



# 宣化上人入涅槃廿九週年紀念法會

## The 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Venerable Master Hsuan Hua's Nirvana Memorial Ceremony

季年文/譯

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2024年6月15日是已圓寂高僧上宣化老和尚入涅槃29週年紀念日，宣公上人創辦的法界佛教總會（法總）近30座分支道場自五月下旬起，即相繼舉辦紀念法會，緬懷上人的德澤與教化。

來自南北加州的11部大巴士，自6月14日晚間，陸續抵達萬佛聖城。加上萬佛聖城住眾，以及各地前來支援的義工，15日總計一千七百餘人，在萬佛聖城參加這項紀念法會。當天清晨5時傳授八關齋戒，7時前展開朝山，從山門口三步一拜直抵萬佛殿。

上午念誦《華嚴經·普賢行願品》、拜願一一禮敬上人、繞塔及

June 15, 2024, was the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the late eminent monk Venerable Master Hsuan Hua's entering Nirvana. Nearly thirty branch monasteries of the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association (DRBA) founded by him have been holding commemorative ceremonies one after another since late May to cherish the memory of the Master's virtues and teachings.

Eleven buses from Northern and Southern California arrived at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) one after another on the evening of June 14. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, more than 1,700 people, including CTTB residents and volunteers from various places, participated in this commemorative ceremony at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. The Eight Vegetarian Precepts were transmitted starting at 5 a.m. that day. Before 7 o'clock, people began a pilgrimage from the mountain gate to the Buddha Hall in a three-steps-one-bow manner.

In the morning, the recitation of "The Chapter of the

瞻仰上人舍利，還有一年一度的傳供大典。繞塔是從法會現場的大帳篷，走向上人生前住過的無言堂，魚貫進入瞻仰三座舍利塔，分別有釋迦牟尼佛、虛雲老和尚，以及宣化上人的舍利。無言堂裏還有上人生前閱讀的佛經、文房四寶、墨寶、證件、衣物；乃至上人修持四十二手眼的畫像。

「傳供大典」是開山祖師涅槃法會中的重要儀式，以香、花、燈（燭）、果、菜（食）、茶、寶等供品，由每位參加法會者，一一由後向前傳遞，直到佛前供桌上。由於當天法會人數眾多，因此供品從左、右、後方，分成六組傳遞。每一份供品的傳遞，都蘊含著大家對上人無盡的追思。

法總會長恒實法師在午齋中開示指出，上人是真正的大善知識，以入世的道理教導出世的真理。上人的教化當中，很多部份像時光膠囊，多年後才能真正認識。上人經常強調，學佛要先學做人；人道盡，佛道成。恒實法師曾經長期止語，他母親是基督徒，難以接受兒子不和自己講話。但經上人開導後，恒實法師的母親不但同意兒子繼續止語，而且認為上人非常有智慧。

比丘尼恒是法師回憶，上人曾說：「我不是事事都如意，我只是能忍耐，能努力從不好當中找好處，所以我很自在。」上人也說過，他和眾生沒有分別，只是他沒有自我。上人並向大家「化緣」，把脾氣都佈施給他。恒是法師鼓勵大家，無論順逆，都要精進修行。是

Practices and Vows of Samantabhadra Bodhisattva” of the *Avatamsaka Sutra*, Universal Bowing, circumambulating the Wordless Hall, and paying respect to the shariras were held. The participants proceeded from the big tent at the Dharma assembly site to the Wondrous Hall, where Venerable Master Hua once lived, during his lifetime, and then filed in to pay their respects to the three sharira pagodas, including the shariras of Shakyamuni Buddha, the Elder Master Xuyun, and Venerable Master Hua. In the Wordless Hall, there are also the Buddhist scriptures that the Venerable Master read, the four calligraphy tools (writing brush, ink stick, ink slab, and paper), his Chinese calligraphy, documents, clothing, and even portraits of the Master practicing the Forty-two Hands and Eyes.

The “Grand Offering Ceremony” is an important ceremony in the Nirvana Dharma Assembly of the Founding Patriarch. Offerings such as incense, flowers, lamps (candles), fruits, vegetables (food), tea, and treasures are passed individually by each participant from behind. They are passed forward until they are offered at the altar table before the Buddha. Due to the many people attending the ceremony that day, the offerings were passed around in six groups from the left, right, and back. Every offering delivered contains everyone’s endless remembrance of the Master.

Reverend Heng Sure, the president of DRBA, gave a Dharma talk during lunch. He pointed out that the Venerable Master is a truly great and wise teacher who would use everyday dharmas to point to something world-transcending. Many of his teachings didn’t seem to connect at the time, but after decades, they come alive like time capsules. The Venerable Master often emphasized that we learn about the Buddha, but we put it into practice by becoming good people. When you become the best possible person, that is just Buddhahood. Reverend Heng Sure once observed the noble silence for quite a few years. His mother was a Christian, and it wasn’t easy to accept that her son would not talk to her. However, after talking with the Venerable Master, Reverend Heng Sure’s mother not only agreed that her son should continue the practice of not talking but also believed that the Venerable Master was very wise.

Bhikshuni Heng Shr recalled that the Venerable Master once said, “I don’t have everything going as I want. I can be patient and try to find good and bad things, so I am very at ease.” The Venerable Master also said that he is no different from all living beings but has no ego. The Venerable Master “begged alms” of everyone, asking people to “donate” their temper to him. Dharma Master Shr encouraged everyone to practice diligently regardless of whether they were in favorable or unfavorable situations. Dharma Master Shr also pointed out that the Venerable Master had great confidence in the voluntary teacher system. The Venerable Master once



法師也指出，上人對義務教師制度十分有信心，上人並曾說：哪怕只教好一個學生，都是功德無量。

萬佛聖城方丈恒律法師則記得，上人曾告訴他：「我做事從來不後悔。」恒律法師後來仔細思量，才明白後悔浪費時間、精力，等於浪費生命。該做的是：找出自己的錯誤，從中學習，改善自己，並幫助別人。他建議大家一旦遇到困難時，要學習上人，在反面找好處，而且法無定法，辦法總比困難多。方丈呼籲大家將上人的教誨付諸實行，這是真正的感恩上人。他並且向多天來辛勤籌備法會的工作人員，表示深深感恩。

當天下午舉行三皈五戒儀式，共有41人參加。年紀最大的是85歲的越南老太太曾容；另有麥克·馬克斯從德國遠道而來。住在密蘇里州的吳志遠一家四口同時皈依；他們都希望在宣公上人創辦的正法道場皈依佛門。

said, “Even if you only teach one student well, it will have great merit.”

Dharma Master Heng Lyu, the Abbot of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, remembered that the Venerable Master once told him: “I never regret anything I have done.” After thinking about it carefully, Dharma Master Lyu later realized that regretting is a waste of time and energy, equivalent to a waste of life. What to do? Find your mistakes, learn from them, improve yourself, and help others. He suggested that when encountering difficulties, one should learn from the Venerable Master and find advantages in the opposing side. Moreover, there is no fixed method, and there are always more solutions than difficulties. The Abbot called on everyone to put the Venerable Master’s teachings into practice. This is genuine gratitude to the Venerable Master. Dharma Master Lyu also expressed his deep appreciation to the staff in preparing the ceremony over many days for their hard work.

The Three Refuges and Five Precepts ceremony was held in the afternoon, with forty-one participants. The oldest one was Dung Tang, an 85-year-old Vietnamese lady, and Michael Marx came all the way from Germany. At the same time, Wu Zhiyuan’s family of four living in Missouri took refuge. They all hoped to take refuge in Buddhism at the orthodox monastery founded by Venerable Master Hua.

In the evening of the same day, Dharma Master Heng Lai, a senior American monk proficient in Chan meditation, talked about the

當天晚間，精通參禪法門的美籍資深比丘恒來法師分享，他首次參加上人主持的禪七，每天打坐行香，從早上3點直到半夜12點。上人說撐不住的人，晚間8點可以回房睡。第一天他就想「依教奉行」，晚間8點要休息。但到了晚間8點，雖然很疲累，想想「還沒死掉」，決定繼續坐下去。沒料那晚最後兩支香，他的腿竟然不再痠痛，還能雙盤，坐得很舒服。因此他又繼續坐下去，一坐就到了次日清晨3點，不用回房睡了，他也就繼續坐下去，這次的經歷讓他學到很多。那次禪七，還曾見虛老進入他心中，以一口漂亮的英語像好朋友一樣，很慈悲地對他說：「你要平靜下來，不要用功過頭了。」上人也教他打坐參禪：不是坐在那兒念佛，而是要參「念佛是誰」；不要強求開悟，越強求，離開悟越遠。你要放下、有耐心、繼續修行，不要執著於成果。時機成熟時，自然而然會開悟。

當天參加法會的越南居士王覺安來自洛杉磯，她說多部上人淺釋的經書以及開示錄，都有越南文版，在越南很受歡迎。她雖是第一次到萬佛聖城，但她和姊姊很早就看過上人開示錄，對上人十分敬佩。

來自長堤的謝親致，一直遺憾無緣親炙上人的教化。有天夢中見到宣公上人對她說：「學佛不是什麼旁的，就是要……」。她在夢中沒聽清楚下半句，其後在上人淺釋的經典中，看到一模一樣的上半句，而下半句則是「就是要不爭、不貪、不求、不自私、不自利、不妄語。」她頓時明白，上人是到她夢中指點佛法要義，

first time he participated in a Chan session hosted by the Venerable Master, it was held every day from 3 a.m. to 12 p.m. midnight. The Venerable Master said that those who cannot bear it can go back to their rooms to sleep at 8 p.m. On the first day, he wanted to “follow the teachings” and rest at 8 p.m. But at 8 p.m., although he was very tired, he thought, “I’m not dead yet,” and decided to continue sitting. Unexpectedly, in the last two sets that night, his legs were no longer sore, and he could comfortably sit in full lotus position. So he continued to sit in meditation, and when that sit was over, it was 3 a.m. the next day, without his having to go back to his room to sleep. He kept sitting on and learned a lot from this experience. During that Chan meditation session, he saw Elder Master Xuyun enter his mind, and then said to him compassionately, like a close friend, in perfect English, “You need to simmer down; stop pushing so hard.” The Venerable Master also taught him how to sit in meditation: It’s not about sitting there reciting Buddha’s name silently, but investigating “who is mindful of the Buddha.” You cannot force yourself to wake up; the more you do that, the more it will run away. You need to let go; just be patient. You just keep cultivating. Don’t be attached to the outcome. When the time arrives, you will wake up spontaneously.

On that day, one participant in the Dharma assembly, a Vietnamese laywoman, Giac An Von, from Los Angeles, said that many of the Venerable Master’s commentaries on Sutras and instructional teachings have Vietnamese editions and are very popular in Vietnam. Although it was her first visit to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, she and her sister had long been familiar with the Venerable Master’s instructional teachings and held the Venerable Master in high esteem.

Xie Qin Zhi from Long Beach had always regretted not having the opportunity to receive the Venerable Master’s teachings personally. One night, she dreamed of the Venerable Master Hua talking to her: “Learning Buddhism is not about anything else, it is...” She did not catch the rest of the sentence in the dream. Later, she found the exact first half of the sentence in one of the Venerable Master’s commentaries, and the rest was “to not contend, not be greedy, not seek, not be selfish, not be self-benefiting, and not lie.” She suddenly realized that the Venerable Master had taught her the essentials of Buddhadharma in the dream, thus addressing her long-standing regret. Except during the pandemic lockdown, Xie Qin Zhi attends the Venerable Master’s Nirvana Observation at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas every year. This year, she was happy to see

彌補了她向來的遺憾。除了疫情封城期間，謝親致每年都到萬佛聖城參加上人涅槃法會。今年看到她曾捐款的地藏殿已完工，非常高興；期待妙覺聖寺也能早日完工。

2012年畢業於培德中學男校的阮親嚴，目前在聖荷西工作。每逢萬佛聖城舉辦大型法會，他和同修總要回來幫忙。他表示，在培德中學時，經常參加晚課，這個習慣保留至今，每天都會在家裏作晚課，晚課後就覺得身心輕鬆。阮親嚴笑說：「感覺壓力減輕了，大概業障也減輕了一些。」他的學弟區景嵐更用功，儘管擔任電腦工程師，工作繁重，但每天早晚課不斷。

住在舊金山灣區的緬甸華僑鐘健偉，已有15年未曾來到萬佛聖城。這次看到許多年輕人全力協助上人涅槃紀念法會的進行，感受了下一代佛教徒的誠心參與，讓他備受鼓舞，覺得佛教在西方的發展是很有前途的。

宣公上人的一生，救人、度人無數。中國大陸兩位導演胡朝暉、周曉哲，發心義務攝製二小時十五分鐘的「佛法西傳——宣化上人」紀錄片，入圍歐美數項影展，最新入圍的是國際宗教影展。在影音網站油管輸入英文「Bringing Dharma West—Chan Master Hsuan Hua」即可看到這部紀錄片。另外，在油管網站輸入「宣化上人口述歷史影集」字樣，可看到上人的多位美國弟子，敘述上人如何度他們入佛門，教化他們，甚至救了他們的性命，總共50集。這些視頻由十位越南裔佛友配音成為越語版的「宣化上人口述歷史影集」，在油管網站上可觀看：<https://www.youtube.com/@LichSuHTTuyenHoa/videos>。

或以越南文搜尋：Hòa Thượng Tuyên Hóa - Viet DRBA. ❀



that the Earth Store Hall to which she had donated had been completed, and she looked forward to the completion of the Wonderful Enlightenment Monastery soon.

Billy Nguyen, who graduated from Developing Virtue Boys' School (DVBS) in 2012 and works in San Jose, always returns to help during major Dharma assemblies at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. He said that during his time at DVBS, he frequently participated in evening recitation, a habit he has maintained to this day. He does evening recitation at home every day and feels physically and mentally relaxed afterward. Billy Nguyen said with a smile, "I feel the pressure has lessened, and probably my karmic obstacles have also been somewhat reduced." His younger friend, Anada Aw, also a graduate of DVBS, works harder despite being a computer engineer with a heavy workload, yet he still maintains his daily morning and evening recitations.

Kenneth Jung, a Burmese Chinese residing in the San Francisco Bay Area, had not visited the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas for 15 years. This time, seeing many young people enthusiastically assisting with the Venerable Master's Nirvana memorial ceremony, he felt encouraged by the sincere participation of the next generation of Buddhists and believes that the development of Buddhism in the West has a promising future.

Master Hsuan Hua's life was devoted to saving and guiding countless living beings. Two film directors from Mainland China, Hu Chaohui and Zhou Xiaozhe, have voluntarily produced a two-hour and fifteen-minute documentary titled "Bringing Dharma West—Venerable Master Hsuan Hua," which has been nominated for awards at several film festivals in Europe and America, with the latest being the Religion Faith International Film Festival. You can find this documentary on YouTube: "Bringing Dharma West—Chan Master Hsuan Hua." Additionally, searching for "Master Hua's Oral History Project" on YouTube will reveal a series of fifty episodes where American disciples recount how the Venerable Master guided them into Buddhism, taught them, and even saved their lives. Ten Vietnamese Buddhist friends have dubbed these videos into Vietnamese and they can also be viewed on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@LichSuHTTuyenHoa/videos>.

Or you can search for: "Hòa Thượng Tuyên Hóa - Viet DRBA" to watch them. ❀