

萬佛聖城慶祝觀音菩薩成道

Celebration of Guan Yin Bodhisattva's Enlightenment at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas

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萬佛聖城每年在觀音菩薩誕辰日、成道日、出家日前後，各舉行一週的觀音七。2017年7月9日至15日為本年度第二次觀音七，並於7月9日（週日）舉行觀音菩薩成道慶祝大法會。是日清晨五時傳八關齋戒，中午12時30分打三皈五戒，上午按慣例有朝山、《普門品》念誦、觀音菩薩聖號念誦、普佛。

萬佛聖城方丈和尚恒律法師在法會午齋中開示指出，想成道必須先修道，道不在天上，而在我們心頭。宣公上人的偈頌說：「一切是考驗，看爾怎麼辦；覷面若不識，須再從頭煉。」律法師認為最後一句的從頭煉，就是從心頭煉。而「苦海無邊，回頭是岸」的回頭，也是要將心頭回轉過來，不再成為欲望的奴隸，每個當下就是解脫的彼岸。夏日炎炎，律法師建議大家放鬆肩膀，調慢呼吸，呼氣自口出，心靜自然涼。大家也正好發慈悲心，將持誦觀音菩薩的功德迴向地獄眾生，希望他們都離苦得樂，地獄的火焰化為紅蓮。律法師表示，感恩觀音菩薩的大慈大悲，就要學習觀音菩薩利益眾生的精神，多迴光

Every year at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas on Guan Yin Bodhisattva's Birthday, Enlightenment Day, and Leaving Home Day, there is a seven-day Guan Yin Session held usually before or after. From July 9 to July 15, 2017, there was a Guan Yin Session which was the second Guan Yin Session for this year. On Sunday, July 9, there was the Celebration of Guan Yin Bodhisattva's Enlightenment Day Dharma Assembly. At 5am that day, there was the transmission of the Eight Fasting Precepts and at 12:30pm, there was the transmission of the Three Refuges and Five Precepts. In the morning, there was the usual Three Steps One Bow, recitation of the *Universal Door Chapter*, recitation of Guan Yin Bodhisattva's holy name, and also universal bowing.

Dharma Master Heng Lyu, Abbot of CTTB, during lunch at noon had pointed out that in order to accomplish the Way, we must first cultivate the Way. The Way is not in the sky but within our minds. Venerable Master Hua spoke this verse, "Everything is a test to see what you will do. If you fail to recognize the state, you will have to start anew!" Dharma Master Lyu feels that the last part, "you will have to start anew," means that we should start anew with our minds. Also in this phrase, "The sea of suffering is boundless. A turn of the head is the other shore," "a turn of the head" means to turn our minds around and no

返照，在心頭好好用功，就能走在成佛的菩提大道上；正如宣公上人所說，凡是來到萬佛聖城的人，將來一定會成佛的。

比丘近懺法師則講述了2016年諾貝爾和平獎得主南美哥倫比亞總統胡安·曼努埃爾·桑托斯不用武力，改採親情招



降方式，終於成功平息該國長達52年內戰的實例，指出人人都有叛軍內亂，那就是疾病、老死、生氣等，乃至臨終時的八苦交煎、真妄交攻；這時八識田裡無量劫的種子亂發，不知哪個種子會現前，正是唯識所謂的「亂心位」。近懺法師建議大家誠心念誦觀世音菩薩，發願往生極樂世界，就是最有效的對治之道。對於不戴念珠而帶手機的忙碌現代人，近懺法師建議每滑一下手機、每點一個項目，就念一聲佛菩薩聖號，這樣自然就能持誦聖號多遍。

法界佛教總會最資深的比丘尼恒持法師朗誦觀音菩薩的大願，指出觀音菩薩傾聽所有眾生的一切語言，從不錯過眾生的求救訊息，我們也應發願速知一切法，學會佛陀的教法。恒持法師說，當我們發願時，正是承諾我們將開發本有的智慧，學習用智慧作觀，並學習以善巧方便幫助別人，專注於救度眾生，在眾生的苦海裡航行前進。我們也要向菩

longer be slaves to our desires. Then, in every moment we will be at the shore of liberation. It was a very hot summer day and so Dharma Master Lyu suggested that everyone relax their shoulders, regulate and slow down their breathing and breathe out through the mouth. When your mind is calm, then you will naturally feel cool. Everyone brought forth the mind of great compassion by transferring the merit and virtue of reciting Guan Yin Bodhisattva's name to the beings in the hells hoping they will leave suffering and attain bliss and the fire in the hells will turn to red lotuses. Dharma Master Lyu expressed



that being grateful for the great kindness and compassion of Guan Yin Bodhisattva means we should learn Guan Yin Bodhisattva's spirit of benefiting living beings. We need to frequently reflect within ourselves and apply effort in our every thought in order to be able to walk on the great Bodhi Path to attain Buddhahood. As Venerable Master Hua had said those who come to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas will definitely become Buddhas in the future.

Bhikshu Dharma Master Jin Chan narrated a story about how Columbian President Juan Manuel Santos won the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize. Instead of using violence, he used kindness and compassion to bring the country's 52-year-long civil war to an end. From this, he pointed out that all people have elements of unrest internally that causes conflict. Those elements include sickness, old age, death, anger, up to and including toiling in the eight kinds of suffering at the time of death and the struggle with truth and falsity. At that time, the seeds within the eighth consciousness from limitless eons ago begin to chaotically germinate. We don't know which seed will appear first. This is precisely what the



Consciousness Only School call, "the state of a chaotic mind." Dharma Master Jin Chan suggested everyone sincerely recite Guan Yin Bodhisattva's name, and vow to be reborn in the Pure Land because that is the most effective method to control this. For those who do not finger recitation beads and instead are always busy on their phones, Dharma Master Jin Chan recommends that every time

薩承諾，謹慎持戒，增強定力永不疲厭，走向開悟的路上。菩薩聽到我們的遲疑、狂亂，喚醒我們佛性就在我們之中，並將我們推進，渡過苦海，不疾不徐到達涅槃的彼岸。

這次的觀音七除了有美國各地的善信前來參加之外，還有來自亞洲、英國倫敦、俄國莫斯科等地的善信同霑法益。來自印尼的尼僧宗開法師參加此次觀音七之後表示，萬佛聖城深具道氣，她相信西方大乘佛教未來的發展就在宣公上人的道場。另有台灣來的尼僧指出，在台



灣一般佛教寺院所舉行的觀音法會通常只有一天，又因對宣公上人景仰而特地搭機遠道來到萬佛城參加觀音七，並沉浸在觀音菩薩的慈心悲願中。來自美國中西部的兩位越南尼僧則說，閱讀宣公上人法語已有數年，今年暑假恰有機緣前來萬佛聖城，由於她們的廟上只有兩位法師，因此特地停止廟務一週，專心在萬佛聖城打觀音七。

江西南昌大學的揭小露趁著暑假，專程陪同老母親劉華芳前來萬佛聖城瞻仰老和尚舍利。她們不僅得償夙願，還能隨喜參加觀音七，真是喜出望外。任教於北京理工大學設計與藝術學院的滿芊何教授則說，她的六歲兒子在觀音七第一天就決定皈依，並主動參加八關齋戒，讓她學會與兒子一同成長。一位原是基督徒的西方人表示，在這次的觀音七中，他體驗到觀音菩薩的愛心；他說，如果將愛比作金錢，他雖然只帶了一分錢而來，但這次的觀音七卻是裝了百千萬億元的大金庫，充滿愛的能量。✿

you swipe your phone, or click on a link, simultaneously recite a Buddha's or Bodhisattva's name. This way you will be able to naturally recite Buddha's or Bodhisattva's name more often.

Dharma Master Heng Chih, the most senior bhikshuni in DRBA, recited the great vows of Guan Yin Bodhisattva. She pointed out that Guan Yin Bodhisattva listens to the language of all creatures, never fails to respond to living beings' cry for help. We make a vow that we will quickly learn all there is to know and we will master the Buddha's teachings. Dharma Master Heng Chih said that when we make a vow, it is a promise that we will develop our inherent wisdom. We learn to use our wisdom to contemplate and we also learn to use skillful ways to help others. We are focused on rescuing living beings and we sail forth through living beings' sea of suffering. We also need to make a promise to the Bodhisattva to carefully uphold the precepts, to increase the strength of our samadhi without ever becoming weary, and to walk towards the path of enlightenment. When the Bodhisattva hears our worries, he reminds us that our Buddha nature is within ourselves. He propels us across the sea of suffering neither too quickly nor too slowly, and so one arrives at the shore of Nirvana.

In addition to Buddhist practitioners from across the United States, there were also practitioners from Asia, London, and Moscow, who attended the seven-day Guan Yin session. Bhikshuni Zong Kai from Indonesia, attended the Guan Yin session and expressed that the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) deeply possesses an atmosphere of cultivation. She believes that the future development of Mahayana Buddhism in the western world will take place at Venerable Master Hua's monasteries. Another bhikshuni from Taiwan mentioned that most Guan Yin sessions in Taiwan last for only a single day. Because of her admiration for Venerable Master Hua, she came a long way to CTTB from Taiwan to attend the Guan Yin session, and immersed herself in Guan Yin Bodhisattva's compassionate vows. Two Vietnamese Bhikshunis from Midwest United States said they have been reading Venerable Master Hua's Dharma talks for many years now. This summer, they have the opportunity to come to CTTB. Since there are only two bhikshunis at their monastery, they were able to close the monastery for a week, and focus on the seven-day Guan Yin session at CTTB.

Xiaolu Jie from Nanchang University in Jiangxi province took advantage of her summer break and accompanied her mother to CTTB to specifically pay respects to the sharira of Venerable Master Hua. However, not only were they able to view the sharira, they also attended the seven-day Guan Yin session that was not a part of their plan, but left them overjoyed. Professor Qianhe Man from the School of Art and Design at Beijing Institute of Technology said her six year old son decided to take refuge on the first day of the seven-day Guan Yin session, and also proactively participated in the Eight Fasting Precepts ceremony. This opportunity allowed her to grow together with her son. A westerner who was a former Christian expressed that he was able to feel Guan Yin Bodhisattva's compassion throughout the seven-day session. He said, if love could be valued by money, he only brought a penny with him; however, he was able to take away love and energy that is comparable to a treasure box worth billions of dollars. ✿