

【宣公上人百歲誕辰紀念活動】

【Events in Commemoration of Venerable Master Hua's Centennial Birthday】

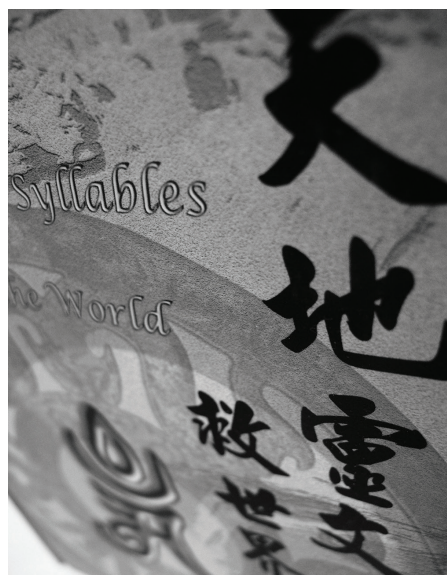
## 通天通地遍靈文，齊誦神咒報師恩

### Efficacious Words Penetrate Heaven and Earth; People Gather Together to Recite Spiritual Mantra to Repay Teacher's Kindness

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一般祝賀生日，都是想方設法送對方喜愛的東西，今年我們也在想：要如何慶賀上人百歲華誕呢？雖然上人一點都不需要。但可以確信的是，他老人家一定歡喜我們在法上用功。

有僧眾提議舉辦「楞嚴咒七」法會，因為上人來美開講的第一部大經是《楞嚴經》。上人常說世上有人會誦〈楞嚴咒〉，正法就能住世。於是大家集思廣益，精進七方案敲定之

Typically, people will gift a person something they like on their birthday. We pondered: how should we celebrate Venerable Master's centennial birthday this year? Even though he doesn't need any celebration at all. But for sure he would be delighted for us in making an effort towards cultivating the Dharma.

One of the Sangha members suggested that we hold a *Shurangama Mantra recitation session* for the Venerable Master, as the *Shurangama Sutra* were the first lectures on a sutra with more than one volume that he gave when he arrived in the States. He often said that as long as there is one person in this world who recites the *Shurangama Mantra*, the proper Dharma will continue to dwell in this world. From there, we consolidated everyone's ideas in planning for the Mantra recitation session. Through this process, the idea of an online group cultivation was also born.

後，開設網路共修的想法也相繼出爐。

4月16日提前開跑的「楞嚴咒共修平台」，與4月29日開始的「楞嚴咒七」，一起於5月5日圓滿。網路上共修的100人，加上金佛寺的法會大眾，三個禮拜總持了21,014遍〈楞嚴咒〉，全數迴向世界和平，並報答上人的法乳之恩。

無論顯應或冥感，參加的人都獲益匪淺。收穫最多的非阿芳莫屬。一年前開始照顧剛出世的孫女後，勉強維持的週末到廟上共修的機會都沒有了，只能用燈枯油盡來形容這種無可奈何的生活。我們鼓勵她參加網路共修，一開始她還遲疑自己能否做得到。當第一個週末抽空來參加晚課，並交出八十五遍的成績時，開始有了信心和活力。法會圓滿時她泛著淚光感謝上人，她終於找回跟廟的聯繫，雖然日子依舊會忙碌，但是她知道還是能夠繼續保持修行。她說此後要天天不忘禪坐和持咒。

比丘尼近忍師說，十多年前讀到上人「誦會了楞嚴咒，就沒有白來娑婆一遭」這句話，給她莫大的鼓舞。於是她發心誦持，每天工作之餘努力背一、兩句。第一會剛背完沒多久，剩餘的三會多的咒文，竟然神奇地都印進她的腦袋了。〈楞嚴咒〉叫楞半年，天天念，要念半年才會背，她竟然短短的27天就背會了。

花三年才學會〈大悲咒〉的溫果彩，也分享自己學習〈楞嚴咒〉的因緣。有一年在聖城做早課，發現身旁一位不識字的法國老婆婆流利地背出〈楞嚴咒〉，心想自己比人家年輕二十多歲，人家能，為甚麼我不能？於是從那天起開始學。一年下來，第一會順順當當地念到第五會的次數寥寥可數，但還是告訴自己要堅持下去。她說〈楞嚴咒〉雖然又長又難，但也正因為難，所以能攝心。學會了，就是給自己最珍貴的禮物。

戲稱金佛寺「第一家庭」的鄭家，每次來廟上參加活動少則六人，多則二十幾人。三千金慕貞是每次法會的基本成員，她說雖然這次法會既沒見到光，也沒有感

We started early registration on our website on April 16 for those interested in participating in the *Shurangama Mantra recitation programme*. On April 29, we officially began the *Shurangama Mantra recitation session* that was completed on May 5. A total of 100 people registered online. For three weeks, the online participants and the Dharma Assembly from Gold Buddha Monastery recited the *Shurangama Mantra* a total of 21,014 times. All the merit and virtue were dedicated to world peace and in repaying the Venerable Master's kindness in teaching us Dharma.

Whether it was clearly seen or not, all participants gained tremendous benefits. Ah Fang gained the most benefit from this event. A year ago, she was taking care of her newborn granddaughter, barely making it to the temple for weekly group cultivation and her life was pretty much drained. We encouraged her to participate in the online group cultivation event. She hesitated at first because she was not sure that she could do it. Then the first weekend she came for evening recitation and completed 85 counts of mantra recitation, and because of this she regained her faith and vitality. When this Dharma Event was completed, she gratefully bowed to Venerable Master with tears and was finally able to reconnect to the Temple. Even though life continues to be very busy, she knows that she will be able to keep with her cultivation. She said going forward, she will recite the mantra and meditate on a daily basis.

Ten years ago, Bhikshuni Jin Ren read a saying by the Venerable Master, which gave her a lot of encouragement. "If one could recite the *Shurangama Mantra*, then one has not wasted his or her life in this Saha world." Therefore, she vowed to recite it every day and tried to memorize one or two lines in her spare time. After she memorized the first assembly, suddenly she realized that she was able to recite the rest of it by memory. The *Shurangama Mantra* is nicknamed "six months' stupor" because even if one recites it daily, it typically takes 6 months of diligent recitation to fully memorize. However, she could recite the whole mantra by heart within 27 days.

A laywoman Guo Cai Wen, who took three years to learn the *Great Compassion Mantra*, also shared her condition in learning *Shurangama Mantra*. She was in CTTB many years ago and during the morning recitation she found a lady who was illiterate but could recite *Shurangama Mantra* fluently. And then she thought to herself: "I am more than 20 years younger than her, if she can recite it by heart, why do I have to rely on the recitation book?" She was then determined to learn. During the first year, there were only a handful of times she was able to recite the Mantra fluently from beginning to end. However, she kept telling herself to persistent on practicing it. She stated that the *Shurangama Mantra* is long and difficult which is why it helps us stay focused. Once we are able to memorize it, it becomes the most precious gift we can give ourselves.

The Chang Family is often referred to as the "First Family" of Gold Buddha Monastery (GBM). Because when there's an event in the monastery, there will be at least 6 people and sometimes up to more than 20 from this family who attends. Rosa is the Chang family's third daughter. She said that although she has not seen the light nor has received a response from this

應，但是心裡歡喜滿滿，比收到禮物還要開心。每逢連續七天的法會，她總是天天在倒數還有幾天才結束；沒想到這次，每天一早起就迫不及待要到金佛寺參加〈楞嚴咒〉法會。佛殿寧靜祥和的磁場，讓她希望以後還能有這樣的法會。

〈楞嚴咒〉法會每晚必到的放生組組長鄧一凡，平日修持〈藥師咒〉，每次勸他加誦《地藏經》、〈楞嚴咒〉能讓生活工作順利一點，他總推說「太長了，沒辦法」，而任由同事間的口角不斷。當發現他竟然每晚都來共修，一問之下，原來不僅唸了諸事順利，連晚上的睡眠也變好了。他說：「太有效了，能不能多請一點楞嚴咒水回去！」

無獨有偶的，睡眠品質改善也發生在另外兩位參加者身上，其中一位甚至連困擾多年的劇烈頭痛都消失不見了。

共修是光光相照，你借我的光，我借你的光，其間相乘的力量不可思議。這次現場和網路的共修，不管是周末人多，或者上班日人少；也不管是在現場，或是在遙遠的一方，誦咒的誠心和力量都一樣難以言宣。在藉由紀念上人的百歲華誕之際，表面上我們集氣來為上人慶生；事實上，上人給了我們每個人最寶貴的禮物。✿

Dharma Assembly, she is still full of joy. That joy even surpasses the joy of receiving gifts. Normally when she attends a seven-day session, she would count the number of days left before the session is completed. But this time, as soon as she got up in the morning she couldn't wait to go to GBM to attend the *Shurangama Mantra* recitation session. The atmosphere of tranquility and peacefulness in the Buddha Hall made her wish to have this kind of Dharma Assembly in the future.

Yit Fun Ting, who coordinates the activities of liberating life, attended the *Shurangama Mantra* recitation every night. His daily practice is to recite the Medicine Master Mantra. Whenever we asked him to also recite the *Earth Store Sutra* or the *Shurangama Mantra* that would help him maintain peace in his life, he would always reply: "Oh! It's too long, I can't do it." He would rather endure the constant quarrels at his workplace. But when we found that he came every night to recite and asked him the reason for coming, he said the recitation of this Mantra not only makes all things go smoothly, it also helps him sleep better at night. He claimed, "It is so effective. Can I take some *Shurangama Mantra* water home?"

Coincidentally, improvement of the sleep quality also occurred to two other participants due to attending the ceremony. One of them was also cured from the severe headaches that had bothered him for many years ago.

People cultivating together is like lights illuminating one another; the power of multiplication is unbelievable. Regardless of whether we recite together in the Temple or through the internet, no matter if there's more people on the weekend, or less people during the week; regardless if it's done at the Temple or a distant place, the sincerity and power of reciting the mantra is hard to express by words. On the surface, we gather everybody's energy to celebrate Venerable Master's centennial birthday, but in actuality, the Venerable Master has given every one of us the most precious gift. ✿



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