There is no way to describe the type of joy I felt after reading it, it was as if all the years I had spent seeking had finally been condensed.”

Wang 1997, 3-4
[The Woman]
April 1988
One day I was strolling down the road near Bloomingdales department store in New York and saw a small bookstore in front of me. It was the Quest Bookstore, a place I had long wanted to explore. I was filled with excitement as I pushed the door open... At that time I was not wearing my glasses and couldn’t see long distance objects very clearly, but I was indescribably attracted to one distant photograph. Squinting, I walked forward to discover that the person in the photo was a feminine-looking Indian boy and the book’s title was *Krishnamurti: The Years of Awakening*...
At that time I had no idea who he was other than a weighty character, evident from the revolving bookshelf full of his writings. Every book on that shelf had his face on the cover showing an astonishing transformation from youth to old age where it appeared that at each stage of his life he was a different person, especially Pupil Jayakar’s biography *Krishnamurti: A Biography*. In that picture he was about 50 years old and I believe that is without any doubt whatsoever that is the most beautiful face I have seen. He seemed to be looking into another world. Normally this type of gaze is dreamlike but his was of awakening and knowing. I must say that I was captivated by this face and bought all the books on the shelf. Upon returning to my SoHo apartment I read them one-by-one. I knew that my journey to the 53 wise teachers had ended. I had found it!

Terry Hu 1999, 205-206
Chris Griscom (1942-)
Thank you!

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