

萬佛聖城紀念宣公上人涅槃三十週年（一）

City of Ten Thousand Buddhas Commemorates the 30th Anniversary of Venerable Master Hsuan Hua's Entering Nirvana (I)

季年文/譯

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萬佛聖城紀念宣公上人涅槃30週年大合影

Group Photo Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of Venerable Master Hsuan Hua's Entering Nirvana at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas.

2025年6月5日（農曆五月初十）是佛教高僧宣化上人涅槃三十週年紀念日，法界佛教總會樞紐萬佛聖城，提前於5月31日和6月1日兩天舉行「從根生長」活動和紀念法會，約有1,800人參加。

「從根生長」活動追憶宣公上人
5月31日上午：萬佛聖城導覽

5月31日是週六，當天上午8時，在萬佛殿裏進行〈楞嚴咒〉念誦法會的同時，「萬佛聖城導覽」以山門為起點，介紹了三拱山門上的大字「萬佛聖城」、「

June 5, 2025 (the tenth day of the fifth lunar month) marks the 30th anniversary of the prominent monk, Venerable Master Hsuan Hua's entering Nirvana. In anticipation of this occasion, the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association (DRBA) held a two-day event titled "Growing from the Roots" and a memorial ceremony on May 31 and June 1 at its headquarters, the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB), with approximately 1,800 attendees.

**“Growing from the Roots”
—Remembering the Venerable Master
May 31 Morning: Guided Tour of CTTB**

At 8 AM, while the Śūraṅgama Mantra recitation was underway in the Ten Thousand Buddhas Hall, a guided tour began at the main gate. The tour highlighted the inscriptions on the triple-arched



5月31日上午萬佛聖城導覽。

Morning of May 31: Guided Tour of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas.

如來寺」、「法界大學」，這些大字顯示宣公上人結合修行與教育的宏願。另外也介紹了山門對聯：

華嚴法會 楞嚴壇場
四十二手眼安天立地

妙覺世尊 等覺菩薩
千百億化身變海為山

當天大約150人在兩個半小時內，隨著比丘近傳法師、近威法師的中英文講解，參觀了萬佛聖城萬佛殿、祖師殿、育良小學、培德中學和法界佛教大學等地，並在大、中學和學生們聊天。讓訪客體會何以《國家地理雜誌》曾在世界宗教地圖上，將萬佛聖城標為北美八大聖地之一，而背包客旅遊指南《孤獨星球》更將萬佛聖城列為美國精神性靈層次最高的聖地之一。

5月31日下午：

(一) 長老比丘恒實法師追述上人事蹟

法界佛教總會會長恒實法師藉

gate: “City of Ten Thousand Buddhas”, “Tathagata Monastery”, “Dharma Realm Buddhist University.” These words reflect the Master’s vision of integrating spiritual practice and education. The tour also introduced the gate’s matching couplet:

The Avatamsaka Dharma Assembly, the Śūraṅgama Platform, and the Forty-two Hands and Eyes establish the Heavens and Earth.

The World Honored Ones of Wonderful Enlightenment and the Bodhisattvas of Equal Enlightenment, with a billion transformation bodies, can turn oceans into mountains.

Led by Bhikkhus Jin Chuan and Jin Wei, around 150 participants explored key sites, including: The Ten Thousand Buddhas Hall, the Patriarch Hall, Instilling Goodness Elementary School, Developing Virtue Secondary School, and Dharma Realm Buddhist University.

Visitors also interacted with students, gaining insight into why *National Geographic* once marked CTTB as one of North America’s Eight Sacred Sites on its World Faiths map, and *Lonely Planet* ranked it among the most spiritually significant destinations in the U.S.

May 31 Afternoon:

1) Reverend Heng Sure Reflects on the Venerable Master’s Legacy

Reverend Heng Sure, president of Dharma Realm Buddhist Association, shared many personal stories about the late Venerable Master Hua through the *Tribute Album of Verses, Songs and Praises*



5月31日下午長老比丘恒實法師追述上人事蹟。

Afternoon of May 31:
Reverend Heng Sure Reflects on the Venerable Master's Legacy.

著《上宣下化老和尚偈讚歌詠專輯》，追述上人生前的許多小故事。現場和線上將近兩百人，和恒實法師一起緬懷上人風範。

這本偈讚歌詠專輯中，收錄了上人親自撰寫的近兩千首偈頌等作品。恒實法師回憶當年宣公上人在給弟子們上課時，經常隨手在黑板上寫下偈頌。對於做老師的人而言，這似乎是很平常的事，但是很少人知道，宣公上人是在沒有準備的情況下，即興寫出這些偈頌。

上人不僅擅長寫偈讚歌詠，也經常以簡短答覆，讓人感覺如金剛棒喝、醍醐灌頂。例如萬佛聖城草創時期，有人曾說萬佛聖城「挺多房間，可惜無人」，上人以二字答覆：「有佛」。

(二) 佛教與打坐入門

和恒實法師追述上人事蹟同時進行的是，近傳法師和近威法師帶領的佛教和打坐入門課，吸引了數十人參與，尤以年輕人居多。這次課程的核心是「覺知傾聽」——並非放空或恍神，而是對當下發生的一切，保持多層面的覺知。

by the Venerable Master Hsuan Hua. Nearly 200 people, both in person and online, gathered to honor and remember the Master's virtuous example alongside Reverend Heng Sure.

This tribute album includes nearly 2,000 verses personally composed by the Venerable Master. Reverend Heng Sure recalled how, during his lectures to disciples, the Master would often spontaneously write verses on the blackboard. While that might seem like a common thing for a teacher to do, few people realize that the Master composed those verses entirely on the spot, without any prior preparation.

The Venerable Master was not only profoundly skilled in composing verses, songs, and praises, but also in delivering brief utterances that struck with the force of a Vajra and awakened like sweet dew upon the heart. For instance, in the early days of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, someone once remarked with a hint of doubt, "There are so many rooms here, yet so few people." The Master responded with just one phrase: "There are Buddhas."

2) Buddhism/Meditation 101

While Reverend Heng Sure was recounting the life and teachings of the Venerable Master, an introductory course on Buddhism and meditation—led by Dharma Masters Jin Chuan and Jin Wei—was held simultaneously, drawing several dozen participants, most of them young people. The focus of the course was "mindful listening"—not simply zoning out or entering a trance, but maintaining a multilayered awareness of everything happening in the present moment.



5月31日下午佛教與打坐入門。 Afternoon of May 31: Introduction to Meditation.

5月31日晚間： 資深弟子憶上人

恒來法師說，1970年代，一位葡萄園主向州府購下萬佛聖城前身的精神療養院；他並不需要土地上的數十棟建築物，因此曾擬將四座大型建築物出租給曼都西諾社區學院。但當時租金談不攏，而社區學院無法向州府申請到整修經費，只能放棄。又沒有其他買主出現，因此上人得以買下整座精神療養院。

1976年過戶手續完成之後，實法師、順法師、來法師等十人，於該年在萬佛聖城受了具足戒。恒實法師指出，當初為了順利買下這座州立療養院，上人的部分弟子曾經斷食迴向。最後成交，並建立萬佛聖城後，上人曾告訴弟子們說：「我已經有藍圖了」，因為萬佛聖城是「在天成象，在地成形」。

比丘尼恒良法師表示，上人建立的法界佛教總會，目前有29座道場，但我們的網站上，只列出25座。法總許多道場都在擴建中，各分支道場都需要人手。良法師並回憶上人在1987年舉行水陸空大法會，邀請了63位中國法師，那年還有其他隨行

Evening of May 31: Senior Disciples Recall the Venerable Master

Dharma Master Heng Lai recounted that in the 1970s, a vineyard owner purchased from the state government the former psychiatric hospital that would later become the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. Since he had no need for the dozens of buildings on the land, he once proposed renting out four big buildings to Mendocino Community College. However, the rent negotiations fell through, and college was unable to obtain renovation funding from the state and had to decline. With no other buyers stepping forward, the Venerable Master was then able to purchase the entire property.

After the title transfer procedures were completed in 1976, ten monastics—including Reverend Heng Sure, Dharma Masters Heng Shun, and Heng Lai—received full ordination that same year at CTTB. Reverend Sure noted that in order to help ensure the successful purchase of the former state mental hospital, some of the Venerable Master's disciples undertook fasting and dedicated the merit. After the acquisition and establishment of CTTB, the Venerable Master told his disciples, "I have already got the blueprint," because CTTB was "just the earthly version of what pre-existed up in the heavens."

Bhikshuni Heng Liang shared that Dharma Realm Buddhist Association, founded by the Venerable Master, now comprises twenty-nine monasteries—though only twenty-five are currently listed on the association's website. Many of these branch monasteries are undergoing expansion and are understaffed. She



5月31日晚間資深弟子憶上人。 Evening of May 31: Senior Disciples Recall the Venerable Master.

工作人員一同前來。有人對上人說：「您是中國的國寶，應該回中國。」只聽上人說：「你們自稱共產；我不留財物給自己，都佈施給大家，這才是真正的共產。你們一天不改變，我一天不回去。」

水陸空大法會後，緊接著舉行世界宗教會議。一群基督徒冒著酷暑來山門外舉牌抗議。上人大方邀請他們進入萬佛聖城抗議，最後他們也在這項世界宗教會議上發言。實法師補充說，當時他就在上人身邊，聽到上人說：「為什麼我歡迎你們進來？因為我心中有耶穌對你們的博愛精神。」瑜伽市浸信會牧師湯姆·麥克米倫問道：「這群傢伙總是讓我們很頭痛，他們就是一團亂。您竟能讓他們聽話，這是怎麼做到的？」上人說：「這就是我說的不爭。」

越裔居士武親道指出，宣公上人來美之前，鈴木大拙宣揚禪宗，達賴喇嘛側重密宗，而宣公上人則將浩瀚的經、律、論、佛教傳統儀軌、倫理道德這些寶藏帶來西方，使西方人得以對佛教有全面的認知。現在就看我們如何培育長養上人在西方和世界上播

also recalled that in 1987, the Venerable Master hosted the Water-Land-Air Dharma Assembly, inviting sixty-three Dharma Masters from China. That year, some officials came along and said to the Master, “You are a national treasure of China—you should come back.” Dharma Master Liang remembered the Master replying, “You call yourselves communists, but I don’t keep anything for myself—I give it all the way to the community. That is the true meaning of communism. I won’t go back there until you people change.”

Following the Dharma Assembly, a World Religions Conference was held. A group of Christians stood outside the mountain gate under the sweltering sun with protest signs. The Venerable Master graciously invited them inside CTTB to continue their protest—and in the end, they also spoke at the interfaith gathering.

Reverend Sure added that he was beside the Venerable Master at the time and heard the Master say, “Why did I welcome you in? Because in my heart, I carry the love that Jesus has for you.” Tom McMillan of the Ukiah Baptist Church remarked, “We’ve had trouble with these guys forever, because they are just chaos.” He said, “Look, you tamed them. How did you do it?” The Venerable Master said, “That is what I mean by no fighting.”

Vietnamese lay practitioner John Vu observed that before the Venerable Master Hua came to America, D.T. Suzuki promoted the Chan School and Dalai Lama emphasized the Secret School. However, Master Hua brought with him the vast treasures of

下的種子，讓這些種子蓬勃生長發展。武親道每逢遇到生命中的難關時，就會翻開《法華經》、《金剛經》、或《彌陀經》等佛經。映入眼簾的經文，恰好就是為他解開疑難的答案。他因此相信，上人總是和我們長相左右。

法界佛教大學校長蘇珊·朗茲博士（果載居士）6月底即將退休，在她擔任校長的11年期間，法大學生人數成長五倍。朗茲博士指出，如今除了南極洲之外，全球五大洲都有法大學生。學生們的感言，諸如：「我發現了內心的光明。我知道離開這裏後，即使在最黑暗的時刻，心光也永遠不會熄滅。」讓她知道，法大的努力已見成效。她也相信，這就是能夠改變世界的前提，也是一些頂尖大學的教育所欠缺之處。

上人傳法西方的重點之一是翻譯佛經，上人成立的佛經翻譯委員會至今仍在繼續整理、翻譯或重譯上人生前講經說法的內容。今年預定出版的英譯新書，包括《佛祖道影白話解》第二冊與第三冊，《華嚴經淺釋》第30-35品等十本；中文部和西班牙文部各有重大進展。其他歐洲語文，例如法文、挪威文等，還有亞洲語文當中的越南文翻譯，也都在持續進行中。

恆實法師最後總結說，師父讓我們在八萬四千法門中，選擇與自己相應的法門修行。唯一的要求是我們不爭、不貪、不求、不私自、不自利、不打妄語。正如恆來法師所說，師父的目標是打造佛菩薩、阿羅漢。他將六大宗旨賜予我們，讓我們可以在這裏隨心修行。

☯待續

the sutras, vinaya, shastra, traditional Buddhist rituals, and ethics—offering the Westerners a comprehensive gateway to understanding Buddhism. Now, it is up to us to nurture and cultivate these seeds that the Master has planted in this country and in this world, and help them to grow and to prosper. He shared that whenever he faces difficulties in life, he turns to sutras, such as the *Lotus Sutra*, the *Diamond Sutra*, or the *Amitabha Sutra*. Time and again, the passages that greet his eyes provide just the answer to his issue. Because of this, he strongly believes that the Venerable Master is always here with us.

Dr. Susan Rounds, President of Dharma Realm Buddhist University, is set to retire at the end of June. During her eleven years of leadership, student enrollment at DRBU has grown fivefold. Dr. Rounds noted that today, DRBU students can be found on every continent—except Antarctica. Reflecting on the students' experiences, she shared comments such as: "I have discovered the light within me. I know that after I leave here, even in the darkest times, that light will never be extinguished." She said, "When we hear things like that, we know that what we are doing here is working." Dr. Rounds also believes that this kind of inner transformation is what holds the potential to change the world—and it's precisely what is missing from the education offered by some top universities.

One of the key focuses of the Venerable Master's propagation of the Dharma in the West was the translation of Buddhist scriptures. The Buddhist Text Translation Committee established by the Master continues to compile, translate, and retranslate the content of the Master's Sutra lectures and Dharma talks to this day. This year's scheduled publications from the English department include ten books such as *Portraits of Patriarchs* (Volume 2 and Volume 3) and *The Avatamsaka Sutra with Master Hua's Commentary* (Chapters 30-35). Both the Chinese and Spanish departments have made significant progress. Translators in other European languages—such as French and Norwegian—as well as Asian languages like Vietnamese are also steadily advancing in their translation efforts.

In closing, Reverend Sure shared that the Venerable Master allowed each of us to choose a Dharma door—among the 84,000 teachings—that resonated with our own affinities for cultivation. The only requirement he set was no fighting, no greed, no seeking, no selfishness, no self-benefit, and no lying. "As Dharma Master Lai put it, the Venerable Master's goal was to make Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, and Arhats. He gave us the Six Great Principles, we can cultivate to our heart's content."

☯To be continued