

法總比丘主持明州地藏七法會

DRBA Monks Lead An Earth Store Session in Minnesota



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8月22日傍晚，中西部明州佛教會喜迎萬佛聖城三位比丘—近永法師、近佛法師、近氣法師駐錫明州，主持地藏七法會。

23日清晨，法師帶領大眾在佛教會灑淨，之後並傳授八關齋戒。傳戒前，法師為大眾簡介八關齋戒的戒相及持戒功德，並教導於受戒時如何觀想以得到戒體，大家都覺得十分受用。

午齋時播放上人的開示，大眾安靜用齋之餘，同時也得到了法語的滋潤。用完午齋，緊接著是三位法師輪流講法。來自明州的佛法師特別提到，今年八月明州佛教會有五位居士到聖城求受在家菩薩戒，令他十分欣慰，也勉勵未參加的人下次要把握受戒的機會。

8月24日上午慶祝地藏菩薩聖誕，下午傳授三皈五戒。地藏七期間，每天都安排早晚課、上供、午齋、午齋講法、誦《地藏經》以及晚間講解《地藏經》，大家隨力參加，法喜充滿。晚間講經，永法師特

On the evening of August 22nd, Midwest-Minnesota Buddhist Association (MBA) welcomed Dharma Master Jin Yong, Dharma Master Jin Fo, and Dharma Master Jin Qi from The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. The purpose of this visit was to hold a one-week Earth Store Dharma Assembly.

On the morning of the 23rd, the Dharma masters led everyone to purify the boundaries at MBA and then transmitted the Eight Precepts to them. Before the transmission, Dharma Master Jin Yong gave a short explanatory lecture that was very helpful. He briefly explained the content of the Eight Precepts and the merit of holding such precepts. He also taught people how to contemplate to receive the precept substance during the transmission.

During lunchtime, people ate silently and listened to the tape of the Venerable Master Hua's Dharma talks, and so everyone was equally received food and Dharma nourishment. After lunch, the Dharma Masters took turns lecturing. D.M. Fo, who was from Minnesota, mentioned that in August there were five MBA members who went to CTTB and took the Bodhisattva precepts for lay people. He was very glad and encouraged others to take the precepts next time.

On the morning of August 24th, the Dharma Masters led a ceremony to celebrate Earth Store Bodhisattva's birthday. In the afternoon they transmitted the Three Refuges and Five Precepts. During the seven days, every day was scheduled with the morning recitation, a meal offering chant, lunch, Dharma



別強調《地藏經》是佛門中的孝經，經中婆羅門女和光目女的故事就是很好的例子，並引用古代經典和大家探討如何行孝道。法師也提到上人說，真正能研究佛法、行持佛法，就是真正的孝順父母。聽眾聽了都不禁反省，自己對父母師長的孝順是否有缺。法師也提到《地藏經》的內容十分廣泛，給娑婆世界眾生很多方面的指引。

法會期間，佛教會李會長提到明州佛教會供奉的這尊地藏菩薩的一則奇妙故事。當年有位法師造訪明州時，見到這尊菩薩如此相好莊嚴，便想請回自己的道場供奉；得到許可後，便打包好準備隔天帶走。誰知當晚法師夢見瑞相，揣測是地藏菩薩不肯離開明州，於是將菩薩放回原處，在佛教會供奉至今。



8月30日清晨，法師們離開明州前往愛荷華州繼續弘法行程。這次法會每天都有講經法筵，信眾們十分歡喜，也希望能有更多這樣的機會，每年都能請法總的法師來明州弘法。 ❀

talks after lunch, *Earth Store Sutra* recitations, evening recitation, and evening sutra lectures. Everyone tried to attend the sessions according to their schedules and they were filled with Dharma joy. When lecturing on the *Earth Store Sutra*, Dharma Master Yong emphasized that in Buddhism this sutra is the “Sutra of Filial Respect,” because it includes many stories of filial piety, such as the story of the Brahman woman and the Bright Eye woman. He also cited some ancient classics on how to be filial. The Dharma Master also mentioned that the Venerable Master said, “If one can truly study Buddhadharma and practice Buddhadharma, one is truly filial to one’s parents.” All these discussions



made the participants reflect on how they treated their parents. The Dharma master also mentioned that the *Earth Store Sutra* includes a wide range of topics, which provides guidance in many aspects to the living beings in this world.

During this session, the president of MBA, Mr. Li, shared a special story of the Earth Store Bodhisattva statue at MBA: Once when a Dharma Master visited MBA, he was impressed by the wondrous appearance of this statue and wanted to take it to his bodhimanda. After receiving permission from MBA, the statue was packed to travel the next day. However, at that night the dharma master saw auspicious signs in his dream, and concluded that maybe the Bodhisattva did not want to leave Minnesota. So he put the statue back. This statue has been enshrined at MBA ever since.

On the morning of August 30th, the Dharma Masters left Minnesota to continue their Dharma trip to Iowa. There were Dharma lectures every day during the session, which brought so much joy to the participants. Many members expressed their wish for more opportunities like this in the future. They hope the Dharma Masters from DRBA can visit Minnesota every year. ❀