



老鮑伯走了！

OLD BOB IS GONE!

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SPOKEN BY THE ABBOT HENG LYU IN THE BUDDHA HALL OF THE CITY OF TEN THOUSAND BUDDHAS
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比丘尼恆音 英譯 ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY BHIKSHUNI HENG YIN

師父上人、法師、各位善知識！

我今晚上來是跟大家報告我們的老鮑伯今天早十點鐘往生了！兩天前，三藩市「美國退伍軍人醫院」通知 Roger Kellerman（柯果民），說，「老鮑伯快不行了！可能禮拜三就要走了。」所以 Roger 早上就到三藩市的「美國退伍軍人醫院」去了；那天下午，我們金山寺的法師也去給他助念。但是老鮑伯從前天到昨天都沒走，所以 Roger 昨晚就回來了。



今天中午我到 ITI（國際譯經院）去，接獲他往生的消息。當時他周圍沒有我們的人，我就和魏果度居士大約在兩點十分抵達醫院，他已被送到冰庫去了。我跟護士講，「是不是可以讓我們在他遺體前為他念佛告別？」

護士答應了，連絡好太平間，又找了一位女眾帶我們到地下室去。那人打開大冰庫的鎖，就說，「我是不敢進去的，你們自己去找你們要的身體。」我們進了大冰庫，一看，有五具白色大袋

Venerable Master, Dharma Masters, Good Advisors!

I came up to report to everyone that our old friend Bob passed away at ten o'clock this morning. Two days ago, a physician in the Veterans Hospital in San Francisco notified Roger Kellerman that Bob's condition was worsening and that he might pass away on Wednesday. Roger went down that morning to the Veterans Hospital, and the Dharma Masters from Gold Mountain Monastery also went to recite for him. However, Bob didn't die yesterday or the day before yesterday, so Roger returned last night.

At noon today I was in the International Translation Institute (ITI) and received news of his passing. None of our people were there, and when Guo Du Wei and I reached the hospital at around 2:10, his body had already been sent to the freezer. I asked the nurse if we could recite the Buddha's name near his body, and the nurse agreed. After making arrangements with the undertaker's morgue, she found a woman to take us to the basement. She unlocked the freezer and said, "I'm afraid to go in. You may go in by yourselves and find the body you want." We went in and saw assorted large bags. How could we tell who was in them? The bags had labels with names written on them, but they were not very clear. We thought, "Well, that really big, tall body must be Bob." So we pushed that cart outside.

In the hallway outside the freezer, I wondered, "Is that really Bob? Let's open the bag and take a look." The zipper started at the bottom of the bag, so when we started unzipping we saw the feet instead of the face. Inch by inch we unzipped, wondering, "Is this Bob's body? Will his face be contorted in pain?" Luckily, it was him. His eyes and mouth were half opened. There was no expression of pain on his face. We began reciting the Buddha's name.

There was no place to sit, so we reciting standing up. It was very dark and cold, and my legs cramped up twice as I stood there. We recited the Buddha's name from 2:20 to 6:20 p.m. Considering that it was eight hours from 10:00 a.m. when he died to 6:00 p.m., I thought that was enough and returned.

子，不知哪一個是誰？袋上是有標籤，貼了名字，但不清楚，心想，「好吧！大概高大的那具就是老鮑伯吧！」於是就把那白色裝身體的袋子推了出來。

在冰庫走廊上我們看著這個袋子，心想這到底是不是老鮑伯？不管啦！打開再說。這拉鍊是從下向上拉的，我們先看到的是腳，不是臉。我一寸寸把拉鍊打開，心想，「這是不是老鮑伯的身體啊？不知他臉上有沒有痛苦的表情？」很幸運，確是他；他的眼和嘴半張，沒有痛苦的表情，我們開始念佛了。

那地方沒得坐，所以我們站著念。地方很陰冷，我在那邊抽了兩次筋。念佛，從大約兩點二十分念到六點二十，（老鮑伯上午十點往生到六點，大約八個小時），應該夠了，就回來了！

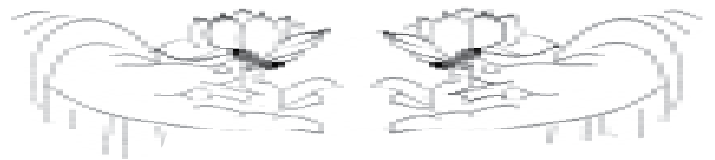
我們把他送回冰庫，把念佛機也放進袋子裏了。那時候我發現他的眼睛和嘴巴閉了很多，而且臉上看起來很祥和。

講到念佛機，就使我想到他在這個禮拜還要求恆聰師給他送六個念佛機去，因為恆聰師常去看他。他為什麼要六個念佛機呢？因為他要在醫院裡送人，有很多人都很喜歡這個念佛的聲音。但是我忘了，把念佛機也放到冰庫裡老鮑伯的身邊，不曉得下一個進去的人會不會嚇一跳，「咦！停屍的冰庫裡怎會有這種聲音呢？」

我知道大家都很懷念老鮑伯，他跟我們有很深的因緣。他在聖城工作非常認真，七十四歲了，還總做非常粗重的工作，照顧我們的庭園，照顧聖城。所以我想，若個人時間無法參加很正式的迴向儀式，大家還是可以一起迴向，就在我們平常做任何一件善事時，我們都可以把這功德迴向給他，希望他往生西方極樂世界。

至於老鮑伯的喪禮，因為他女兒想辦她自己方式的喪禮，所以就用她的方法。老鮑伯的願望是將他的骨灰灑到妙覺山那兒，但是我想我們還是尊重他女兒的想法，她願意怎麼處理，我們就配合她。

（編按：老鮑伯的骨灰最後還是灑在萬佛城妙覺山下，4月7日星期日下午灑的。老鮑伯於1998年5月31日星期日，上人涅槃紀念法會時在萬佛城皈依，法名親豪。）



We returned his body to the freezer along with a Buddha-recitation machine. I noticed then that his eyes and mouth had mostly closed, and his face looked very peaceful.

As for the Buddha-recitation machine, I recall that this week Bob had asked Bhikshu Heng Tsung Shr, who often visited him, to send him six recitation machines. Why did he want six? He wanted to give them to people in the hospital, who enjoyed hearing the recitation of the Buddha's name. However, when I put the recitation machine in the freezer, I forgot to consider whether the next person who went in would be scared and wonder why that sound was coming from the freezer?

I know everyone misses Bob, because he has deep affinities with us. He was very conscientious in doing his work at the City. He was 74 but still did very heavy, physical work, taking care of the grounds and of the whole City. We don't need to do a very formal ceremony, but everyone can transfer the merit from the good deeds you do, in the hope that he will be reborn in the Western Pure Land of Ultimate Bliss.

Bob's daughter will arrange a funeral for him and they will do their own cremation. Bob wanted his ashes to be scattered over Wonderful Enlightenment Mountain, but I think we ought to respect his daughter's wishes. We will comply with whatever arrangements she makes.

[Editor's note: In the end, after noon on Sunday, April 7, Bob's ashes were scattered at the base of Wonderful Enlightenment Mountain in the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. Bob took refuge on Sunday, May 31, 1998, the day of the Ceremony for Anniversary of Venerable Master Hua's Nirvana, at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. His Dharma name was Chin Hao.]