



感師恩德

In Gratitude to Our Teacher's Kindness

比丘尼恒然 一九九九年一月十七日講於萬佛城空中弘法節目
Spoken by Bhikshuni Heng Ran at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas on January 17, 1999
for a radio program in Los Angeles
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主持人：今天要為大家介紹恆然法師，她在萬佛城擔任廚房典座多年，今年將近七十歲了，但是精神和體力都非常的健旺，比年輕人還更有勁。

然法師：我是什麼都不懂的人，在沒有皈依三寶以前，都是糊里糊塗過日子。皈依上人以後才知道人生這麼短暫，這麼無常，讓我學到許多。師父上人常常教導我們，他對每一個人的教法都不一樣，這一點讓我真的很感恩。

我通常只有在晚課時間，才去上殿做晚課、聽經；白天我幾乎都在廚房工作。上人有空就會到廚房去，講一些他以前的事情，還講一些佛法。我跟上人講：「我沒有什麼時間，很少去拜＜大悲懺＞，很少去上殿。」

上人說：「你年紀大了，就好好念佛。」

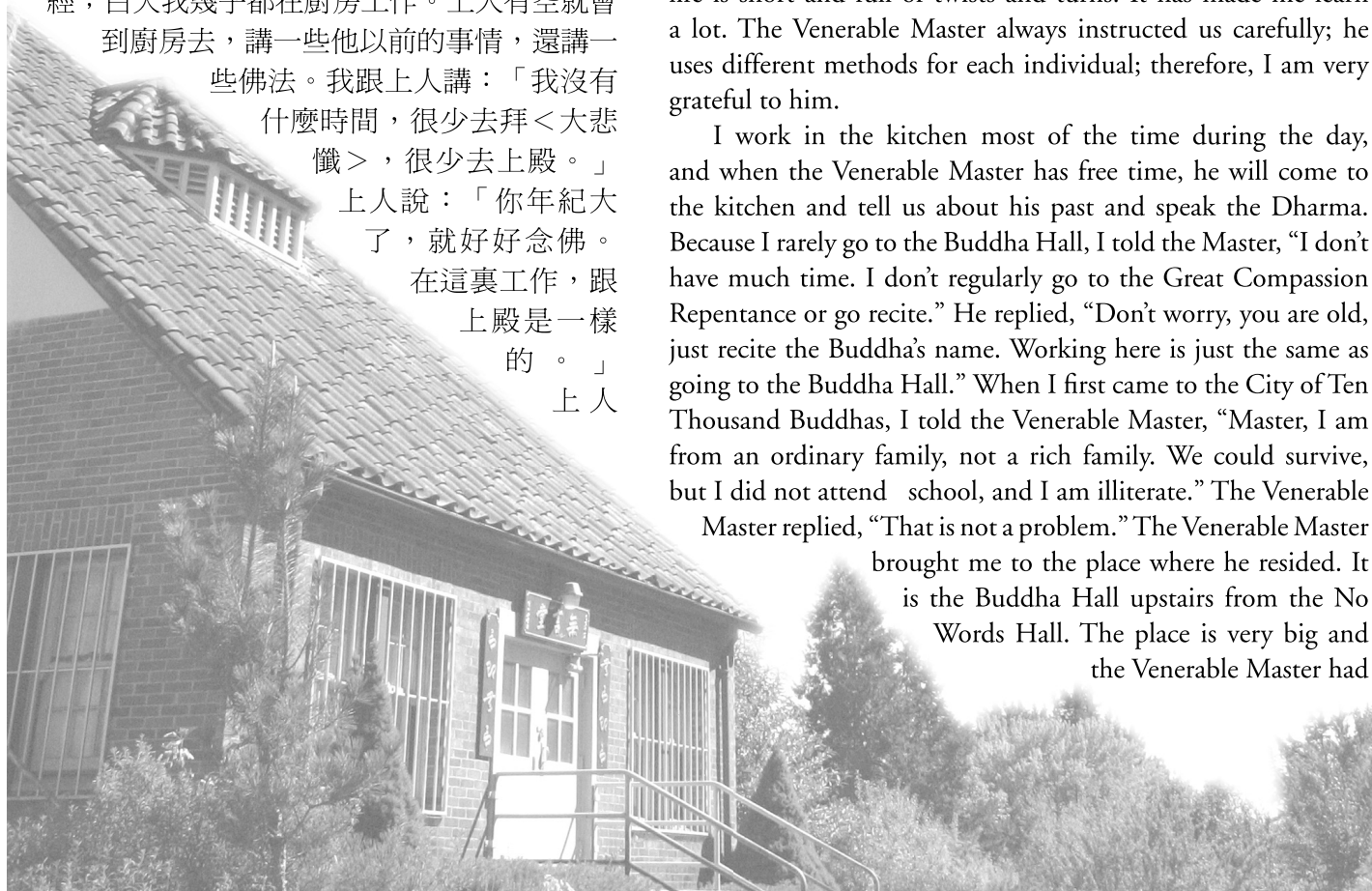
在這裏工作，跟上殿是一樣的。」上人

Presenter: We will introduce Dharma Master Heng Ran to everyone today. She has been the kitchen manager at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas for many years. She is nearly 70 years old. However, her physical strength and energy levels are still very strong, even stronger than many young people.

Dharma Master Ran: I am actually a person who doesn't know anything, and it was only after I took refuge with the Venerable Master that I started to learn. Before taking refuge with the Master, with the Triple Jewel, my life was very confused. After I took refuge with the Venerable Master, I realized that life is short and full of twists and turns. It has made me learn a lot. The Venerable Master always instructed us carefully; he uses different methods for each individual; therefore, I am very grateful to him.

I work in the kitchen most of the time during the day, and when the Venerable Master has free time, he will come to the kitchen and tell us about his past and speak the Dharma. Because I rarely go to the Buddha Hall, I told the Master, "I don't have much time. I don't regularly go to the Great Compassion Repentance or go recite." He replied, "Don't worry, you are old, just recite the Buddha's name. Working here is just the same as going to the Buddha Hall." When I first came to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, I told the Venerable Master, "Master, I am from an ordinary family, not a rich family. We could survive, but I did not attend school, and I am illiterate." The Venerable Master replied, "That is not a problem." The Venerable Master

brought me to the place where he resided. It is the Buddha Hall upstairs from the No Words Hall. The place is very big and the Venerable Master had



鼓勵我念佛。記得剛來萬佛城的時候，跟上人說：「師父，我是一個普通家庭的人，不是很有錢的家庭，我沒有讀書，不識字。」上人說：「沒有關係。」接著上人就帶我去他住的地方，那是無言堂樓上的一個佛堂，很大，那佛堂供奉很多佛菩薩。上人就講六祖大師的故事——六祖大師也是不識字，沒有讀書。他說，最討厭人家講錢的問題，只要拿出真心和誠心就夠了！那個時候雲法師也在場，如果她沒有忘記的話。

上人讓我在這裏學習修行，他給我們上好幾門課，有論語課、對聯課、《涅槃經》，我在上課和晚上聽經中學了很多。雲法師鼓勵我練習寫字，她說：「不管寫幾個字，都沒有關係。」我們上課的時間有一個半鐘頭；晚上聽經也是一個半鐘頭。我就拿一張白紙，好像上論語課的時候，黑板上有字，我就照著寫。一個晚上寫不到十個字，寫一筆就要看一下黑板，這樣地練習寫字。



我旁邊的人寫的字都很漂亮，我很羨慕；一個是本法師，一個是頤法師，一個是雲法師，還有貴法師。我就慢慢一筆一筆的要寫得像她們一樣，就這樣練習，後來我就寫得比較快了。我也抄經典，就這樣讀，這樣學習，學到現在；上人的開示錄、講經的解釋，現在我都看得懂，還有〈金剛菩提海〉月刊，這些我都看得懂了。讓我學習這麼多，我真的很感激。

為什麼？我小時候沒有機會讀書，到現在才讀書。看看！上人建立這麼好的道場讓我們修行；住的地方這麼好，不用愁穿、愁吃、愁住。我們一般在社會上讀書，還要去擠公共汽車，還要趕時間；我們在這裏讀書，也不要趕時間，也不要擠公

many Buddhas in there. The Venerable Master told me the story of the Sixth Patriarch. He said that the Sixth Patriarch was also illiterate and did not attend school. The Venerable Master hates it when people talk about money; he said that Buddhists only need sincerity and devotion. At that time, Dharma Master Yun was also present, if she still remembers.

The Venerable Master taught us the *Analects of Confucius* lessons, gave couplet classes, and lectured on the *Nirvana Sutra*. I have learned a lot from the classes and at the evening lectures. Dharma Master Yun encouraged me to write; she said, "It doesn't matter how many words you write." We have one and a half hours every day for class and another one and a half hours for the evening lecture. I would always bring a fresh piece of paper just like I did during the class on the *Analects* and then I would copy every word from the blackboard. I couldn't even finish writing ten words each night because I needed to look at the blackboard for every pen stroke. This is how I practiced my writing.

I admired the people around me because they all have beautiful handwriting. I wanted to write as well as they did so I slowly practiced. After a while, I could copy and write faster. I could even copy sutras while listening to the Venerable Master's lectures; I have learned and practiced like this up to present. I can understand most of the Venerable Master lectures. I can even understand the Venerable Master's explanation of the sutras now. Today, I can even read the monthly journal of *Vajra Bodhi Sea*. I am really grateful to the Venerable Master because he helped me learn so much. Why? I did not have a chance to learn as a child, and now I do. Take a look! The Venerable Master has created such a good place for us to cultivate and stay; we don't have to worry about what to wear, what to eat, or where to stay. Most ordinary people in the society have to take public transportation and rush to school in the morning. We who study at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas do not need to hurry or catch a crowded bus because everything is ready for us to learn. I really appreciate this.

Presenter: Based on your achievement in learning, I would say that if the Sixth Patriarch had a chance to cultivate in such a place as the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, he would also have learned how to read.

Dharma Master Ran: I really appreciate the Venerable Master's kindness; I can never repay the merit in this life or the next. Nor can we repay the Venerable Master for the compassion he has shown us. Each time he finishes lecturing, he will then talk about the past or speak the Dharma for me because I rarely make it to the Buddha Hall. Only at the evening ceremony will I go to the Buddha Hall to recite and to listen to evening lecture. The rest of the day I usually work

共汽車。都是現成的，在我們面前，讓我們學習。

主持人：以您目前的學習成果來看，如果當年六祖大師也有機會在像萬佛城這樣的道場修行的話，相信六祖大師也會認識字。

然法師：我真的很感激這種恩德，生生世世都報不完，還有很多上人對我們的慈悲。每次上人給我們講話，講一講他就會停下來問：「我講話聽得懂，聽不懂？」我點點頭，說：「我聽得懂。」等一下再講一段時間，他就再問：「我講話聽得懂，聽不懂？」就這樣子，我永遠都忘不了他那種慈悲的樣子。

主持人：是。宣公上人人生前常常講，佛教要復興，實在需要在佛教界訓練人材，因此特別在萬佛聖城創辦法界佛教大學，所有在萬佛城修行的，無論是出家人、在家人，上人都希望大家能夠在佛法當中，不斷地充實自己，盡量鼓勵大家多讀書，多上課。

然法師：上人的慈悲我真是不能在短短的時間用嘴巴講出來，跟上人這麼多年了，那種的感激，是一生以來沒有碰到過的。上人有時候還會叫人去買好立克，這麼大罐的好立克。冬天一到他就買很多，說是給我們大家暖和暖和身體，叫我們泡來喝。

主持人：因為萬佛城冬天很冷。

然法師：那個時候，我們臺灣還沒有分支道場。在美國這裏，因為他們不是佛教徒，比較不懂得要供養，所以上人建立萬佛城真是很不容易，很不

at the kitchen. The Venerable Master would always stop and ask, "Do you understand what I say?" I would nod my head and say, "I understand." After awhile he would once again ask, "Do you understand what I say?" The Venerable Master is very compassionate in this manner; I will never forget his kindness.

Presenter: Yes. Venerable Master always said during his lifetime that there is a need for Buddhism to prosper. It is very necessary to train skilled people inside the Buddhist community. Therefore, the Venerable Master established Dharma Realm Buddhist University at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. The Venerable Master hoped that everyone cultivating at CTTB could learn from the Buddhadharma and continue to better themselves; he encouraged everyone to study more and to attend more classes.

Dharma Master Ran: I cannot use words to describe in this short period of time the Venerable Master's compassion. After I have been with the Venerable Master all these years, my gratitude is a once in a lifetime feeling. The Venerable Master often asked people to buy a big can of Horlicks (malted milk hot drink). When winter came, the Venerable Master would buy a lot of Horlicks and tell us to drink it in order to keep us warm.

Presenter: Because winter in the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas is very cold.

Dharma Master Ran: At that time, Taiwan didn't have a branch monastery. In the U.S., people don't know the tradition of making offerings because they are not Buddhist. Therefore, establishing the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas is a difficult and daunting task for the Venerable Master. According to the elder nuns, when they first came to the city,

they ate nothing but carrots everyday. Because the laypeople did not know better, they brought a full load of carrots and nothing else. The nuns ate carrots every day for about a month.

Presenter: They almost turned into rabbits!

Dharma Master Ran: During the winter season, the Venerable Master would have us buy some instant drinks to help warm us up. The Venerable Master had to take care of everyone as his or her mother and father. The Venerable Master was so caring that he took notice of all the minor things that troubled us such as our need for warmth in the winter. It was really hard for the



簡單。我聽前面的師兄說，她們剛來萬佛城的時候，天天吃胡蘿蔔，因為信眾不懂，就帶了一大卡車的胡蘿蔔。當時什麼都沒有，只有胡蘿蔔，她們就天天吃胡蘿蔔，吃了一個月。

主持人：快要變成小白兔了。

然法師：上人什麼都要照顧，也要做爸爸，也要做媽媽。連這麼微細的事，他都會想到，冬天這麼冷，就會叫人去買泡的東西，拿來廚房說給大家暖暖和和身體。這麼多年來我真的體會到上人的為人，他的慈悲，這麼辛苦地來教導我們。我們都在妙語堂等上人回來上課，他每一個禮拜要去金山寺三天，有時候塞車，就會比較晚一點到。那麼熱的天氣，上人很節省，車子沒有冷氣的。他一下車，也沒有說進去他住的寮房，擦把汗，喝口水，都沒有，就直接進去妙語堂給我們上課，連一分鐘都不浪費。甚至於他去金山寺都是早上六點以前就出發，為了省一塊錢過橋費。

主持人：當年過金門大橋的過橋費。

然法師：他為了省一塊錢，六點之前一定要走，那時候我常常跟上人去金山寺，到了金山寺我也是在廚房做，上人也到廚房講法。上人教導弟子，每一個人他教的方法都不一樣。因為他知道我不識字，看也看不懂，又怕我聽不懂，他就特別抽時間來講給我聽，所以我對上人真的很感恩，沒有辦法形容的！

Venerable Master to teach his disciples. I cannot say much but for all these years that I have experienced the Venerable Master's compassion and kindness, I can say that he really worked hard to teach us.

Sometimes when he came back late from Gold Mountain Monastery, we would wait at Wonderful Words Hall for the Venerable Master to give his lectures. He went to Gold Mountain Monastery three times a week; sometime there would be a traffic jam so he would be a little late. The weather was very hot, but the Master was so frugal that his car did not have air-conditioning. Once he arrived, he would not stop by his room to rest, drink water, or even wash his face but would go straight to the hall to hold class. He never wasted even a minute's time. The Venerable Master left before six o'clock in order to save money on the bridge toll.

Presenter: During that time the Golden Gate Bridge charged a toll.

Dharma Master Ran: In order to save a dollar, he left by six. I always accompanied the Venerable Master to the Gold Mountain Monastery. I also worked at the kitchen in Gold Mountain Monastery and the Venerable Master, as usual, would come to the kitchen and give us a Dharma talk. Therefore, the Venerable Master had his own way of teaching each and every disciple. Because he knew that I was illiterate and he was afraid that I didn't understand, he specially took time out to explain. Henceforth I cannot express my gratitude towards the Venerable Master's kindness.

通告 *Announcement*

過去法號為恆長（親邇）與恆德二比丘，多年前擅自離開宣化上人所創立之法界佛教總會萬佛聖城及其所屬之各分支道場後，即與本會不再有任何關係，本會未授權他們為代表；其一切言行，法總不負任何責任。特此聲明。

法界佛教總會僧團委員會

Many years ago, the bhikshu formerly named Heng Chang (Chin Er) and Bhikshu Heng De chose, of their own volition, to leave the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas and the branch monasteries of Dharma Realm Buddhist Association (DRBA), founded by Venerable Master Hsuan Hua. Please be informed that they are no longer related to DRBA in any way, they are not authorized to represent DRBA in any way, nor does DRBA take any responsibility for their speech or actions.

DRBA Sangha Committee