

# 萬佛聖城慶祝地藏菩薩聖誕法會

## Celebration of Earth Store Bodhisattva's Birthday at City of Ten Thousand Buddhas



口中至誠念地藏菩薩，六道輪迴便停止旋轉，不知有多少眾生，藉此機會能超出輪迴之外，不再受輪迴之苦。所以，念地藏菩薩的名號是最神聖的工作，有不可思議的功德。沒有企圖的念，不求代價的念，不圖眾生感謝的念；總而言之，心甘情願的念。

—宣化上人開示於1982年3月

Reciting the name of the Earth Store Bodhisattva with utmost sincerity will end the cycle of transmigration in the six paths. Numerous beings are seizing the moment to transcend the realms of birth and death, thus forever severing themselves from the suffering cycle of existence. As a result, the effort to recite Earth Store Bodhisattva's name is considered to be most sacred and its merits inconceivable beyond measure. Recite without seeking, recite unconditionally, recite generously and to this end, recite determinedly.

An instructional talk given by Venerable Master Hsuan Hua in March 1982



# 2018年萬佛聖城地藏七

## The 2018 Earth Store Session at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas

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The 2018 Earth Store Session at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas was very auspicious. The recitation was carried out in three different halls, each hall holding the recitation in a different language: one in Chinese, one in English, and one in Vietnamese. This enabled the faithful practitioners of differing mother tongues to deeply enter the Sutra treasury, filling them with Dharma joy, and to deeply feel Earth Store Bodhisattva's great vows and powers: "If the hells are not emptied, I shall not become a Buddha."

CTTB hosted the celebration of Earth Store Bodhisattva's birthday on September 9. It was an early warm autumn day. At 6:50 A.M., a lot of faithful practitioners gradually assembled at the Mountain Gate. Following the lead of the monastic cantor, they chanted "Namo Earth Store Bodhisattva" as they proceeded to the Buddha Hall, bowing once every three steps. The chanting of "Namo Earth Store Bodhisattva" was carried gently by the early morning breeze, causing all living beings who heard the recitation to gain the benefit of the Dharma. Meanwhile, in the Buddha Hall, the assembly started reciting the first volume of the *Earth Store Sutra*, thus formally

2018年萬佛聖城的地藏七非常殊勝，分為中文、英文、越南文三堂念誦。母語不同的信眾，得以深入經藏，法喜充滿，深刻體會地藏菩薩「地獄不空，誓不成佛」的大願大力。

萬佛聖城於2018年9月9日舉行地藏菩薩聖誕法會，這天是個溫暖的早秋天氣。清晨6時50分起，許多善信陸續來到山門口，在法師們的帶領下，齊聲唱誦「南無地藏王菩薩」，三步一拜，向萬佛殿前進。「南無地藏王菩薩」的唱誦聲飄揚在清晨微風中，令聽聞眾生同霑法益。佛殿內則開始念誦《地藏經》





上卷，為地藏七掀開序幕。

萬佛聖城方丈恒律法師在午齋中開示指出，最近美國西岸大火仍然不斷，地獄又稱「火途」，因為地獄的眾生經常受到熊熊大火之苦。這些大火，是因眾生經常發脾氣、沒有慈悲心所感召而來。宣公上人常說，要在反面找好處。如果有人對你吼叫，不妨想像對方正在微笑，然後你也報以微笑。多微笑，不要憂愁生氣，這樣無論在任何地方，我們的心中都能充滿陽光，即使在最黑暗的時刻，我們也能將陽光帶給別人，就能成為地藏菩薩的好幫手了。

比丘近聖法師強調，《地藏經》不但和《盂蘭盆經》、《父母恩重難報經》同為佛教中的孝經，而且《地藏經》又是因果

commencing this Earth Store Session.

During lunch, Dharma Master Heng Lyu, the Abbot of CTTB, gave a Dharma talk. He said that the Mendocino Complex Fire was still blazing ceaselessly. The hells are also known as the “realm of the inferno” because hell beings constantly suffer scorching by blazing fire. These fires are caused because living beings lack compassion and constantly lose their tempers. Venerable Master Hua often instructed us to look for the good in the bad. For example, if someone yells at us, we imagine that this person is smiling instead, and reciprocate with a smile. We should smile more, and not be upset or angry. Then, no matter where we are, our hearts will be filled with glorious sunshine, and even in the darkest of times, we will be able

to bring sunshine to others. This way, we can become good assistants to Earth Store Bodhisattva.



In Bhikshu Jin Sheng’s talk, he emphasized that the *Earth Store Sutra*, the *Ullambana Sutra*, and the *Sutra on the Difficulty of Repaying the Profound Kindness of Parents* are all Buddhist Sutras that emphasize filial respect. Moreover, the *Earth Store Sutra* is a Sutra on the Law of Cause and Effect, explaining the Law clearly and thoroughly. Shakyamuni Buddha entrusted Earth Store Bodhisattva with the heavy responsibility of teaching living beings who are headstrong and obstinate. Earth Store Bodhisattva vowed that any being who does even the slightest good in the Dharma would have created affinities with Earth Store Bodhisattva, and he will save that being. For everyone here to eat together is a wholesome deed, even though it’s only one meal, because no killing karma is created; thus



經，講因果很徹底。釋迦牟尼佛交給地藏菩薩的一大重任，就是要度難調難伏的眾生，地藏菩薩發願，凡在佛法中做點善事的人，地藏菩薩就跟他有緣，就會去度他。大家今天在這裡吃齋，雖然只是一餐，但沒有殺生，這就是善事，就跟地藏菩薩有緣。

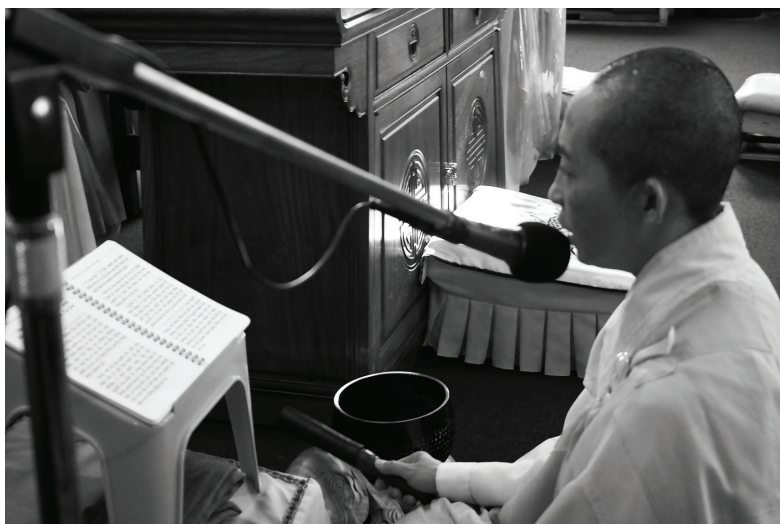
比丘尼恒禪法師表示，持誦《地藏經》不僅能夠超度亡者，也能超度活人。超是超越，超越我們的貪瞋癡；若能超越三毒煩惱心，守住六大宗旨：不爭、不貪、不求、不自私、不自利及不打妄語，此心守得住，上人說：「成佛有餘！」成佛之後，就能上天下地為所有父母說法，令所有眾生離苦得樂，了生脫死，這就是真孝。

今年的地藏七，中文的《地藏經》唸誦在萬佛殿舉行，英文唸誦、越南文唸誦分別在往生堂、念佛堂同步進行。英文組約20人參加，越文組則有20餘人參加。法界佛教總會最資深的比丘尼恒持法師也輪流擔任英文誦經的維那，對後生晚輩頗具示範效果。經文念誦圓滿後，英文與越南文兩堂信眾回到萬佛殿，大家齊誦「南無地藏王菩薩」聖號，同蒙地藏王菩薩大願大力慈悲攝受，並為一切眾生迴向。

三種語言誦經的方法很獲好評。一位參加越南文念誦的居士表示，以自己的母語誦《地藏經》，感覺格外攝心。不

we have affinities with Earth Store Bodhisattva.

Bhikshuni Heng Chan said that reciting the *Earth Store Sutra* can not only take across the deceased, but also take across the living. “Take across” means to transcend our greed, anger, and delusion; if we can transform the mind afflicted by the three poisons, then we will be able to uphold the Six Great Principles: not fighting, not being greedy, not seeking, not being selfish, not self-benefiting, and not lying. The Venerable Master said that if we can truly uphold these principles, then



it will be more than sufficient for us to attain Buddhahood. After we realize Buddhahood, we can go up to the heavens and down to the underworld to speak Dharma for the sake of all parents, and enable all living beings to leave suffering, attain bliss, and end birth and death — this is true filial respect.

During this year’s Earth Store Session, the Sutra was recited simultaneously in Chinese in the Buddha Hall, in English in the Rebirth Hall, and in Vietnamese in the Buddha Recitation Hall. The English and Vietnamese recitations each had about twenty attendees. DRBA’s most senior bhikshuni, Dharma Master Heng Chih, was one of the cantors for the English recitation, thus serving as a model of cultivation for later generations. On completing the Sutra recitation, both groups joined the participants in the Buddha Hall to chant the sacred name “Namo Earth Store Bodhisattva.” Finally, everyone dedicated the merit, wishing that all living beings be gathered in and protected by Earth Store Bodhisattva’s great compassion, kindness, powers and vows.

Using three languages to recite the Sutra was well received. A Vietnamese lay participant said that to recite the *Earth Store Sutra* in their native tongue allowed for a more focused mind and deeper connection with the Bodhisattva. Another attendee from China who participated in the English recitation said that reciting in English facilitated a more profound understanding of the Sutra. This tells us



過，一位參加英文念誦的中國居士則說，參加英文念誦後，更能深入了解經義。因此，以不同語文念誦，可說是提供眾生「隨類各得解」的機會。

來自倫敦的林親和說，這是他第一次參加地藏七。外婆過世後，六個家人都曾經夢到外婆，甚至有人夢到外婆交代要為她誦《地藏經》，從此家人都開始誦《地藏經》迴向外公外婆。

2015年全家從明尼蘇達州搬到瑜伽市的劉洋，2012年首次來萬佛聖城參加地藏七的前幾天，上吐下瀉不止，但是她依然堅持要來參加地藏七。抵達聖城已是晚間，倒頭便睡；第二天起床後，所有病症竟然消失得無影無踪，《地藏經》從此成為她的每日功課。劉洋說：「有任何願望都是誦《地藏經》迴向，《地藏經》已經成了我的如意珠。」

從越南專程前來參加地藏七的陳紅雲表示，在越南讀到上人的書非常感動，於是發心自己皈依上人，其後受持五戒。但2015年因故破戒，心裏一直懺悔不已。這次因緣成熟，申請來美簽證輕鬆過關，雖然不懂英文，但一路順利來到聖城。她在上人像前誠心懺悔破戒之過，地藏七期間獲得很多不可思議的感應，讓她非常快樂。地藏七圓滿後，隨即要返回越南，離開聖城之前的心願就是：「下次還要再來萬佛聖城參加法會。」❀



that the multi-lingual recitation provides a greater opportunity for more living beings to gain better understanding of the Sutra according to their kinds and capacities.

Robert Lam, a layman from London, said that this was his first time attending the Earth Store Session. When his grandmother passed away, six family members saw her appear in their dreams; she even asked some of the family members to recite the *Earth Store Sutra* for her. After that, the whole family started reciting the *Earth Store Sutra* and dedicated the merit to their deceased maternal grandparents.

In 2015, Liu Yang and her family moved from Minnesota to Ukiah. In 2012, several days before her first coming to the

CTTB Earth Store Session, she started vomiting incessantly; however, she mustered her courage and insisted on participating in the Session. She arrived very late, so she fell asleep immediately. Strangely, the next day, when she woke up, she stopped vomiting completely — the symptoms were gone without any trace. Ever since then, she recites the *Earth Store Sutra* as her daily practice. Liu Yang said, “Any time I wish for something, I recite the *Earth Store Sutra* and dedicate the merit towards it. For me, the Earth Store Sutra has become an As-You-Wish Pearl.”

Tran Hong Van, who made a special trip from Vietnam to participate in this Earth Store Session, explained that in Vietnam she had read some books on the Dharma teachings of Venerable Master Hua. Greatly moved by the teachings, she resolved to take refuge with the Venerable Master. Later she took the Five Precepts. However, for some reason she broke the precepts in 2015 and was very remorseful. She applied for a visa to the United States and as her good causes and conditions matured, everything proceeded smoothly despite that fact she does not speak English, and she traveled to CTTB without a hitch. She confessed her fault of breaking the precepts before the Venerable Master's image. During the Earth Store Session, she attained several inconceivable responses and experienced tremendous joy. After the Earth Store Session, she had to immediately return to Vietnam, and before leaving, she had this aspiration: “I will come to CTTB again in the future to participate in a Dharma Session.” ❀

