

2016年萬佛聖城暑期觀音七

2016 Summer Guan Yin Session at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas



齊印關文/譯

.....
Written and Translated by Yinguan Qi

萬佛聖城於2016年7月17日舉行觀世音菩薩成道大法會，並展開今年第二個觀音七。在炎炎夏日中，帶給打七信眾特殊的清涼感受。這次的觀音七前一週氣溫已破華氏100度，但在觀音七期間，氣溫平均下降大約華氏20度，早晚更如秋天一般涼爽。

方丈恒律法師在灑淨前開示說，觀世音菩薩在往昔曾示現妙善公主，立志出家修行，不但成就道業，還救了父親的性命。世間大部份人隨波逐流，追求權力、物質、名利等，不知人生可以修行。修道過程中，會遇到各種魔考、乃至天災人禍等，「這些都是在還過去的業債，如果繼續修道，不會再造新的罪業，就能究竟了苦。若不修道，業債依舊在那裏繼續生利息，而且繼續造業，

On July 17th, 2016, the Celebration of Guan Yin Bodhisattva's Enlightenment took place at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) and opened the second one-week Guan Yin session this year. This session brought a cool week to the participants in the scorching hot summer. The temperature before the Guan Yin session went over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. It went down 20 degrees on average during the session. The early mornings and late evenings were as cool as in autumn.

The Abbot, Dharma Master Heng Lyu, gave a Dharma talk before the Ceremony for Purifying the Boundaries. He said Guan Yin Bodhisattva in a previous life was born as the Princess Miao-Shan—"Wonderfully Wholesome"—and was determined to enter the monastic life. Not only did she accomplish the Way, she also was able to save her father's life. People in the world follow other people to pursue power, material comforts, fame and profits. They have no idea that they can work on spiritual cultivation. However, in the process of spiritual cultivation, one can come across various demonic tests, natural disasters and man-made calamities. He said, "These are to repay our karmic debts in the past. If we keep working on cultivation, we will not create new karmic offenses and will be able to end suffering. If we don't cultivate, our karmic debts will still be

苦永遠沒有了的時候，甚至越來越苦。所以，修不修道的決定權在你自己。」

觀世音成道紀念法會午齋中，恒律法師又指出，觀世音菩薩在《普門品》中的另一個名字是「施無畏者」，幫助眾生脫離恐怖憂惱。我們也可以學習觀



世音菩薩，成為施無畏者，利益一切眾生。如果是素食者，已經幫助許多動物脫離被屠宰的恐怖陰影。律法師講述了一個成功的企業執行長，就讀高中時，因路人一個慈悲的微笑，而放棄自殺的念頭。律法師說：「因此平日若能真摯善意微笑，對人誠心說聲『阿彌陀佛』，很可能改變自己與他人一生的命運。」

比丘近永法師則說，《普門品》裏稱觀世音菩薩之名，可以救七難、解(貪嗔癡)三毒。他舉育良小學女校一位學生的親身經驗為例，這個九歲的小女孩有一次跟父母大大嘔氣，將自己關在房裏。氣頭上她想起曾經讀過觀世音菩薩解三毒的故事，於是開始念誦觀世音菩薩聖號，結果獲得的訊息是：妳擁有的一切都是父母給予的，應該感恩，而不該生父母的氣。小女孩想想有道理，因此主動去向父母道歉。近永法師在稱讚這個小女孩勇於懺悔之餘，也建議大家，三

there accruing interest, and as we create more karmic offenses, our suffering will never end and we will have more suffering. To cultivate or not, the decision is up to you.”

At lunchtime during the Celebration of Guan Yin Bodhisattva's Enlightenment, the Abbot said that Guan Yin Bodhisattva was also called “the Giver of Fearlessness” in the *Universal Door Chapter* to help free people from fear, worry and afflictions. The Abbot noted, “We can learn from Guan Yin Bodhisattva to be a giver of fearlessness and benefit all beings. If you are a vegetarian, you have helped animals to be free from the fear of being killed.” He then related a story of a successful Chief Executive Officer who did not commit suicide when he was still in high school because of a passerby's compassionate smile toward him. The Abbot said, “If we smile at people with sincerity and kindness, or say ‘Amitabha Buddha’ sincerely to people, we may change the destiny of our lives and others.”

Bhikshu Jin Yong talked about Guan Yin Bodhisattva rescuing people from seven types of disaster and relieving the three poisons (greed, anger and stupidity) in the *Universal Door Chapter*. He gave an example of a girl student from Instilling Goodness Elementary School. This 9-year-old girl once got very mad at her parents and locked herself up in her own room. When she was really angry, she thought of a story she had read about how Guan Yin Bodhisattva relieves people from the three poisons. She then started



reciting Guan Yin Bodhisattva's name and received a message which told her that all she had was provided for by her parents. She should have been grateful instead of getting mad at her parents. She felt the message made sense to her so she took the initiative to apologize to her parents. Dharma Master Jin Yong praised the

毒生起時，要記得念觀世音菩薩；平時更應該多念，貪嗔癡三毒自然逐漸減少。

比丘尼恒聲法師認為，宣公上人發十八大願，堅守一生，奉行六大宗旨，利益群生，幫助無數人真誠改過，走向清淨光明大道。上人跟觀世音菩薩一樣，成就大悲行門。我們念觀世音菩薩聖號，當祈求觀世音菩薩慈悲，令全世界人類消災免難，罪滅不生，以此功德迴向法界一切眾生，在不久的將來，皆共成佛道。

這次參加觀音七的信眾中，有一對尼泊尔父子。兒子甘尼許·拉瑪是加州州大弗雷諾分校社會工作系的教授，78歲的老父親丹·拉瑪務農，一輩子住在喜馬拉雅山聖母峰附近的山區。數週前，搭了40小時的飛機，首次出國探望兒子。

老拉瑪抵美不久就病倒入院；出院後，兒子決定帶父親到北加州比較涼快的環境休養。弗雷諾的佛友推薦他們到萬佛聖城，恰好趕上觀音七。甘尼許·拉瑪表示，一進山門便感受到慈悲的力量，頓時升起「找到歸宿」之感。一週的觀音七對他而言，快得恍如一天。

但他父親生平第一遭打七兼打坐，抵美後的頭痛症狀在聖城的次日再度出現。所幸聖城有駐城護士唐娜·法默，甘尼許·拉瑪覺得「這位護士好慈悲，悉心照顧我父親，就像照顧自己的父親一樣。」因此老拉瑪很快就復原，甘尼許·拉瑪表示，回到弗雷諾後，要將萬佛聖城介紹給當地民眾。

在紐約一所小學任教的黃依俐，連續七年前來萬佛聖城參加法會。她為了親近萬佛聖城與法總在金山灣區的道場，特別利用休假期間，到史丹福大學攻讀第二個碩士。對她而言，萬佛聖城的法會帶給她極為正面的體驗，是難以言喻的。

來自墨西哥的歐瑪·馬賽拉是第二次到萬佛聖城參加觀音七，法會中只有他和另一位居士兩位墨西哥裔。他很希望法界佛教總會到墨西哥舉辦觀音法會，讓更多他的同胞能夠同霑法益。馬賽拉說：「我很樂意提供場地。」❀

little girl's bravery of repenting and he suggested that everyone recite Guan Yin Bodhisattva's name when the three poisons arise in the mind. Even when one doesn't feel the three poisons, one should recite Guan Yin Bodhisattva's name so that the three poisons will reduce gradually.

Bhikshuni Heng Sheng noted that Venerable Master Hua was like Guan Yin Bodhisattva because Venerable Master Hua made eighteen vows and upheld them throughout his life. He also followed the six guiding principles [of not fighting, not being greedy, not seeking, not being selfish, not being self-benefitting and not lying] to benefit all beings. He helped countless people to sincerely reform themselves and walk toward the pure and bright way. She said that when we recite Guan Yin Bodhisattva's name, we should pray to the compassionate Guan Yin Bodhisattva to eradicate disasters and karmic offenses for all people in the world and transfer the merit and virtue from it to all beings in the dharma realm so we all realize Buddhahood in the near future.

There were a father and son among the participants in this Guan Yin session. The son, Gyanesh Lama, is a professor in the Department of Social Work at Fresno State University. The 78-year-old father Dhan Lama is a farmer who has lived all his life in a remote mountain near Mount Everest in the Himalayas. This is the first time he traveled abroad to visit his son and he spent 40 hours to come to the States a few weeks before the Guan Yin session.

Dhan Lama fell ill and was hospitalized not long after he arrived in the US. After he was discharged from the hospital, the son decided to take his father to northern California and recuperate in a cooler climate. A Buddhist friend in Fresno recommended them to visit the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, and this happened to be right before the Guan Yin session. Gyanesh said, once they entered the mountain gate [of CTTB], he felt the energy of compassion and had a feeling of "home-coming." The one week of the Guan Yin session passed so quickly as if it was only one day.

For Dhan Lama, this was his first time attending a retreat and meditation. The headache which occurred after he arrived in the US appeared again on the second day at CTTB. Luckily, a nurse in residence, Donna Farmer, took good care of Dhan. Gyanesh felt she was so compassionate as if she was taking care of her own father. Hence, Dhan soon recovered. Gyanesh said that he would introduce CTTB to the local people when he gets back to Fresno.

This is the seventh year for Liz Wong, an elementary school teacher from New York, to come to CTTB for a retreat session. She even spent a sabbatical year at Stanford University doing a second Master's degree so that she could draw near to CTTB and DRBA's branch monasteries in the San Francisco Bay Area. For her, the positive experiences of the CTTB retreat sessions are beyond words.

For Omar Masera, this was his second Guan Yin session at CTTB. He and another layperson were the only Mexicans among all the participants. He hopes to see DRBA hold Guan Yin sessions in Mexico so that more of his fellow countrymen can receive the benefits from a session. He promised, "I will be glad to host the session." ❀