

The Avatamsaka Sutra English Translation Event Hosted by Dharma Master Sure

恒實法師主持《華嚴經》英譯



宣公上人說：「《華嚴經》也就是法界經，也就是虛空經。盡虛空、遍法界，沒有一個地方不是《華嚴經》的所在處。《華嚴經》的所在處，就是佛的所在處，也就是法的所在處，也就是賢聖僧的所在處。」宣公上人攜法西來，在一九七一年開演此經，歷經九年半始圓滿結經。雖然弟子們在上人講經時即著手翻譯，但當時西方弟子中文程度有限，無法把經文義理完全表達出來。後繼的翻譯者如雨後春筍，逐漸修正潤飾，《華嚴經》的英譯本因而漸具雛型，但以翻譯者眾，各有其特殊風格，因此整部英譯《華嚴經》尚缺一貫之脈絡。

恒實法師鑑此，希望在有生之年完成此經之英譯工作。法師是《華嚴經》之行者，早在一九七六年從洛杉磯三步一拜朝拜萬佛城時，身上就揹著《華嚴經》，每拜一拜就稱念：「南無大方廣佛華嚴經·華嚴海會佛菩薩」，歷經二年九個月，始拜完全程。法師又親聆上人開演《華嚴經》，畢生弘揚《華嚴經》不遺餘力，因此在今年二月下旬時，登高一呼，召集法總四眾弟子同心協力來翻譯此經，即獲廣大迴響。

第一次譯經會議旋於三月七日在法大會議室舉行，有二十餘人參加，場面熱烈，大家都以至誠懇切之心，為此譯經大業獻上一份心力。

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The Venerable Master Hua said: “The *Flower Adornment Sutra* is the sutra of the Dharma-realm and the sutra of empty space. Throughout the Dharma Realm and empty space, there is no place where the *Flower Adornment Sutra* is not present. Wherever the *Flower Adornment Sutra* is found, the Buddha is to be found, and also the Dharma and the Sangha of Worthy Sages.” The Venerable Master Hua brought the teachings of the Buddha to the West. In 1971, the Master began lecturing the *Flower Adornment Sutra*, and completed the lecture series in nine years and six months. While the Master was lecturing the Sutra, the disciples began the English translation. At that time, due to his Western disciples’ limited knowledge of Chinese language, the meaning of the Sutra was not thoroughly or accurately translated. Later on, translators sprung up like mushrooms; so the original translation was gradually updated and polished. Hence, the English version of the *Flower Adornment Sutra* has been developing over time. However, the English version of the *Flower Adornment Sutra* has lost its consistency due to the multitude of translators and their respective styles of translation.

Dharma Master Sure noticed this inconsistency and hoped to complete an English version of the *Flower Adornment Sutra* in his lifetime. DM Sure is a practitioner of the *Flower Adornment Sutra*. In 1976, when he started the Three-Step-One-Bow pilgrimage from Los Angeles to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, he carried the *Flower Adornment Sutra*. Whenever he bowed down, he recited: “Homage to the Great Flower Garland Scripture of the Buddha's Expanded Mahayana Teachings; The Ocean-wide Flower Garland Assembly of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas.” He completed the pilgrimage in two years and nine months. Furthermore, DM Sure joined the original *Flower Adornment Sutra* lecture series taught by Master Hua, and he has dedicated his life to tirelessly propagating the *Flower Adornment Sutra*. In late February 2011, DM Sure called on the fourfold assembly of DRBA to collaborate in translating the Sutra, and the request was enthusiastically received.

The first sutra translation meeting was held on March 7, 2011 in the Conference Room of Dharma Realm Buddhist University (DRBU), with more than twenty participants eagerly joining the discussion. Every person participated with sincerity and hoped to make contributions to this noble translation work. After the first meeting, the assembly was grouped by tasks and the direction set.

The first translation work began on March 14, 2011. Lively discussion, exchange of opinions and debate occurred at that meeting. Every opinion was received respectfully. It was indeed a great learning opportunity for every participants.

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討論之後，做了初步的分組，方向既定，《華嚴經》的翻譯於三月十四日正式展開。在譯經會場上，氣氛熱絡，時而笑聲四起，每個人的意見都獲得尊重，你來我往的熱切討論不斷地進行，這也是大家互相切磋學習的契機，整個譯場可說是個「華嚴大教室」。

目前固定在每星期一上午八時十五分至十時十五分譯經，地點暫定在法大會議室。已進行三次，遠地者則以Skype方式參加。由於參與者已擴大至近五十人，其他分支道場有志者亦不乏其人，因此實法師考慮在柏克萊再成立一個小組，則可加快腳步，早日完成此經之翻譯。往後還會陸續報導譯經進行之情形，讓關心此事的讀者也能隨喜參與。

The meeting site was just like a big “Avatamsaka classroom.”

For the time being, the translation meetings are scheduled every Monday from 8:15 AM to 10:15 AM in the DRBU Conference Room. Three meetings have been held to date, with some remote participants joining online through Skype. The total number of participants has grown to almost fifty, and some volunteers from branch monasteries also show great interest in this translation work. Thus, D.M. Sure is considering organizing another translation group in Berkeley, which could help to complete the translation at a faster pace. *Vajra Bodhi Sea* will publish updates about this exciting translation work in future editions.