

恆益法師往生敬悼會紀實

A Report of DM Heng Yi's Passing and Funeral Service

比丘尼恆良 文 BY BHIKSHUNI HENG LIANG

鄭若慧 中譯 CHINESE TRANSLATION BY JOSEY SHUN

恆守慈興聖寺誓度有緣無緣成佛果
益助佛教講堂願化有情無情獲法利

As a constant guardian of Flourishing

Compassion Monastery,

*She resolved to help those with and without affinities in
realizing the result of Buddhahood.*

In beneficial service to the Buddhist Lecture Hall,

She vowed to aid both sentient and insentient beings in attaining the goodness of Dharma.



掛在紀念龕兩側的這副輓聯，是法界佛教總會同門僧眾向最年長的比丘尼恆益老法師致上無盡的敬意。法師於阿彌陀佛聖誕（2004年12月28日）當日午前安祥往生，神態如入定。

葬禮於陽曆2005年1月10日（陰曆12月1日）下午5點，在現代化的香港九龍世界堂大廳舉行，數百位人士參加。可見四十多年來勤奮、歡喜地為佛工作的恆益老法師（香港佛友稱她果利師）與無數眾生結緣，備受愛戴。

來自美國的恆實法師，香港的恆興法師與恆速法師主持葬禮。許多團體專程自海外來悼敬，包括恆持法師帶領八位美國及加拿大的比丘尼來到香港參加葬禮；來自台灣由恆雲法師帶領的兩位比丘尼與16位居士團，以及馬來西亞恆泰法師帶領的四位比丘尼與11位居士。

佛教儀式非常優雅敬穆，無上莊嚴，大眾念佛號的聲音有如天樂，令人祥寧昇華。到了晚間九點半，持續的念佛聲嘹繞，行列經

Thus read the verse couplet that hung on the two sides of the memorial altar dedicated to Dharma Master Heng Yi, the eldest precepted nun of Dharma Realm Buddhist Association. Dharma Master Heng Yi had passed away peacefully, "as if in samadhi," just before noon on the lunar birthday of Amitabha Buddha, December 28, 2004.

Funeral rites began at 5:00 p.m. on January 10, 2005, the first day of the twelfth lunar month, in a modern and spacious hall in the Universal Funeral Parlour, Kowloon, Hong Kong, attended by several hundred people. During over forty years of diligently and joyously doing the Buddha's work, Dharma Master Heng Yi had created Dharma affinities with countless living beings, and she had become liked and respected by many.

Bhikshus Dharma Master Sure (of the U.S.), Dharma Master Hsing, and Dharma Master Su (both of Hong Kong) presided over the ceremonies, which were attended by several delegations that had come from abroad to pay their final respects. Eight bhikshunis from the U.S. and Canada, led by Dharma Master Heng Ch'ih, traveled to Hong Kong to participate in the ceremonies. In addition, a delegation of two bhikshunis and sixteen laypeople, led by Dharma Master Heng Yun, as well as a delegation of four bhikshunis and eleven laypeople, led by Dharma Master Heng Tai, traveled from Taiwan and Malaysia respectively.

The Buddhist liturgy was elegant, solemn and supremely adorned. The sound of the assembly reciting the Buddha's name was most heavenly and uplifting. At 9:30 p.m., still reciting the Buddha's name, the



過益法師遺體前，每一位拈香粉向她致敬。儀式在晚間10點結束。

焚化在次日舉行。大清早，兩部大巴士及好幾部箱型車滿載哀悼的人出發前往位於大嶼山的「寶林寺」。一切都依照益法師生前交待的葬服與焚化方式—依中國佛教傳統，在寶林寺用露天窯以木材焚化。

大眾在山腳下了車，益法師的棺木以托拉車，跋涉斜峭的山路送到寺中，大眾則沿路爬上山。午前棺木到達焚化場。大眾在棺木前上供後，到齋堂用午齋。用齋畢，火化開始。恆實法師以古文誦念來進行傳統佛教的祭典，最後高舉火炬，大喊一聲「燒」，點燃棺木下的木材。木材在數分鐘內燃起，巨大火焰封包住棺木，直上煙囪。

雖然死亡令人哀傷，但是由於恆益老法師的德行，無論在世與往生，都可以說益法師是「以身說法」。她確實是我們的楷模與啓示。



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近潤師：我學習到益法師之勤勞及不怕吃苦；我會盡量學習她所教我的方法。

梅果玲：益法師很勤勞及嚴格但也很幽默。她教我們告訴上司：「沒有芹菜，故不要炒魷魚（解雇）。」

李果蓮：益法師常和我們說：「要護持持道場和要經常來拜佛」；只要是見到我們來拜佛，她便很歡喜。

吳果偉：益法師說她想受戒時什麼都不認識，到真的受戒後，便什麼都懂了。她經常叫我們要吃東西，才有氣力工作。

陸果雁：益法師教我們吃蕃薯要連皮一起吃，因為上人如此。

葉果英：益法師很有忍耐力，她最後要離開娑婆世界時，則知道要放下一切，她便現出修行的老和尚相。

procession filed past DM Yi's body, as each one offered powdered incense to her. The event ended around 10:00 p.m.

The cremation took place the following day. Two large buses and several vans filled with mourners started out in the very early morning for Bao Lin Monastery, on Lantau Island. DM Heng Yi had left instructions as to what clothes she wanted to wear and where and how her body was to be cremated—in a traditional Chinese Buddhist, open-air, wood-fueled crematory at Bao Lin Monastery.

The buses and vans dropped the assembly off at the foot of the mountain, and DM Yi's casket was placed in a large motor-cart capable of driving up the steep mountain path to the Monastery. The rest of the procession climbed up the mountain by foot.

The assembly arrived just before noon, and followed the casket to the cremation site. A meal offering was placed in front of the casket, and the assembly went to the dining hall to partake of the noon meal. After the noon meal, the cremation began, as DM Sure read the ancient funeral rites of the traditional Buddhist liturgy, ending with the shout "shao!" as he lifted the torch and lit the wood underneath the casket. Within minutes, the wood blazed, as huge flames enveloped the casket and reached out through the chimney.

Although death is a sad event, due to DM Yi's virtue, the entire group of mourners felt inspired to cultivate. She was a true model and inspiration for us all, and it can be said of her that in life as well as in death, she "used her body to speak the Dharma."

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Jin Run Shi: I learned from her vigor and her endurance of hardship. I'll try my best to practice what she taught me.

Gwo Lin Mei: DM Yi was vigorous, strict and yet humorous. She told us to tell our boss: "There's no celery, so don't cook cuttlefish! (a pun on the Chinese phrase "fire me")"

Gwo Lien Lee: DM Yi often said to us, "You have to support the Way-place and come bow to the Buddhas." Whenever she saw us coming to bow, she felt happy for us.

Gwo Wei Wu: DM Yi said she didn't know anything about precepts. However, after she received the precepts, she understood them all. She often told us to eat so that we'd have energy to work.

Gwo Yan Lok: DM Yi instructed us to eat the skin when we eat sweet potatoes, because that's what the Venerable Master did.

Gwo Ying Yap: DM Yi had great endurance. When she finally was leaving the Saha world, she put everything down and her appearance resembled that of an old monk seasoned in cultivation.

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Gwo Jie Yang: DM Yi taught me everything I know. She was tough



悼念 大師兄恆益法師歸西

三十年前

新戒子初訪佛教講堂

驚見釋兄硬骨

一剎那後

老同參果歸極樂世界

永為晚輩楷模

恆持敬

輓

Commemorating the passing of Elder Heng Yi Shi
 Some thirty years ago, a new preceptee first visited the Buddhist Lecture Hall
 and was amazed to observe this elder nun's tough bones!
 In what seems an instant later, that old cultivator
 has already returned to the Land of Ultimate Bliss
 and yet will always remain younger nuns' good model.
 In fond memory, Heng Chih

In memory of my elder Dharma brother Dharma Master Yi:
 How lamentable the impermanence of this world!
 On that day we hurriedly parted,
 we never thought it would be forever.
 Now I am left to gaze at your empty room.
 Recalling your warm smiles, I find it hard to let them go.

敬悼大師兄 益法師

歎世事無常 當年匆匆一別成永訣

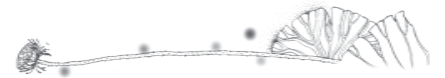
望禪房清冷 追憶煦煦笑顏難釋懷

晚 恆信敬輓

註：大師兄與恆信在萬佛聖城福居樓比鄰而居

In fond memory, Heng Syin

Note: Elder Dharma brother Yi and Heng Syin lived next door
 to each other in Tower of Blessings at the City of Ten Thousand
 Buddhas.



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楊果潔：我所學的都是益師所教。她性剛而有柔的一面，對人很親切。

吳果英：益師教我們要多拜佛，沒錢沒問題，她說可以化緣大家一齊吃飯。齊心學佛、不說是非才是真正的修行。

杜果福：益師教我們要多拜佛念佛，若沒有水腳（資量）是去不到西方極樂世界的。

陸果鴻：益師教我不要多說話，要修行。供佛供品要放整齊和莊嚴。

梁果賢：益師教我時若獅子吼而我可以接受。她常願來生做男眾。

and yet had a gentle side to her. She was kind to others.

Gwo Yin Wu: DM Yi told us to bow to the Buddhas more; not having any money is not a problem. She said it's okay to get alms food for everyone to eat together. Real cultivation consists of learning from the Buddhas together and not gossiping.

Gwo Fu Du: DM Yi told us to bow to the Buddhas and recite the Buddha's name more, without the prerequisites we can get to the World of Ultimate Bliss in the West.

Gwo Hung Lok: DM Yi taught me not talk so much and cultivate. The offerings for Buddhas should be placed neatly and adorned.

Gwo Hien Leung: When DM Yi taught me, I could accept her words that like lion's roar. She often wished that she'd be a man in next life.

Gwo Yu Cai: When we went to Ci Xing Monastery with DM Yi, when we got there she already finished cooking the meal and asked us to eat.



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