

# 妙供生西然法師

## Reborn in the West with Wondrous Offerings — In Memory of Dharma Master Heng Ran

黎社 文/譯

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歷數法界佛教總會（法總）各道場最資深的典座，莫過於恒然法師，任職典座逾28年，主要是在萬佛聖城。

然法師生於1933年台灣，年輕時信奉關聖帝君，每日必去關聖帝君廟當義工。長輩生病，會拿水跪整炷香祈求上天賜藥。

然法師常說：遇到上人，遇到佛法，是這輩子最幸運的事。上人對她說：「只要真心誠心，在廚房工作和在大殿是一樣的。」

然法師少時因戰爭日軍駐

Among the kitchen managers of the various branch monasteries of the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association (DRBA), none surpasses Bhikshuni Heng Ran, who served as the kitchen manager for more than 28 years, primarily at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas.

Dharma Master Ran was born in Taiwan in 1933. When she was young, she believed in Lord Guan. She would go to Lord Guan Temple as a volunteer every day. When elders fell ill, she would bring water and kneel, burning incense to pray for divine intervention.

Master Ran often said that meeting Venerable Master Hua and encountering the Buddhadharma is the luckiest thing in this life. The Master told her, “If you are sincere, working in the kitchen is the same as being in the Buddha Hall.”

During her youth, she dropped out of school in the third grade when the Japanese army was stationed in her school during World War II. Venerable Master Hua told her that the Sixth Patriarch had been

校三年級時輟學，上人以六祖大師不識字、專行苦行來應機說法，指點她修念佛法門。然法師也從《地藏經》學習認字，逐字請教他人。如此將《地藏經》誦到非常熟練，還能看懂上人開示錄和多種經典。

然法師認為，生死並不可怕，本無悲傷，該怕的是沒有目標沒有方向；只要是好的，是善的，就該用盡全力往前，不要讓「不好意思」害了你。念佛求生西方，是然法師專心一致的目標。

2022年11月13日，然法師安詳捨報往生，世壽八十九，僧臘三十六、戒臘三十三。荼毘後得許多色澤光潤的舍利花。

然法師非常喜歡宣公上人的一首偈頌，並以此自勉：

念念真誠念念通，  
默默感應默默中；  
直至山窮水盡處，  
逍遙法界任西東。

這首偈頌在然法師的寮房張貼多年，直到往生後才取下。

法總資深比丘尼恒持法師為然法師撰寫一首雙語誄頌，每句都以然法師的法名、法號開頭：

恒常立功做佛事，  
然則福報滿天下；  
果從因起得才能，  
泰安現前多休息。 ❀

illiterate and had done menial chores, and the Master instructed her to cultivate mindfulness of the Buddha. Dharma Master Ran also learned to read the *Earth Store Sutra* by asking others to teach her word by word. In this way, she could recite the *Earth Store Sutra* very proficiently and she could also read Venerable Master Hua's Dharma talks and various scriptures.

Dharma Master Ran believed that life and death are not frightening; there is no inherent sorrow. What is to be feared is a lack of goal and direction. Anything that is good and virtuous should be pursued wholeheartedly. One should not let "embarrassment" hinder progress. Reciting the Buddha's name to seek rebirth in the Western Pure Land was Master Ran's dedicated goal.

On November 13, 2022, Master Ran peacefully passed away at the age of 89. She had been a monastic for 36 years and held the Bhikshuni precepts for 33 years. After the cremation, many lustrous sharira flowers were obtained.

Dharma Master Ran had a profound fondness for a verse by Venerable Master Hua, which she used to encourage herself:

*Thought after thought is true and sincere;  
thought after thought penetrates.  
Working quietly, there's a response in the midst of the quiet work.  
Go straight to the place beyond the mountains and streams,  
And you will be free to roam the Dharma Realm,  
going east or west as you please.*

This verse was posted in her room for many years, only taken down after her passing.

Dharma Master Heng Chih, a senior bhikshuni of DRBA, composed a bilingual eulogy for Master Ran, with each line in Chinese beginning with Master Ran's Dharma name (Gwo Tai) and monastic name (Heng Ran):

*Constantly creating merit, she did the Buddha's work best.  
And so, her reward of blessings reaches the highest crest.  
Results come from causes; she was talented indeed!  
Tranquility has arrived; she gets a well-deserved rest. ❀*

