

My Father

我的父親

A Talk by Rosa Chang and Ana Chang at GBM on November 26, 2017

鄭慕貞、鄭慕賢居士 2017 年 11 月 26 日結法緣於金佛聖寺

All Buddhas & Bodhisattvas, Venerable Master, Dharma Masters, and Dharma Friends. Amitofo. My name is Rosa and this is my sister Ana.

諸佛菩薩、師父上人、各位法師、各位佛友：阿彌陀佛！我的名字叫 Rosa（鄭慕貞，法名親慕），這是我的妹妹 Ana（鄭慕賢，法名親賢）。

2017, the year of the Rooster has been a very eventful year for us. We had 2 births, 1 wedding, and 1 rebirth in our family. These are all new beginnings for each individual. However, as per Dharma Master's suggestion, we will tell you the story of our father.

2017 年，這個雞年是一個很多事情發生的一年；對我們來說。我們家庭增添了兩位成員，有一個婚禮，有一位成員往生了。這個都是他們每個人新的開始。但是，法師建議我們跟大家匯報一下，我父親（鄭滿祥，法名親吉）的事情。



Our father was born in 1924 in China, Canton, Zhongshan, Zimaling village. He married my mom in 1949. In 1952, he moved to Lima, Peru. In 1970 he immigrated to Vancouver, Canada. Our father built Como Market, our family grocery business. Our father left behind a loving wife, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 2 daughter-in-laws, 6 grand-sons, 3 grand-daughters, 4 grand-daughter-in-laws, 2 grand-son-in-laws, 3 great-grand-sons, and 2 great-grand-daughters. Whenever we have family gatherings, we have 4 generations joined together.

我父親是在 1924 年，在中國廣東中山，紫馬嶺村出生。他在 1949 年跟我媽媽結婚。1952 年，他移民到秘魯的利馬。在 1970 年，他再移民來到溫哥華。然後，他成立了 *Como Market*，就是我們家庭雜貨店的生意。今年爸爸離開了我們：離開了他的太太，離開了他兩個兒子、兩個女兒、兩個媳婦、六個孫子、三個孫女、四個孫女婿、兩個孫兒媳、三個曾孫、兩個曾孫女。每逢我們有家庭聚會，我們是四代同堂的。



（大女兒 Rosa 鄭慕貞、媽媽羅果宿、爸爸鄭滿祥、小女兒 Ana 鄭慕賢）

Our father instilled the importance of filiality, family togetherness, generosity, and compassion in us. He enjoyed going on family vacations and having family gatherings. Our father was a very generous and family-oriented person. He remembered where he came from and would go back to China every year to visit family and friends. He would give gifts and treat them to food. Although our father did not eat too much meat, he would let others do all the ordering and they would choose things like live seafood or live animals. Our father always paid for all the food.

我的父親常常灌輸我們：孝道的重要、家庭的團結、對人要慷慨、也要有同情心。他非常享受跟家人出去旅遊度假，和家庭聚會。他是個很慷慨的人，也是家庭觀念很重的人。他常常會記掛家鄉的親戚朋友，所以他每一年回去中國探親的時候，他都會買很多的禮物，或是請他們吃大餐。雖然父親不是吃很多肉，但是當宴請他們的時候，他會讓親朋戚友自己點菜，他們這時候通常會點些活海鮮，活的家禽，殺它們來吃。我父親都會付錢請客。

After years of going to China and treating people to so much meat and seafood, karma finally caught up with him when he was around 80 years old. That was the start of all his illnesses. He started not feeling well, but he could not explain to the doctors the symptoms. He would often say he was dizzy, but it was not the kind of dizzy where he would fall down. The western doctors did not know how to cure him. In the last 9 years he has been in and out of the hospital 6 times with pneumonia.

在這麼多年以來，我父親常在中國宴請親朋好友吃活海鮮和家禽這件事，終於業障來找他了。那年他大概 80 歲左右，他開始覺得不舒服，但是他跟醫生解釋不了他的症狀。他說他常常覺得有一點頭暈，但是也不是會暈到跌倒的情況。西方醫生也不知道該如何治療他的病。在過去九年以來，他進出醫院六次，都是因為患上肺炎。

Everything does happen for a reason. Yes, his illness is a bad thing. However, it was because of his illness, my sister and I started bringing our father to Gold Buddha Monastery and we became pure vegetarians, which is a good thing. In 2008, our father started attending all dharma assemblies at Gold Buddha Monastery. He became a pure vegetarian and took the 5 precepts. He enjoyed spending time at Gold Buddha Monastery, and have met many Dharma masters and Dharma friends here. He would stay the whole day at GBM from start to finish. Although, he may not understand the sutras, mantras, dharma talks, and repentance texts...we would like to think that everything he has heard has been absorbed into his 8th consciousness.

每一件事情發生都有它的原因。沒錯，父親的病是件壞事。但是也因為他的病，我們倆姐妹開始帶爸爸來金佛寺參加法會。然後，我們倆姐妹

也成了素食者，這是一件好事。在 2008 年，我父親開始來參加金佛寺的法會，他也開始吃素、也受持五戒。他很享受在金佛寺參加法會、見到法師、見到佛友，他一待就是一整天。雖然他不一定會明白經文的意義、咒的意思、或是不明白法師講的法、或是拜懺的懺文。但是我們想，只要他聽到這些經文、懺文，都會吸收到他的八識田裡邊。



(2010 浴佛法會)

This year, our father was still able to attend the 1 week 3000 Buddhas Repentance, 3 weeks Avatamsaka Sutra recitation, and 1 week Emperor Lyang's Repentance. He even attended the celebration of Guan Yin Pu Sa's Enlightenment at GBM. However, on the actual day of Guan Yin Pu Sa's Enlightenment, our father got really tired and did not want to get up. He was too tired to eat or drink anything, but he was peaceful. His blood pressure was very good, he did not have a fever, and his breathing was normal. So we knew it was not pneumonia this time. We asked him if he wanted to go to the hospital and he told us "No". So we respected his wish and made him comfortable at home.

今年，我父親參加了一個星期的《三千佛懺》、三個星期的《華嚴法會》、和一個星期的《梁皇寶懺》。他也參加了《慶祝觀音菩薩成道日法會》。但是在觀音菩薩成道日的正日這天，他覺得不舒服，很累、不想起床，也不想喝、也不想吃，但是他很平靜。他的血壓很正常，也沒有發燒，呼吸也很正常。所以我們知道這一次他不是感染肺炎。我們問他要不要去醫院，他說：「不要。」那我們就尊重他的意願，讓他在家裡呆著，舒舒服服的。

At all times we had the Amitofo chanting machine playing close to our father so he could hear. 3 days prior to his passing, my sister and I started chanting Amitofo ourselves to our father because we wanted to chant from our heart, instead of just using a machine. We also placed a picture of Amitofo on the wall in front of our father. We noticed that sometimes our father would have his palms together praying to Amitofo.

在很多時候，我們把「阿彌陀佛」的念佛機開著，放在父親的身邊，讓他能聽到佛號。爸爸往生前的三天，我們姐妹倆開始決定自己用心為爸爸念佛號，不再用念佛機。我們在爸爸床前面的那面牆，掛上了「阿彌陀佛」的佛像。我們也察覺到他有時候是合掌拜佛的。

In the last few days of his life, we would constantly remind our father to recite "Amitofo". We told him if Amitofo comes for him, to go with Amitofo and leave everything here behind. We told him we would take care of our mother. We told him we are all grown up and he doesn't have to worry about us. We also thanked him for all he has done for us. We told him to go to Amitofo's Land of Ultimate Bliss first and we will meet him there when it is our time. We told him if he sees Amitofo's bright gold light, to go with him to Amitofo's Land of Ultimate Bliss...our father nodded to show he understood us.

在父親往生前的幾天，我們經常提醒他要念「阿彌陀佛」的聖號。我們跟他說「阿彌陀佛」來接他的時候，要他不要再執著世間所有的事情，要跟著「阿彌陀佛」走。我們跟他說，我們會照顧好媽媽。我們跟他說我們已經長大了，他不需要再擔心我們，我們也感謝他這麼多年來對我們所做的一切一切。我們告訴他去往生西方，先去那邊，然後當我們時間到的時候，我們也會去那邊見他。我們跟他說，如果他見到「阿彌陀

佛」的金光，叫他跟著去西方極樂世界。那父親就點頭，跟我們說他明白。

Our father passed away peacefully at home on Monday, July 17, 2017 at 3:20pm surrounded by family members at his side. He was 93 years old. After the 8 hours of reciting Amitofo, and all who came to recite have gone home, we went in to say our final good-byes to our father. We notice that it looked like there were sprinkles of gold dust on his face and he looked very peaceful.

父親是在 2017 年 7 月 17 號（星期一），3 點 20 分下午很平靜的往生了。當時我們所有的家庭成員都在，他 93 歲往生。在八個小時的助念之後，當所有的助念成員都離開之後，我們就去父親房間向他致最後的道別。我們當時注意到爸爸的面上好像灑上些金光閃閃的金粉，他看上去很平靜。

On Dad's 7th day after passing away, I had a dream. I was walking somewhere and Dad joined me. He look young, happy, and a full of energy. I told him to remember to go to Amitofo's Land of Ultimate Bliss. He replied "OK". We hugged and then I woke up.

在爸爸頭七的那一天，我作了一個夢。我夢見自己在某個地方散步，爸爸跟我一塊散步。他看上去很年輕、很快樂、很有精神。我跟他說記得一定要往生去西方極樂世界。他回答我說：「OK」。我們擁抱一下，然後我就醒過來了。



Most of our family members made the commitment to only eat vegetarian food for 49 days. Ana, our mom, our niece, and I decided to each of us gift at least 100 Earth Store Sutras to our father within the 49 days. Part of our father's 49 days took place during the 1 month Earth Store Sutra Recitation session, which made it convenient for us to read the Earth Store Sutra many times. In total, just between the 4 of us, we gifted over 560 Earth Store Sutras and transferred the merit and virtue to our father. Also, our whole family came together every Sunday to offer incense to our father at Gold Buddha Monastery.

我們大部分的家庭成員都答應在 49 天之內吃全素。我們兩姐妹、媽媽（羅果宿）和侄女決定在這 49 天內，每人為父親念誦 100 部的《地藏經》。剛巧父親的 49 天，是在金佛寺舉辦一個月「地藏法會」的期間。所以這樣更方便我們誦更多的《地藏經》。我們四個人一共誦了 560 部《地藏經》迴向給父親。而且，我們其他家庭成員每個星期日都來金佛寺上香給父親。

Our father's last 7 was on the exact 49th day. That day GBM celebrated Ullambama. We read in Venerable Master's English commentary of The Shurangama Sutra that "on Ullambama, merit and virtue derived from making offerings to the Triple Jewel is several million times greater than that derived



from offerings made on ordinary days". We are grateful that our father's last 7 was completed on such an amazing day.

父親的尾七，剛好是第 49 天。這天金佛寺舉辦「盂蘭盆法會」。我們在上人英譯的《楞嚴經淺釋》裡，讀到說：「如果在盂蘭盆日供養三寶，它的功德會比平常日子裡做的功德，多出七百萬倍。」所以我們非常感恩，就是父親最後一天的尾七是在這麼殊勝的一天結束。

1 week after all of our father's 7s were completed, we flew to Calgary to attend the Inauguration Ceremony at Avatamsaka Monastery. While we were there, we had the opportunity to receive the Precepts for the Deceased for our father.

父親尾七之後的一個禮拜，我們飛到加拿大·卡加利去參加華嚴聖寺的開光法會。我們在那邊有個機會幫父親代受「幽冥戒」。



After returning from Calgary, our mom started having dreams of seeing our dad. She said that she saw a big place, like the structure of a big airport. Our father came out and welcomed her in. He looked young and happy. As soon as they sat down, someone brought vegetarian haw gow and sui mai for them. Mom had a haw gow and Dad had a sui mai. Dad told my Mom the sui mai is really good, and Mom told him that the haw gow is really good too. Mom had 2 haw gows and 2 sui mais. After

eating, they didn't have to pay. They walked around and Mom saw Bhikshus everywhere.

從卡加利回來之後，媽媽總會夢見爸爸。她說她看到一個很大的地方，就好像一個飛機場這樣的地方，好大。爸爸出來歡迎她進去。他看上去很年輕、很快樂。他們坐下之後，就有人給他們一些素的蝦餃、素的燒賣，給他們吃。媽媽吃素蝦餃，爸爸則要了素燒賣。爸爸說那個燒賣很好吃，媽媽說那個蝦餃也很好吃。最後，媽媽吃了兩個蝦餃、兩個燒賣。吃完之後，他們也不需要付錢的。然後他們就去散步了。散步時，媽媽說，她看到好多比丘在他們這個地方。

Throughout the years, the Buddhas & Bodhisattvas have continuously blessed



our father with health, strength, and energy to come to GBM frequently. He was able to come here all the time even when it rained or snowed. Our father treated Gold Buddha Monastery as his 2nd home. While at GBM he would ask us, "When do we go home?" However, at home he would ask us every day "Are we going to Gold Buddha Monastery today?"

這麼多年以來，諸佛菩薩一直在加持我父親的健康，給他力量和精神，讓他能常常來金佛寺。就算是下雨或下雪，他也能來這裡參加法會。

他把金佛寺當成是他第二個家。當他在金佛寺的時候，他就問：「我們什麼時候回家？」但是當他在家的時候，他就常常問：「我們今天是不是要去金佛寺啊？」



Every year, Dad looked forward to attending the GBM Elderly Day. He was very happy to receive a gift for being over 90. He told us being over 90 is a big accomplishment, so he treasured every gift he received. Our father found peace and comfort here at Gold Buddha Monastery.



每一年，爸爸都很渴望去參加金佛寺的敬老節。他很高興他能收到一份，超過 90 歲以上就有的特別禮物。他跟我們說，能活到超過 90 歲是一個很大的成就。

所以他是非常地珍惜 90 歲以上這個特別的禮物。他覺得在金佛寺，他感到平安和舒服。

When our father was a young man, he saw a fortune teller who predicted that he would only live to 56 years old. We are sincerely grateful to the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas because we had 37 more years to be with him. It gave our father the extra time to see us grow up. All the times we have spent with our father are precious, and we are thankful for each day. We do miss him, but we know that we did all we can for him, and we can let go with no regrets.

我爸爸年輕的時候，曾經有個算命的人跟他說，他只能活到 56 歲。我們真的是很感恩佛菩薩，為什麼？因為他能多活了 37 年。這樣我父親就可以看到很多家庭成員長大。所有我們跟他生活在一起的時間都是很珍貴，我們每一天都很感恩。雖然我們很懷念他，但是我們能為他做的事情，我們都已經做了，所以我們可以沒有後悔，可以把這個事情放下。

We want to thank the Venerable Master for bringing Buddhism to the west, so people who do not know Chinese like us can understand, learn, and cultivate. We would also like to give sincere thanks to all Dharma Masters and Dharma Friends for your kindness, warmth, compassion, support, and respect to our father throughout the years at Gold Buddha Monastery. A special thank you goes to Dharma Master Jung for always being there for our family and for supporting and helping us through everything. Amitofo.

我非常感恩上人把佛法帶到西方來，讓好多不懂中文的人都可以明白、學習佛法、還有去修行。我們是特別感恩所有的法師和佛友，因為您們的慈悲、支持和尊重我爸爸；他這麼多年在金佛寺跟大家的相處。也非常感恩仲法師，因為他常常在我們需要他的時候，給我們家庭支持和幫助所有的事情。阿彌陀佛。