

Abundant in Virtue, Deep in Practice —In Memory of Bhikshuni Heng Mao

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Let us take a moment to remember the life of Bhikshuni Heng Mao, Dharma name Guo Ching. In 1989, the Venerable Master Hua led a delegation to Taiwan and conducted a Dharma Assembly for Protecting the Nation and Quelling Disasters. Deeply impressed by the Master's virtue, she vowed to follow him in propagating the Buddhadharma. She kept bowing to the Master and pleading silently for his help: "If I cannot become a nun with the Master in this life, I will definitely fulfill my wish in the next life or future lives!" Blessed by the Venerable Master, her only wish was to set everything else aside and cultivate single mindedly. In 1990, she came to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, and very soon after that, she became a novice nun on the Venerable Master's birthday. In 1991 she was fully ordained as a bhikshuni.

恒茂法師，法名果青。1989年，宣公上人率團訪臺舉辦護國息災法會，恒茂法師在法會中深為上人德行所折服，願追隨左右弘揚佛法。不停禮拜上人，懇求上人幫助，心想：「如果今生不能追隨上人出家，來世乃至於未來世也一定要滿願。」上人給她力量，從此她但求「萬緣放下，一心修行。」1990年來聖城，不久就出家，1991年受具足戒。

茂法師出家修行精進。有很長一段時間每天誦《地藏經》、《梵網經菩薩戒》、《普賢行願品》各一部。後思惟：平常心是道，修行要照顧日常功課。真

Dharma Master Mao cultivated very vigorously after leaving the home life. For many, many years, she recite the *Earth Store Sutra*, the Bodhisattva Precepts in *Brahma Net Sutra*, and the *Chapter of Samantabhadra Bodhisattva's Conduct and Vows*. She frequently contemplated, "The ordinary mind is the Way. In cultivation, one should emphasize daily practice." She realized the importance of cultivating with the assembly, and took care not to be absent from the morning and evening ceremonies. Reflecting on how the precepts promote harmony, she started to focus on her interactions with people—especially avoiding causing annoyance to anyone. She also reflected upon herself whenever she faced challenges or things didn't go her way.

From 1991 to 1992 and again from 2007 to 2011, she was the Editor in Chief of Vajra Bodhi Sea. She also compiled publications on special topics, such as *Protecting the City of the Dharma King*, *Green Living at CTTB*, etc. During this period, she also helped compile volumes recounting events in the life of the Venerable Master including one volume on his early life in China, and the second volume on his period in Hong Kong.

Among the monasteries and locations of the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association, she has served in Taiwan, Louisiana, the City of the Dharma Realm, the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, Gold Sage Monastery, and the Buddhist Lecture Hall in Hong Kong: assisting with administration, leading the assembly in reciting the Buddha's name, lecturing on the precepts and sutras, teaching Chinese, and training novices. During the last few years of her life, she served in the Buddha Lecture Hall in Hong Kong leading many events including ceremonies and sutra recitation assemblies. After her passing, Dharma Master Heng Gwei said, "Dharma Master Mao always took up her full responsibility, she always did a good job from the beginning till the end... Her health was already declining around Venerable Master's Nirvana recently, but she was still holding an Avatamsaka Recitation Session at the Buddhist Lecture Hall. She was never lax. She never missed ceremonies or homework." Dharma Master Heng Shr followed by saying, "Dharma Master Mao ate one meal a day till the end and only gave up sleeping sitting up a few months prior."

Dharma Master Mao peacefully passed away at the City of the Dharma Realm on August 17, 2019 after a brief period of illness. Dharma Master Gwei also said that, "Dharma Master Mao's passing is a great loss to DRBA and to Buddhism, because she had much experience, but she was ready to go to the Western Pure Land so we wish her well as she continues her cultivation." ❀

切認識到隨眾共修的重要性，常常提醒自己，共修功課要跟得緊，早晚功課不可缺。戒律精神原在與眾和合，茂法師注意與人相處——以不惱他人為要。面對逆境考驗，她能生「行有不得，反求諸己。」之心，用覺照的功夫，對境鍊心。

1991年至1992年，2007年至2011年期間任《金剛菩提海》雜誌主編；彙編報導「擁護法王城」，「綠色生活在聖城」等專題，準時出刊；期間推動宣公上人在中國，宣公上人在香港的事蹟彙編工作。

茂法師先後在臺灣道場、前路易斯安那道場、法界聖城、萬佛聖城、金聖寺、香港道場服務。在道場協助行政、領眾念佛、教戒律、習講楞嚴、教中文、協助培育僧才。茂法師在香港道場服務期間，包攬道場上下各種大小事務，領眾法會，講經說法。

貴法師指出，茂法師總是能擔起全責，每一件事情都能貫徹始終。最近一次在香港佛教講堂的上人涅槃法會，茂法師身體每況愈下，仍然堅持帶領整個華嚴經念誦法會。茂法師從不懈怠，從未缺席一堂功課和法會。

是法師指出，茂法師堅持日中一食到生命的最後一刻；茂法師出家以來堅持夜不倒單，直到病重往生前幾個月才放下坐單。

2019年8月17日，茂法師在法界聖城安詳捨報。貴法師指出茂法師的往生是僧團及佛教的重大損失，因為她的經驗是這樣的豐富。但是她已經準備好資糧去極樂世界。貴法師代表僧團衷心祝福茂法師在極樂世界繼續用功辦道。❀