



上人的故交旭朗老和尚於2009年9月29日在美國洛杉磯往生，享壽90，佛教界從此失去一位善知識。上人說他的唱念在中國是數一數二的，是大家公認的「讚王」。旭朗老和尚1919年4月27日出生於中國遼寧省，15歲出家，18歲授具足戒，僧臘75，戒臘72夏。他的弟子們遵照旭老的遺囑不登報，不發訃文，更不大事鋪張花費辦理他的後事。從以下法界佛教總會主席恆實法師悼唁信，以及譚果式居士的追思一文，可知旭老之行儀，是我們的楷模。誠盼他的典範啟迪後進，使佛法大興。

旭旭慧光曾遺愛 此日雖銷  
慧光常存 娑婆界外猶普照  
朗朗梵韻久繞樑 今身已滅  
梵韻宛在 彌勒院中亦遙聞

本刊編輯部 文

## 敬悼<sup>上</sup>旭<sup>下</sup>朗老和尚

*In Memory of the  
Venerable Elder Master Xu Lang*

The Venerable Master's old friend, the elderly monk Xu Lang (or Yuk Long in Cantonese), passed into stillness on September 29, 2009, at the age of 90 in Los Angeles. The Buddhists of the world have thus lost a wholesome and wise advisor. The Venerable Master said that his chanting and recitation was considered No. 1 or No. 2 in China, and he was recognized as the "King of Buddhist Chanting." The elderly monk Xu Lang was born on April 27, 1919, in China's Liaoning Province; he left the home-life at age 15, received full precepts at age 18, and was ordained for seventy-two years. His disciples followed Master Xu Lang's instructions not to print obituaries and advertisements in the newspapers, not to distribute obituaries to anyone, and definitely not to spend great expenses to lavishly prepare his funeral and remembrance rituals. From the following letter of remembrance written by the President of the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association, Rev. Heng Sure, and the tribute written by Upasika Madalena Tam, we know that Master Xu Lang serves as our role model. We sincerely hope that his virtuous example will inspire us to advance and make the Buddhadharma prosper.

*The light of wisdom of Xu-Xu has left behind love.  
Although he is no longer with us today,  
His light of wisdom will remain forever.  
Universally shining throughout the Saha world.*

*The pure melodies of Lang-Lang surround one and linger in the air constantly.  
Although his life has been extinguished,  
The pure melodies still linger.  
One can still hear them remotely, in the midst of the Maitreya Palace.*

By the Editorial Staff

謹呈 洛杉磯妙法院 照初大法師座前

照初大法師法鑑：

個人謹代表已故禪宗大師宣化上人諸弟子，暨法界佛教總會各道場與萬佛聖城，為佛教長老旭朗老和尚圓寂一事，敬申悼唁。

個人素知宣化上人與旭朗老和尚過去在中國、香港以迄於美國之深遠法緣，亦親睹尊師之慈悲為先師在一九九五年圓寂時，舉行悼念儀式；老和尚不唯親駕長堤聖寺領導法會，之後又遠涉萬佛聖城主持佛事。老和尚亦慷慨廣賜法教，尤以梵唄與修持正法為勝；其維那之令譽，可謂無遠弗屆。旭老雖則已矣，而其典範長存世界，遺愛廣澤人心。肅此，敬抒悃誠，並致弔慰。

法界佛教總會主席  
釋恆實敬唁  
於公元二〇〇九年十月六日

Ven. Chao Chu  
Mystic Dharma Temple  
5206 North Figueroa St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90042

Oct. 6, 2009

Dear Ven. Chao Chu,

On behalf of the disciples of the late Chan Master Hsuan Hua and the wider community of the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association and the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, I am writing to express our condolences of the entering Nirvana of the Elder Dharma Master Rev. Sik Yuk Long (釋旭朗).

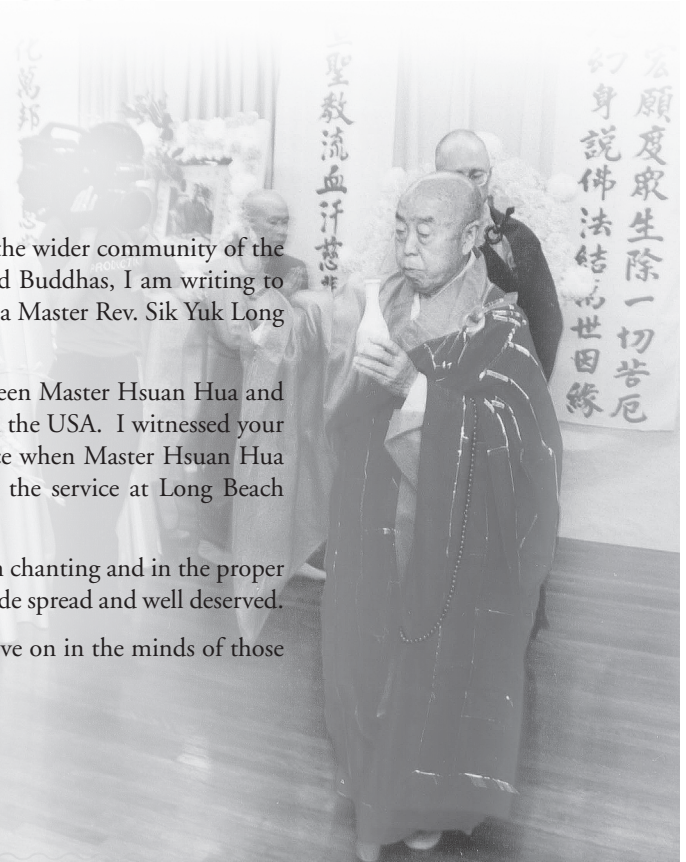
Over the year, I have learned of the deep affinities that existed between Master Hsuan Hua and Master Yuk Long when they were in China, Hong Kong, and also in the USA. I witnessed your teacher's compassion when he convened a memorial chanting service when Master Hsuan Hua entered Nirvana in 1995. Master Yuk Long came forward to lead the service at Long Beach Monastery, and later at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas.

He was also generous with his instructions in Dharma, particularly in chanting and in the proper cultivation of devotions. His fame as a cantor (Wei Nou 維那) was wide spread and well deserved.

Elder Master Yuk Long will be deeply missed but his memory will live on in the minds of those he benefited so richly.

Sending you our best wishes and sincere condolences,

Heng Sure  
President  
Dharma Realm Buddhist Association



## 中國的一代「讚王」——悼念上旭下朗老和尚

*The "King of Buddhist Chanting" in China:*

*In Remembrance of the Elder Master Xu Lang*

譚果式 文 By Madalena Tam

楊若欣 英譯 Translated into English by Jo-Shing Yang

9月29日中午電話鈴聲響起，傳來噩耗：「旭朗老和尚圓寂了！」十天前，因為旭老的弟子很擔憂老和尚不進食，叫我去看看他，我曾去拜見過他。雖然心裡早有準備，消息傳來還是忍不住驚愕不已，對方接著又說：「不過，老和尚走得很安祥，無疾而終，福報好大呀！」

由於旭老看著我從小長大，而他來美後，能和他談談往事的人沒有幾個，所以每次拜訪老和尚，他都留我吃飯聊天。可惜老和尚遠住洛杉磯，無法常去

On September 29, the phone rang at noon, and I received the distressing news: "The Elder Master Xu Lang has entered nirvana!" Ten days ago, because the Master Xu's disciples were concerned that he was not eating at all, they asked me to visit him and I did. Although I was psychologically prepared for this sad news, when the message arrived, I was nevertheless stunned and shocked. The other party then continued, "However, the Elder Master passed away very peacefully, dying without illness—he really had many blessings!"

Master Xu had watched me grow up. After he came to the United States, not many people could talk about the old times with him. Hence, whenever I visited him, he would ask me for lunch and then chat. Unfortunately he lived so far away in Los Angeles that I couldn't visit him more often! On the day I visited him, he was very weak, but he still got up to talk with me; his

親近！那天旭老身體很衰弱，卻起來和我說話；看起來氣色還不錯，只是講話沒什麼力氣。想不到這次的見面，卻成永別！眾生業重，又有一位大德入滅了！

記得小的時候到西樂園（師父在香港的第一個道場）參加法會，印象最深的就是聽到一位法師用一種非常悅耳又莊嚴的聲音在唱念佛讚；那個聲音可以說是「繞樑三日，不絕於耳」，實在令人回味無窮！

我一向喜歡唱歌，加上對這位法師唱念的仰慕，因此我跑去請問師父（宣化上人）那位維那法師是誰？師父說：「這位法師是旭朗法師，你們知道嗎？在沒有解放之前，他的唱念在中國是數一數二的，尤其是唱讚。如果說他是第二，就沒有人敢認第一了，他是大家公認的『讚王』。他唱得當然是好呀！」師父繼續說：「我在廣州南華寺的時候就認識他，沒想到我們在香港東普陀寺又遇上了，所以我請他來法會幫忙。你們願意跟他學，我就請他教導你們如何？」

果然沒多久，師父向大家宣佈：「誰想跟這位『讚王』學唱念，快來報名！」師父又說：「我不懂唱念，不能教你們。你們能跟這位『讚王』學習，要拿出真心去學，不要錯失這個好機會！這位『讚王』願意教你們，是你們的福氣！」聽師父這樣一說，大家就一窩蜂的都要跟旭朗法師學唱念。

開始的時候，大家都以為很好玩，很容易的；想到自己站在佛前，拿著法器敲敲打打，多威風啊！那知道旭朗法師教學十分認真，打法器更是一絲不苟。我記得第一天上課，有二、三十位居士參加，有六、七十歲的，也有四、五十歲的人，我算是最年輕的一個。

待續

complexion appeared not too bad, but he didn't have much strength and energy to talk. It is hard for me to think that this meeting turned out to be our last one. The collective karma of living beings is so severe that one more virtuous Master has left us and entered nirvana.

I remember that when I was young, I used to go to the Western Bliss Garden (the Venerable Master's first monastery in Hong Kong) to participate in the Dharma assemblies, and the most memorable aspect was hearing a particular Dharma Master sing and chant praises to the Buddhas with his melodious, yet solemn and dignified voice; that voice seemed to surround one and linger in the air and in my ears constantly. It was indeed most impressive and unforgettable!

I have always loved singing, and on top of that, I admired this Dharma Master's singing and chanting; so I went to ask the Venerable Master who that cantor master was. The Master said, "This Dharma Master is called Xu Lang. Do you know that before the liberation in China, his chanting was considered to be one of the best? Especially in chanting praises, if you said that he was second best, no one would dare to be the best. He was the recognized 'King of Buddhist Chanting.' Of course he sings very well!" The Master continued, "I knew him when I was at Nanhua Monastery in Guangzhou. I didn't expect to see him again at Eastern Potola Monastery in Hong Kong. So I have invited him to help out with the Dharma assemblies. If you are willing to learn from him, then I can ask him to teach you—how's that?"

Sure enough, not long after, the Master announced to everyone: "Whoever wants to take lessons with the 'King of Buddhist Chanting,' sign up now! I don't know much about chanting, so I cannot teach you. If you can learn from this 'King of Buddhist Chanting,' then you must have lots of blessings!" Upon hearing the Master's words, everyone rushed to sign up for chanting lessons with Dharma Master Xu Lang.

In the beginning, everyone thought that it would be fun and easy. People imagined themselves standing in front of the altar and playing Dharma instruments, presenting an awe-inspiring and impressive sight. Who could have known that Dharma Master Xu Lang actually took teaching very seriously, and that he was similarly meticulous about playing Dharma instruments. I remember that approximately 20 to 30 lay people attended the first day of class; they were in their 60s and 70s, also in their 40s and 50s. I was the youngest person in the class.

To be continued