

# Avatamsaka Monastery and I

## 華嚴寺和我

A Talk by Jacob Le at Avatamsaka Monastery, Calgary, Canada, on January 26, 2025

Chinese Translated by Janet Lee

黎智勝2025年1月26日講於加拿大卡加利華嚴聖寺  
芬陀利 中譯



The Opening Ceremony of the Old Avatamsaka Monastery in 1986.  
The fourth person from the right in the second row is Upasaka Zhang Hengxiu.  
1986年舊華嚴聖寺成立。第二排右四為張恆修居士。

My name is Jacob Le, I'm 12 years old. I've been coming to Avatamsaka Monastery since I was in my mother's womb, so I've been coming here for thirteen years. My grandpa is Zhang Heng Xiu and he was one of the founding members of this temple.

Avatamsaka Monastery started in his one bedroom apartment that he rented in Chinatown. Every weekend, he would have some people to gather in his apartment and worship. Later, the temple was donated to Venerable Master Hua, and it became Avatamsaka Monastery.

After many years of hard work, blood, and sweat, Avatamsaka Monastery has transformed into one of the largest temples in Canada. Today, we are very grateful to worship in this beautiful temple. Coming to Avatamsaka makes me feel close to my grandpa.

I want to share with you the awesome spiritual power of

我叫黎智勝，今年12歲。我還在媽媽肚子裏的時候，就開始來華嚴聖寺，至今已經十三年。我的外公是張恆修；是這座寺廟的創始元老之一。

這個寺廟的源起是外公在唐人街的租房。每個週末，他都會邀一些善信在他的寓所禮佛共修。後來，這個道場被供養給宣公上人，並正式命名為「華嚴聖寺」。

經過多年流血流汗的耕耘，華嚴聖寺現今已成為加拿大最大的寺院之一。我們非常感恩能在這座莊嚴的佛寺共修。踏進華嚴聖寺，讓

Guanyin Bodhisattva's. Guanyin Bodhisattva means the Bodhisattva who observes the world's sounds. In the "Universal Door of Guanyin Bodhisattva Chapter," it says if anyone has any problems and needs help, they can hold the name of Guanyin Bodhisattva wholeheartedly, Guanyin Bodhisattva will respond to the prayer and will help them with their need.

I will give you an example. My mom told me that when she wanted to have a child but was having difficulty, she started to recite the "Universal Door of Guanyin Bodhisattva Chapter" every morning, and she would ask my grandpa to join in on the prayer. She recited it because, in the chapter, there is a quote that says, "If women seeking sons bow to and make offerings to the Bodhisattva Guan Shu Yin, they will give birth to sons, happy, virtuous, and wise." Soon, she became pregnant with the big potato here.

Another example was when we had a snowstorm, and the snow was almost up to our waists. I and my mom started to shovel; we didn't know where to start, and the snow was very heavy and then then I asked my mom, where do we start? Then my mom said I don't know son but we can start with reciting Guanyin Bodhisattva's name and ask for help.

I didn't believe my mom and said yeah, right, no one will come to help us. Then minutes later, I kid you not, our neighbor's teenage son came over, all wrapped up with only his eyes showing, came over with a shovel in his hand, and offered to help. We gladly accepted it and said to ourselves wow Guanyin Bodhisattva heard our prayer.

So please have no doubt in Guanyin Bodhisattva and recite her name as often as you can. I encourage you to recite "the Universal Door of Guanyin Bodhisattva Chapter," and you will understand the great compassion of Guanyin Bodhisattva. This is what I want to share with you today. ❀



The temple was donated to Venerable Master Hua, and it became Avatamsaka Monastery.

宣公上人為寺廟正式命名為「華嚴聖寺」。

我感覺自己與外公更加親近。

我想和大家分享觀世音菩薩的大威神力。觀世音菩薩，顧名思義是能觀照世間音聲的菩薩。〈觀世音菩薩普門品〉中提到，如果遇到困難，需要幫助，只要一心稱念觀世音菩薩的名號，觀世音菩薩就會聞聲救苦，滿其所求。

舉個例子：我的媽媽告訴我，以前她一直沒辦法懷上孩子，她開始每天早上誦〈觀世音菩薩普門品〉，還要我的外公也跟著求。她之所以誦這一品經，是因為經文中說：「若有女人，設欲求男，禮拜供養觀世音菩薩，便生福德智慧之男。」沒多久，媽媽就懷上我這個大土豆啦！

另一個例子是，有次我們遇到一場暴風雪，積雪幾乎到我們腰部那麼高。我和媽媽開始鏟雪；雪下得很大，我們不知該從何處下手。我問媽媽：「我們該從哪裏開始？」媽媽回答我說：「兒子，我也不曉得。但是我們可以念觀世音菩薩聖號，祈求幫助。」

當時我不太相信，還對媽媽說：「不可能啦，才不會有人來幫忙我們。」幾分鐘後，我沒騙你，鄰居十幾歲的兒子走過來，全身裹得只露出兩隻眼睛，手裏拿著一把鏟子，主動表示要幫忙。我們欣然接受，心裏驚嘆道：「哇，觀世音菩薩真得聽到我們的祈求了！」請大家對觀世音菩薩要有信心，多多念誦觀音聖號。我也鼓勵大家多誦〈觀世音菩薩普門品〉，這樣你就能明白觀世音菩薩的大悲心。以上就是今天我想和大家分享的内容。 ❀