



# 會法紀念年十二禪上人宣公記

## Commemoration of the Twelfth Anniversary of Venerable Master Hua's Nirvana



每年六月，學校開始放暑假，少了一百多個學生，地大人少的萬佛聖城，突然間感覺冷清了許多。但是在六月二十三日，聖城卻是人聲鼎沸，從四面八方而來的信眾，皆以虔敬之心準備參加次日的宣公上人涅槃十二週年紀念法會。

晚課後，方丈恆律法師在佛殿內放映介紹上人的影片和上人的開示，上人親切和藹的法相，以及辯才無礙的教化，透過清晰的影音，令信眾們重溫上人的慈悲與智慧。大部份的弟子們難得有機會到聖城，很多人甚至是初次造訪，但他們已經體驗到聖城的清淨與莊嚴，以及處處都是上人法音宣流的法喜與感受。

Once summer break starts in June, more than one hundred students leave the spacious campus of the City of 10,000 Buddhas (CTTB). At that time the City seems less full, and the good cheer and spirit of the many students is noticeably absent. However, on June 23rd, CTTB was crowded with people and followers from all over the Bay Area, California, other states, and even from many foreign countries. They had the utmost sincerity to participate in the commemoration ceremony of the 12th anniversary of Venerable Master Hua's Nirvana.

After Evening Recitation, the Abbot, Dharma Master Lyu, showed a DVD introducing Venerable Master Hua and his instructional talks. Everyone had an opportunity to experience the Venerable Master's compassion and wisdom via the clear audio-visual display of the Venerable Master's eloquent teaching. Most disciples rarely have any opportunity to come to CTTB. Many of them actually came for the first time. On that day they experienced the purity and majesty of the City and the Dharma happiness that flows everywhere from the proclamation of Venerable Master's Dharma.



三點半起床，四點做早課，對很多人而言，似乎不是件容易的事。可是來到聖城，平常不慣早起的人，四點前都已來到佛殿。四百個人在一起同做早課，這種大眾共修的力量與氣勢，也只有在上人涅槃紀念法會才會有這麼殊勝的機緣。

早課後傳八關齋戒，信眾們有機會受持清淨的戒律。這個戒律是佛陀慈悲，讓在家人種下未來出世的因緣，並短期體驗出家人的生活。很多人到聖城，跟著出家人日中一食，或是持過午不食，覺得並沒有什麼困難。可是一出聖城，他們發覺肚子就不太聽話，才知道要持清淨的齋戒，可不是件容易的事。

七點鐘，聖城的天氣還很涼快，但是信眾們不怕勞累與辛苦，集聚在山門口參加三步一拜，來表示對上人的感恩與追思。難得來一次聖城，弟子們都不願意入寶山而空手回，所以只要有修行的機會，大家都不肯輕易放過。

八點一刻，上人涅槃紀念法會正式開始。大帳篷在法師及居士通力合作下，成為非常莊嚴的道場。臨近各分支道場的法師，帶領信眾，絡繹不絕地在大清早就趕路回來。越南籍的明照法師，是上人的忠實弟子，每年這一天，法師即使在百忙中，也必定要抽空回來參加。跟隨而來的諸多南傳法師，使法會更具有特殊的意義，這不正是上人畢生致力於佛教南北傳大團結的表徵嗎？

Getting up at 3:30 AM and doing the Morning Recitation at 4:00 AM seems like a hard task for many people. Despite this early time, many people arrived at the Buddha Hall prior to 4:00 AM. On the sublime occasion of commemorating the Master's Nirvana, over four hundred people vigorously attended the Morning Recitation.

After the Morning Recitation, the Eight Vegetarian Precepts were transmitted. These pure precepts originated from the Buddha's great compassion to give lay supporters an opportunity to plant the seeds of transcending the mundane and experience what monastic life is like. Many people who come to CTTB do not find eating one meal a day and not eating after noontime difficult. However, it is often the case that as soon as they leave the City, they realize that their stomach is no longer obedient. Only then do they discover that maintaining the pure vegetarian precepts is not such an easy matter.

The temperature was still chilly at 7:00 AM in CTTB. However, many disciples gathered at the mountain gate for the practice of Three Steps, One Bow to show their gratitude to the Venerable Master. Since it is such a rare opportunity to come to the City, the disciples did not want to "return home empty-handed after having entered the mountain of jewels." No one wanted to pass up any opportunity to cultivate.

At 8:15 AM, the commemoration ceremony formally began. The big tent, where the service was conducted, had been turned into an adorned Bodhimandala. Dharma Masters and lay disciples from branch monasteries had been arriving at the City since early in the morning. The Vietnamese monk, Dharma Master Ming Chau being the Venerable Master's loyal disciple, took time out of his busy schedule to join this commemoration every year, and this year he was accompanied by many other Vietnamese Dharma Masters, making this day that much more splendid. This is certainly a sign of the Venerable Master's lifelong efforts to unite the different traditions of Buddhism.

Another feature of the commemoration was the numerous grey robes, the religious garb of sincere Vietnamese lay-followers.





法會的另一特色是——灰色的海青。不用問，就知道這是虔誠的越南信眾。每年的這一天，一眼望去，有三分之一的信眾都是越南人。不禁使我們想起，上人在越南淪陷前曾去弘法，在聖城早期曾辦越南難民營，現在上人的書籍許多已譯成越南文，因緣成熟，難怪應機而來的越南人越來越多。

九點鐘，大眾念著上人名號，依序排班到無言堂繞塔，瞻仰上人舍利，緬懷上人的德澤。無言堂內尚供養著佛陀及「虛」雲老和尚舍利，並陳列上人生前所用之物，每當重要法會，才會開放給大眾瞻仰及禮拜。

緊接著舉行很特殊隆重的傳供儀式，一百零八道精心製作的齋菜或寶物，一一由與會的信眾手中傳遞並作供養，來表達大家對上人無盡的崇敬與追思之意。傳供後，大眾到大齋堂用齋，平日綽綽有餘的大齋堂，現在座無虛席，而且不敷使用，同時開放小齋堂，並把道源堂改成臨時齋堂應急。以目前情勢來看，建造大型佛殿和多功能的場所，來接引逐年增多的信眾，已是聖城刻不容緩的要務。

依照聖城傳統，每逢大法會用齋時，僧眾會輪流做法布施。恆實法師首先針對千餘名信眾，應機說法。法師鼓勵大家要純素食，他說目前全球暖化，氣溫不斷上升，其實最大的元兇是牛糞，因為牛糞所發酵出來的氣體破壞了大氣層。為什麼有這麼多牛糞？因為人類吃肉，所以要養很多牛。而且牛糞不但造成全球暖化，因沖洗牛糞所用大量的水滲入地下，或排入河川，也污染了飲

Every year on this day, about one-third of the participants are Vietnamese. We cannot help but recollect that the Venerable Master went to Vietnam to propagate the Buddhadharma in December of 1974, shortly before the fall of South Vietnam. In the early 1980s he set up a refugee training and resettlement program at CTTB and now many of the Venerable Master's books have been translated into Vietnamese. Perhaps these affinities from the past are now coming to fruition.

At 9:00 AM, participants recited the Venerable Master's holy name and proceeded to the Hall of No Words to revere the relics and to cherish the memory of the Master's virtue and kindness. The Hall of No Words displays the *sharira* of the Buddha, the *sharira* of the Venerable Master Hsu-Yun, as well as many items that were used by the Venerable Master. This hall is open to the public for veneration only on important occasions and Dharma assemblies.

After that, the Grand Meal Offering Ceremony was an important part of the day's religious services. During this ritual 108 carefully prepared items consisting of vegetarian dishes and precious jewels are passed from one participant to another as offerings to express supreme reverence and remembrance toward the Venerable Master. After this special offering, the assembly proceeded to the dining hall for lunch. On normal days there is ample space in the main dining hall, but on this day not an empty seat could be found. In fact, the dining hall was not big enough, so the small dining hall and Dao Yuan Hall were both opened to accommodate all the devotees.

According to CTTB's tradition, members of the Sangha take turns to speak the Dharma during lunch in special Dharma assemblies. Dharma Master Sure was the first to address the more than one thousand people in attendance. He encouraged everyone to consider a vegan diet, because one of the main causes of global warming is the gas produced from cow manure, which also destroys the atmosphere. The high demand for beef by humans means large scale cattle raising which generates great quantities of cow manure.



用水。將來飲水要比汽油來得貴，因為沒有乾淨的水源。站在環保的立場，這是人類必須考慮素食的主因。

比丘尼恆貴師介紹位於沙加緬度的法界聖城，將在七月四日舉行素食文化展覽會，歡迎信眾蒞臨參加。這個為提倡素食的活動，由法總五個分支道場合辦。參加者可學習用素食材料，去做出可口菜餚。

午齋後，傳授三皈五戒，並舉行放生法會。上人涅槃十二週年紀念法會旋即圓滿閉幕。有形的法會雖然落幕了，可是這個法會卻凝聚了所有對上人有十足信心的信眾的力量，不管是南傳佛教或北傳佛教，都齊心合力，與法界佛教總會攜手，共同為完成上人未竟的志業而努力，讓佛法不斷地在西方發揚光大，利益更多的眾生。

同時藉著這個法會，上人在每個人心中所種下的善法根苗都得到滋潤與增長。藉著憶念上人的追思法會，大家互相勉勵，勿忘失菩提心，共同在菩提道上勇猛精進，做上人的一隻手眼，來報答上人的法乳之恩。

The water from flushing animal feces seeps into the ground water and rivers, thus polluting the sources of our drinking water. In the future, our drinking water will be more costly than gasoline since there may not be many sources for pure water.

Bhikshuni Heng Gwei also introduced the City of the Dharma Realm, which will host a Vegetarian Food and Culture Fair on July 4th. She welcomed everyone to participate in this event which is co-sponsored by five branch monasteries in order to promote vegetarianism. Participants will be able to sample delicious vegetarian and vegan food.

After lunch, the ceremonies for Taking Refuge in the Triple Jewel and receiving the Five Precepts were conducted along with a Liberating Life Ceremony. That concluded the ceremony to commemorate the Venerable Master's Nirvana. This event allowed Buddhists of various traditions to unite in carrying on the Venerable Master's work of causing the Buddha Dharma to flourish in the West so that it can benefit living beings.

This Dharma assembly nourished everyone's Bodhi seeds and Dharma roots. By the remembering the Venerable Master, we encourage one another to not to lose sight of our original Bodhi resolve. May we vigorously advance on the path to Bodhi and may we work together to repay the kindness of the Venerable Master who gave us the most supreme gift of all: the genuine Buddha Dharma.