



Report on Literary Activities on the 15th Anniversary of the Venerable Master Hua's Nirvana

By the Editorial Staff / Translated into English by Michael Lu

自從1995年宣公上人入涅槃之後，轉眼間已十五年了。法界佛教總會四眾弟子對上人的感恩與懷念有增無已，上人宏大的志願：弘揚佛法、建立僧團、翻譯經典、提倡教育、宗教交流等，已落實在西方，並嘉惠無數後人。培德中學特於上人涅槃十五週年之際，舉辦徵文比賽、宣公上人事蹟百問網路徵答，及上人事蹟問答比賽等活動，除了緬懷上人德澤之外，也讓世人更深入瞭解上人一生行誼，而生景仰效尤之心。



宣公上人涅槃 十五週年 藝文活動報導

編輯部 文 / 呂明賜 英譯

Since the Venerable Master Hua entered nirvana in 1995, in the blink of an eye, fifteen years have passed. The four assemblies of the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association are increasingly sincere in their gratitude and commemoration of the Venerable Master. The Venerable Master's great vows: propagating the Buddhadharma, establishing the Sangha, translating the sutras, promoting education, and advocating interreligious dialogue, etc., have already inspired, and benefited countless people of future generations in the West. Developing Virtue Secondary School held a special series of activities such as an essay writing contest, an online contest of 100 questions on the Venerable

Master's Biography, and a Venerable Master Biography Contest for the 15th Anniversary of the Venerable Master's Nirvana. Not only did we cherish the memory of the Venerable Master's virtue, we also gave people in this world a better understanding of his life, in the hope that they will find in him a role model to emulate.

The essay writing contest covered both Chinese and English. Contestants were divided into Group A (Adult), Group B (High School), and Group C (Elementary School). The deadline for submitting essays was May 31. Essay submissions arrived from all over America, Canada, China, Taiwan, Malaysia, and other places. The contents varied greatly from the causes and conditions of meeting the Venerable Master, to the influences one received from the Venerable Master. After careful and meticulous judging and reviewing, the results were posted on the DRBA website on June 15. The essays that won awards will be published one after another in Vajra Bodhi Sea and also posted on the Chinese and English websites of DRBA.

The online 100 questions contest on the Venerable Master's Biography was mostly for the people who visit the DRBA websites and admire the Venerable Master's virtue and conduct but have not had the affinities or opportunities to come to CTTB to participate in our activities. So we especially designed a list of questions based on the Venerable Master's Biography, so the participants could investigate and read it beforehand. On June 7, the date of the Venerable Master's nirvana in the solar calendar, the actual "test" was emailed to them. The participants then answered the questions and emailed them back to us. Most of the online contestants

徵文比賽採中、英文分組比賽，又分成A組（成人）、B組（高中）、C組（小學）三組，於五月三十一日截稿。此次投稿者來自美國各州、加拿大、中國大陸、臺灣、馬來西亞等地，內容則廣泛於與上人之因緣及所受影響。經審慎評審之後，已於六月十五日於法總網站公佈比賽結果，得獎作品將陸續刊登於〈金剛菩提海雜誌〉及法總中英文網站。

「宣公上人事蹟百問網路徵答」活動，主要係針對法總網站讀者，他們非常景仰上人之德行，卻又無緣到萬佛城參加各種活動，因此特別以上人一生之事蹟，設計題庫，供報名者事先研讀。再於六月七日陽曆上人之涅槃日，寄發正式之問卷，由讀者作答之後寄回。此活動之參加者以中國大陸讀者居多，主因是上人之法音透過法總中文網站，已在中國廣泛受到歡迎之故。有些讀者除了感謝主辦單位之辛勞，舉辦如此有意義之活動，並希望將來有活動時能再次通知他們。

宣公上人涅槃十五週年紀念法會於六月二十日上午舉行，下午一點在道源堂舉行「宣公上人事蹟問答比賽」。參賽者大部分為聖城內的住眾，也有來

參加法會的信眾。根據去年佛學常識比賽成功的經驗，今年我們特別鼓勵由家庭組成之親子隊，在八個隊伍中有兩個家庭隊，每隊三人，隊名則採萬佛城內大家最熟悉之名稱：育良、培德、大悲、喜捨、菩提、龍樹、馬鳴、麒麟等。

雖然名為比賽，但大家在歡悅趣味中展開了君子之爭。有幾個隊是暗中努力已久，有備而來，故分數扶搖直上。有的隊因太忙，臨時抱佛腳，但對宣公上人事蹟亦是耳熟能詳，也能分庭抗禮。一開始，很多人對比賽規則不熟悉，以致雖然答對了，但因不完整，所以一再被扣分，逗得大家開懷大笑。萬佛城平常大家都比較嚴肅，難得有如此輕鬆歡樂之場面。最後決賽時，競爭異常激烈，竟然有三隊得分相同，並列第一，結果皆大歡喜，比賽因而圓滿收場。

此次宣公上人涅槃十五週年藝文活動，承蒙世界各地的信眾及學生踴躍參與，除了讓活動多采多姿、熱鬧有趣之外，也讓大家對宣公上人一生偉大的行誼，更加瞭解與景仰。我們希望藉此殊勝而有意義的活動，讓更多的人發菩提心，學習宣公上人「流血汗、不休息」的精神，來改變世道人心，使我們的世界變得更美好。

were from China, because the Venerable Master's Dharma teaching has become very popular in many parts of China by virtue of DRBA's Chinese website. Some of the participants not only expressed their appreciation for the hard work of organizing such a meaningful activity, but also requested to be informed of other similar activities in the future.

The Dharma assembly for the Commemoration of the 15th Anniversary of the Venerable Master's Nirvana was held on the morning of June 20. There was also a Venerable Master's Biography Contest at 1 p.m. in the Daoyuan Hall. Most of the contestants were residents in CTTB, but there were also some Dharma friends who had come to attend the Dharma assembly. Based on the successful experience of last year's Buddhist Knowledge Contest, we encouraged families to form parent-child teams this year. Of the eight teams that participated, two were family teams. Each team had three people, and the teams were given names familiar to everyone in CTTB: Instilling Goodness, Developing Virtue, Great Compassion, Joyous Giving, Bodhi, Dragon Tree, Horse Whinny, and Unicorn.

Even though it was a competition, everybody played cordially in the midst of laughter and fun. Some teams had already practiced diligently in secret for a long time. They

were well prepared, so their scores rose higher and higher. Some teams were too busy to study, so they prayed for the Buddha's help at the last minute. However, since most contestants were well acquainted with the Venerable Master's biography, they were able to hold up for a while. In the beginning, many contestants were not familiar with the rules, so even though they answered correctly, they did not give a complete answer, so points were deducted, making people laugh. The residents of CTTB are usually reserved in manner, so it was rare to have such a relaxed and humorous scene. In the final round, the contest was even more intense; in the end, three teams received the same score, so all of them won first place. As a result, everybody was filled with great joy, and the competition concluded successfully.

This year's literary activities for the 15th Anniversary of the Venerable Master's Nirvana were possible due to the Buddhists and students who participated enthusiastically from all over the world. Not only were the activities more exciting with variety, making them lively and interesting, but they also gave everyone a deeper understanding and admiration for the great deeds of the Venerable Master. We hope that these outstanding and meaningful activities will inspire more people to bring forth the Bodhi mind and emulate the Venerable Master Hsuan Hua's spirit of "shedding blood and sweat, but never pausing to rest," and thus transforming people's hearts to create a more wholesome world.