

# 萬佛聖城紀念上宣下化老和尚涅槃23週年

## The Observance at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas of the 23rd Anniversary of the Venerable Master Hua Entering Nirvana

編輯部 文/黃果儀 譯

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萬佛聖城於2018年6月17日舉行紀念上宣下化老和尚涅槃23週年法會，約2000名來自世界各地的善信雲集於此，共同懷念宣公上人一生的行誼與教化。其中700餘人分別搭乘15輛大巴，自南北加州浩蕩前來。育良小學、培德中學夏令營的學生和家長大都在週末報到，正好參加這項盛大的法會。

是日氣候溫和宜人，「南無上宣下化老和尚」的唱誦聲，於清晨七時前，在萬佛聖城山門前響起。數百位善信在法師帶領下，排成左右共八列，在唱誦中三步一拜向佛殿前進。每一次的拜下，都蘊含著對上人的無盡懷念。清晨的微風彷彿也回應著大家的虔誠與恭敬，將唱誦聲傳送得更高更遠。

On June 17, 2018, over 2000 people from all over the world gathered in the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas to commemorate the 23rd Anniversary of Venerable Master Hsuan Hua Entering Nirvana. Over 700 people came by bus from both Southern and Northern California. Instilling Goodness Elementary School and Developing Virtue Secondary School summer camp students and parents checked in on the weekend, and were able to take part in this Dharma Assembly.

It was a mild sunny morning when the assembly gathered before 7 a.m. by the Mountain Gate for the Three Step One Bow ceremony, led by the Dharma Masters. They made each bow with utmost respect and gratitude toward the Master, all while reciting his name. The gentle breeze carried the melodious prayers far and wide, as if it was responding to the sincerity of the assembly.

The recitation of the eighty-first fascicle of the *Avatamsaka Sutra*, *Entering the Inconceivable State of Liberation by Means of the Practices*

佛殿內，一如慣例，同時舉行誦經法會，念誦《華嚴經》第八十一卷《入不思議解脫境界普賢行願品》。這一品被清涼國師認為概括整部《華嚴經》，偈頌中的「乃至虛空世界盡，眾生及業煩惱盡，如是一切無盡時，我願究竟恆無盡」，正是宣公上人救度眾生大願的寫照。

上午的法會包括拜願、前往無言堂繞塔、傳供大典。傳供大典是當天亮點，108道供品分區自後向前傳送到佛前供桌，每位參加法會的信眾，都可藉著接力傳送供品，表達內心對上人的感恩與懷念。

為使法會用齋順暢進行，齋堂今年在大悲院中庭安排了8座取食台，以及1,200個座位。五觀齋堂和小齋堂總計約900個座位容納不下的信眾，正好到緊鄰的大悲院中庭樹蔭下用餐，取食方便，秩序井然。法會大眾在涼爽宜人的環境中，共同聆聽法師開示，並享受一頓可口又健康的素齋。

法界佛教總會會長恒實法師在午齋中指出，今年恰逢上人百歲誕辰，法總將在網站闢一專欄，邀請大家來寫「感謝信」給宣公上人。內容可寫上人如何影響我們的人生、如何影響我們的修行、如何影響我們的人際關係、或者分享故事等等。文字不拘，越南文、中文（包括繁體字與簡體字）、英文、其他語文都歡迎。寫好後請寄至centennial@drba.org，並請註明是否同意這封「感謝信」的內容登載於法總網站上。

實法師表示，上人入涅槃後，法總曾出版三本紀念專輯，蒐集了很多弟子們追憶上人的文章。如今相隔將近四分之一個世紀，法總將再度蒐集大家（包括老弟子和新皈依者）寫給上人的「感謝信」，讓全世界的人都知道，並永久保存。

最早提出這項構想的比丘近傳法師指出，雖然他從未見過上人，但若非上人，他不可能信佛教，更不可能出家修行。上人的教化令他打開心胸，學會孝道、改過向善、做個更好的人。近傳法師以自己少年時期和父母溝通的經驗為例，「寫信比

and Vows of Samantabhadra Bodhisattva was held in the Buddha Hall as usual. Master Cheng Guan said long ago that this one chapter sums up the entire *Avatamsaka Sutra*: “When the world, emptiness, living beings, and afflictions cease to exist, my vows will remain boundless.” This is an accurate reflection of the Venerable Master’s great vow to liberate all beings.

The Dharma Assembly in the morning included Universal Bowing, a visit to Wordless Hall, and the High meal Offering. The highlight of the Dharma Assembly was the High meal Offering which included offering 108 items before the Buddhas. Everyone who participated in the Dharma Assembly was able to commemorate and express their gratitude toward the Venerable Master by taking part in passing the offerings.

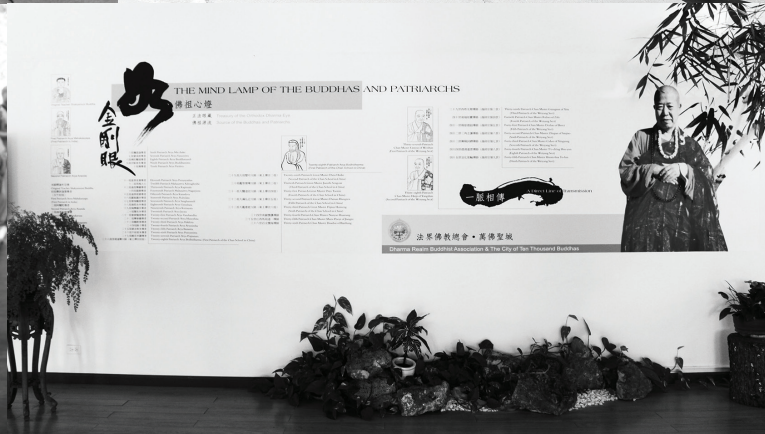
There were 900 guests seated in the large and small dining halls, as well as seats for 1200 guests under the cool shade in the Great Compassion Courtyard where eight additional food counters were set up in order to ensure the smooth service of the meal. The entire great assembly enjoyed a delicious and healthy vegetarian meal while listening to Dharma talks given by the Dharma Masters.

The president of the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association, Reverend Heng Sure pointed out that this year also happens to be the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Venerable Master Hua. Hence, DRBA invites everyone to write a “letter of gratitude” online, to Venerable Master Hsuan Hua. Those intending to write a letter may write about how the Venerable Master has influenced their lives, cultivation, social lives, or share their stories. There is no language requirement, Vietnamese, Chinese (both traditional and simplified), English, and more are all welcome! Please address the letter to centennial@drba.org and indicate whether the letter may be published.

Rev. Heng Sure shared that after the Venerable Master entered Nirvana, DRBA had published a three-book collection of the Venerable Master Hua’s disciples recounting their stories with him to commemorate his life. It has been almost a quarter of a century since those recollections were published. DRBA now wishes to collect “letters of gratitude” from everyone (both long-time and recent disciples,) and publish them to the world to preserve these stories.

Bhikshu Jin Chuan, who first initiated this idea, said that even though he had never met the Venerable Master in person, he wouldn’t have believed in Buddhism or entered the monastic life without the Venerable Master whose teachings opened up his heart and made him learn filial respect, change from making mistakes to being wholesome, and learn to be a better person. Based on his experiences from his youth of communicating with his parents, he felt that “it’s much easier to speak our heart when putting the words in writing.” He hopes that we can write from our heart as if the Venerable Master is still alive.

Bhikshuni Heng Syun, repeating the long ago words of the Venerable Master, said that all of the branch monasteries scattered



較能講出真心話。希望大家當作上人還在，寫出心裡的話。」

比丘尼恒薰法師借用上人曾說的「玻璃中的鑽石」，以此譬喻法總各道場，勉勵信眾做能够分辨鑽石的專家。薰法師又說，上人是我們的明眼善知識，希望大家珍惜自己的善根福報，發大菩提心，時刻記住祖師的叮嚀，真的為眾生、為佛教，消滅脾氣，去除貪心、自私自利的心、打妄想的習氣，這樣老實修行，慢慢正法自然而然就住世了。

萬佛聖城方丈恒律法師建議大家無論修行任何法門，都要以宣公上人的六大宗旨「不爭、不貪、不求、不自私、不自利、不妄語」為基礎，否則修行就像無根之木，無源之水，徒具形式，得不到真正的受用。律法師說：「要報答上人的恩德，最好的方法就是在日常生活中，實踐六大宗旨，無論修行何種法門，都可以成

around the world are “diamonds among shards of glass,” and that we must be like diamond experts, able to distinguish the real from the false, and the proper from the improper. Dharma Master Syun then continued, saying that the Venerable Master is our lucid wise, knowing advisor. She advised the assembly to appreciate our good roots and blessings. We should always keep the Venerable Master’s teachings in mind, rid ourselves of anger, greed, selfishness, and false thoughts for the sake of all living beings and Buddhism. She urged the assembly to cultivate mindfully, and slowly the proper Dharma will naturally appear.

Dharma Master Heng Lyu, the Abbot of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, advised the audience to abide by the Venerable Master’s six Great Principles “No fighting, no greed, no seeking, no selfishness, no pursuing self advantage, no lying” as a basis no matter which Dharma Door one decides to cultivate. Without a foundation, one’s cultivation will be no different from a tree without roots, or water without a source. Dharma Master Lyu said, “The best way to repay the Venerable Master’s kindness is to apply the six principles in our daily lives. With that in mind, we will be able to succeed using any Dharma door, be liberated from the cycle of birth and death, benefit all living beings, and attain enlightenment. This is what will truly make the Venerable Master rejoice.”

There were 44 people, with ages ranging from 4 to 90 years old, who took the Three Refuges and Five Precepts, transmission ceremony. Wang Di, a retired movie director from Beijing, China, was the oldest taking

功，了生脫死，並利益廣大眾生，可以早日成佛，上人一定會非常高興。」

當天下午三皈五戒儀式，計有44人參加，年齡自4歲至90歲不等。來自中國的退休電影導演王迪，是最高齡的皈依受戒者。他於70歲時，即在上人法像前頂禮一萬拜懇求皈依，終得夜夢上人現前摩頂。如今因緣成熟，得以首度來到萬佛聖城，在上人涅槃紀念法會這天，至誠求受三皈五戒，法名親迪。王親迪由衷道：「心慕上人和萬佛城道風，萬里煙波跋涉方至，得償如願，幸甚至哉！」

這次受五戒的居士當中，還有另外兩位導演。現年86歲的錢國民，在中國集編導製片於一身。退休後，皈依上人座下僧團已有六年，法名親誠。每天在家做早晚課，對於「以戒為師」體會日深。他說：「唯有持戒才能真正離苦得樂，有把握往生西方極樂世界。」

來自北京的胡朝暉導演與同修周曉哲導演，發心義務拍攝宣公上人紀錄片。這回專程前來萬佛聖城，籌備規劃拍片事宜。胡朝暉報名五戒的原因是：「希望早日成佛解脫，普度眾生。」他表示此行深切感受到上人並未離去，上人無處不在——他在人們的言談中、在人們的心念中、在林間清風掠去處、在涓涓流淌的清流裡。

今年恰逢上人百歲誕辰，法界佛教大學今年稍早獲得美國西區學盟評鑑認證；法大推廣中心已在瑜伽市善財參學中心舉辦了《楞嚴經》講座及打坐班，紀念上人百歲誕辰以及上人在美首度開講《楞嚴經》五十週年。佛經翻譯委員會則將出版多本新書，均為上人百歲誕辰的獻禮。此外，法界佛教總會將於2018年10月6日至2019年1月11日，在舊金山總圖書館舉行「宣公上人照片暨圖書展」，介紹上人生平，並介紹上人將正法帶到西方的志業，諸如建立僧團、成立佛經翻譯委員會翻譯佛經的出版成果、以及法界大學、培德中學、育良小學的現況等，展出詳情將透過法總各分支道場公布。❀

the Three Refuges and Five Precepts together. At 70, he bowed ten thousand times in front of the Venerable Master's image, praying to take refuge under the Venerable Master. He even dreamed of the Master touching his head. Now that the affinities have ripened, he was able to visit the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas for the very first time. Wang Di successfully took refuge and the five precepts under the Venerable Master on the day of Venerable Master Hua's Nirvana with the Dharma name Qin Di. Wang Di exclaimed, "I am extremely lucky to be able cross half the globe and fulfill my wishes of coming to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas and becoming a disciple of the Venerable Master Hua."

There were two other movie directors amongst the laypeople taking the Five Precepts. Qian Guo Min is 86 years-old. He was a screenwriter, a director, and a producer in China. After retiring, he had already taken refuge under Venerable Master Hua for 6 years with the Dharma name Qin Cheng, and practices "taking the precepts as one's teacher" and does both the morning and evening ceremonies at home. He says, "It is only through upholding the precepts that we are able to leave the world of suffering and be reborn in the Land of Ultimate Bliss."

Movie directors Hu Chao Hui and Zhou Xiao Zhe from Beijing, are wanting to make a donation of a documentary film about the Venerable Master. Their trip to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas was in preparation of filming the documentary. Hu Chao Hui stated that he wanted to take the five precepts in order to "Attain enlightenment, leave the world of suffering and liberate living beings." He expressed that he can still very much feel the presence of the Venerable Master, that he has not left us, that he is everywhere as the subject of conversations and in the hearts of the people. He is "within the gentle breeze and the currents of the streams."

This year is also the centennial of the Venerable Master's birthday. Dharma Realm Buddhist University was fully accredited by WASC earlier this year. DRBU Extension hosted the "Shurangama Retreat" at the Sudhana Center in Ukiah in honor of Venerable Master's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Shurangama Retreat. The Buddhist Text Translation Society will be publishing new books, as offerings in honor of Venerable Master's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Dharma Realm Buddhist Association will also be organizing a book and photo exhibition in the San Francisco Main Library from October 16, 2018 through January 11, 2019. It will honor his life story, share his legacies related to bringing the proper Dharma to the West; including establishing the Sangha, the accomplishments of the Buddhist Text Translation Society, and updates on Dharma Realm Buddhist University and Instilling Goodness and Developing Virtue Schools. More details will be available and released by the branch monasteries.

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