

萬佛聖城舉行彌陀誕大法會暨彌陀七報導

The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas Celebrates Amitabha Buddha's Birthday and Amitabha Buddha Recitation Session

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2017年12月31日，萬佛聖城舉行阿彌陀佛聖誕大法會，並展開彌陀七。當天的慶祝活動從朝山、誦《佛說阿彌陀經》、普佛、瞻仰舍利，乃至齊誦佛號、繞佛、坐念、默念、迴向；大眾念佛猶如「甘露灌頂，眾妙法聲」。在數百人至誠懇切的念佛聲中，揮別2017年，迎來2018年。對佛教徒而言，這是最具意義的跨年活動，使新的一年充滿新希望。

萬佛聖城方丈和尚恒律法師於當天午齋中



On 31 December, 2017, the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas celebrated the anniversary of Amitabha Buddha and also commenced the seven-day Amitabha Buddha recitation session. The celebration included three steps, one bow from the mountain gate, recitation of the *Buddha Speaks of Amitabha Sutra*, Universal Bowing, and paying respects to the shariras in the morning. In the afternoon, people recited the Buddha's name while circumambulating the Buddha, sitting and in silence. The collective chanting of the Assembly was like "the sound of myriad wondrous Dharma of sweet dew anointing the crown." The utmost sincerity of several hundred people reciting together, bade a final farewell to the year 2017 to greet the arrival of 2018. For Buddhists, this was a most meaningful way to pass the last day of the old year and welcome the coming new year brimming with renewed hopes.

During lunch in his Dharma talk, Dharma Master Heng Lyu, Abbot of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, related a story of an illiterate maid who would normally recite Amitabha Buddha's name as "tofu" by mistake;

開示，講述一名不識字女傭平日錯把彌陀佛號唸成「豆腐」，但因誠心念誦，依然在船難中獲救的故事。由此可知，只要誠心念佛，都會得感應。律法師指出：「宣公上人說，『至誠懇切念佛，則能放大光明，徧照三千大千世界，將染污、暴力、災難都化為祥和。』誠心念佛不但可淨化內心、保我們平安、往生極樂世界；還可淨化利益整個世界。更重要的是，往生極樂世界就可直接跟阿彌陀佛和諸大菩薩學習，開大智慧，進而廣度眾生，必定成就圓滿佛道。」

比丘近巖法師則說，歲暮年終，年輕人對未來有許多憧憬，中老年人對過去充滿回憶。我們打佛七，要憧憬就憧憬極樂世界，要回憶就回憶諸佛菩薩和上人關於淨土法門的教導。近巖法師勉勵與會大眾「念念憶佛，將佛號落實到每一念。」

比丘尼恒聲法師期勉大家以至誠懇切之心念佛，求生西方淨土，花開見佛，了悟無生法忍；到那裡所有的親戚朋友都是「位不退、行不退、念不退、究竟不退」的大菩薩，而且菩提心日益壯大，最後就在那裡成佛了。

當晚聽經時間，比丘近恭法師在結法緣時說，在美國大家都談「歐記健保」，但他要談來生的醫療保險「彌陀健保」。近恭法師認為，誠心懺悔就是很好的來生醫療保險。一般人死亡時，隨著此生的愛恨情執在苦海中漂流，無法往生淨土。而我們則有絕佳的機會——參加佛七與禪七正是理想的健保辦法。

2018年1月1日恰逢農曆十一月十五，早課後比丘與比丘尼各自誦戒，在家人無須報名均可參加「八關齋戒」。以誦戒和傳受戒展開新的一年，正如宣公上人所說，是在菩提道印上足迹，打好學佛的基礎，因為「你若懂戒律，對一切佛法都能深入。」

來自中國黑龍江省的馬龍受持了六天六夜「八關齋戒」，在2018年1月6日佛七圓滿的晚間，分享他的體驗時指出，念佛一不小心就有很多妄想，但聽到法師引用宣

yet due to her sincere recitation, she was still able to be rescued when met with difficulty at sea. From this story, we can see that being sincere in reciting the Buddha's name will garner responses. Dharma Master Lyu pointed out that the Venerable Master once said, "When one recites the Buddha's name with utmost sincerity, one can emit great light, illuminating the great trichiliocosm. The pollution, violence, and calamities in the world will be transformed into auspiciousness and peace." Sincerely reciting the Buddha's name will purify our inner being, offer us protection and serenity, enable us to attain rebirth in the Land of Ultimate Bliss; furthermore, it can purify and benefit the whole world. More importantly, when we are reborn in the Land of Ultimate Bliss, we can learn directly from Amitabha Buddha and the great Bodhisattvas, develop great wisdom, advance onward to rescue living beings; for certain we can accomplish the perfect Buddha Path.

Bhikṣhu Jin Yan said that in the waning days of the year, the youths look forward to the future with anticipation, while the middle aged and elderly reminisce about the past. In this seven-day Buddha recitation retreat, what we should look forward to is the Land of Ultimate Bliss, that we should mindfully recollect are the Buddhas, Bodhisattvas and Venerable Master's teachings on the Pure Land Dharma practice. He also encouraged the Assembly saying, "In every thought, be mindful of the Buddha. Let the Buddha's name permeate our very consciousness."

Bhikṣhuṇi Heng Sheng encouraged everyone to recite the Buddha's name with utmost sincerity to seek rebirth in the Western Pure Land; when the flower blossoms, we will behold the Buddha and awaken to the Patience of Non-birth. In the Pure Land, our kinsfolk and friends are all Great Bodhisattvas who will attain irreversibility in position, in practice, in thought, and ultimate irreversibility. Furthermore, our Bodhi Resolve will flourish with each passing day; it is where we will finally become Buddhas.

During that evening's lecture, Bhikṣhu Jin Gong said that people often discuss "Obamacare" in America. However, he wants to talk about next life insurance—Amitabha care. Dharma Master Jin Gong believes that sincerely repenting is the best form of insurance for next life. Ordinary people just flow along in the suffering sea of this life's love, hate, and emotional attachments at the time of death, unable to attain rebirth in the Pure Land. Now we have a most excellent opportunity to participate in both Amitabha recitation and Chan meditation sessions, this is the optimal form of insurance coverage.

January 1, 2018 serendipitously happened to be the fifteenth day of the eleventh lunar month. After the morning recitation, as the Bhikṣhus and Bhsikṣhuṇis recited the Monastic Precepts respectively, the lay people were able to receive the Eight Precepts. Hence the new year began with the recitation of the Monastic Precepts and the transmission of the lay Eight Precepts. Just as the Venerable Master once said, in order to mark our footprint on the Bodhi Path, we must establish a firm foundation in our study of Buddhism, because "if you understand the Precepts, you are able to delve deeply into all Buddha-dharma."

Originally from Heilongjiang Province, China, Ma Long upheld the Eight

公上人的譬喻說，念佛要像貓捕鼠、雞孵卵、龍養珠那麼專心；他體會到妄念就像老鼠亂竄，想要往生極樂世界，必須有雞孵蛋的耐心，還要守護好我們的寶貝，不要丟失了，「多少劫才遇到佛法，能不是寶貝嗎？」

同樣受持六天六夜「八關齋戒」的司徒少輝說，她的父親於2017年11月20日往生。她平日在金山聖寺多次參加助念，每天早晚課前，都遵照法師的教導，發願代父母與法界眾生做早晚課並求生極樂。因此父親往生之際，她能夠從容為父親助念。父親走得很安詳，往生後直到告別式前，司徒少輝的姊姊數次聽到滿天的「南無阿彌陀佛」佛號唱誦。佛七圓滿次日，恰是她父親往生七七四十九天，司徒少輝希望受戒功德與已修、現修、當修的功德迴向父親往生極樂，眾生成就佛道。

來自中國廣東深圳的沈小軍，原為房地產專業經理人。2016年1月，第一次到萬佛聖城打七。回到深圳後，意識到工作上為了拿地、拆遷、抬高房價、降低成本，造了許多業，因此決定辭職，開始做義工，「感覺煩惱斷了很多」。

2017年夏，他再度到萬佛聖城參加法會，有天繞佛時，感覺特別殊勝，認為自己可以去極樂世界了。當晚夢見許多菩薩送了很多蓮花來，他也接了一朵。菩薩問他還有什麼事沒完成？他應聲答道：「我在深圳的房子還沒賣。」這麼一說，蓮花就沒了，菩薩也轉身走了。這回第三度來到萬佛聖城，覺得在此修行特別有福報。參加完佛七的感想是：以出世間法為標準，以佛菩薩和法師為榜樣；堅持、努力、慎獨，「信、願、行一個都不能少」。

Precepts for a full six days and nights. On the final night of the Amitabha session, January 6, 2018, he shared his experience, pointing out that whenever he was lax in his recitation, he would have many false thoughts. However, upon hearing a Dharma Master cite the analogy used by the Venerable Master, likening the concentration necessary to recite the Buddha's name to a cat catching a mouse, a hen hatching an egg, a dragon protecting its pearl, he understood that false thoughts are like a mouse ran amok; if he wanted to be reborn in the Land of Ultimate Bliss, he needed to have the patience of a hen hatching its egg. We also need to attentively protect our treasure well and not lose it. "It took countless eons to encounter the Buddha-dharma, is it not a treasure?"

Shaohui Situ, who also upheld the Eight Precepts for six days and nights, said her father passed away on November 11, 2017. At Gold Mountain Monastery, she often took part in reciting for people who were about to pass away. Every day, before the morning and evening ceremonies, following the instructions of a Dharma Master, she would vow to recite on behalf of her parents and living beings of the Dharma Realm for them to seek rebirth in the Land of Ultimate Bliss. Therefore at the moment of her father's passing, she was able to calmly aid her father in reciting the Buddha's name. Her father passed away very peacefully. From the time of his passing until the time prior to the funeral service, on many occasions her sisters heard the chanting of "Namo Amitabha Buddha" filling the air. As the day after the completion of the Amitabha session also happened to be the forty-ninth day of her father's passing, Shaohui Situ hopes that the merit and virtue from receiving the Precepts and also from past, present and future cultivation be dedicated to the rebirth of her father in the Pure Land, in addition to the accomplishment of Buddhahood for all living beings.

Shen Xiaojun from Shenzhen, Guangdong, China, was originally a real estate manager. He came to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas for the first time in January of 2016 to take part in the session. After returning to Shenzhen, he realized that the work of acquiring land, demolishing properties, evicting tenants, and cutting costs amounted to a lot of negative karma. Therefore, he decided to resign from his job and took up volunteer work. As a result, he felt that his afflictions lessened considerably.

In the summer of 2017, he once again visited the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas to attend a Dharma Assembly. One day, while circumambulating the Buddha, he experienced a distinctively special feeling and thought he was able to go to the Pure Land. That night, he dreamt that many Bodhisattvas came to bestow upon him numerous lotus flowers, of which he took one bud. One Bodhisattva asked him if he had any unfinished business left. He answered, "I have yet to sell my house in Shenzhen." With that one reply, the lotus flower disappeared, the Bodhisattva turned around and left. This is his third trip to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, he feels that to be able to cultivate here, one has to have blessings. With this Amitabha recitation session, he had the following realization: take the transcendental Dharma as the standard, the Buddhas, Bodhisattvas and Dharma Masters as role models, persevere, work hard, be prudent when alone, and rely on "faith, vows, practice, none of which can be deficient."