

印尼宗開法師參訪萬佛聖城 Dharma Master Zong Kai from Indonesia Visits the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas

陳心平文 / 比丘尼近智 英譯

By Xinping Chen

English Translation by Bhikshuni Jin Jr



印尼雅加達太平寺住持暨太平寺附設學校創辦人宗開法師，於2017年7月6日至16日參訪萬佛聖城。

宗開法師從小過著「飯來張口，衣來伸手」的日子；16歲時，意識到身為華裔，決定赴台灣學中文。長輩希望她進入注重生活管理的寄宿學校，因此選擇佛光山東方佛教學院就讀。宗開法師說，當時不是要去學佛，也不是要出家，而是去學中文。豈料半年後，因景仰出家人排班列隊的莊嚴，決定出家修行。原本不做雜務的個性，一夕之間變得什麼都願意學習了。

21歲返回印尼，當時在長輩住持的太平寺師太鼓勵之下，宗開法師創辦了太平寺附設幼稚園與小學（到三年級），因為她希望將來太平寺的出家人是在教育小朋友的環境中不斷提升、學習弘法，而非只是領眾誦經而已。一開辦就廣受歡迎，第二年隨即增加到小學六年級。數年後，初中部與高中部相繼成立。從幼稚園到高中，分別由四位太平寺的法師主持校務，目前總共有九百餘名學生，99%來

Dharma Master Zong Kai from Dharma Suci Vihara in Jakarta, Indonesia, visited the Sagely City of Ten Thousand Buddhas on July 6–16, 2017.

She led a comfortable childhood. When she was 16, as an overseas Chinese, she went to Taiwan and studied Chinese. Her elders wanted her to attend a boarding school to develop a disciplined lifestyle. It was decided that she attend Fo Guang Shan's Buddhist seminary. At that time, Dharma Master Zong Kai's intention was to learn Chinese and not to become a monastic or study the Buddhadharma. Unexpectedly, after six months, observing the adorned Sangha members in line, she decided to renounce the home-life. Originally, she disliked menial chores, but suddenly everything changed and she was eager to learn everything.

Dharma Master Zong Kai returned to Indonesia when she was 21 years old. With the encouragement of Dharma Suci Vihara's abbot, she established Dharma Suci Kindergarten and Elementary School (K-3rd grade). Her hope was that the Dharma Suci Sangha will be involved in educating the youth and propagating the Dharma instead of just leading the assembly in Dharma assemblies. In the following year, the elementary school expanded to include 4th through 6th grades. Later, junior high and senior high were added to the schools and there are now over 900 students, 99% of whom are from Chinese Buddhist families. A school branch was also founded in New Zealand.

Upon establishing the kindergarten and elementary school, she felt the need to further study abroad. In 1986, for nine years, she went to study in Japan at Kyoto Buddhist University under Professor Kajiyama Yuiichi. She investigated Nagarjuna Bodhisattva's early Mahayana texts. In writing her thesis, she was limited to using Buddhist texts in their original Sanskrit language. From this experience, she advises that learning Sanskrit is critical for those studying Buddhist texts even though Sanskrit is the world's most difficult language to

自華人佛教家庭，並已在紐西蘭成立分校。

法師本人在創辦太平寺幼稚園與小學部後，覺得應該再出國深造。1986年恰有機會赴日本京都佛教大學，跟隨梶山雄一教授專研龍樹菩薩的初期大乘佛教思想九年。宗開法師指出，她在寫論文時，只能引用有梵文原典的經律論，因此她給有志研究佛教經典者的建議之一是：學習梵文非常重要，雖然梵文是世界上最難的語文，但也是佛經原典使用的文字，在學術界有其權威地位。

宗開法師在日本留學期間，勤於念誦《地藏經》與禮拜〈三千佛懺〉，至今仍是她最主要的功課，並加上念佛。她的心願是往生極樂之後，再回娑婆廣度眾生。她會說印尼、中、英、日語，以及客家話、台灣話（閩南語）、廣東話等方言，也學過梵文，能夠運用多種語言弘法利生。例如她連續35年到印尼偏鄉帶領佛七，就經常以客家話講法。

此行來訪，是緣於2014年恒持法師到印尼弘法時，在當地一家電視台服務的三寶弟子盧金碧居士，有緣拜見並訪問恒持法師有關萬佛聖城的弘法活動等等。同時宗開法師特別邀請恒持法師到太平寺帶領大眾浴佛，當時即約定參訪萬佛聖城。

來到萬佛聖城，有機會參加了觀音七，並前往法界聖城觀禮出家儀式，她回想自己出家的情景，忍不住說：「我們學佛的人，尤其是年輕的出家人，『不忘初心』這四個字是很重要的。」

法師深受聖城開山祖師宣公上人的願力感動，認為萬佛聖城的獨特道風，提供了良好的修行環境。而上人安排的僧眾教育非常紮實，她說：「這樣的僧眾教育正是基礎，數十年後將看到成果，未來的發展定不可思議啊！」

宗開法師並表示，這次也是要向聖城的法師們學習，怎麼樣把太平寺的學校辦得更好；小朋友更具有道德、孝順的觀念。這是她計畫轉變的方向，不是讓小朋友只學習學科而已。

宗開法師正考慮鼓勵太平寺附設初中的畢業生前來培德中學就讀，因為「家長會很放心，孩子不會學壞。」並遺憾太晚得知法界佛教大學，若是早20年，她會希望在日本留學後，繼續就讀法大。宗開法師透露，這次觀音七當中，她私下跟觀世音菩薩說：「有機緣的話，我還要常回到聖城來，跟各位諸上善人聚會一處；來一起學習，一起勉勵。」

learn. It was used in the original Buddhist scriptures and considered an elite language in scholarship.

During her time studying abroad in Japan, Dharma Master Zong Kai regularly recited the *Earth Store Sutra* and bowed the Three Thousand Buddhas Repentance. These Dharma practices and reciting the Buddha's name remains her daily practice. Her vow is to be reborn in the Western Pure Land and then, return to the Saha world to transform living beings. She is fluent in Indonesian, Mandarin, English, Taiwanese, Cantonese and other dialects and languages. She can use these multi-lingual skills to propagate the Dharma and benefit living beings. For 35 years, she has led Buddha recitation sessions in rural areas in Indonesia and she has often spoken the Dharma in the Hakka dialect.

Her conditions to visit the City of 10,000 Buddhas were formed in 2014, when she met Dharma Master Heng Ch'ih at a local TV station, hosted by layperson Jinbi Lu. During this meeting, she had the opportunity to learn about the events at CTTB. Dharma Master Zong Kai also invited Dharma Master Heng Ch'ih to be the Dharma host for the Bathing Buddha Ceremony at Dharma Suci Vihara, and in return, she made a promise to visit CTTB in the future.

During her visit to CTTB, Dharma Master Zong Kai attended the Guan Yin Session and the leaving-home ceremony at the City of Dharma Realm. Reflecting upon her own leaving-home experience, she exclaimed, "Those of us who study the Buddhadharma, especially those younger, should remember these vital words: Do not forget the original resolve."

She was moved by the vows of the CTTB's founder, Venerable Master Hsuan Hua. The unique spirit of CTTB is a good environment for cultivation. She thinks that the Sangha discipline initiated by the Venerable Hua is very comprehensive and solid. She commented, "This type of Sangha training is the foundation which bears fruit in later years; therefore, future development is certainly inevitable."

Dharma Master Zong Kai explained that with her visit to CTTB this time, she wished to also learn from the Dharma Masters in ways to improve the schools at Dharma Suci Vihara. She aspires to nurture children in morality and virtue, especially in filial respect. Her goal is to enhance the children's learning beyond academic subjects.

She considered encouraging the junior high students at Dharma Suci Elementary School to continue their studies at Developing Virtue Secondary School (DVSS). DVSS has a safe and conducive environment that would be acceptable to her students' parents who would not need to be worried that their children might be influenced negatively. She expressed regret for not learning about Dharma Realm Buddhist University (DRBU) 20 years ago; otherwise, she would have continued her studies at DRBU when her education in Japan ended. She conveyed that during Guan Yin session, she told Guan Yin Bodhisattva, "If the conditions arise again, I would like to return to CTTB and cultivate with the CTTB community." ❸