



## Baba's Treasure

### 爸爸的寶藏

A Talk Given by Nakura Hertz at the Buddha Hall of CTTB on November 1, 2017

Chinese Translation by Wilson Tseng

那庫拉·赫茲2017年10月16日開示於萬佛聖城大殿  
曾偉誠 中譯

Amitabha Buddha, Guan Shi Yin Bodhisattva, Dharma Masters and teachers, good evening. This evening I'd like to speak a little bit about the Honoring Elders Day Celebration. It's the fall time of the year and we've just finished the Honoring Elders Day Celebration here at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas.

I was very fortunate to be in the school when the Venerable Master inaugurated the celebration in the Honoring of Elders Day. During that time, many years ago, Mr. Chen, a teacher had us sing the *Guan Yin Praise*, play on our recorders and we did a very simple presentation for the elders. Even after I graduated from the school, I still came back and would go to

阿彌陀佛、觀世音菩薩、各位法師和老師們，晚安。今晚我想談談敬老節，現在正值秋季，萬佛聖城的敬老節也才剛舉行完畢。

當師父上人開始舉辦敬老節活動時，我很有福報剛好在聖城讀書。那是好多年前的事了，記得那時候陳老師教我們學生唱《觀音讚》，然後錄音起來，敬老節那天用錄音機播出來，同時配合一些簡單的表演。從男校畢業後，我仍然回來參加敬老節，直到開始在聖城教書，我還是每年參加敬老節，甚至分支道場的敬老節，像是法界聖城和舊金山的金山寺。

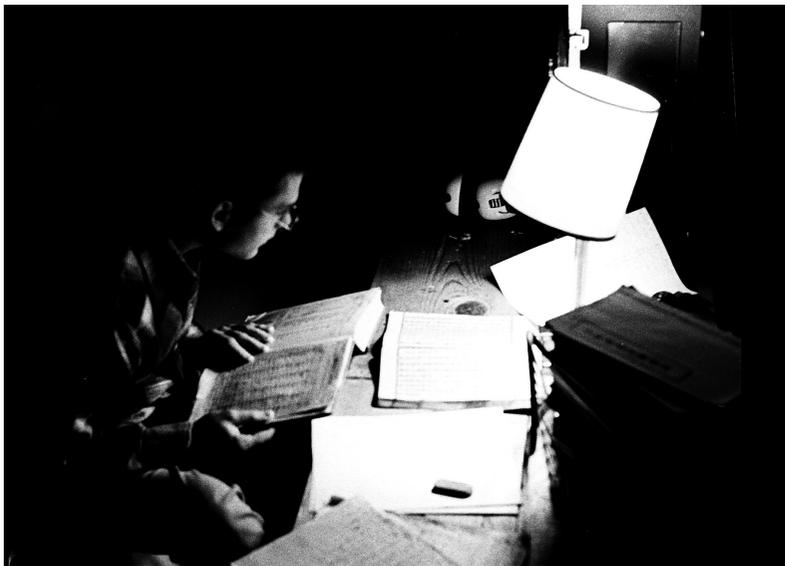
敬老節是一項非常獨特的慶祝活動。它是一個節日，一個特別的日子，一個

Honoring Elders Day here and once I started teaching in the schools, I would go to Honoring Elders Day yearly, even in other branch monasteries—at City of the Dharma Realm and Gold Mountain in San Francisco.

Honoring Elders Day is a very unique celebration. It's a holiday, it's a special day, it's a day to honor the elders. We invite the elders to come here, we do a little service and the students from all the schools take part in honoring and serving their elders, which is very rare. Even though it's a very obvious thing, it's only practiced here.

I was wondering this year, there must be a deep significance of Master Hsuan Hua to inaugurate this celebration and to have all the branch monasteries to follow this program. In this time period, it seems everyone's looking forward, people are trying to find new innovations and new inventions and we are according to these viewpoints, rapidly making progress. When I look at my situation and I look at the elders in my surrounding, I see many of you—my teachers, Dharma Masters, followers of Master Hsuan Hua. I see very exemplary personalities whose practice and austerities is very advanced compared to what is capable for me.

When you hear stories about Venerable Master Hsuan Hua it's almost super heroic. You start to realize there's a continuing line going back thousands of years of more and more qualified and capable personalities like Hsu Yun and Hui Neng, the Sixth Patriarch, Bodhidharma, so many of their Dharma brothers and teachers, wow. The Venerable Master Hsuan Hua is reminding us in the celebration in honoring the elders to take a very close look at these exemplary personalities that are directly before us and before them as well. In this regards I'll tell a little story.



向長者致敬的日子。我們邀請長者來這裡，為他們做一些服務，學校的每一位學生都有機會來尊敬和服侍老人家，這是很難得的事。即使是一件人人該做的事情，也只有在這裡才被付諸實行。

今年我就在思考，

上人提倡這個慶典並讓每個分支道場遵守去做，必有其深刻的意義。這個年代，似乎每個人都向前遠矚，努力尋找新的創新和新的發明，看起來人類正快速進步中。當我檢視自己，再看看周圍的長者，當中包括許多教過我的老師、法師、上人弟子，我看到非常優秀的人格典範，他們的精進和簡樸，遠超過我能力所及。

當聽到關於師父上人的英勇事蹟，你會意識到有一個持續的傳承，可以追溯到數千年前，代代都有這些模範人物，例如虛雲老和尚、六祖惠能大師、菩提達摩大師，還有許多他們的師兄弟和善知識們。師父上人希望藉由敬老節來提醒我們，慶祝敬老節的同時，好好觀摩學習這些在我們面前和在他們之前的好榜樣。關於這點，我想說下面這個小故事。

很久以前，大約在500年前的印度，有一個服侍穆斯林國王的政府官員，他積累了一些財富之後，遇到了他的老師，不久就在一個村落裏出家修行。他捨棄一切，在這個村裡專心修行。他為周圍的人服務，並且日漸終老。他的名字叫聖塔瑪拉·哥斯瓦米，但是那裡的人都叫他「爸爸」（父親）。

在遠方的一個城市，也許從萬佛城到舊金山的距離，有一個人的女兒要結婚了。當時的習俗是，女兒出嫁必須給親家一些很有價值的嫁妝。於是這個人開始禱告：「請給我嫁妝，我



A long time ago, around 500 years ago in India, there was a government official who was serving a Muslim Shah, a king and he accumulated some wealth. After some time, he met his teacher who sent him to become a renunciate monk in a village. He gave up everything and he cultivated. In this village, he cultivated his heart, he served everyone around him and he grew old there. His name was Sanatana Goswami but everyone there called him “Baba” (father).

In a city far away, maybe the distance to San Francisco from here (Ukiah), there was a family man whose daughter was going to get married. In those days, when a daughter was about to be married, you had to give a dowry, you had to give some valuable things to the in-laws. This family man started to pray. He prayed, “Please give me the dowry, I need some wealth to be able to arrange for my daughter to be married.” He was praying very sincerely and he’s given a vision to go meet Sanatana Goswami, Baba in another town. The heavenly god that appeared to him told him he’ll get his wealth from Sanatana Goswami.

He was very excited. When he came out of his meditation, he packed his bags and told his family he was going to get some money for the dowry. He was very excited, he was thinking, “Wow, maybe I’ll get even more wealth, maybe more than the dowry amount. I’m very fortunate.” He was happily walking along and was coming towards the town of Sanatana Goswami.

When he arrived, he was asking for this rich man, Sanatana Goswami in the village. No one knew who he was talking about. Finally after he searched for a while, someone says, “Oh, you are referring to Baba. He has a very incredible personality, he has a deep, sweet heart. He’s an incredible cultivator but I don’t think he has any money.”

When he arrived at a very simple hut made of straw, he saw an elderly man, Baba, sitting under a tree reciting mantras and wearing a very simple garment. When Baba saw this family man arriving, he got up, offered him a place to sit and gave him some water. Then he said, “What can I do for you? Where are you coming from?” The family man said, “I was praying to the divine gods and the gods told me that you have a treasure, that you have a wealth and you can help me to pay my daughter’s dowry.”

Baba smiled and said, “I don’t have that kind of wealth.” The family man was very confused. He had walked almost 100 miles and was very excited and the divine being told him he would have it, so he wasn’t going to leave without something.

Baba was thinking, “The divine beings can’t be wrong...let me think... let me think... Oh yes! When I was sweeping by this tree, I saw a jewel but it’s over there with the leaves.” Immediately

需要一些財富，才能安排我女兒的婚事。」他非常虔誠地祈禱，然後天神就讓他看到一個景象，就是在另一個城鎮修行的聖塔瑪拉·哥斯瓦米。天神告訴他去找聖塔瑪拉·哥斯瓦米，在那裏可以獲得財富。

他非常地興奮。結束靜坐冥想後，他便收拾行囊，告訴家人他要去拿一些買嫁妝的錢。他興奮地想著：「哇，也許我會得到比嫁妝還要多多的財富。我太幸運了！」他開心地往聖塔瑪拉·哥斯瓦米的城鎮方向出發。

當他到達時，他在村裏尋找這位有錢的聖塔瑪拉·哥斯瓦米，但是沒有人知道他在說誰。找了一陣子之後，終於有人說：「哦，你是指爸爸。他有非常高尚的品格。他有一顆真誠的好心，他是一個精進的修行者，但我不認為他有錢。」

當他來到一間簡陋的茅草屋前，看見一位老人，那就是爸爸。爸爸坐在樹下唸經，穿著很普通的一件衣服。當爸爸看到這個人時，他起身找了一個地方，請他坐下並且喝杯水。爸爸問他：「我能為你做些什麼嗎？你從哪裡來？」這個人說：「我在向神明禱告時，神明告訴我你有寶藏和財富，可以幫我添購我女兒的嫁妝。」

爸爸笑著說：「我沒有那樣的財富。」這個男人聽了很困惑。走了將近100英里，懷著那麼興奮的心情，既然神明告訴他會有收穫，他實在不想這樣兩手空空地離開。

爸爸心想：「神明不會錯的……讓我想想……」



the family man ran over to the pile of leaves and began digging through it. Close to the bottom, lo and behold he found a jewel called the Chintamani stone. This Chintamani stone is supposed to be a magic kind of stone that produces a certain amount of gold every day. Not only was this jewel there but there were also pieces of gold.

When this family man saw this Chintamani stone, he couldn't believe his eyes. He'd only heard about this stone in legends, it was magic that it'd come true. He started jumping in joy. He was thinking, "Oh my gosh! With this Chintamani stone, I'll get this much gold every day, I'll easily be able to pay off my dowry and in a very short period of time, I'll have more gold... everything will have been facilitated, this is very exciting!"

By this time Baba was sitting under the tree again and reciting and cultivating. The family man said goodbye and quickly started to run home. After the excitement started to wear off a bit and he started to count the gold bits in his pocket and made sure he still had the stone. He was thinking, "wait. Why did he put this Chintamani stone in his garbage? If this stone, which is so precious was in his garbage, he must have a treasure more valuable than this stone." So his greedy mind was saying, "You better go back and get more treasure."

He turned around and went back to Baba's. He went there and said, "You gave me this Chintamani stone but you must have a more valuable treasure." Baba says, "Yes I do. First you must take that stone and all that gold, you must throw it into the river." Then this family man began to ask questions, "So what is the treasure?" Baba started to describe the treasures - the ancient lessons and ancient wisdom and he passed it on. The family man was able to become free.

In our culture, it sometimes seems the only time elders are valued is when they have some property or money they've accumulated. We think they're getting old, they don't need it and we should take it. This story hopefully can illustrate a deeper point. The elders may have some wealth but the true treasures are the ancient's teachings, the wisdom that comes from time and memorial.

Honoring Elders Day that was inaugurated here by Venerable Master Hsuan Hua is very significant and I hope that we can continue to and properly be able to honor our elders and somehow have this festival in celebration, to holiday and to recognize all elders all over the world. As open as Master Hsuan Hua is, he's created a very special day that is not dependant on your skin, your race, creed, religion or country. It's something everyone can understand and follow. Thank you Venerable Master for reminding us to honor our elders and to get their wisdom, thank you. Amitabha. ❀

讓我想想……哦，是的！我在這棵樹旁掃地時，看到一顆寶石，就在樹葉那邊。」這個人立即跑過去，到樹葉堆開始挖掘，果然在樹葉堆底發現一顆名為如意寶珠的寶石。如意寶珠是一種具有魔法的石頭，它每天都會生出一些黃金。在找到寶石的那個地方，確實就有一些細碎的金片。

當看到這顆寶石的時候，這個男人簡直不敢相信他的眼睛，因為他只有在傳說中聽說過這種石頭，現在這個神話居然成真了！他開心地跳起來，心想：「我的天哪！有了這個如意寶珠，我每天都可以有很多黃金。很快地，我就可以付清女兒的嫁妝，還可以擁有很多的黃金……一切都將順心如意，太令人興奮了！」

爸爸又坐回樹下，唸經修行去了。男人道別後很快跑回家去，興奮的心情平靜下來後，他開始數了數口袋裡的黃金，並確保他的寶石還在。然後他想說：「等等！他為什麼把這個寶石丟在廢物堆裏？如果這麼珍貴的寶石都在他的垃圾堆裡，那他一定有比這寶石更寶貴的東西。」貪念指使他回去再多拿點寶藏。

所以男人又回去找爸爸，跟他說：「你給了我這塊寶石，但是你一定有更珍貴的寶藏。」爸爸說：「是的。首先，你必須將那塊石頭和所有的金子扔進河裡。」男人問爸爸：「那寶藏是什麼？」於是爸爸給了他真正的寶藏——就是自古以來的教訓，和古老的智慧。男人得到了爸爸傳授的這些寶藏，因此獲得了真正的自由。

在我們的文明裡，似乎老人唯一被珍惜的原因，是因為他們還有一些金錢財產。我們認為他們老了，不需要這些，所以應該給我們。希望這個故事能夠說明一個更深的道理，老人們可能是有一些財產，但真正的寶藏是自古以來的教導，和來自時間累積傳承下來的智慧。

師父上人創辦的敬老節非常重要，我希望我們能夠繼續恭敬地對待長輩，能在世界每個角落慶祝這個節日，使所有的老人獲得尊敬。就像師父上人開闊的胸襟，跨越膚色、種族、信仰、宗教和國家，他創造了一個人人都可以了解和遵循的節日。感謝師父上人提醒我們要尊敬長輩，並學習他們的智慧，謝謝。阿彌陀佛。❀