

## 恒謹法師入蓮邦

## Bhikshuni Heng Jin Enters the Land of Lotuses

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萬佛聖城比丘尼恒謹法師, 於2021年12月6日安詳捨報,世 壽九十九(虛歲一百),僧臘三 十三,戒臘三十二。

恒謹法師1922年12月6日生於 東北吉林省。從小即有慈悲心, 不忍見雞、魚等動物被宰殺。母 親是虔誠佛教徒,因此恒謹法 師幼年時期,已對佛教感覺親 切。護產專校畢業後,服務於吉 林市一所醫院。照料病人極為細 心,每聞傷患呻吟哀嚎,就立即 請求醫生儘速診治,贏得「白衣 天使」的美譽。

恒謹法師的俗家同修姜吉甫 先生在台獻身教育,恒謹法師身 Bhikshuni Heng Jin of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas peacefully passed away on December 6, 2021 at the age of ninety-nine. She left home thirty-three years ago, and took full ordination thirty-two years ago.

Bhikshuni Heng Jin was born in Jilin Province of Northeast China on December 6, 1922. Since childhood, she was full of compassion and could not bear to see animals killed for food. Because her mother was a sincere Buddhist, she has had good affinities with Buddhism since she was young. After she graduated from nursing school, she worked in a hospital in Jilin, helping the patients with great care. Every time she heard patients moaning from pain, she would instantly request a doctor's prompt treatment, which brought her the reputation as an "angel in white."

Before Bhikshuni Heng Jin left home, her husband Mr. Jifu Jiang devoted himself to education in Taiwan. As the wife of the high school principal, her education philosophy with her own children was that, "One should not leave a deed undone because the merit is small, nor should one do something wrong even if the harm is minor." Every time she saw someone suffering in the news, she would try to donate and help.

After she retired from the Health Clinic of Taizhong, she wrote a picture book version of the *Earth Store Sutra* using everyday words and hired an illustrator with monies from her own retirement fund. Once it was ready for publication, she then printed a thousand copies, also from her own funds, donated them to many monasteries, and gave them to her friends and acquaintances. Through these picture books of the *Earth Store Sutra*, she hoped to help young readers understand causes and consequences and respect their parents.

In 1980, she came to the United States and stayed in Los Angeles. In 1982, Dharma Master Heng Sure was giving lectures on the *Earth Store Sutra* at the Gold Wheel Monastery in Los Angeles, with the Venerable Master Hua providing additional commentary. After listening to the lectures several times, she took refuge with the Venerable Master Hua,

為校長夫人,對子女的教育是「勿以善小而不為,勿以惡小而為之」。每當在新聞中,看到有人受苦受難時,恒謹法師都會想辦法捐款助人。

自台中衛生所退休後,恒謹法師用退休金請人畫了《地藏經》的連環圖畫,她自己以白話文寫成故事書,印了一千本流通,並分贈各大寺廟。她希望藉著《地藏經》的圖畫故事書,讓兒童讀者從小就能孝順父母,明白因果。

恒謹法師於1980年赴美,旅居洛杉磯。1982年,恒實法師在洛杉磯金輪聖寺講《地藏經》,由宣公上人補充。恒謹法師聽了幾次後,就皈依上人座下,法名果問。

其後年年到萬佛聖城拜萬佛寶懺。一次 在走向大殿途中,遇見上人正吟誦「掃一切法,離一切相」。恒謹法師豁然明白, 心開意解,當下決定依止上人出家。上人 問她:「妳想出家,是不是因為受苦受 難?」恒謹法師答道:「不是,就是想學 習佛法,脫離六道輪迴,學佛願力,幫助 眾生。」

1988年6月在金山聖寺剃度,1989年萬 佛聖城舉辦水陸空大法會,並傳三壇大 戒,9月3日圓滿具足戒。恒謹法師出家後 精進修行,早晚課與誦戒從不缺席;直到 年邁體衰,行動不便時,仍然讓人推著她 到福居樓的佛堂上殿過堂,一路高聲唱誦 佛號。令人佩服老法師色身雖在娑婆,神 識早入蓮邦。

晚年的恒謹法師除了念佛之外,就是 閱讀佛經與佛書,手不釋卷,總是法喜 充滿,祥和愉悅,被形容為「入了文字 三昧」。恒謹法師生前曾説:「我走的 時候,要身無病苦,心不貪戀,捨此報 身,如入禪定。」如此心願果然達成。荼 毗後,得舍利子與舍利花若干,以白色為 主,並有一小顆金色的舍利子,足證恒謹 法師老實念佛,日久功深,令人讚嘆!� and was given the Dharma name of Guo Wen (果問, wèn, "Fruit of Questioning").

From then on, she came to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas every year to attend the *Ten Thousand Buddhas Jeweled Repentance*. One day, as she was heading towards the Buddha Hall, she passed by Venerable Master who was reciting, "Sweep away all dharmas, and be apart from all marks." Instantly at that moment, her mind opened. She obtained a deep understanding, and decided to leave home. The Venerable Master asked her, "Are you leaving home because you are suffering?" She answered, "No. I simply want to learn Buddhadharma, to get out of the wheel of birth and death, and follow the Buddha's vows to help all living beings."

In June 1988, Bhikshuni Heng Jin left home at Gold Mountain Monastery. In 1989, the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas hosted a *Water, Land, and Air Dharma Assembly* along with an ordination and transmission of the complete monastic precepts, and she completed full ordination on September 3. Since then, she practiced vigorously, never missing the morning and evening ceremonies, or the precept recitations. Even when she was unable to move freely due to old age, she still requested help to attend ceremonies in the Buddha Hall at the Tower of Blessings, reciting the Buddha's name loudly along the way. It was really admirable that although her body was still in the Saha World, her mind had already entered the land of lotuses.

Bhikshuni Heng Jin in her later years read Buddhist texts in addition to reciting the Buddha's name. She loved reading the texts and was always filled with Dharma joy. Her pleasant and peaceful state was described as "entering the literature samadhi." Bhikshuni Heng Jin once said, "When I pass away, I wish to be free from sickness and suffering. My mind will have no attachement, and to relinquish my physical reward body just as if entering a meditative state of samadhi." Indeed, she achieved her wish. Some pieces of sharira (relics) were found in the ashes after her cremation, which were mainly white but one small piece was golden—this is strong evidence of Bhikshuni Heng Jin's sincere practice of reciting the Buddha's name, which has deepened through long years of practice and is truly admirable!