



心有所依 The Mind's Refuge

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BODHI FIELD | 菩提田

觀音大士十二願，
天降甘露祈鴻福；
萬佛聖城齊相聚，
又是一年春好處。

今年的清明節恰逢觀音聖誕法會，也是觀音七的第一天。早上起來，就發現小雨淅淅瀝瀝地敲打著窗櫺，一股溼潤清爽的氣息便撲面而來。樹葉綠油油的，散發著清香；孔雀們還是那麼充滿活力地在雨中漫步。周遭的一切，在雨水的洗禮下，都看起來如新的一般。萬佛城孕育在一片安詳的氣息當中。

加州近年乾旱缺水，觀音成道法會這天降的甘露，可說是最好的禮

*Guan Yin Bodhisattva has twelve great vows,
The heavens bring rain in response to our prayers;
All gather at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas,
It is yet another wonderful spring.*

This year's celebration of Guan Yin Bodhisattva's birthday was on the same day as Qingming Festival, a traditional holiday in Chinese culture. On the first day of this year's spring Guan Yin session, I woke up to light rain dripping on the windowpane. When I stepped outside, a gentle fragrance wafted towards me. Leaves on the tree were verdant green and gave off a fresh scent. The peacocks strolled around, undaunted by the rain. Everything looked clean and new, and City of Ten Thousand Buddhas was filled with a serene atmosphere.

California has had droughts in recent years, so the rain on the session's first day was a welcome change. People from the San Francisco Bay Area and local community started

物。自週六開始，住在灣區還有附近的人們就往萬佛聖城趕。停車場裏一個空位都沒有，大殿裏更是擠得熙熙攘攘，信眾比肩接踵。每一個人臉上都掛著最真摯的虔誠，懷揣著最樸實的感恩。我也被感染，享受這充滿平和的雍容。

清晨四點，早課準時開始；然後是傳授〈八關齋戒〉、朝山（三步一拜）和念誦《普門品》。七點十分，佛殿裏已擠滿了人，每個人都穿戴整齊，手捧經典，心中默念觀世音菩薩聖號。在一片肅穆中，「咚——咚——咚——」；「叮叮叮——」；「爐香乍爇——」……隨著維那師的聲聲，大眾開始念誦《普門品》。華人、越南人、東南亞西北歐人……；法師、居士、義工、學生、老人、還有孩童……大眾的和聲組成了一篇華麗與樸實交織的樂章。

《普門品》意思直白，卻更加引人深思。其中觀世音菩薩的歷劫、大願、大無畏、大威神力、大慈悲心，都讓我們讚歎和敬仰。「我覺得我的內心得到了清淨。」一位第一次在萬佛城參加觀音法會的女校學生說道，生活在現今複雜的社會環境當中，面對各種誘惑的考驗，觀世音菩薩的《普門品》宛如一股清澈的泉水，滋潤我們，讓我們的思想更加積極向善；《普門品》又猶如一盞明燈，照亮道路，讓我們有所依靠。

除了大殿外，另一個「熱鬧」的地方便是齋堂。「我覺得今年比往年人還多！」一位住在萬佛城四年了的居士如是

arriving on Saturday. The parking lot was full. The Buddha Hall was packed and people stood shoulder to shoulder reciting. Everyone appeared to be truly sincere and grateful. I was affected by their sincerity and stopped to enjoy the richness of this peaceful moment.

The morning recitation started at 4 am sharp, followed by the transmission of the *eight precepts*, three steps one bow pilgrimage from the mountain gate, and the recitation of *Universal Door Chapter* from the *Dharma Flower Sutra*. At around 7:10 am, the Buddha Hall was full. Everybody looked wholesome and neat, holding their sutras in their hands and reciting Guan Yin Bodhisattva's name in their hearts. In this solemn atmosphere, the bell rang and everyone started reciting the *Universal Door Chapter* following the melody of the cantor. Chinese, Vietnamese, people from all over Europe, and Dharma Masters, laypeople, volunteers, students, seniors and young children alike joined in the melodious recitation.

The language of the *Universal Door Chapter* is direct and accessible but holds profound meaning. We are moved by the great vows, courage, power and compassion of Guan Yin Bodhisattva. A girls' school student who was attending the Guan Yin session at CTTB for the first time said she felt that it purified her mind. In the midst of the distractions and challenges of our current complicated society, Guan Yin Bodhisattva's *Universal Door Chapter* is like clear spring water for us, nurturing us and making our thoughts positive and wholesome. It is like a bright lamp, lighting our path and offering us a place for refuge.

Outside of the Buddha Hall, another place filled with activity is the dining hall. A layperson who has lived in CTTB for four years said that more people came this year than in the past. To prepare for the many visitors today, the Dharma Masters and laypeople have been working busily in the kitchen. The kitchen volunteers worked all day on the day of the celebration, not to speak of the preparations they had been making for days beforehand. At 11 am, the assembly started to





說。大量的人羣，對於廚房工作的法師和居士來說，就意味著更多的飯菜需要準備。且不說法會前夕有多少的東西需要採購，就說法會當天，她們也是披星戴月地在工作。中午十一點，雖然在齋堂的人已經開始用齋，可是她們也還不能休息。可以用來當澡盆的大鐵鍋，加上可以做拐杖的炒菜鏟，廚房的法師和居士們化身「超級聖鬥士」，個個都是菜鍋裏爬出來的「鋼鐵俠」。

方丈恒律法師於午齋開示中，特別感謝在廚房裏辛勞的法師們及義工們，並希望在齋堂用齋的人，「願他們吃了聖城的食物之後，能夠離苦得樂，發大菩提心。這樣子我們就是用慈悲水來利益眾生，我們心中的菩提樹，不但不會乾枯，而且會越長越茁壯，我們會很快地成就佛果的。」

比丘近聖師則在講法時，鼓勵在家人參加三皈五戒，以及八關齋戒；並指出有些人求受五戒時，往往怕破戒。近聖師以他自己的經驗勉勵大家不要怕，「因為受戒時，會得到戒體，諸菩薩很慈悲，會幫忙我們，提醒我們不要再造業、犯戒。」

比丘尼恆榮師則藉一首偈頌「成就大悲演說門，常在娑婆普陀山，晝夜六變觀世間，本願因緣利一切」，講述觀世音菩薩往生淨土的因緣，並鼓勵在座大眾發大菩提心。

午齋後，繼續有瞻仰舍利、放生法會、以及三皈五戒法會。法會的舉辦，離不開各方的合作與支援。無論是法師、義工、還是弟子，今日可以「有緣千里來相會」都是受到了觀世音菩薩的感召與攝受。觀世音菩薩就是我們心中的力量，永遠的慈悲與無畏。心有所依，前方還有什麼可畏懼的呢？



have lunch, but the kitchen staff could not take a break yet. The big wok used by the kitchen for cooking is the size of a small bathtub, and the cooking utensils look like a spade or a shovel. Dharma Masters and laypeople working in the kitchen are superheros. They look like Ironman coming out of the big wok.

When Abbot Heng Lyu gave a Dharma talk at lunch, he especially thanked the hardworking kitchen volunteers including monastics and laypeople. He also hoped that all people “will leave suffering, obtain bliss, and make the resolve for awakening after having food at the dining hall. In this way, we benefit all beings with the waters of great compassion. The bodhi tree in our mind will grow strong and will not wither. We will then all quickly realize buddhahood.”

Bhikshu Jin Sheng, one of the speakers at lunch, urged laypeople to take the three refuges, five precepts, and *eight precepts*. He said some people, when taking precepts, are afraid that they will break them. He encouraged people not to be afraid of that, saying, “When you take the precepts, you receive the precept-substance. Buddhas and bodhisattvas are compassionate and will help us uphold the precepts and avoid harm.”

Next, bhikshuni Heng Rong spoke about the causes and conditions of Guan Yin Bodhisattva's rebirth in the Western Pure Land. She recited the verse: “Accomplishing the Dharma door of great compassion, she dwells eternally on Mount Putuo. Watching the nights and days and observing the world, her primary vow, causes and conditions are to benefit all beings.” Heng Rong Shi also encouraged everyone to make the resolve for awakening.

Following the meal was viewing the sharira, liberating life ceremony, and taking the three refuges and five precepts. Many people have to work together and offer support for a Dharma assembly such as this to happen. Whether Dharma Masters, volunteers, or disciples, all come together having been included in Guan Yin Bodhisattva's compassionate vows. Guan Yin Bodhisattva is the compassion and fearlessness in our minds that is infinite. When we take this as our mind's refuge, what remains for us to fear?

