

# 精進精進再精進—追思近上法師

## Vigor, Vigor, and More Vigor —In Memory of Dharma Master Jin Shang

編輯部 文

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2002年，為盡孝道，近上法師陪同其近80高齡的母親到聖城拜萬佛寶懺。當時已退休的他，準備拜完懺後到美國各地旅遊。卻沒想到，在首次拜懺過程中，讓他感受到難以言喻的法喜與歸屬感。其實，他的母親在1999年到聖城拜懺時，就把功德迴向給這個大兒子，發願讓他也能來聖城出家修行，因為她的次子恒江法師，全家四口當時皆已在聖城出家。

由於這次殊勝的經驗，第二年，他不請自來，又參加萬佛寶懺，並申請在聖城長住；第三年，正如其母之願，出家成為沙彌，法名親善，法號近上。因此，他出家可說是萬佛寶懺這個法門攝受了他。因此出家後，他連續十餘年全程地拜萬佛寶懺，從不遲到早退，即使

In 2002, in order to fulfill his filial duty, Dharma Master Jin Shang accompanied his nearly 80-year-old mother to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas to bow the 10,000 Buddhas Jeweled Repentance bowing session. He had retired and planned to tour the United States after the bowing session. However, after attending this first bowing session in his lifetime, he was filled with Dharma bliss and a sense of belonging beyond words. In fact, when his mother attended the bowing session in 1999, she transferred the merit and virtue to her oldest son, wishing he would make the resolve to leave the home-life at City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. This was because her second son, Dharma Master Heng Chiang, and his whole family, a total of four people, all left the home life at CTTB.

Given his rare and supreme experience at the bowing session, Dharma Master Jin Shang came the following year for the bowing session as well. He applied for a long-term residency at CTTB. In his third year at CTTB, he left the home life, just as his mother had wished. He became a shramanera with the Dharma name Qin Shan, and style name Jin Shang. In retrospect, one could say that his leaving home was due to the Dharma door of the 10,000 Buddhas Repentance. After leaving home, he attended the bowing session for over 10 years in a row. He was never late nor did he leave early during the bowing session, even when he had difficulties

身體行動不便時亦是如此，其精進力令人讚歎不已。出家時其母勸勉他要「精進再精進」地修行，他秉持母訓，不敢或忘，「精進精進再精進」就成了他修行的座右銘。

近上法師在2005年受具足戒。除了拜懺，日常的佛殿功課和打七，他都絕不錯過，十餘年如一日。在佛殿誦《華嚴經》時，他精神抖擻，力求字字分明，聲聲入耳。此外並自訂功課拜經、念佛，他拜經時不急不躁，專注凝神，動作柔軟。雖然年事漸高，精進力卻超越常人，因此定功日純，兩眼炯炯有神。

2013年雙周佛七圓滿日早上，近上法師突然昏倒，緊急送醫，在生死邊緣挽回一命。醫生告知，他的肺功能不足，往後需要隨身攜帶氧氣瓶來呼吸，否則隨時會有危險。從此他體力大不如前，就以電動輪椅代步，也無法擺脫攜帶氧氣瓶的麻煩，但這些不便並沒有阻礙他精進修行的決心，大家會看到他騎著小車來回在如來寺與佛殿間，也會看到他拖著氧氣瓶參加佛殿功課，乃至跟著大眾繞佛。

今年三月下旬，近上法師以瘦弱的身軀參加觀音七，圓滿後因感染肺炎，再度入院治療，醫師確定他的肺功能只剩十分之一，已不久於人世。如來寺法師在他往生前一日去探望，當時他神智清晰，與大家談笑風生。沒想到隔日醫生就宣布病危，方丈和尚慈悲，決定把他接回如來寺助念，近上法師就在念佛聲中安詳往生。為其淨身時，他全身冰涼，但頭部尚有餘溫，可見平時精進的修行是功不唐捐的。

近上法師為我們示現生命是如此無常，在娑婆世界這個身體是不可靠的，唯有精進修行才能以不堅固身換取堅固的金剛不壞身。謹以此偈祝願近上法師：

上善若水性仁慈，願君疾得不壞身；  
且問妙果何時成？唯有精進再精進！✽

moving around. His vigor was admirable. His mother encouraged him to cultivate “with vigor and more vigor”. He never forgot his mother’s words for him. Hence, “Cultivate with vigor and more vigor” became his motto for spiritual cultivation.

Dharma Master Jin Shang was fully ordained in 2005. In addition to his more than 10 years of bowing repentance, he never missed any recitation, ceremony, or retreat in the Buddha Hall. His spirit was energetic when reciting the *Avatamsaka Sutra* in the Buddha Hall in order to pronounce every word clearly to the ear. He also had his own daily practices such as bowing to the Sutra and reciting Amitabha’s name. He was very focused and patient when bowing to the Sutra with slow and gentle movement. Even though he was getting on in years, he was extraordinarily vigorous and made great progress in samadi. His eyes were bright and piercing.

On the morning of the completion day of the two-week Amitabha session in 2013, he suddenly passed out and was sent to the emergency room. His life was saved from the verge of death. The doctor told him that his lungs were not functioning well, and he would have to carry an oxygen tank around with him to prevent precarious situations. His physical strength began deteriorating a great deal and he had to use an electric wheelchair. However, all these problems didn’t stop his resolve for vigorous cultivation. People saw him in his wheelchair, going back and forth between Tathagata Monastery and the Buddha Hall, and saw him participate in Buddha Hall recitations and the circumambulations with his oxygen tank.

Last March, Dharma Master Jin Shang attended the Guan Yin session despite his physical weakness. After the completion of the session, he contracted pneumonia and was hospitalized again. Doctors said that only one tenth of his lungs were functioning and he didn’t have much time left in this world. The day before he passed away, the Dharma Masters of the Tathagata Monastery visited him in the hospital. He remained fully conscious and went on talking and laughing. This made it all the more unexpected when the doctor claimed he should be transferred to hospice the next day. Abbot Lyu compassionately decided to take him back to the Tathagata Monastery so that people could recite Amitabha’s name for him. Dharma Master Jin Shang passed away peacefully during the recitation of Amitabha’s name. When people cleansed his body, they found that even though it was cold, his head was still a little warm. This shows that vigorous cultivation is never undertaken in vain.

Dharma Master Jin Shang manifested for us that life is impermanent. Our physical body in this Saha world is not reliable. Only vigorous cultivation can get us an indestructible vajra body, rather than this not-so-solid flesh body. The following verse is to commemorate Dharma Master Jin Shang:

*You have a compassionate nature with supreme wholesomeness just like water;  
We wish you a quick attainment toward an indestructible body.  
How can the wonderful fruition be achieved?  
It will only be achieved through vigorous and more vigorous cultivation. ✽*