

萬佛聖城2023年阿彌陀佛聖誕法會暨佛七

2023 Celebration of Amitabha Buddha's Birthday and the Amitabha Session at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas

文/譯 戚達

Written and translated by Qi Da



「南無阿彌陀佛！南無阿彌陀佛！南無阿彌陀佛！……」

2023年12月24日清晨5時，虔誠念佛的僧俗二眾，在早課後，開始唱誦阿彌陀佛聖號並拜願，為萬佛聖城一年一度的阿彌陀佛聖誕法會暨佛七揭開序幕。疫情以來，這是萬佛聖城第一次接受信眾掛單的念佛法會，令人格外珍惜。

上午7時前，朝山的善信，聚集在萬佛聖城山門前，由法師帶領，大家在唱誦阿彌陀佛聖號聲中，開始三步一拜。當時霧氣猶重，從山門拜到行政辦公室前，霧氣逐漸消散。繼續向前拜，來到祖師殿前，霧已

“Namo Amitabha! Namo Amitabha! Namo Amitabha!..”

At 5 o'clock in the morning on December 24, 2023, the monastics and lay people who sincerely recited the Buddha's name began to chant Amitabha's name and bow after morning ceremony, marking the opening of the annual celebration of Amitabha Buddha's Birthday and the Amitabha Recitation Session in the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. Since the pandemic, this was the first time that the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas accepted people to stay for the Amitabha Session, which is particularly cherished.

Before 7 a.m., pilgrims gathered in front of the mountain gate of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. Led by Dharma Masters, everyone began to perform three-steps-one-bow while chanting Amitabha's name. The fog was still heavy at that time, but gradually dissipated when people bowed near the administrative office. As

全散，眼前一片明朗。這趟朝山，真可謂「在念佛聲中，走出迷霧，迎來光明」。

同一時間，在萬佛殿誦經的大眾，誦完《佛說阿彌陀經》後，開始繞佛、念佛，同樣是「南無阿彌陀佛」聲聲入耳，唱誦入心。這天上午還有普佛，佛殿東西兩單，輪流跪拜頂禮諸佛菩薩，以最大的誠心，慶祝阿彌陀佛聖誕。

午齋中，近巖法師指出，經歷新冠嚴冬後，萬佛聖城對外重開彌陀聖誕法會和佛七，意義非凡。法師向大眾介紹唐朝大詩人白居易，自中年皈依佛門後，所寫的佛詩和偈頌。白居易本人因為誠心持念佛名，臨終得以安詳往生。白居易的〈念佛偈〉更普勸法界眾生同來念佛：

余年七十一，
不復事吟哦，
看經費眼力，
作福畏奔波。
何以度心眼，
一聲阿彌陀，
行也阿彌陀，
坐也阿彌陀，
縱饒忙似箭，
不廢阿彌陀，
日暮而途遠，
吾生已蹉跎。
旦夕清淨心，
但念阿彌陀。
達人應笑我，
多卻阿彌陀。
達也作麼生，
不達又如何？
普勸法界眾，
同念阿彌陀。

they continued to bow, everything became clear before people's eyes because the fog completely lifted as they arrived in front of the Patriarchs' Hall. This journey of three-steps-one-bow can truly be described as "walking out of the fog and welcoming the light in the sound of reciting the Buddha's name."

At the same time, those who chose to recite the sutra in the Buddha Hall began to circumambulate and recite the Buddha's name having finished reciting *the Buddha Speaks of Amitabha Sutra*. The same sound of "Namo Amitabha" reached their ears and chanted it into their hearts. On this morning, the "Universal Bowing" also took place. People stayed in the east and west of the Buddha Hall. They took turns to kneel down and pay homage to the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, celebrating the birthday of Amitabha Buddha with the utmost sincerity.

During lunch, Dharma Master Jin Yan pointed out that after experiencing the harsh "winter" of the COVID-19, it is of great significance for the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas to reopen during the Celebration of Amitabha Buddha's Birthday and Amitabha Session to the public. Dharma Master Yan introduced to the public the Buddhist poems and verses written by Bai Juyi, a great poet of the Tang Dynasty, who converted to Buddhism in his middle age. Bai Juyi himself was able to pass away peacefully at the end of his life because he sincerely recited the Buddha's name. Bai Juyi's "Reciting the Buddha's Name Verse" even urges all sentient beings in the Dharma realm to come together to recite the Buddha's name:

*I am seventy-one years old this year,
No longer do I recite poems and write lyrics like before.
Reading sutras strains my eyesight,
And doing good deeds makes me afraid of running around.
What can I do to open up my inner light?
Just recite Amitabha's name.
Reciting Amitabha's name while walking,
Reciting Amitabha's name while sitting.
Even though I am as busy as an arrow,
I never cease to recite Amitabha.
I have reached my twilight years, and the path of Buddhism seems distant,
My life has been spent.
In the morning and evening,
I seek only a pure heart,
I only recite "Amitabha Buddha."
Those who pretend to be wise may laugh at me,
because most of them don't believe in Amitabha Buddha.*

比丘尼恒揚法師介紹了《佛說無量壽佛經》中，釋迦牟尼佛所說的阿彌陀十二光佛名號。

揚法師並一一解釋這些名號的意義和作用：

一，無量光佛：「阿彌陀」三字，含義之一正是「無量光」。

二，無邊光佛：無論眾生在何處，阿彌陀佛的光都能遍照。

三，無礙光佛：只要念誦阿彌陀佛聖號，無論遇到什麼樣的困難痛苦，都成無障礙。

四，無對光佛：阿彌陀佛放出的光是十方諸佛光中之尊。

五，炎王光佛：有炎王光的加持，一定進步，越來越殊勝。

六，清淨光佛：越念越清淨。

七，歡喜光佛：越念越歡喜。

八，智慧光佛：越念越有智慧。

九，不斷光佛：精進不休息，菩提正念不間斷。

十，難思光佛：其光不可思議，遇到災難能夠得救，或者直接去極樂世界。

十一，無稱光佛：其光無法以言語描述。揚法師以自己曾在雨中躲過車禍，數次走過鬼門關為例，平日養成持誦阿彌陀佛聖號，在危急與臨命終時，自然記得念佛，就能得到無稱光照耀，遇難呈祥。

十二，超日月光佛：阿彌陀佛的光，其功德超過日月。不但幫助我們菩提增長，清淨歡喜，總結前面十一光佛功德，更能幫助我們成佛。

方丈恒律法師講述了一則故事：有個人喝醉酒來到河邊掬水洗臉，這時水鬼準備拖他入水，以便水鬼自己可以重新投胎。不料這人無心講了一句：「阿彌陀

What can you gain by being smart and successful?

What will I lose as a dull and unsuccessful person?

General advice to all sentient beings in the Dharma Realm,

Let's chant Amitabha Buddha together!

Bhikshuni Heng Yang introduced Amitabha's Twelve Luminous Buddha Names mentioned by Shakyamuni Buddha in *the Sutra on Infinite Life*. Dharma Master Yang explained the meaning and function of these names one by one:

- 1. Infinite Light Buddha:** One of the meanings of the name "Amitabha" is exactly "infinite light".
- 2. Boundless Light Buddha:** No matter where sentient beings are, Amitabha's light can shine everywhere.
- 3. Unhindered Light Buddha:** As long as you recite the name of Amitabha, no matter what kind of difficulties or pain you encounter, you will become unhindered.
- 4. Incomparable Light Buddha:** The light emitted by Amitabha Buddha is the greatest among the lights of all Buddhas in the ten directions.
- 5. Light of the King of Flames Buddha:** With the blessing of Light of the King of Flames Buddha, we will definitely make progress and become more and more extraordinary.
- 6. Pure Light Buddha:** The more we recite the Buddha's name, the purer we become.
- 7. Light of Joy Buddha:** The more we recite the Buddha's name, the happier we are.
- 8. Light of Wisdom Buddha:** The more we recite the Buddha's name, the more wisdom we get.
- 9. Unceasing Light Buddha:** Keep working hard without rest, and have uninterrupted Bodhi mindfulness.
- 10. Inconceivable Light Buddha:** His light is inconceivable. We can be saved from disasters or go directly to the Land of Ultimate Bliss.
- 11. Ineffable Light Buddha:** His light cannot be described in words. Master Yang cited her own experiences of escaping a car accident in the rain and avoiding entering the gate of hells several times as an example. As long as we make it a habit of reciting Amitabha Buddha's name, in times of crisis and death, we will naturally remember to recite the Buddha's name, and be able to receive the ineffable light that will shine upon us. Ominous circumstances will become auspicious.
- 12. Light Outshining the Sun and Moon Buddha:** The light of Amitabha Buddha has merits exceeding that of the sun and

佛！河水好清澈啊！」就這麼一聲「阿彌陀佛」，使得他周身都是光，水鬼不能碰觸他，這個原本要被水鬼當成替死鬼的人，只因一聲「阿彌陀佛」竟然躲過死劫，平安離去。

律法師說：「若我們誠心念誦阿彌陀佛，利益不可思議。六道所有眾生，包括水鬼在內，念誦阿彌陀佛，都可得到無量光的護佑，將來還可往生極樂世界。宣公上人也告訴我們，他最歡喜的就是稱念阿彌陀佛。他自己時時念誦，夢中也念佛。身為上人弟子，我們應像上人一樣，時時念誦阿彌陀佛。祝福大家都做快樂念佛人。」

從12月24日至30日的佛七，每天除了念誦《阿彌陀經》之外，主要就是繞佛、坐念和打坐默念佛號。讓大家在年終之際，能夠沉澱身心，為自己、為家人、為冤親債主，也為輪迴六道的眾生，一心一意念佛。

來自德州的電漿處理工程師羅雷福，平日工作十分忙碌。他說：「年終放假時，沒有比到萬佛聖城參加佛七更好的去處了。」從1996年起，他已多次前來萬佛聖城打佛七，但仍感覺有許多挑戰。包括佛七期間每天很早起床，有許多跪拜、打坐，天氣又冷；更甬提還有難以降伏的妄想紛飛。羅雷福將打佛七比喻為「大家一起攀登喜馬拉雅山聖母峰（珠穆朗瑪峰）」。儘管如此不易，但《佛說阿彌陀經》的經文「…其人臨命終時，阿彌陀佛，與諸聖眾，現在其前，是人終時，心不顛倒，即得往生阿彌陀佛極樂世界」不但令他感動，而且讓他抱定信心，繼續念佛。

在舊金山一所醫學院擔任數據分析師的高穎，因為工作中，經常接觸晚期病人的數據，讓她產生「我見他人死，我心熱如火。不是熱他

moon. Not only does it help us increase our Bodhi mind, purify and rejoice, and summarize the merits of the previous eleven Buddha's names, but it also helps us become a Buddha eventually.

Abbot Heng Lyu told a story: A drunk man came to the river to wash his face with water. At this time, a water ghost was about to drag him into the water so that the water ghost could reincarnate himself through the death of the drunk. Unexpectedly, this man accidentally said, "Amitabha! The river water is so clear!" Just saying "Amitabha" once caused his whole body to be filled with light, and the water ghost could not touch him. This person who was originally regarded as a substitute by the water ghost, escaped death and left safely, only because he said "Amitabha."

Dharma Master Lyu said, "If we sincerely recite Amitabha, the benefits are inconceivable. All living beings in the six realms, including water ghosts, can receive the protection of immeasurable light and be reborn in the Land of Ultimate Bliss in the future. Venerable Master Hua also told us, what he likes most is to recite Amitabha. He himself recited it all the time and also recited it in his dreams. As disciples of the Master, we should follow the Master and recite Amitabha all the time. I wish everyone can be happy reciters of Amitabha Buddha."

From December 24 to 30, during the Amitabha Recitation Session, in addition to reciting the *Amitabha Sutra* everyday, the main activities were to circumambulate the Buddha, sit in recitation, and meditate to recite the Buddha's name silently. At the end of the year, let everyone be able to calm down physically and mentally, and recite the Buddha's name wholeheartedly for themselves, their families, their foes and creditors, and for the sentient beings in the six paths of reincarnation.

Ray Lopez, a plasma processing engineer from Texas, is very busy at work. He said, "During the year-end holidays, there is no better place than to attend the Amitabha Session at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas." Since 1996, he has come to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas many times to attend this session, but he still feels that there are many challenges. During the session, he had to get up very early every day, there was a lot of kneeling and meditating, and the weather was cold; not to mention the hard-to-conquer distracting thoughts. Ray compared the session to "everyone climbing Mount Everest in the Himalayas together." Although it is not easy, the text in *The Buddha Speaks of Amitabha Sutra* said, "...When this person approaches the end of life, before

人，看看輪到我」之感。因此她對念佛法門十分認真。高穎引用蕩益大師名言「得生與否，全由信願之有無；品位高下，全由持名之深淺」。她深信，只要自己不放棄，堅持念佛，未來臨命終時，「慈悲的阿彌陀佛一定會不違本願，前來接引我。」高穎很喜歡到萬佛聖城共修，因為每逢生活或修行中遇到難題，在萬佛聖城聽上人錄音開示，或法師現場開示，往往就能讓她找到答案。

在舊金山東灣從事裝修業的王新龍，曾夢見男相的觀世音菩薩教他念誦「阿彌陀佛」，他因此念佛至今。他也在這次佛七期間，夢見自己壽命將盡，但上人為他延壽，他得以在世間繼續修行用功。這個夢境讓他下定決心要好好持戒念佛，以報師恩和佛恩。

在密西根大學擔任商務數據分析師的姜天煜表示，以前信佛只知祈求人天福報，不知參悟佛理，也不懂求生淨土。疫情前曾到萬佛聖城隨喜參加兩天的佛七，感受道場莊嚴、法會殊勝。這回全程參加佛七，每次要偷懶，就有人提醒她，讓她重新堅定了學佛的信心。

在密西根大學安納堡分校攻讀博士的王雲帆，曾有過十幾年的人生低谷，嚐盡世態炎涼、人情冷暖，好幾次考慮結束生命。所幸近年遇見一些善知識，建議他念佛。這次他專程來萬佛聖城參加佛七，自認無論是誦經或念

him will appear Amitabha and all the assembly of holy ones. When the end comes, his heart is without inversion. In Amitabha's Land of Ultimate Bliss, he will attain rebirth." Not only did it move him, but it also gave him confidence to continue reciting the Buddha's name.

Gao Ying, who works as a data analyst at a medical school in San Francisco, often comes into contact with the data of terminal patients at work, which reminds her of a verse, "When I see others die, my heart is as hot as fire. Instead of being hot for others, it's hot because I'm afraid it will be my turn soon." Therefore, she takes the Dharma method of reciting Buddha's name very seriously. Gao Ying quoted the famous saying of Master Ou Yi, "Whether you can be reborn in Amitabha's Land depends entirely on your faith and vows; the level of your rebirth in Amitabha's Land depends entirely on the sincerity of your recitation." She firmly believes that as long as she does not give up and persists in reciting the Buddha's name, when she is about to die in the future, "the compassionate Amitabha Buddha will definitely come to receive me without violating his original wish." Gao Ying likes to go to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas to practice together, because every time, when she encounters a difficult problem in her spiritual practice or in daily life, she can often find the answer by listening to the Master's recorded teachings in the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, or the Dharma Masters' live teachings.

Wang Xinlong, who works in the interior finishing industry in the East Bay of San Francisco, once dreamed of a male-looking Guanyin Bodhisattva teaching him to recite "Amitabha", and he continues to recite "Amitabha" to this day. This time he came to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas to participate in the Buddha's name recitation session. During this Buddha's name recitation session, he dreamed that his life was about to end, but the Venerable Master extended his life for him so that he would be able to continue practicing in this world. This dream made him determined to uphold the precepts and recite the Buddha's name in order to repay the kindness of Venerable Master and the Buddha.

Jiang Tianyu, a business data analyst at the University of Michigan, said that in the past, even though she believed in Buddhism, she only prayed for blessings, without understanding Buddhist principles or seeking rebirth in the Pure Land. Before the pandemic, she came to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas to attend the Amitabha Session for two days only and felt the solemnity of the monastery and the sublime Dharma assembly. This time she participated in the entire Amitabha Session. Every time she tried to slack off, someone would remind her, which reaffirmed her confidence in learning Buddhism.

Wang Yunfan, who is studying for a doctorate at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, has been at a low point in his life for more than ten

佛，專注力都提升了，並且在念佛時，感到有熱流從頭頂貫注到腳心。自己的每日功課也優化了，讓他心生感激。

維吉尼亞大學數據科學學院助理教授張艾瑩，從小受母親于福霞的薰陶，並親眼目睹母親因為對佛菩薩的虔誠信仰，得以從重病中恢復健康，因此張艾瑩對佛法也深具信心。這次母女倆同來萬佛聖城參加佛七，她們很感激有這個機會和法師們共同修行，也特別分享了從前在中國參加法會和佛學夏令營的經驗與心得。

2023年底，萬佛聖城佛七已經圓滿，但佛號聲仍然縈繞耳際心頭。經過這次佛七的共修和分享，大家對念佛法門更具信心，也更加堅持。宣公上人常常引用一句話：「將軍不下馬，各自奔前程。」正是要我們繼續前進，不要停下腳步。☸

years. He has experienced the harshness of the world and the fickleness of human relationships, and considered ending his life several times. Fortunately, he met some wise friends in recent years who suggested him to recite the Buddha's name. This time he made a special trip to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas to participate in the Amitabha Session. He felt that his concentration had improved whether he was chanting sutras or chanting the Buddha's name, and when he was chanting Buddha's name, he felt a stream of heat pouring from the top of his head to the soles of his feet. His daily practice has also been optimized, which makes him grateful.

Zhang Aiyong, an assistant professor at the School of Data Science at the University of Virginia, was nurtured by her mother Yu Fuxia since she was a child, and witnessed her mother recover from a serious illness because of her devout faith in the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas. Therefore, Zhang Aiyong also has deep faith in Buddhism. This time, the mother and daughter came to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas together to participate in the Amitabha Session. They were very grateful for this opportunity to practice together with the Sangha. They also shared their experiences and insights from participating in Dharma assemblies and a Buddhist summer camp in China.

At the end of 2023, the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas reached its completion of the Amitabha Session, but the sound of the Buddha's name still lingers in our ears and hearts. After this one-week group practice and sharing of experiences, everyone became more confident and more persistent in the Dharma method of reciting the Buddha's name. The Venerable Master Hua often quoted a saying, "The general does not dismount, each one rushes forward on their own journey." It means that we should continue to move forward without stopping. ☸



萬佛城 聖剎菩提海
VAJRA BODHI SEA

訂閱萬佛城月刊〈金剛菩提海雜誌〉
附上支票乙紙，抬頭：D.R.B.A.

I am enclosing a check made to D.R.B.A. for a
subscription to VAJRA BODHI SEA for:

- 一年美金四十五元 US\$45.00 / 1 year
 二年美金八十五元 US\$85.00 / 2 years
 三年美金一百十元 US\$110.00 / 3 years

歡迎投稿，稿件請寄 vbs@drba.org
We welcome articles. Please send suggestions
or submissions for review to vbs@drba.org

歐美地區 In the United States & Europe, please send to:
Gold Mountain Monastery
800 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, CA 94108
Tel: (415) 421-6117 Fax: (415) 788-6001

亞澳地區 In Asia & Australia, please send to:
Dharma Realm Guan Yin Sagely Monastery
161, Jalan Ampang,
50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel: (03)2164-8055 Fax: (03) 2163-7118
Email: vbs@drba.org

臺灣 In Taiwan 請寄法界佛教印經會
臺北市忠孝東路六段八十五號十一樓
電話：(02) 2786-3022 傳真：(02) 2786-2674

訂閱單 Subscription Form

姓名 Name: _____

地址 Address: _____

電話 Tel. No.: _____