

# How Refreshing for Karmic Offenses to Blow Away Like Petals:

## Bowing the Emperor Liang's Jeweled Repentance at Avatamsaka Vihara

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位於馬里蘭州波多馬克區的華嚴精舍，是美國法界佛教總會在東岸的唯一分支道場。在這個美國國慶日的長週末，炎夏高溫，有人到海邊去避暑，有人在游泳池裡涼快。此時(七月二日至十日)，華嚴精舍啟建為期一週的「梁皇寶懺」和舉行為期兩天的佛學研討會，並傳授三皈、五戒。這是精舍自2003年搬遷至新址以來，第三次舉辦如此大型的法會，有近百人與會。對佛弟子來說，禮佛拜懺，滅除罪障熱惱，洗滌內心塵垢，沐浴在諸佛菩薩的慈悲願海裏，沒有比法會更清涼的去處了。

Avatamsaka Vihara, located in Maryland, is the only branch monastery of Dharma Realm Buddhist Association on the East Coast of the United States. Over this summer's Fourth of July long weekend, some people went to the beach to escape the heat and others went to cool off in swimming pools. During this period (July 2 to 10), Avatamsaka Vihara held a week-long "Emperor Liang's Jeweled Repentance" session and two-day Buddhism Symposium, and also transmitted the Three Refuges and Five Precepts. This is the third large Dharma assembly held at Avatamsaka Vihara since moving to its new location in 2003, with nearly a hundred attendees. For Buddhists, bowing to the Buddhas in repentance eradicates karmic offenses and extinguishes afflictions. It cleanses the heart and mind of impurities, and there is no place so clear and cool as the Dharma assembly in which one is bathed in the sea of the Buddhas' and Bodhisattvas' compassionate vows.

The seven days of the Emperor Liang's Jeweled Repentance, led by Dharma Masters, involved following the text and sincerely bowing in repentance. It brought forth tears of remorse in

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在七天的「梁皇寶懺」法會中，大眾在法師的帶領下，依此懺本虔誠禮懺，有人唏噓淚下，慚愧哽慟，也有感恩而涕泣。到每一卷卷尾處，每當唱出懺讚「懺文舉處罪花飛。解了冤。懺了罪。消災增福慧。龍華三會願相逢。彌勒佛前親受記。」大眾歡喜無比，深得法益。

拜懺期間，每天晚上都有法師開示。江法師談「梁皇寶懺十種供養的意義」；慎法師引《瑜伽師地論》講「菩薩六波羅蜜」，引經據典，發人深省；音法師開示「佛教與環保」，音法師曾帶領學生參觀保護農場動物的地方，聽聞者無不生起悲心，發心戒殺放生，發心茹素。最後一天傳授三皈、五戒，約五十人參加，佛堂裡站滿了人，儀式隆重。

many people, as well as tears of gratitude. At the end of every section was the repentance verse of praise, "The offenses mentioned in the text are as plentiful as flowers. Now we dissolve animosity and extinguish offenses, enabling us to quell disasters, increase our blessings and wisdom. We wish that we will meet again at the Threefold Dragon Flower Assembly and receive a prediction from Maitreya Buddha in person." Singing this verse filled everyone with Dharma joy.

During the repentance session, a Dharma Master lectured every night. Dharma Master Chiang discussed "The meaning of the ten types of offerings in Emperor Liang's Jeweled Repentance." Dharma Master Shen's talk on "The Bodhisattva's Six Paramitas" from the Yogacara-bhumi Shastra was insightful and thought-provoking. Dharma Master Yin spoke about "Buddhism and the Environment." She shared her experience leading students to visit chicken and cattle farms; those who heard were moved to greater compassion, to refrain from killing and liberate life, and to resolve to become vegetarians. On the last day the Three Refuges and Five Precepts were transmitted. About fifty people participated, and the Buddha Hall was filled with people during this dignified and meaningful ceremony.

