



## Always Guarding the Virtue of Jianzai (Messenger and Superintendent of Food), Vowing to Protect the Monastery In Memory of Bhikshuni Heng Wei Shr

恒守監齋德 偉願護道場——

# 悼比丘尼恒偉師

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比丘尼釋恒偉，俗名張愛，1915年4月出生於廣東省龍江縣。中國動亂之世，人人生活困苦艱辛之時，終於等到學佛的因緣，於1957年11月19日42歲時，皈依上宣下化老和尚，上人賜法名果宏。

果宏居士自此一心學佛，隨上人及資深比丘尼恒益法師，常在香港西樂園、佛教講堂、大嶼山慈興禪寺，聽經聞法、誦經拜懺、護持道場，任勞任怨，接受種種磨練。老人家擅於廚藝，約於1970年左右，就長期負責廚房工作，為大眾煮食。上人曾於1970年間派數位外籍法師到慈興寺翻譯經典，她則負責照顧他們的起居飲食。在家居士們，也受過她老人家許多之恩德。

她老人家煮食供佛供僧，非常盡心竭力，從不見她在廚房發怨氣，總是抱著慈悲菩薩的心，教我們煮最好味的飯菜給佛菩薩和大眾。晚上帶著疲累的身心返房休息，常常連早晚課也沒時間參加。

恒偉師說，她回房間打坐，只會念大悲咒和觀世音菩薩聖號。當她靜下來的時候，就有很多的感應。尤其在慈興寺裏，她聽經時見過佛、菩薩、蓮花、祖師，也見過天龍拜佛；煮飯時見過監齋菩薩、土地公、祖先等等；在佛教講堂亦見過天龍從上人的房間出沒，在志蓮淨苑亦看到上人在她的附近。念珠常不離手，口裏不停地念佛聖號；她的修持和護持道場的

Bhikshuni Shi Heng Wei, lay name Zhang Ai, was born in April of 1915 in Longjiang county, Guangdong Province. She was born at a time when China was at war and everyone's life was hard. Finally her long-awaited affinity to study Buddhism arrived, and she took refuge with Venerable Master Hsuan Hua on November 19, 1957, at age 42. The Venerable Master gave her the Dharma name Guo Hong.

From then on, the laywoman Guo Hong studied Buddhism wholeheartedly. She followed the Master and the senior Bhikshuni, Dharma Master Heng Yi, and always attended the sutra lectures, sutra recitations, and repentance ceremonies in Hong Kong at Western Bliss Gardens, Buddhist Lecture Hall and at Cixing Monastery in Lanto Island. She was always there to protect and support the monastery, and she would undertake all sorts of tasks and criticism and accept all sorts of discipline. She was an excellent cook. Around 1970, she was assigned to take care of the kitchen and prepare food for the assembly. The Venerable Master sent a few foreign Dharma Masters to Cixing Monastery in 1970 to translate sutras, and she was responsible for their daily meals. The laypeople also received many favors and kindnesses from her.

She always put all her effort in making food to offer to the Buddha and the Sangha, and you never saw her complain or get mad in the kitchen. Furthermore, she always carried a compassionate Bodhisattva's heart while teaching us how to cook wonderful dishes for the Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, and the great assembly. At night she would take her tired body to rest; usually, she didn't have any time to attend the morning and evening ceremonies.

Heng Wei Shr said, when she went back to her room to meditate, she only knew how to recite the Great Compassion Mantra and the name of Guanyin Bodhisattva. The moment she quieted herself down, she would experience lots of responses, particularly in Cixing Monastery. She said that while listening to the sutra, she saw the Buddhas, the Bodhisattvas, lotus flowers, and the Patriarchs; and she also saw heavenly dragons bowing to the Buddha. While cooking, she saw Jianzai Bodhisattva, local deities, ancestors, etc. In the Buddhist Lecture Hall, she saw a heavenly dragon appearing and vanishing from the Venerable Master's room. And at the Zhilian Hermitage, she saw the Venerable Master nearby her. Her recitation beads never left her hands,

心，始終如一，正如《法華經普門品》說「功不唐捐」。

當年還是在家眾的恒偉師曾經向上人請求出家三次，上人就開示，說她的業障很重，一定要給道場服務，多做工，消業障，才能夠有福報出家。如果你好好修行，將來地藏王菩薩會來接你。她聽從上人的開導，常住在道場三十餘年，做種種的苦工。終於1988年出家修行，是年73歲。又於1995年9月21日，授具足戒，賜字號恒偉。

恒偉師受具足戒後，即住美國修行，後因氣候、生活習慣等等不太適合，返回香港慈興寺常住，繼續她的工作。其後因年事漸高，身體日漸退化，得了膽結石而須動手術。老人家心裏忐忑不安，祈求佛菩薩及師父上人加被。在手術日的前一天，她從大嶼山慈興寺到佛教講堂住一宿，等待明天到醫院。奇怪地，當晚她就有一個感應，夢見上人走近她的面前，伸手在她的心內，用手掌一剔，膽石就不見了；上人亦不見了。第二天她醒來覺得心裏沒那麼痛。她到醫院再照X光等待做手術，當醫生檢看她的X光片時，她的膽結石奇蹟似地突然消失了，和以前的片不一樣了。醫生告訴她：「你不須要動手術啦，可以出院了！」回去後，她身體亦漸漸痊癒。

還有一則，她求上人幫她找回失散了幾十年的兒子，也真地實現了；這種種感應可說是恒偉師的誠心修持，所得到上人慈悲的加持。

恒偉師因年事漸高，於2000年85歲時，搬進志蓮安老院，其間亦幫志蓮看守大小殿堂。老人院亦讚頌她這把年紀還如此精明能幹，將餘下之精力貢獻常住，實在值得我們敬重。志蓮淨苑上下對恒偉師都嘖嘖稱奇，對她的捨報示寂，甚感惋惜。

恒偉師示寂於2009年農曆五月初一凌晨，在佛教醫院睡臥之中安詳往生，世壽95歲，僧臘十四年。恒偉師在生時，常常提起歡喜乘願再來，將此污垢之女身轉為男身，出家修行，幫助上人弘揚佛法，普度眾生。在此我們對恒偉法師大半生的貢獻，致萬分之敬意。

and her mouth never stopped reciting the Buddha's name. Her mind for cultivation and her spirit in protecting and supporting the monastery was unwavering. As it says in "The Universal Door Chapter" of the *Lotus Sutra*, her "effort will not be in vain."

When Heng Wei Shr was still a layperson, she asked the Ven. Master three times for permission to enter the monastic life. The Master explained to her that her karmic obstacles were very heavy, and that she had to do more work for the monastery to reduce her karmic obstructions so that she would have enough blessings to leave home. He said, "If you sincerely cultivate, Earth Store Bodhisattva will come and take you in the future." After hearing the Master's instructions, she resided in the monastery for over 30 years, doing all sorts of hard labor. Finally, in 1988, she left home under the Venerable Master at the age of 73. On September 21, 1995 she took the complete precepts, receiving her ordained name Heng Wei.

Afterwards, Heng Wei Shr stayed and cultivated in the U.S.; however, because she wasn't used to the weather and the lifestyle, she returned to Hong Kong and stayed in Cixing Monastery to continue her work. Afterwards, because of her old age, her body started to degenerate day after day; she also had a gallstone and needed surgery. She was very disturbed by this and prayed to the Buddhas, Bodhisattvas and the Ven. Master to give her support. The day before the surgery, she came down from Cixing Monastery to stay at Buddhist Lecture Hall overnight. Amazingly, that night, she had a response: she dreamed that the Ven. Master came to her, reached his hand inside her, and picked up the gallstone in his palm. The gallstone disappeared, and so did the Master. The next day when she woke up, she felt that she wasn't hurting like before. When she went to the hospital and had her X-ray, the result showed that the gallstone had miraculously disappeared. The doctor told her that she didn't need surgery anymore and could leave the hospital. After returning home, her body slowly recovered.

In addition, she once asked the Venerable Master to help her find her long lost son for many years; and sure enough, she found her son. These responses that Heng Wei Shr received were because of her sincere cultivation, which gained her the Ven. Master's compassionate support.

In 2000, at age 85, Heng Wei Shr moved to Zhilian Senior Home. While at Zhilian, she would help look after the halls. The people in the senior home praised her for being skilled and competent. Even close to the end of her life, she was still contributing her remaining energy and effort for the monastery; she was really a great person worthy of respect. Zhilian Hermitage expressed their great admiration for Heng Wei Shr, and was really sorry to hear about her passing away.

Heng Wei Shr passed away peacefully in her sleep before dawn on May 1, 2009, in a Buddhist hospital. She was 95 and had been ordained for 14 years. Heng Wei Shr had always mentioned that she would gladly vow to come back in a male body, leave home and cultivate, so that she can help the Venerable Master to propagate the Dharma and save living beings. We sincerely put our palms together to bow in respect to Dharma Master Heng Wei for her great contributions in the last half of her life.