

《金剛菩提海》40週年

VBS 40th Anniversary

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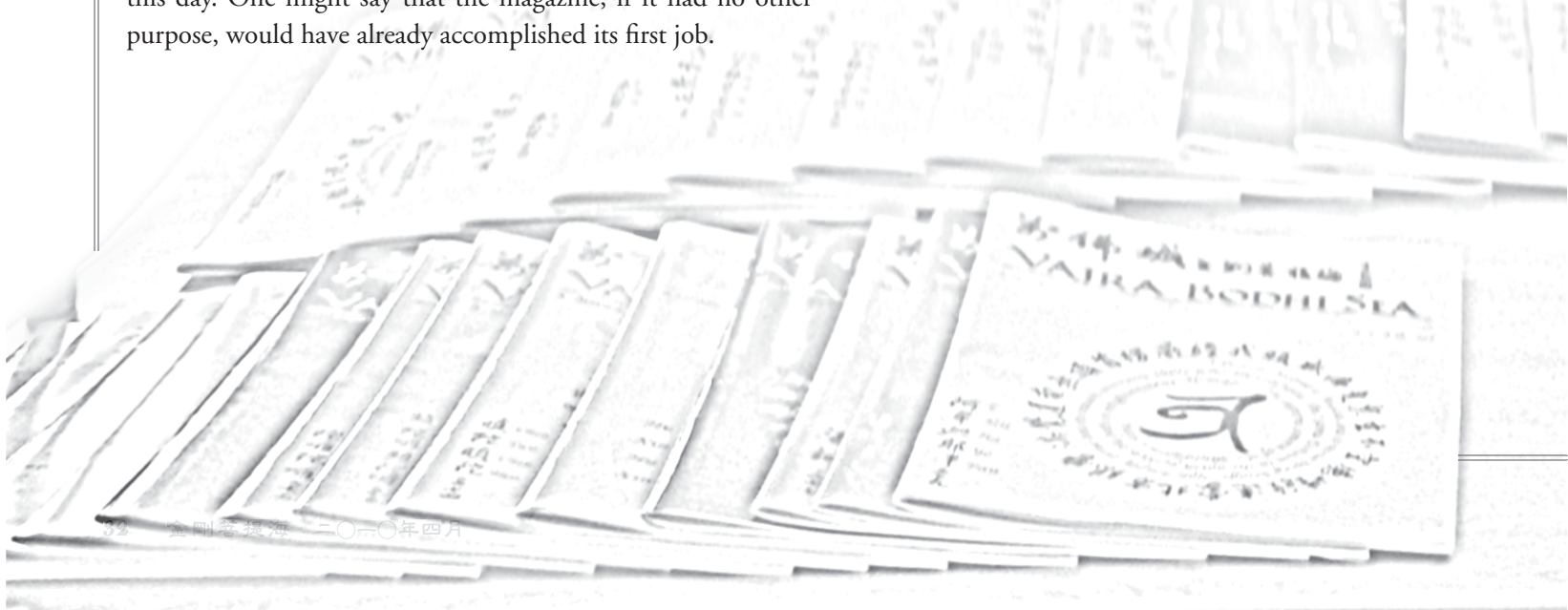
法界佛教總會會長 President of the Board of Directors of Dharma Realm Buddhist Association

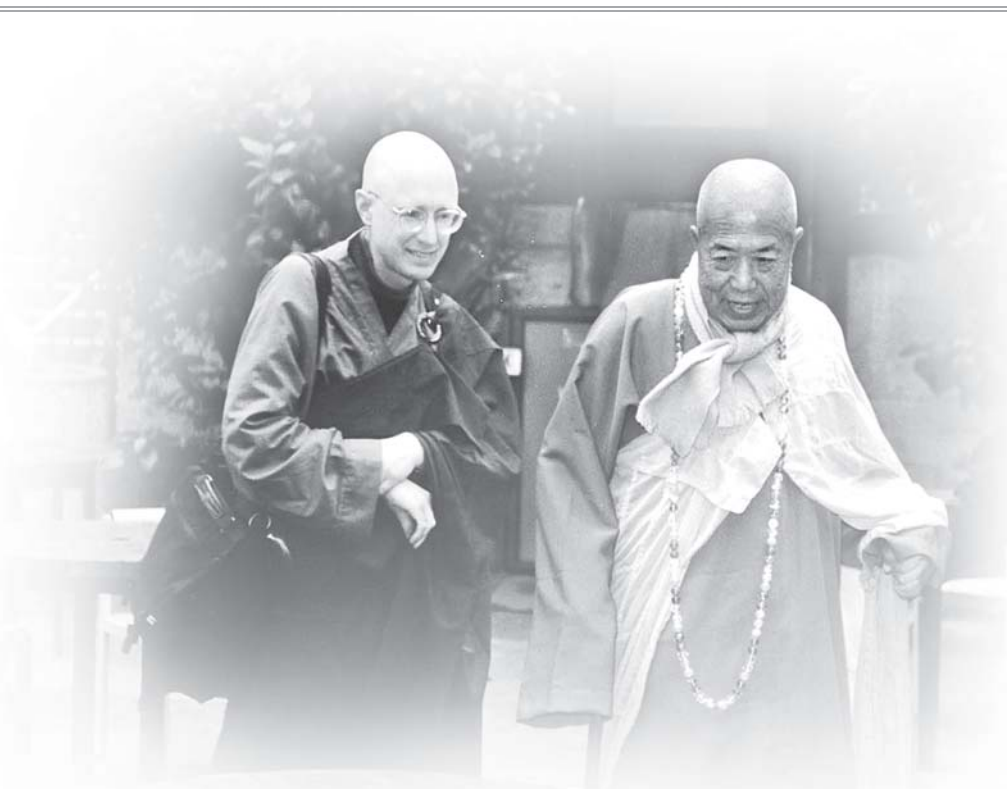
Vajra Bodhi Sea (VBS) has been in existence for 40 years. There are few religious journals with such a long and continuous lifespan. Vajra Bodhi Sea embodies the late Master Hsuan Hua's vision of how a religion can spread through society via publications, and how the printed word has power to carry new ideas and to transform society. In the early days of Gold Mountain Monastery, our teacher published the first issue of Vajra Bodhi Sea. On the cover of the magazine was a line drawing, accompanied by one line of the mantra. That mantra had a job; it announced the arrival of the proper Dharma in San Francisco, in California, and in the United States.

According to Master Hua, the magazine cover gave a warning to negative forces and destructive energies that the Buddha Dharma had officially arrived and meant to clean up the atmosphere and set up the traditional virtues of a righteous society. Quite a challenge for a small monthly periodical! From that time on, progressively with each new issue, another drawing and another line of the mantra appeared and so it continues to this day. One might say that the magazine, if it had no other purpose, would have already accomplished its first job.

《金剛菩提海》已經四十年了，很少宗教刊物有這樣一個長而持續的壽命。金剛菩提海體現了已故宣化上人的願景——宗教如何才能經由出版物傳播於社會，以及印刷文字如何有力去執行新的觀念以改造社會。在早期的金山寺，我們的老師出版了《金剛菩提海》的第一期。該雜誌的封面是一張線條圖，伴隨著一組咒語。這咒語有一份作用，它宣布正法已來到舊金山、加州和美國。

依上人的指示，月刊的封面對負面而具破壞性的邪魔發出了一個警告：佛法已正式到來；這意謂著清理妖氛和建立一個有傳統美德的正義社會。對一小型月刊，這真是個相當大的挑戰！從那時起，隨著每一期新的內容而增加另一張圖畫、另一句咒語，一直持續到今天。人們可能會說，這本月刊即使沒有其他目的，也已經完成了它的第一個使命。





Vajra Bodhi Sea has other unique qualities, for example, it has never carried any commercial advertisements. Further, it has always mirrored the efforts of our teacher to propagate the Buddhist teaching in both English and Chinese. There are few magazines in the world that regularly appear in two languages. VBS is bilingual from beginning to end; if one used the magazine as a language-teaching resource, one could earn a great deal of English or Chinese by studying the translations.

An outstanding characteristic of the magazine is that it carries sutra text as well as the Venerable Master's commentary. Our teacher tirelessly explained the meaning of Mahayana sutras for over thirty years. He also introduced the lives of great Buddhist teachers from the past, and he encouraged the brand-new Western Sangha to find expedient and interesting ways to introduce the Dharma to Western society. All of these activities appear each month in VBS.

Our teacher predicted that in the future a complete set of VBS would be recognized as a jewel beyond price. When future historians of religion seek evidence of the spread of Buddhism into Western culture, they could not do better than study the pages of Vajra Bodhi Sea.

《金剛菩提海》還有其他獨一無二的性質，例如，它從來沒有刊載任何商業廣告。進一步，它總是反映了我們老師以英文和中文傳播佛法的努力。在世界上很少有雜誌定期地以兩種語言出現。而《金剛菩提海》自第一頁至最後一頁都是雙語；如果有人使用本月刊作為一種語文教學的資源，他可能藉著研究翻譯的文章而學到很多中文或英文。

月刊的一個卓著的特徵是，它刊載經文以及上人的淺釋。我們的老師不厭倦地解釋大乘佛教經典的意思，已有三十多年；他還介紹了偉大的過去佛教高僧的事蹟，以及鼓勵全新的西方僧伽找到方便而有趣的方式，把佛法介紹到西方社會。所有這些活動訊息每個月出現於《金剛菩提海》。

我們的老師預言，一套完整的《金剛菩提海》在未來將被承認為一個無價之寶。當未來的史學家，尋求佛教傳入西方文化的證據，沒有比從《金剛菩提海》來研究更好了。(法興 中譯)