

家父往生記

My Father's Passing

文親慈 文/譯

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我爸爸今年9月一個晚上突然劇烈頭痛，然後昏迷不醒。送到醫院後插喉搶救，電腦掃描顯示是嚴重的腦出血，他情況十分危殆，被轉去我工作的醫院繼續治療。

腦外科醫生建議做手術。身為一個腦內科醫生，我明白這其實幫助不大，加上爸爸已經快80歲，我和弟弟商量後決定採取舒緩治療，不想再增加他的痛苦。之後爸爸被送到急性中風病房，病房姑娘對我們很好，安排了一個獨立的房間，讓我們有很清靜的環境可以陪伴爸爸。

我是第一次面對至親將要離

My father suddenly had a severe headache and became comatose on one evening in September 2024. He was intubated in the Emergency Department. A CT scan revealed severe brain hemorrhage, and his condition was critical.

He was transferred to the hospital where I work, and the neurosurgeon suggested surgery; however, as a neurologist, I understood this was futile, especially considering my father was almost 80 years old. After discussing with my family, we decided against the surgery to avoid further suffering for him. Subsequently, my father was transferred to the acute stroke ward. The nurses were very kind and arranged a single room for us, so we could have a quiet environment to accompany my father.

This was the first time I faced the imminent loss of a loved one, and everything happened very suddenly. I am grateful for the aid from the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas that allowed me to handle the situation with serenity. I recognized that the most important thing at that time was to reduce my father's suffering, secondly to cultivate merit and virtue for him so he could be reborn in a good realm, and thirdly to accompany and comfort my mother. My father passed away three days later. Below

世的情境，當時一切也發生得很突然。感謝佛菩薩的加持，使我能很清醒地去處理這事。我當時覺得最重要的事是減少爸爸的痛苦，第二是要多做功德迴向給他，讓他能往生善處。第三是陪伴及安慰媽媽。我爸爸在留院三天後去世。以下是自己在這事中的一些經歷及反省。

我爸爸是無神論者，生前也從沒有到佛廟。為了能令他廿四小時都能聽到佛號，我剪輯了萬佛城比丘法師晚課的錄音，不停在病床邊播阿彌陀佛的聖號。我很喜歡晚課的唸誦，它使病房變得莊嚴不少。聽着聽着，我甚至能連續唸十多個鐘頭的佛號，這真是一種不可思議的境界。

我上司當時正在外國開會，所以我除了要照顧爸媽，還要負責團隊的運作，當時真是壓力如山大。有兩天晚上幾乎完全沒有睡，但在佛菩薩的加持下，自己能順利撐了過去，這真是遠超自己平常的能力。

我爸爸住院時正值萬佛城的地藏七，我每天都讓他在zoom上參加法會。他當時雖然昏迷不醒，但我相信他的神識是知道的。當時自己不停唸佛號，窗外不時有陽光照進來，就彷彿佛菩薩放光一般。其實當時是颱風襲港，香港天氣十分差。在這時候竟然不停有陽光照進來，使我感覺到佛菩薩的加被。

我爸爸在留院三日後去世。我在床邊再幫他助唸了兩小時，也在zoom參加了萬佛城的地藏法會，接著便幫他做最後儀式。當時爸爸的樣子十分安詳，好像睡了一樣。他的手腳也很柔軟，是一個很好的瑞相。

我爸爸出殯當日，一切都十分順利！天氣非常之好。我媽媽回到家時突然聞到家內都有一陣檀香及花香味，晚上床上也有一陣清香。第二天她在印尼的妹妹告訴她一件奇怪的事。她在我爸爸出殯那天為他唸了一部地藏經及阿彌陀佛聖號，然後她便叫爸爸來拿這些功德。很奇怪地在她叫了我爸爸的名字後，便不禁淚流滿面，然後聞到一陣香味。她覺得爸爸已取得了

are some of my experiences and reflections during this time.

My father was an atheist and had never visited a Buddhist monastery. To ensure he could hear the Buddha's name continuously on this final journey, I edited recordings of the evening recitation from CTTB to play beside him around the clock. The chanting added a sense of solemnity to the room. Listening to it, I found myself able to chant continuously for over ten hours—something I hadn't imagined possible.

At the time, my supervisor was abroad for meetings, so in addition to caring for my parents, I also had to oversee my team's operations, which created immense pressure. There were two nights when I hardly slept at all, yet with the support of the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, I was able to endure—far beyond my usual capacity.

During my father's hospitalization, the Earth Store session was taking place at CTTB. Each day, I joined the session via Zoom by his bedside, hoping he could also benefit from the ceremony. Though he was comatose, I believed his inherent nature could still sense it. As I chanted Amitabha Buddha's name continuously, sunlight streamed through the window, creating a feeling that the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas were shining their light upon us. Interestingly, a typhoon was affecting Hong Kong at the time, and it was raining outside; yet, the sunlight kept pouring in, which felt like a true blessing from the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas.

My father passed away three days after being hospitalized. By his bedside, I continued to chant Amitabha Buddha's name for another two hours and joined the Earth Store session at CTTB via Zoom before performing his final rites. At that moment, my father appeared very peaceful, as if he were merely sleeping. His hands and feet were soft, which felt like an auspicious sign.

On the day of my father's funeral, everything went smoothly, and the weather was clear. When my mother returned home, she suddenly noticed a fragrance of sandalwood and flowers filling the house. That night, her bed also carried a subtle fragrance. The following day, my aunt in Indonesia shared an unusual experience: on the day of my father's funeral, she had recited the *Earth Store Sutra* and chanted Amitabha Buddha's name, dedicating the merit to him. When she called his name, she was unexpectedly moved to tears and noticed a distinct fragrance, as if my father had come to receive the merits from her. So she happily called my mom to share it.

那些功德，所以很開心地打電話給我媽媽報告。

在爸爸往生後49天中，我們一家人都努力幫他多做功德。我從前每星期只誦《地藏經》一品到兩品，但在這段期間我為他唸了121部《地藏經》，並在廟上立牌位及造佛像。我媽媽之前連唸佛號也懶，爸爸往生後不但唸了超過十萬聲佛號，還唸了20部《地藏經》。我弟弟並非佛教徒，但在爸爸的超度法會上他也很積極唸經拜佛，也主動布施佛寺為爸爸做功德。這轉變在以前是很難想像的，也為我們種了很多出世的善根。正如《地藏經》上說存亡獲利的道理，生者所得的利益實在比亡者大很多。

在這期間為爸爸頭七做功德的緣故，我第一次去到南華寺。在這之前，我做了一個奇怪的夢。在夢中我正在佛殿中聽著宣公上人講法——他突然看著我，那眼神彷彿能看穿我的靈魂一樣……我在看著六祖的舍利時，腦中便出現《六祖壇經》的一席話：「一切無有真，不以見於真……此宗本無諍，諍即失道意。執逆諍法門，自性入生死。」明白自己生性喜歡爭強論勝，而祖師大德卻提醒我「爭是勝負心，與道相違背；便生四相心，由何得三昧？」。

我媽的腳不好，已經不能爬樓梯。但在誠意的驅動下，她成功地爬上了山。在瞻仰六祖的真身舍利時，她感到頭皮麻麻的，感覺六祖在摩頂加持她。在這之後，她的健康也改善了不少。

總結

我爸爸的去世提醒了我人生的無常。所以真要好好自我反省，多積聚出世的資財。另外若能按照佛法處理好親人的後事，不但能增加家庭的和諧，也能讓親朋戚友多種善根。佛法消災延壽，遇難呈祥的感應真是不可思議……！

In the forty-nine days following my father's passing, our family worked diligently to cultivate merit and virtue on his behalf. I went from reciting only one-two chapters of the *Earth Store Sutra* per week to completing it 121 times during this period. My mother, who had previously shown little interest in chanting, recited over 100,000 Buddha names and completed the *Earth Store Sutra* twenty times after my father's passing. My brother, who is not a Buddhist, also actively participated in chanting and making offerings at my father's memorial services—a transformation that would have been unimaginable before and that planted many wholesome seeds within us. Just as the *Earth Store Sutra* teaches, the benefits received by the living are often even greater than those received by the deceased.

During this period, I visited Nanhua Temple for the first time to cultivate merit for my father. Just before this visit, I had a strange dream where I attended a lecture by the Venerable Master. At one point, he looked at me intensely, as if seeing directly into my soul. When I stood before the relics of the Sixth Patriarch, lines from the *Sixth Patriarch's Sutra* came to mind: "There is nothing true in anything, so don't view anything as true... The basis of this school is non-contention. Contention is not the meaning of the Way. For in grasping at the Dharma doors of contradiction and contention, the self-nature enters birth and death."

These words reminded me of my tendency to argue and seek victory, emphasizing that "contention arises from duality, contradicting the Way; it gives rise to the mind of four marks, preventing one from attaining samadhi."

My mother has difficulty climbing stairs; however, moved by sincerity, she managed to climb the mountain and bow before the Sixth Patriarch's relics at Nanhua Temple. She felt a tingling sensation on her scalp, as if receiving blessings from the Sixth Patriarch, and her health improved significantly after this visit.

Conclusion

My father's passing reminded me of life's impermanence, prompting me to reflect deeply on myself and focus on accumulating merit that transcend the world. Furthermore, handling matters according to the Dharma not only fosters greater harmony within the family but also encourages friends and relatives to cultivate roots of goodness. The power of Dharma in quelling disasters and prolonging life, as well as bringing auspiciousness in times of trouble, is truly incredible....