

撒下一片菩提種子 — 彌陀聖寺參加壽豐鄉花車繞境

Spreading the Bodhi Seeds — Amitabha Sagely Monastery's Float In the Shoufeng Township Parade



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彌陀聖寺位於臺灣花蓮縣壽豐鄉山區，隸屬花蓮縣政府的行政區。花蓮縣政府連續十三年舉辦「各宗教花蓮祭天祈福暨遶境活動」，囊括佛教、道教、天主教、基督教、原住民祖靈及一貫道等宗教共襄盛舉，祈求臺灣平安祥和，用宗教力量安撫人心，合境平安。

彌陀聖寺多年參加壽豐鄉的遶境活動。就字義而言「壽豐」即無量壽，與阿彌陀佛（Amitabha）是無量光、無量壽的意思相映。1991年，周王慧芬老居士將舊寺區（註：彌陀聖寺現以新區為主）獻給宣公上人，作為美國法界佛教總會臺灣花蓮道場時，上人考考我們，先要弟子為此道場取名。我們報上寺名，

Amitabha Sagely Monastery is in the mountainous area of Shoufeng Township, Hualien County, Taiwan, and is under the administrative district of Hualien County Government. The Hualien County Government has held the “Prayer and Parade of Various Religions in Hualien” for thirteen consecutive years, including religions like Buddhism, Taoism, Catholicism, Christianity, Taiwanese aborigines’ prayers to their ancestors, Yiguan Dao (I-Kuan Tao) and others. This event is aimed to pray for peace and harmony for Taiwan, and to ease the people’s heart through the good vibes of religions.

Amitabha Sagely Monastery has participated in the parade in Shoufeng Township for many years. As far as the literal meaning is concerned, “Shoufeng” means immeasurable life, which corresponds to Amitabha’s meaning of immeasurable light and immeasurable life. In 1991, the laywoman Zhou Wang Huifen, when dedicating the old temple area (Note: Amitabha Sagely Monastery is now located in a new area) to the Venerable Master Hua as a DRBA monastery in Hualien, the Master tested us and first asked the disciples to name this monastery. We gave the

如「普賢聖寺、觀音聖寺……」等等。結果所報上的寺名，一個也沒被錄取，爾後上人親自取名為「彌陀聖寺」。我們才恍然大悟，「壽豐」就是無量壽，與阿彌陀佛相映。

上人除了將此道場命名「彌陀聖寺」外，並將指示山門對聯為一

念阿彌陀佛 三輩九品 從此證
修波羅蜜法 六度萬行 自茲圓

這副對聯是早年香港「西樂園寺」的對聯，「西樂園寺」因香港政府開路，徵收土地，已經多年不存在了。而宣公上人將此對聯轉給「彌陀聖寺」，可看得出來上人的心意，希望這兒如同極樂世界一樣，造就一處西方淨土的樂園。

彌陀聖寺多年參加壽豐鄉的遶境活動，除了配合政府的活動外，更希望少與外界互動的我們，藉此機會，與當地居民互動。還有，臺灣的宗教越來越來趨向以神道教為主流，佛教單位再不努力、再不出面，就會慢慢走入人們的記憶中。

因此，故特別請主辦單位將我們的花車安排在車隊的末端，以方便親手將法寶送到他們手中。這些法寶如：大悲咒佩、楞嚴咒佩、食譜、袖珍版書等等，就這麼沿途送給居民，與當地男女老少結緣，希望在這地區撒下菩提種子。又因為疫情的關係，這幾年我們選擇一路播放大悲咒，祈清潔疫情，人們安康。

壽豐鄉是一個民風純樸、山明水秀的寶地，去年(2022)十二月五日的夜晚，鄉里間依然寧靜祥

name of the temple, such as “Puxian Temple, Guanyin Temple...” and so on. As a result, none of the monastery names given by the disciples was accepted. Eventually, the Venerable Master gave the name “Amitabha Sagely Monaster” by himself. Only then did we realize that “Shoufeng” means immeasurable life, which matches Amitabha Buddha.

In addition to naming this monastery as “Amitabha Sagely Monastery”, the Venerable Master also wrote the couplets at the mountain gate—

*Recite Amitabha's name,
three levels and nine grades will be certified from here.
Cultivate the Paramita Dharma,
Six Paramitas and Ten Thousand Practices thus attain perfection.*

This couplet is a couplet of the Western Bliss Gardens Monastery in Hong Kong from the early years. However, the Western Bliss Gardens Monastery no longer exist for many years because the Hong Kong government constructed a new road and therefore expropriated that piece of land. The Venereble Master Hua then transferred this couplet to the Amitabha Sagely Monastery, which shows the master's intention. He hoped that this place would be like the Land of Ultimate Bliss, creating a paradise of the Western Pure Land.

Amitabha Sagely Monastery has participated in the parade in Shoufeng Township for many years. Besides the reason of cooperating with the government's activities, we also hope that we, who rarely interact with the people outside the monastery, will take this opportunity to interact with local residents. In addition, Taiwan's religion is increasingly tending to be Shintoism as the mainstream. If Buddhist groups still do not work hard and show up, soon Buddhism will only stay in the memory of the people.

Therefore, we asked the organizer to arrange our float to be at the end of the procession so that we can give out Dharma gifts to the people. These Dharma treasure gifts are the Great Compassion Mantra pendant, the Shurangama Mantra pendant, recipe books, pocket books and others. We gave these Dharma gifts to the residents along the way, and create affinities with locals, hoping to spread the seeds of Bodhi in this area. Due to the pandemic, we have chosen to play the Great Compassion Mantra all the way in the past few years, wishing to cleanse the area so that all will be well and healthy.

Shoufeng town is a land of treasure with simple, warmhearted folks and beautiful mountains and rivers. On the night of December 5 last year (2022), the village was still quiet and peaceful, and the plants swayed from side to side with the rhythm of the breeze. Then, the floats, most of which were Taoist, shone from a distance, shuttling through the alleys of the fields and gardens. These colorful floats were particularly dazzling

和，草木隨著輕風的韻律左右緩緩地擺動。而一隊多數是神道教的車籠，遙遙閃亮，穿梭在田園小巷，五彩的花車在靜謐的黑夜裡格外耀眼。清一色的現代電子花車中，彌陀聖寺住眾親手打造的花車顯得精緻、莊嚴、樸實，猶如眾花盛開中的一朵白蓮，清新而脫俗。

這個夜晚，輕風細雨，壽豐的居民們從在襁褓中的嬰孩到年過古稀的爺爺奶奶，在自家門口、巷口、街口迎接這一年一度的宗教盛會。彌陀聖寺花車上滿滿的氣球格外吸引小朋友們的目光，而大人們的雙眼大多聚焦在車上慈悲莊嚴的佛像上。佛的影像映入眼簾，植入八識田中，猶如一顆顆飽滿的種子撒在青青秧田裡，終有一天會發芽、成熟。當車子駛入幽幽彎道，路旁只剩芒草無際，在微風窸窣的夜裡，花車上擴音器傳來的〈大悲咒〉一字一句格外清晰。〈大悲咒〉的聲音輕撫過沿途眾生，清涼的咒語，澆熄眾生熱惱。車外的空氣雖然寂靜，但顯得祥和。

一路上，熱情的人們在家門口擺桌祭拜，偶爾隆隆的鞭炮聲劃破天際。彌陀聖寺一如往年，在花車後緊隨一輛休旅車，車上放了〈大悲咒〉佩、念珠、食譜與夾道的鄉親結緣。今年，雖然車隊行駛的速度讓我們無法一一下車跟壽豐的鄉親們道聲「阿彌陀佛」；但搖下車窗依然可以敞開嗓門以佛號相互問候，並快速地將法寶送到鄉親手裡。看著一張張滿足的笑容，聽著大家以「阿彌陀佛」回應我們的問候。此時，我們知道，佛法已慢慢流入壽豐人心裡。

鄰近彌陀聖寺的鯉魚潭風景區，不在車隊繞境的路線。因此，車隊繞境結束後，我們的花車繼續往鯉魚潭駛入，要讓〈大悲咒〉傳遍闇夜中的鯉魚潭區，祈所過之處，一切生靈聞聲種下菩提種子。一路上熙攘的人群不再，街道邊的商店早已熄燈。北風颯颯，帶著濕濕的氣息，夜，悠長寧靜，佛的光明照在這片土地，〈大悲咒〉繼續繚繞在這個山頭……

in the quiet night. Among all the modern electronic floats, the float made by the residents of Amitabha Sagely Monastery was delicate, solemn and simple, just like a white lotus in full bloom, fresh and refined among various blooming flowers.

This night, with light wind and drizzle, the folks of Shoufeng, from babies in their infancy to grandparents who were over seventy years old, welcomed this annual religious event at their doorsteps, alleys, and streets. The balloons on the float of the Amitabha Sagely Monastery attracted the attention of children, while the eyes of adults were mostly focused on the compassionate and solemn Buddha statues on the float. The image of the Buddha came into view and was implanted in the field of the viewers' eighth consciousnesses, just like robust seeds sown in the field of green seedlings, which will one day germinate and mature. When the float drove into a secluded curve, there were only miscanthus grasses left on the side of the road. In the night where the breeze was blowing, the chanting of the Great Compassion Mantra from the loudspeaker on the float was very clear. The sound of the Great Compassion Mantra gently caressed all beings along the way, and the refreshing mantra quenched the heat and affliction of all beings. Although the air outside the car was still and silent, everything seemed peaceful.

Along the way, enthusiastic people set up altars in front of their homes to worship, and occasionally rumbling firecrackers pierced the sky. As in previous years, an SUV followed the float of the Amitabha Sagely Monastery from behind, bringing along the Great Compassion Mantra pendant, beads, and recipe books to create affinities with the folks who stood by the road. This year, although the speed of the parade made it impossible for us to get out of the car and say "Amitabha" to the people in Shoufeng, we still managed to greet them by saying out loud the Buddha's name from the car and quickly delivered the Dharma gifts to the folks from the car window. Looking at the satisfied smiles and listening to them responding back to us with "Amitabha", we knew that Buddhism had slowly flowed into the hearts of Shoufeng people.

The Liyu (Carp) Lake Scenic Area, which is adjacent to the Amitabha Sagely Monastery, is not on the route of the parade. Therefore, after the parade, our float continued to drive towards Liyu Lake. We wanted to play the Great Compassion Mantra in the Liyu Lake area on this night, praying that wherever we passed, all living beings who hear the sound will plant Bodhi seeds. The bustling crowd along the way was gone, and the lights of the shops on the street had long been turned off. The north wind was blowing, with damp air, the night was long and quiet, yet the Buddha's light shone on this land, and the Great Compassion Mantra continues to linger on this mountain...