

# 萬佛聖城觀音菩薩出家紀念法會暨觀音七

## Celebration of Guanyin Bodhisattva Leaving Home and Guanyin Session at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas

關尹啓 文/譯

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萬佛聖城於2021年10月24日舉行觀音菩薩出家紀念法會，並自當天起，展開觀音七，至10月30日圓滿。每年在農曆二月十九觀音菩薩聖誕、六月十九觀音菩薩成道日、以及九月十九觀音菩薩出家紀念日，萬佛聖城都舉辦觀音七，至今已有一百餘次。一年舉辦三次觀音七，在全世界是很稀有難得的。

萬佛聖城觀音七期間，每日念誦《觀世音菩薩普門品》、〈大悲咒〉、以及觀世音菩薩聖號，並安排靜坐時間。疫情前，萬佛聖城大型法會凡遇念誦經典時，通常分成中文、英文（有時還有越南文），在不同的殿，分組念誦。但在疫情期間，無法分組直播，因此改為在不同的時段念誦。英語誦經安排在上午八時至十時，中文的經文念誦則排在清晨七時和下午一時。起七日和圓滿日的中英文誦經時間另外安排。

為因應疫情，2021年萬佛聖城所有大型法會包括觀音七、

On October 24, 2021, the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) celebrated Guanyin (Avalokiteśvara) Bodhisattva's Leaving Home and started the seven-day Guanyin Recitation Session the same day, which continued till October 30. The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas holds the Guanyin Session three times a year on Guanyin Bodhisattva's birthday, the nineteenth day of the second lunar month; on Guanyin Bodhisattva's Enlightenment Day, the nineteenth day of the sixth lunar month; and on Guanyin Bodhisattva's Leaving Home Day, the nineteenth day of the ninth lunar month; respectfully. It's very rare that three Guanyin sessions are held every year in the entire world. There have been more than a hundred Guanyin sessions held at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas so far.

During this Guanyin Session, the "Universal Door Chapter" from the *Wonderful Lotus Flower Sutra*, the Great Compassion Mantra, and Guanyin Bodhisattva's name were recited. There was also meditation time. Before the pandemic, the sutra recitation during a session was often divided into Chinese and English groups and held in different halls, sometimes even Vietnamese recitation was also held separately.

However, during the pandemic, it's difficult to livestream the recitation in different languages at the same time. Sutra recitation in different languages was divided into different time segments. English sutra recitation was arranged in the morning from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Chinese sutra recitation was scheduled at 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. The schedule of sutra recitation in different languages was rearranged on the first day and last day of the session.

All of the Dharma sessions at CTTB held in 2021 include the three Guanyin sessions, the Ten Thousand Buddhas, Jeweled Repentance, the Avatamsaka Recitation Session, the Earth Store Session, and also the Amitabha Session which will be held at the end of the year have been taking a number

地藏七、年底的彌陀七、以及萬佛寶懺、華嚴法會，都繼續採取防疫規格，城外住眾線上參加；城內福居樓住眾、法界大學、培德育良中小學成員也是線上參加；能夠現場參加的是如來寺、大悲院、喜捨院住眾，以及城內義工。

萬佛聖城創辦人上宣下化老和尚曾說：「每年我們打七，這是為虛空世界消毒。現在世界空氣污染，宇宙間醞釀著一種毒氣，任何方法都無法消除，只有誠心請求諸佛菩薩放光，消除這種毒氣，把這種無影無形的戾氣消滅。」

觀世音菩薩尋聲救苦，為人消災免難的靈感事蹟非常多。見諸正史的就有晉書、宋書所分別記載的前秦右丞相徐義、王玄謨大將軍等人，都因至心虔誦《觀音經》獲救。

今年5月在法界佛教大學線上演講「觀音菩薩和中國文化」的于君方教授，是美國哥倫比亞大學榮休教授。她在童年8歲時，跟隨篤信觀音菩薩，每天持誦〈大悲咒〉的外祖母返鄉，曾親身經歷以下的靈感事蹟：

「這件事發生在（抗日）戰爭結束後某日的黎明時分，地點是武漢的長江岸邊。當時我們為了取得返鄉的船票，已經等了三個月。最後，機會終於來了，於是全家整夜露宿江邊，等待上船。突然外祖母堅持不讓我們上那艘船，因為她看見觀音示現，菩薩站在江中，以右手示意她不要靠近，外祖母立刻明白觀音菩薩是在告訴她那艘船不安全。

我母親起初不願聽信外祖母

of precautions because of the ongoing pandemic. People living outside CTTB can only attend these sessions on-line. People living inside of certain social bubbles at CTTB which include Tower of Blessings residents, members of Dharma Realm Buddhist University, Developing Virtue Secondary School, and Instilling Goodness Elementary School also have to attend these sessions on-line. Only residents of Tathagata Monastery, Great Compassion House, Joyous Giving House and volunteers living full-time at CTTB who remain on campus at all times are able to attend these sessions in person.

Venerable Master Hsuan Hua, founder of CTTB, once said, “Every year, we hold the session for the sake of dispelling the poisons in space and in the world. The atmosphere is now very polluted, and there is a poisonous energy brewing in the universe which can’t be dispelled. We can only sincerely ask the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas to shine their light and cause the invisible but lethal toxic energy to disappear.”

Guanyin Bodhisattva listens the prayers of all beings in times of difficulty and suffering and dispels disasters and dangers for people who pray to him. There have been numerous efficacious responses from Guan Yin Bodhisattva. Even Chinese history recorded some of those efficacious responses such as the History of Jin Dynasty in which prime minister Xu Yi of the former Qin kingdom escaped being killed by reciting Guan Yin Sutra. Again, in the History of Liu Song Dynasty, General Wang Xuanmo also recited Guanyin’s Sutra and his life was saved from a death sentence.

Dr. Chun-Fang Yu, professor emerita of Columbia University, gave an online talk on “Guanyin and Chinese Culture” to the Dharma Realm Buddhist University last May. She herself witnessed Guanyin Bodhisattva’s efficacious response when she was eight while traveling with her maternal grandmother on a home-coming trip. Her grandmother was a devout Buddhist having firm faith in Guanyin Bodhisattva and reciting Great Compassion Mantra daily. The following is Professor Yu’s personal account of this experience:

“This happened in the predawn hours by the banks of the Yangtze River in Wuhan, after the (Sino-Japanese) war had ended. We had been waiting for three months to secure seats in a boat that would take us back home. Finally, our chance came and the whole family was camped by the riverbank, waiting to get on board. Suddenly, my grandmother insisted that we not board the ship because she had a vision of Guan Yin Bodhisattva standing in the middle of the river and gesturing with her right hand for my grandmother to stay away. My grandmother immediately knew that Guanyin Bodhisattva was telling her that the ship was not safe. My mother, a product of the May Fourth Movement

的話，因為她是大學畢業生，又是歷史教師，是深受五四運動影響的典型知識分子，但外祖母堅決無比，我母親最後終於讓步。結果那艘船離開碼頭後不久，就誤觸日本撤退部隊預埋的水雷，不幸沉沒。」

目前全球疫情仍熾，猶記宣公上人當年在東北故鄉遇到瘟疫蔓延時，帶領弟子持誦〈大悲咒〉環繞村子四周，以期為村民消災解難，那場瘟疫果然很快就消失。

《大悲心陀羅尼經》上說：「誦持大悲咒者，能消諸難。」因此，上人對弟子們的教導是每天108遍〈大悲咒〉；對一般學佛的居士，上人則說：「我勸已經會念的居士，每日應最少誦持三遍，至於不會念的，也應趕快學。誦持〈大悲咒〉的功德，不但能退盜賊，更能消除百病，平諸魔難，所以我們應該誠心誦持。」

宣公上人大力提倡的〈楞嚴咒〉裡，第132句「毖沙舍」，也是對治瘟疫的咒句。上人說：「若你能誦持這句咒，便能消除這種災難（瘟疫），而得到吉祥……持咒要誠心，專心不打妄想，才有感應。」

馬來西亞居士黃倫升表示，他今年已經在網上參加萬佛聖城萬佛寶懺、觀音七、地藏七等法會，這次參加第三次觀音七，經驗很殊勝，他覺得非常幸運，也很感恩。他說：「希望萬佛聖城繼續線上直播法會，讓世界各地的人都有機會參加」。黃倫升的心願，也是很多遠距上網參加法會者的心聲。

有意上網參加萬佛聖城法會的善信，歡迎到以下網站查看法會時間。

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of 1919 (the Chinese national renewal movement), a college graduate, and history teacher, was at first reluctant to listen. But my grandmother was adamant, and my mother finally gave in. Soon after leaving port, the ship ran into mines planted by the retreating Japanese army. It sank.”

As the pandemic is still rampant, it's reminiscent that Venerable Master Hua experienced a plague in his hometown in Northeastern China. Back then he led his disciples to recite Great Compassion Mantra circumambulating the village in the hope to dispel the disaster. Sure enough, the plague was gone soon.

In the Great Compassion Mind Dharani Sutra, it says, “Those who recite the Great Compassion Mantra can dispel all disasters.” Venerable Master Hua urged his disciples to recite Great Compassion Mantra 108 times a day and advised the laypeople who could already recite it to do so “at least three times a day. Those who cannot recite it should learn quickly. The merit and virtue of the Great Compassion Mantra not only can make thieves and robbers go away, it can also dispel the myriads illnesses, and resolve all demonic troubles. So we should sincerely recite it.”

In the Shurangama Mantra which Venerable Master Hua promoted often, the 132nd line of the mantra, *Pi Sha She*, is a mantra line to counteract plagues. Venerable Master Hua said, “When this mantra line is recited, these disasters (plagues) can be wiped out and everything will be auspicious... Hold the mantra with sincerity; focus your mind and do not entertain false thoughts. Only then, there can be an efficacious response.”

Edwin Ng from Malaysia noted that he had participated on a few Dharma occasions organized by CTTB such as the Ten Thousand Buddhas Repentance, Guanyin Session, Earth Store Session and more. He felt extremely lucky and grateful to be able to participate in such an important Buddhist assembly. He said, “CTTB has created a rare opportunity for me to cultivate merit and virtue. I have wondrous experiences. I hope CTTB can continue doing the online prayer events and assemblies so that people from other parts of the world can participate.” Edwin's hope is also the hope of many participants of our online Dharma sessions from far away.

Whoever interested in attending CTTB Dharma sessions is welcome to visit the following [drba.org](http://drba.org), [cttbusa.org](http://cttbusa.org) and the “City of Ten Thousand Buddhas Live” channel on Youtube to check the schedule of our Dharma sessions. 卐