

Sailing the Sea of Suffering, Crossing People Over: True Stories of Guanyin Bodhisattva's Responses (Continued)

果真老法師 講於2010年7月24日萬佛城大殿
A talk given by Dharma Master Guo Zhen on
July 24, 2010 at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas
比丘尼恆異英譯
Translated into English by Bhikshuni Heng Yi

一位退休老教授住在美國，他很不幸的患了肝癌末期。醫生說大概不超過六個月就會往生，家人都不敢告訴他。他的兒子是虔誠的佛教徒，信觀世音菩薩，持大悲咒。他平常上班很忙，有一天他請假去看他的爸爸。拿出有大悲咒的錄音機，跟他爸爸說：「你現在調養期間可能會無聊，就放這個聽，不要中斷，對你的身體很好，這樣時間也過得比較快。不然的話，一個人很無聊的。」他的爸爸有善根，從那天開始，整天不停地放大悲咒。六個月後，他不知不覺地會誦大悲咒了。慢慢地，也吃得下食物，人也有精神了。七個月以後，他到醫院去複診。主治醫師說：「噫！你是吃什麼藥方？你的癌症縮小，現在變成良性了。」他說：「沒有呀！我什麼都沒做呀！」「你一定有什麼方法，告訴我！」主治醫師一再追問。他說：「沒有啦！我就是放佛教的大悲咒。」「大悲咒這麼好？！」連醫生都驚訝，感動了醫生。他因為兒子的孝順，多活了五、六年，以後很自在往生。

現在談到我媽媽，二十幾年前家母業力現前，得了乳癌，到榮總去住院開刀。有位法師知道這個消息，很慈悲地說：「聽說你媽媽住院，我要去看她。」我很感激，大概有五、六個佛友陪法師去看我媽媽。法師慈悲給我媽媽開示後，準備了一杯水，開始



苦海常做渡人舟 ——觀音菩薩感應真事（續）

A retired professor lived in the States. He was suffering from terminal liver cancer. The doctor said he had six months to live, but his family did not have the courage to tell him. His son, a very devoted Buddhist, has great faith in Guanyin Bodhisattva and recites the Great Compassion Mantra as part of his daily practice. He works a lot, but he took off work one day to spend time with his father. He brought a tape recorder with him that played the Great Compassion Mantra. He suggested to his father that he play the tape 24 hours a day, non-stop. He told his father that listening to the tape would help him. Not only could it make him healthier, but it could also serve as a companion that would accompany him throughout the day. The professor apparently had good roots. From that day on he played the Great Compassion Mantra tape, all day. After six months, he was able to recite the Great Compassion Mantra from memory. Eventually, he was able to take in solid

持大悲咒。我們擔心會打擾人家，就把病房的門關起來，但是沒有鎖，別人要進來隨時都可以。在法師帶領之下，我們持大悲咒十幾遍，持了十分鐘。持到一半的時候，巡房的護士來了，也不知道是怎麼搞的，房門就是打不開，我們幫忙也沒用。等到迴向之後，門才開了，也許是護法龍天不希望護士進來干擾吧！我媽媽開刀很順利，這可以說是大悲咒的威力。我那個時候還在銀行上班，常常到大興善寺請大悲水，給媽媽喝大悲水，還用棉布沾大悲水敷她的胸部。大概過了五、六年，我媽媽安然往生。這是我親自的體驗，跟大家分享。

相信觀世音菩薩不只是我們中國人，日本人也很有恭敬觀世音菩薩。大概是一百年前，東京有一個大地震，地震加上火災，整個東京差不多快燒光了。觀音堂在東京是很有名的，我們現在到日本觀光，都會去參觀。當時的人們拼命的跑到這個觀音堂裡，哀求觀世音菩薩。結果在堂裡面的老百姓都平安無事，而外面的人死傷很多。所以唸觀世音菩薩能夠救苦救難，不可思議。

有一個二十幾歲的小姐，先天智障，消災解運都沒有效果，家人很煩惱。有一天她跑出來逛逛街，當時剛下過雨，在泥濘的地上，看到一個紅色的袋子。好奇的撿起來，打開一看，裡面有一尊觀世音菩薩的小像，她很高興拿起來擦一擦，就放到口袋裡。回到家，跟家人說：「我在路上，撿到一尊觀世音菩薩像。」家人說：「好啊！妳好好的保存，要記得唸觀世音菩薩！」她從那一天開始，就唸觀世音菩薩。唸、唸、唸，半年以後智力恢復一些，可以正常的生活了。家裡的人都覺得不可思議，把這個紅袋子供在佛堂上。

觀世音菩薩法門很多，心經是觀世音菩薩法門之一，我們早晚課都有唸心經。我喜歡跑精神醫院，台灣台北的蘆洲有一家精神醫院。醫院裡面，有一位四十歲左右的女病人，沒有結婚，原本上班，後來被人裁員。住的房子是租的，自己又沒有儲蓄，生活發生困難。

foods and his health improved. Seven months after his last appointment with the doctor, he went to have a checkup. The doctor was surprised and asked him, "What kind of treatment have you received?" The tumor had shrunk and become benign. The old professor said, "None. I didn't take any medicine or receive any treatment." The doctor couldn't believe what he was hearing and eventually the professor said, "What I did was listen to the Great Compassion Mantra." The doctor was really surprised to hear that the Great Compassion Mantra could cure cancer. And this was due to the filiality of the son. The professor lived five or six more years and passed away peacefully.

Now I'd like to share with you a story about my own mother. It happened more than twenty years ago, when my mother's karma had ripened, which caused her to suffer from breast cancer. She was staying at the Veterans General Hospital to have surgery. There was a Dharma Master who heard the news about my mother and kindly said, "I heard your mother is hospitalized. I would like to visit her." I was very grateful for her kindness. About five or six other Buddhist friends accompanied the Dharma Master to the hospital. The nun spoke to my mother. Then, she poured a glass of water and began reciting the Great Compassion Mantra to the water. We were worried about disturbing other patients, so we closed the door to the room without locking it, so people could come in if needed. We recited the Great Compassion Mantra more than ten times for over ten minutes, at which time a nurse came by for a routine checkup. The nurse couldn't open the door. We tried to help open the door from the inside, but it failed to open. The door would not open until after we made the dedication of merit. Perhaps, the Dharma protectors didn't want the nurse to interrupt us. It was fortunate that my mother's operation was very successful. At that time, I worked for a bank and frequently went to Da Xing Shan monastery to request the water blessed by the Great Compassion Mantra. I made my mother drink the water and spread the water over her breasts with cotton. She lived for another five to six years before she peacefully passed away. This is a personal experience I wanted to share with you.

While the Chinese people have great faith in Guanyin Bodhisattva, the Japanese are also very reverent toward Guanyin Bodhisattva. About one hundred years ago, Tokyo had a very severe earthquake, which snapped electrical lines and started an enormous fire, nearly burning Tokyo to the ground. There is a very famous temple, Guanyin Hall. We go there every time we visit Japan. During the time of the disaster, many people in Tokyo ran to the temple to pray for help. The people who were inside the Guanyin Temple were all saved, while many others outside were injured or even died. So this is another response from reciting Guanyin's name.

This story is about a lady in her twenties who was mentally disabled. The family had tried various methods to help her, but nothing seemed to work. They were really worried. One day while the woman was outside, she found a red bag in the street. She picked up the bag out of curiosity and found a small statue of Guanyin inside. She was delighted! She rubbed the statue clean and put it in her pocket. When she got home, she told her family, "I found a Guanyin Bodhisattva statue in the street." The family replied,

長期憂鬱變成精神錯亂，亂叫、亂罵，而且常常想跳樓自殺。鄰居很煩惱，後來被送到這家醫院住院治療。醫生給她開鎮靜劑，但是幾個月都沒有效果，病情沒有穩定下來。醫院的黃主任是虔誠的佛教徒，他就想一個辦法教她抄心經。他準備有一格一格的稿紙和原子筆給她，又拿樣本給她看。「妳每天要抄，抄十次以上，一定要抄。」她也很聽話，就抄、抄、抄。一天、兩天、三天，我去看她的時候，她還在抄。結果呢？住院將近一年都沒有效果，抄心經抄三個月，竟然精神完全恢復。她現在病完全好了，看見我也會頂禮，在裡面做義工，幫助更苦的病人。所以抄心經，也能夠治病；這個女病人的病，假如沒有抄經的話，是沒有辦法治療的。

唸觀世菩薩不只是人類，連鳥或者是公雞都會唸，這是我親耳聽到的。大概三十年前，我還在上班。妙通寺有法會，都會去住一、兩天。早齋以後，到外面散散步。那後面有一個小小的空地，養了好幾隻公雞。師父說牠們會唸阿彌陀佛，我們就很好奇的去看看。我們唸阿彌陀佛，牠們真的就跟著唸阿彌陀佛；我們唸一句，牠們就唸一句，那個聲音清清楚楚的。還有大興善寺空中飛的野鳥，也會唸觀音菩薩，這是我親耳聽到，可見觀音菩薩廣度眾生，無量無邊。

佛法在恭敬中求，一定要至誠恭敬。印光大師一直強調：「一分誠敬，一分利益；十分誠敬，則十分利益。」我們對佛像、法寶、課誦本、錄音帶，一定要至誠恭敬，隨便亂放是有罪過的，這是我們平常很容易犯的錯誤。

台北有一位吳小姐，她是法界印經會的護法居士。她告訴我，有一次請大悲咒的錄音帶回家，放在桌上，有空就按錄音機跟著唸。有一天，她匆忙中把先生的衣服放在錄音帶的上面，把錄音帶蓋住。隔天，她想聽大悲咒，把帶子放入錄音機裡面。奇怪！每天放都有聲音，怎麼這次沒有聲音？她忽然間想起昨天的情景，把先生的衣服放在大悲

“Great! Take good care of it and remember to recite Guanyin Bodhisattva's name!” From that day on, she started reciting. She recited, recited, and recited, and after about six months her mental processes improved and she was able to live independently. The whole family thought it was an incredible blessing from Guanyin. They've placed the red bag to revere in their worship hall at home.

There are many practices related to Guanyin Bodhisattva. Reciting the *Heart Sutra* is one of these practices. We all recite the *Heart Sutra* during morning and evening recitation. In Luzhou, Taipei, there is a psychiatric hospital I liked to visit. A single female patient about forty years old was living there. She had gotten laid off from her job, was living in a rented house, and did not have any savings. Her life became very difficult and long-term depression caused her to go insane. She was screaming and cursing all the time. Many times she said she wanted to jump off a building and commit suicide. The neighbors were annoyed and later she was sent to the psychiatric hospital for inpatient treatment. The doctors in the hospital had to use drugs to sedate her, but even that didn't calm her down. Finally, Dr. Wang, the director of the hospital who is a devout Buddhist, came up with the idea for her to copy out the *Heart Sutra*. He prepared the manuscript and pen for her to write and made a sample for her to copy. “You must copy the sutra every day, ten times or more,” he said. “Be sure to copy.” She followed his instructions and wrote and wrote. When I went to visit her, she was still copying. After about three months, she recovered her mental stability. She had become very clear in her mind and would bow to me when she saw me. Now she volunteers at the hospital helping other patients. So here's an example of a positive response from copying the *Heart Sutra*.

Human beings are not the only creatures who recite Guanyin Bodhisattva's name. Birds or even roosters can recite as well. This is from my own experience about thirty years ago when I was still working. Whenever Miao Tong Temple held monastic events, we would go and stay there for about two days. One morning after breakfast, I took a walk and found a small open space behind the Temple. There were several roosters. We were told that these roosters could recite Amitabha Buddha's name. When we recited Amitabha's name, they followed along. You could hear them recite the Buddha's name very, very clearly. And also at Da Xing Shan Temple, I heard some wild birds in the sky reciting Guanyin Bodhisattva's name. From this, we can see Guanyin Bodhisattva's salvation is measureless and boundless.

The Buddhadharma can be beneficial when we have great sincerity and respect. The great Dharma Master Yin Guang always emphasized: one share of sincerity and reverence will invoke one share of the benefits; ten shares of sincerity and reverence will invoke ten shares of the benefits. We need to be very respectful and cautious in our treatment of the images of the Buddha, Buddhist texts, recitation books, and tapes. Carelessly leaving any of these items in a disrespectful place can be an offense. It is a common mistake we often make in our everyday lives.

I have another story: Miss Wu, from Taipei, is a volunteer at the Dharma Realm Buddhist Books Distribution Society. She enjoyed reciting the Great Compassion Mantra and had requested for a tape of the mantra to bring

咒錄音帶的上面。「是不是我太不恭敬了？」馬上跑到觀世音菩薩面前懺悔，說：「我以後絕對不敢再犯這種不恭敬的行為！」至誠懺悔之後，再放錄音帶，錄音機恢復正常，又有聲音了。

聖城是觀世音菩薩的道場，大殿供奉的就是千手千眼的觀世音菩薩，每年三次的觀音七，每天中午一次大悲寶懺。在這個亂世，能夠有這麼殊勝莊嚴的道場，非常難得。印光大師曾經開示，在這個亂世、天災人禍這麼多的時刻，要多唸觀世音菩薩。我們除了唸佛以外，要加唸觀世音菩薩，觀世音菩薩救苦救難很快。希望大家能夠發心唸，自利利他，自己得到利益，再迴向給法界一切眾生離苦得樂，同生西方，共證菩提。我們唸觀世音菩薩就是要學菩薩的精神，做菩薩的化身。希望大家學習觀世音菩薩的同體大悲、無緣大慈；也希望這次的觀音七，所有參加信眾都能觀自在、吉祥如意、身體健康、福慧增長，早日成就佛道。阿彌陀佛！

近梵法師：感恩老法師，給我們這麼多精彩的故事及法布施。俗話說「家有一老，如有一寶。」他的經驗還有智慧，不是年輕人所可以比得上的。如果常常在聖城的佛殿，你就會發現佛殿裡其實有很多寶。

home. She placed the tape on her desk, and just about every day she would play the tape and follow the recitation. One day she was in a hurry; she casually put her husband's clothes on top of the tape. The next day, when she went to play the tape, it wouldn't play. She was very curious. How come? The tape was playing very well, so why wouldn't the tape work now? Then, she thought that maybe she was disrespectful to the mantra. She remembered that she had covered the tape with her husband's clothes. So she immediately went in front of the Bodhisattvas to repent for what she had done. After her repentance, the tape played again. So we see that we need to be very respectful towards the Dharma.

CTTB is actually a place of practice devoted to Guanyin. In the Buddha Hall we worship the Guanyin Bodhisattva statue with a thousand hands and a thousand eyes. We have three Guanyin recitation sessions each year, and we have the Great Compassion Repentance every day. It is very rare to have so many opportunities to pay reverence to Guanyin Bodhisattva. Great Master Yin Guang said that in very chaotic and disastrous times, we should recite Guanyin Bodhisattva's name often, in addition to reciting Amitabha Buddha's name. We hope, in this way, we can help ourselves and other people as well. We can dedicate the merit to all living beings of the Dharma Realm, wishing them all to leave behind suffering and obtain bliss, and eventually obtain rebirth in the Western Pure Land.

When reciting Guanyin Bodhisattva's name, our purpose is to emulate Guanyin Bodhisattva and act as her transformation body, which means we should have great compassion and kindness, and treat everybody as one. Finally, I would like to wish all of you to be able to, like Guanyin, contemplate at ease, to have auspiciousness in everything you do, to have good health, and to increase your blessings and wisdom. May every one of you quickly realize Buddhahood.

Jin Fan Shi: We are very grateful to Dharma Master Guo Zhen for sharing so many interesting Dharma stories with us. There is a saying in Chinese: "Having an old person in the family is like having a treasure." His experience and wisdom are by far better than young people. If you always come to our Buddha Hall, you'll find many treasures here.