

# 精進念佛的典範——追悼比丘尼恒滋

## Modelling a Vigorous Attitude in Buddha Name Recitation — A Memorial of Bhikshuni Heng Dz

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精進念佛超過一甲子的比丘尼恒滋師，於2018年3月20日捨報往生，世壽92，僧臘與戒臘均為28。往生前數天，曾見阿彌陀佛。那幾天只要問她有沒有把握往生極樂世界？她都點頭稱「有」。火化後得潔白舍利花數百。

恒滋師是臺灣台中東勢人，28歲時，先生病故，留下兩個幼子，由她獨力撫養成人。先後做過助產士、學校護理人員、佛教育幼院院長，工作待遇雖然不高，但從不吝惜為兒子的教育投資。

先生的病故，促成恒滋師養成念佛拜佛的習慣，並組織佛友，熱心為人助念。由於早年受日本教育，日文流利，曾將許多日文佛教故事譯成中文，刊登於台灣佛教雜誌「菩提樹」上，其後由雜誌社結集出書，書名「佛教故事」。

1990年代初，兩個兒子分別調派美國，恒滋師跟隨來美，並有機會參訪萬佛聖城。1992年，把握修行良機，決定在宣公上人座下出家，並於同年受具足戒。

在師兄弟眼中，恒滋師是「無經不讀」、「法門無量誓願學」的最佳例子。每天清晨四點早課之前，先拜佛兩



For over sixty years, Bhikshuni Heng Dz recited the Buddha's name with a vigorous attitude. After leaving home for almost 28 years, she passed away at the age of 92 on March 20, 2018. A few days before she passed away, she encountered Amitabha Buddha. When people asked her if she had confidence in rebirth in the Land of Ultimate Bliss, she would nod her head. After her cremation, there were hundreds of polished white sharia- flowers (relics).

Dharma Master Heng Dz came from Taichung Dongshi, Taiwan. She was left with two sons when her husband passed away from illness at the age of twenty-eight. She had to support her sons independently by working as a midwife, a school nurse, and the principal of a Buddhist orphanage. Although her income was not ideal, she never regretted investing in her sons' education.

The death of her husband influenced her to form habits of reciting the Buddha's name and bowing to the Buddha. She even gathered a group of Buddhist peers to recite the Buddha's name for people on their deathbed. Additionally, she had received a Japanese education as a child, so her fluency in Japanese enabled her to translate Japanese Buddhist stories into Chinese. The stories she



百拜。一幅拜了十數年的阿彌陀佛畫像，曾大放光明，讓她信心倍增。晚年雖然行動不便，須以輪椅代步，仍然堅持推著輪椅到福居樓的佛堂上早課、拜大悲懺，回寮房後繼續念佛七萬聲，精進不懈。

雖然對母親當初的出家決定感到震驚，但是兩個兒子經常致電問候，也會抽空探望。3月20日當天，兒子媳婦聞訊趕來，恒滋師安詳嚥下最後一口氣，也圓滿家人見最後一面的心願。由於恰好午齋結束，萬佛聖城的數十位法師、居士都來助念，誠心祝願恒滋師到極樂世界，向阿彌陀佛跟前報到。✽

translated were featured in Taiwan's Buddhist magazine, Bodhi Tree, and soon the stories were compiled into a book entitled, Stories of Buddhism.

In the early 1990s, Dharma Master Heng Dz followed her sons to the United States, which gave her a chance to visit the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. In 1992, she seized the opportunity to leave home under Venerable Master Hua and was fully ordained in the same year.

In the eyes of her fellows, Dharma Master Heng Dz exemplified the qualities of a left home person who “read all Sutras” and “vow to practice all Dharma Doors.” Every day before the four o'clock morning ceremony began, she would bow two hundred times to the Buddhas. She had bowed in this fashion for over ten years in front of paintings of Amitayus Buddha, which shed light to encourage her to continue. As she grew older, she developed physical difficulties and needed a wheelchair to help her move around. She would use her wheelchair to bring herself to the morning ceremonies and the Great Compassion Repentance at the Tower of Blessings. When she returned to her room, she would continue vigorously reciting the Buddha's name for seven hundred thousand times.

Although her sons were shocked when they heard that their mother wanted to leave home, they stayed in contact with her and visited her at times. On March 20, her sons and their wives rushed to see her as soon as they heard the news of her decline. Dharma Master Heng Dz took her last breath and fulfilled the family's wish to see her for the last time. During that time, since lunch session just ended, dozens of Dharma Masters and the lay people came to help recite the Buddha's name. They sincerely wished Dharma Master Heng Dz would meet Amitayus Buddha and be reborn in the Land of Ultimate Bliss. ✽

