

2023年萬佛聖城第一次觀音七

First Guanyin Session in 2023 at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas

任祺 文/譯

Written and translated by Ren Qi



萬佛聖城自2023年3月5日至11日舉行觀音七。這是萬佛殿自2022年11月起，每天下午開放給大眾以來的第一個觀音七；也是今年即將受三壇大戒的戒子們，在戒期開訓前的最後一次打七，大家都以十分珍惜的心情參加這次的觀音七。

這次的觀音七，每天上下午各誦一次〈普門品〉。其餘時間則是繞念、坐念、止靜（打坐），直到下午三時大迴向和往生堂迴向為止。念誦的是「南無觀世音菩薩」聖號，而萬佛殿前方中央供奉的，正是千手千眼觀世音菩薩立像。在萬佛聖城這座觀音菩薩

A seven-day Guanyin session was held at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) from March 5 to 11, 2023. This is the first Guanyin session since November 2022, when the Buddha Hall has been open to the public every afternoon. It was also the very last session before the training period started for the preceptees who will be fully ordained later this year. Everyone who participated in this Guanyin session cherished the opportunity.

This session, we recited “the Universal Door Chapter” every morning and afternoon. The rest of the time we chanted while circumambulating, chanted while sitting, and silently in meditation, until 3:00 p.m. when dedication ceremony took place. “Namo Guanyin Bodhisattva” was recited, and in the front of the Buddha Hall is a standing statue of Guanyin Bodhisattva with a thousand hands and eyes. Participating in the Guanyin session at Guanyin

道場裡打觀音七，令人感受特別殊勝而幸運。

萬佛聖城開山祖師宣公上人曾說：「只要我們至誠懇切地念誦『南無觀世音菩薩』的名號，菩薩便會用祂無邊的法力度脫我們，使我們離苦得樂。這種樂，是究竟之樂，是西方的極樂。」上人也曾說，念誦菩薩聖號，能明心見性，又能幫助全球消毒。

觀世音菩薩尋聲救苦、廣大靈感的事蹟不可勝數。隨著佛教傳入西方國家，會念誦「觀世音菩薩」的西方人也日益增多，美國女居士澤佛正是其中之一。她家距離萬佛聖城大約二十分鐘車程，二十多年前，來到育良小學任教，因此和佛教結緣。有一次家中失火，四週一片火海，濃煙瀰漫，緊急中，她忽然有個靈感，直念觀世音菩薩聖號，果然幸運獲救。後來，每逢萬佛聖城舉行觀音七，她總會抽空隨喜參加。多次病痛時，參加觀音七後，病痛就奇妙消失，讓她覺得和觀世音菩薩很有緣。這次參加觀音七後，她說：「我真希望住在萬佛城裡，這樣我就能一直待在大殿全程參加。」

比丘尼恒輔法師還記得，有一次在萬佛聖城遇到一位非洲裔訪客。這名訪客對法師合掌致敬，恒輔法師對他回禮說：「阿彌陀佛。」沒想到這位非洲裔訪客竟然說出：「觀世音菩薩。」一來一回之間，可以聽到西方三聖中，兩尊佛菩薩聖號，她感覺非常殊勝。自此以後，每逢人家對她說：「阿彌陀佛。」恒輔法師就說：「南無觀世音菩薩」。而當人家對她說：「觀世音菩薩」，她就答覆：「南無阿彌陀佛。」

專程自華盛頓州前來萬佛聖城參加觀音七的袁華麗，在圓滿後，心中法喜充滿、感恩不盡。她說：「這是疫情三年來我第一次回到聖城參加觀音七，並且每天可以在萬佛寶殿禮拜萬佛和千手千眼觀音菩薩。或許是大殿裡這些佛

Bodhisattva's way-place of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas made people feel especially lucky.

Venerable Master Hsuan Hua, the founding master of CTTB, once said, "If we sincerely recite the great name of Guanyin Bodhisattva, he will save us with his limitless Dharma-power, and enable us to leave suffering and attain bliss—this kind of bliss is the ultimate bliss of the Western Land." Venerable Master has also said that reciting the Bodhisattva's name will enable us to know our mind and see our nature as well as to help purify the planet.

There are countless deeds of Guanyin Bodhisattva responding to sounds of living beings, asking for help and saving them from suffering. With the introduction of Buddhism to Western countries, more and more Westerners know how to recite "Guanyin Bodhisattva." Ms. Zephyr is one of them. Her home is a 20-minute drive from the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. More than 20 years ago, she came to teach at Instilling Goodness Elementary School. She was once trapped in a fire and it was extremely smoky. In an emergency, she suddenly had an inspiration and chanted "Guanyin Bodhisattva" non-stop. Sure enough, she was lucky to be rescued. Later, whenever the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas held a Guanyin session, she always found time to attend part of it. Many times when she was sick she would attend a Guanyin session, and then her sickness would disappear miraculously, which made her feel that she has affinities with Guanyin Bodhisattva. After attending the Guanyin session this time, she said, "I wish I lived in the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, then I would be there and be able to fully participate all the time."

Bhikshuni Heng Fu still remembers meeting an African-American visitor in CTTB. The visitor paid respect to Dharma Master Heng Fu with joined palms. Dharma Master returned his politeness by saying, "Amitabha." Unexpectedly, the African-American visitor replied, "Guanshiyin Pusa (Guanyin Bodhisattva)." She felt that it was very good to hear the names of two among the three sages of the Western Pureland. Since then, whenever people say to her, "Amitabha," Master Heng Fu would reply, "Namo Guanshiyin Bodhisattva." And when people say to her, "Guanshiyin Pusa," she would reply, "Namo Amitabha."

Yuan Huali, who made a special trip from Washington State

菩薩莊嚴法相的無聲震攝，或許是法師們修持力凝聚的無形影響，也或許是因為大眾齊聲念誦觀音聖號的力量，雖然只是短短幾天，但我感覺菩提心默默之中得到滋潤，對三寶的敬畏之心也自然而然更加深厚。我內心非常喜悅和感恩。」

由於萬佛聖城尚未完全開放，因此城外住眾僅能參加下午的法會。許多信眾都選擇上網參加觀音七。一位住在舊金山灣區、不透露名字的信眾表示，疫情期間在生活和工作上，面臨各種挑戰與種種壓力。法師們帶領我們在網上祈福加持我們，猶如一盞明燈幫助我們破除煩惱和各種痛苦。用法力給予我們智慧和信心，去面對生活上的不同問題。雖然我們不能親臨萬佛聖城，可是法師們的法音滋潤我們的心田，消除我們的業障煩惱，增長我們的福慧。讓我們充滿了正能量，為新的一周生活和工作加油助力。心裡很感恩法師們辛苦慈悲地帶我們祈福，加持我們，讓我們有福報，無論身在何處，都有佛法僧三寶的愛護！我們共修後福慧增長，心生歡喜。把快樂的能量帶給我們的家人，親友，朋友，同事，在在處處相識的人和事。宣公上人老和尚建立了道場，讓我們心有歸處，不迷失在世間法中。弟子代眾生真誠頂禮感恩法師們的慈悲，法師法音駐在我們心田。

加州已於2023年2月28日午夜，正式結束新冠（COVID-19）疫情緊急狀態，許多信眾都期待萬佛聖城也能早日重開，方便大家進城全程共修。萬佛聖城目前正考慮在今年5月27日全面開放，並恢復疫情前的日課時間表，〈大悲懺〉則維持現狀，自下午一時開始。✽

to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas to participate in this Guanyin session, was filled with joy and gratitude after the session was over. She said, “This has been my first time that I have returned to CTTB in three years to attend the Guanyin Session during the pandemic. Each day, I had the opportunity to bow before the Buddhas and the Thousand-Hands and Thousand-Eyes Guanyin Bodhisattva in the Buddha Hall. Surrounded by familiar and majestic statues of the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, in the presence of the Sangha, and reciting the holy name in unison with the assembly, I felt my Bodhi resolve was nurtured and my reverence for the Three Jewels deepened. I was filled with joy and gratitude in my heart.”

Since the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas has not yet fully opened, residents outside the city can only participate in the afternoon session. Many followers chose to participate in the online Guanyin session. A layperson who lives in the San Francisco Bay Area and did not disclose her name said that during the pandemic, she faced various challenges and pressures in life and work. Dharma Masters lead us to pray and bless us online, like a bright light to help us get rid of troubles and all kinds of pain. Dharma power gives us wisdom and confidence to face different problems in life. Although we cannot visit the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas in person, the Dharma sounds of the masters nourish our hearts, eliminate our karma and troubles, and increase our blessings and wisdom. Let us be full of positive energy and cheer for the new week of life and work. I am very grateful to the masters for their hard work and compassion for us to pray for blessings, bless us, and let us have blessings. No matter where we are, we have the loving care from the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha! After we have practiced together, our blessings and wisdom increase, and our hearts are filled with joy. Bringing joyful energy to our family, relatives, friends, colleagues, people and things we meet everywhere. Venerable Master Hua established Way-places, so that we can feel at home and not become lost in the worldly dharmas. On behalf of all sentient beings, the disciples sincerely bow to the Dharma Masters and thank them for their compassion, and the masters' Dharma voice is always in our hearts.

California has officially ended the COVID-19 emergency at midnight on February 28, 2023. Many people are looking forward to the reopening of CTTB as soon as possible, so that everyone can go to the city to practice together. CTTB will reopen on May 27 this year and resume the regular daily schedule before the pandemic except for the “Great Compassion Repentance” which will still start at 1:00 pm. ✽