



義大利之旅

謝惠英文 / 薛麗梅 英譯

法國的法會結束之後，接著便是義大利的參訪之旅了；由於法國當地的居士及十九位男女年輕學生的踴躍參與，弘法團一行增至 51 人，於 7 月 30 日當天，乘坐巴士由巴黎出發，穿越法國南部，直達義大利。

米蘭主教堂

我們這部滿載佛號的法車，一路南行，首站便是義大利北部的工業大城——米蘭；米蘭是個工業發達的富有城市，也是世界知名的時尚中心，精品店及服飾店四處林立，米蘭歌劇院更是舉世聞名，全世界頂尖的音樂藝術家皆薈聚於此，莫不以躋身米蘭歌劇院表演為榮，無疑的，米蘭是上流社會的最愛之一。

我們一行人來此，當然不同於上流社會的最愛，而是參觀馳名於世的米蘭主教堂；這座主教堂是義大利最著名的哥德式藝術建築，它全部以大理石建成，遠遠望去予人「一座山」的感覺，在方形鐘塔的上方，有四個小尖塔，其它部份亦是尖塔林立，總數有一百座之多，參差不齊，氣派非凡，牆面刻花朵朵，精雕細鏤，令人驚嘆！教堂內部是交叉拱門的屋頂，挺拔雄偉，線條優美輕靈，明亮的彩窗玻璃，以紅藍為底色，交錯其他之顏色，莊嚴瑰麗，美不勝收；信徒的頌歌祈禱聲，直入雲霄，上達天聽，形成歌德式教堂的最大特色。



DELEGATION TO ITALY

BY SUNNY LO / ENGLISH TRANSLATED BY ECHO HSUEH

After the Dharma assembly in France, we continued with a visit to Italy. With the eager participation of the laity from France and nineteen young people, the delegation now had 51 members. On July 30th, we departed from Paris via bus and headed south towards Italy.

Filled with the sound of the chanting of the Buddha's name, our Dharma bus went south and first arrived in the industrial city of Milan in Northern Italy. It's a wealthy city with prosperous industry. It's also a well-known fashion center with lots of stores of fine products and clothing. The Milan Opera House is known throughout the world. Some of the best musicians and artists all gather here and take pride in performing at the Milan Opera House.

We then visited the great and renowned Milan Cathedral. This cathedral has the most outstanding Gothic-style architecture in Italy. It was built entirely of marble and looks like a mountain from afar. On top of the square bell tower, there were four small towers surrounded by over 100 spires. The walls were marvelously engraved with various flowers. Inside the cathedral, the ceiling was supported with overlapping, tall and straight arches with graceful outlines. With blue and red mixed with other colors, the stained-glass windows were stately and magnificent. The chanting and prayers of the disciples could reach way up to the clouds and the heaven. That was the distinguishing feature of the Gothic-style cathedral.

We then visited Venice, which was built in 810 and is located on an island surrounded by many small islands in the inner sea with bridges over interconnecting water channels. The residents all travel by boat; therefore the traffic on the water was quite busy, and water taxis were everywhere. In the early years, Venice was one of the world's most prosperous trading centers due to the convenience of sea transportation. We took a tour in gondolas. The captains skillfully shuttled back and forth down the water streets and alleys, and under various arched bridges. That gave us the feeling of an ancient poet's description of Venice: "little bridge, flowing water and people all around".

According to our guide, the foundation of Venice has been sinking and is getting worse each day. In another hundred years, the city might sink to the bottom of the sea. Therefore the local government has hired water conservancy engineers, civil engineers, and geologists to investigate how to solve this problem. Otherwise, in the distant future, Venice could become just a name in history.

The Venerable Master had said, "Education is the most fundamental defense for a country". San Marino, a small country with few people, is the best example of this. San Marino, located inside

水都威尼斯

威尼斯城建立於西元810年，它位於海島上，星羅棋布，內海中又有許多小島，各島之間皆有水道相通，上有各式的拱形橋連結，居民皆「以船代步」，因此水上交通繁忙，水上計程車隨處可見；威尼斯早年即藉由海運之便利與外界接觸，發展貿易，從而成就「威尼斯商人」之名；我們坐著小船暢遊，船伏技術嫻熟，帶領我們穿梭於威尼斯之大街小巷及划行過一座座之拱橋，頗有古人「小橋、流水、人家」之感。

根據導遊敘述，威尼斯這些年來地層嚴重下陷，而且日益加劇，百年之後，可能沉沒海底，故當局為此憂心，宜及早聘請水利工程或土木地質專家會勘，謀求解決之道；若任其繼續下陷，百年之後，「威尼斯」恐將成為歷史名詞了。

上人說：『教育是最根本的國防』，小國寡民的聖瑪利諾國就是個最好的見證：聖瑪利諾小國，是義大利的國中之國，它起源於羅馬帝國時代，一群奴隸為爭取自由民主，相偕逃亡至聖瑪利諾這坐山城，建立了王國，迄今已有千餘年了；由於這個山城地形險陡，易守難攻，歷經許多世紀，但都能屹立不搖，倖存下來，誠屬不易。

由於這個小國磐踞於岩石之上，土壤貧瘠，既無農業，也無工業，人民生活貧困，致人口大量外移，小國搖搖欲墜，幾至不保；後來有識之士主張提倡教育，培養造就人才，以提昇國力；不久之後，由於人才的回流，貢獻所長，發展貿易觀光事業，及精美手工藝品，以吸收外來的旅客及投資者，頗具成效，故今日的聖瑪利諾國早已脫離貧困，成為義大利居民擁車率最高之富有小國了。由於當局的高瞻遠矚，深耕教育，培育人才，鞏固了家園，印證了上人所謂的「教育是最根本的國防。」，而非世人所知的船堅砲利；此外，聖瑪利諾國每半年選出二位義務攝政者，沒有薪俸，純屬義務發心，但居民卻踴躍參選，樂於當總統，故此小國，總統滿街跑，已不是新聞了。

永遠的羅馬

羅馬這個城市有兩千年的歷史了，俗話說：「條條道路通羅馬！」，古時羅馬人是最會建造公路了，他們技術高超，用方形石板建築的公路，往



Italy, originated at the time of the late Roman Empire. To fight for freedom and democracy, a group of slaves escaped to this mountain city and founded the kingdom over a thousand years ago. Since its terrain is steep and difficult to access, it is easy to defend. Thus, the country has stood safe through the centuries.

Since this small country was located on rocky, infertile soil, there was neither agriculture nor industry. The people were impoverished and many of them moved away. The small country was on the verge of collapse. Luckily some wise leaders advocated education to foster and train people with talent, in order to strengthen the country. Not long after, people with talent returned to contribute their skills and helped San Marino to develop commerce, tourism, and exquisite handicrafts, which attracted many tourists and investors. Eventually San Marino became a wealthy and prosperous little country. This was due to the great foresight of the government in promoting education to help the people to develop their talent. This confirms the truth of the Venerable Master's statement, "Education is the most fundamental defense for a country." Other than that, every six months the people of San Marino elect two leaders who receive no salary. Even though it's voluntary, the residents are enthusiastic to participate in these elections and all are willing to serve as the leaders. So it's not headline news when you see them on the street.

Next we visited Rome, which has a history spanning way beyond 2000 years. As it is said, "All roads lead to Rome." The ancient Romans were really good at building roads. They skillfully paved the roads with flagstones, extending them for thousands of kilometers. Whenever the Roman Empire occupied a region, the first thing they did



往可以長達數千公里；所以當羅馬帝國時代，每佔據一地，首先要做的，就是建造公路，俾使馬車可以很快的到達邊遠之處，如有叛亂發生時，方能迅速派兵救平，可見當年羅馬帝國國力強盛及地位之重要了。

羅馬是個古老的城市，古蹟處處可見，帝國時代所遺留下來的元老院、凱旋門、競技場、農神廟……等等，雖然有的已是斷垣頹壁，但依稀可以喚起人們的記憶，遙想當年的羅馬人如何締造偉大的帝國，走過輝煌的歷史。

實法師、近永師和我們幾位居士參觀了建立於西元72年，可以容納5萬人的競技場(即鬥獸場)，該競技場目前已無覆蓋層，故可見到它曾有的完備地下設施，如角鬥士和猛獸出入競技場的機械裝置等；回想上古時期，人們和洪水猛獸對抗，只是爲了生存，出於無奈；而羅馬人建立的鬥獸場，任由奴隸或異教徒和猛獸鬥殺，甚而被吞噬，卻只是爲了取樂王公貴族所提供的餘興節目罷了，殘忍至極，令人髮指；實法師帶領我們，憑弔現場，並持往生咒及心經，迴向給這些冤魂，希望他們早日離苦得樂，得到安息。

兩千多年前羅馬人所締造的軍事大帝國，由盛而衰，甚而淪亡，走入歷史，都不過是灰飛煙滅，過眼雲煙罷了；然羅馬帝國雖亡，羅馬文化卻綿延持續下來，影響後來西方的文藝復興，至今羅馬的曆法、文字、建築、雕刻……等等，都已融入了西方人的生活當中了，所以古人說：「國可滅，歷史不滅。」你可以滅掉一個國家，但卻不可滅掉他們的歷史文化，所以我們可以說：「羅馬是永恆的！」。



was to build roads, so their vehicles could quickly reach even the most remote areas. Also, in the event of a rebellion, the army could quickly reach the area to quell the uprising. It is thus clear how the Roman Empire became so powerful and prosperous at that time.

Rome was an old city where one could see numerous historic sites everywhere. These included ruins from the time of the Empire such as the Senate, the Arch of Triumph, the Coliseum, and many temples. Even though some of the ruins were only broken walls, people could still imagine how the Romans at the time founded the great empire and created such a splendid history.

DM Sure, DM Jin Yong and a few of the lay followers visited the Coliseum that was built in the year 72 and could accommodate 50,000 people. It no longer had a roof, so one could see the complete facilities on the ground, including the mechanical device that allowed the wrestlers and fierce animals to go in and out of the arena. In prehistoric times, people had to confront fierce floods and savage animals in order to survive. However, the Romans built the Coliseum to entertain the royal family and citizenry by watching slaves, criminals, and heretics being mauled by fierce animals or meeting their doom from the gladiator's sword. It was extremely cruel and ruthless. DM Sure led us to the site, where we all recited the Rebirth Mantra and the *Heart Sutra* to transfer merit and virtue to the spirits associated with these brutal activities. We wished that they could leave suffering and obtain peace and happiness very soon.

The Roman Empire, built more than 2000 years ago by the power of the Roman army, like all things in this world, eventually declined and perished. Today it is nothing but ashes and smoke, as transient as a fleeting cloud. Although the empire collapsed, Roman culture continued and influenced the Renaissance in the West. The Roman calendar, alphabet, architecture, sculpture, etc. still influence life in the West to this day. The ancients said, "A country can be destroyed, but its history will not be wiped out." Thus we can say that with the enduring influence of its culture, "Rome is everlasting."

天主教的聖地——梵諦崗

梵諦崗以教皇為首，由羅馬主教和天主教會的最高一級神父組成的獨立國家，居民數千人，以神職人員居多；梵諦崗的聖彼得大教堂，是全世界最大的教堂，建於西元前324年，期間經過知名藝術家拉斐爾、佩魯齊、桑加羅及米開朗基羅等人三四次的修復，始有今日宏偉之規模。

教堂寬敞的門廊上方建造著九個陽台，中間的陽台為「祝福台」，教皇在初履接任，或每逢慶典，都會在此向廣場上熙熙攘攘的信徒們，揮手致意，為羅馬和全世界祝福。我們一走進這座教堂，即感受到它的神聖莊嚴，米開朗基羅設計的雙層頂蓋大圓拱頂，氣派非凡，鑲嵌了彩色大理石的壁畫，美侖美奐！這是融合文藝復興和巴洛克藝術風格的建築物，教堂內並佈置了無數的聖物和藝術珍寶，供人瞻仰欣賞。

音法師、哲法師、近藏師、近柔師四位法師和我五人，乘坐教堂側邊的電梯，再奮力爬上三百多個階梯，終於步履蹣跚的到達了拱形的屋頂上；我們站在全世界最大教堂的最高點上，俯瞰整個梵諦崗城，廣場四週和兩側的大圓柱，及環繞教堂四週的群樓，遠遠望去，就像一把鑰匙，非常壯觀、雄偉，心中舒暢無比，先前的疲累和汗水，皆拋諸腦後，一掃而空。

西方自十四、十五世紀文藝復興以來，宗教藝術發達，教堂已成為建築、雕刻、繪畫、音樂及燈光之綜合藝術體，人們置身教堂之中，即能感受到濃厚的藝術氣氛，莊嚴的聖樂，悠揚入耳，頗能感動人心，無形中發揮了全民的美學及音樂的教育，也提昇了宗教的情操，故「宗教藝術化」，於西方國家而言，是成功的。

佛羅倫薩是文藝復興的發源地，也是文藝大師米開朗基羅的故鄉；從山頂上俯瞰佛羅倫薩，它美得如詩如畫，河上的拱橋，由遠而近，一座座次第的排列著，彩色大理石的圓頂大教堂，聳立其間，四週環繞的是蒼翠的樹林，優美而靜謐，是個充滿文藝氣息的城市。

我們有幸得以參觀佛羅倫薩烏菲齊博物館，它是全世界最有價值、藝術珍品收藏最豐富的博物

Next we visited the Vatican, which is an independent country led by the Pope and composed of the cardinals, bishops, and other supreme priests of the Roman Catholic Church. There were thousands of residents and most of them were clergy. St. Peter's Cathedral in the Vatican, one of the biggest churches in the world, was built in 324 C.E. After being renovated three or four times by the famous artists Raphael, Pelluci, Songalo and Michelangelo, it still remains a magnificent structure.

On the front facade of the cathedral, there are nine balconies. The middle one is "the Blessings Balcony" where the Pope, upon first taking his position as a Pope or in overseeing an important celebration, greets the numerous followers in the plaza. As soon as we walked in this church, we immediately felt an aura of sacredness and solemnity. The double-tiered great dome designed by Michelangelo was extraordinary, with beautifully embedded frescos in multicolored marble. Its architecture is a blend of Renaissance and Baroque styles. There were also innumerable holy items and art treasures on display.

DM Yin, DM Je, DM Jin Cang, DM Jin Rou and I took the elevator on the side of the church and then with much effort climbed another 300 plus stairs, until we finally limped up to top of the dome. We stood on the top of the biggest church in the world, which overlooks the whole Vatican City. We could see all around the plaza, the big columns on both sides, and all the other buildings surrounding the church. It was a spectacular and magnificent sight. We felt so free and happy that we forgot all about the effort it had taken to reach the dome.

Then we visited Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance and also the hometown of Michelangelo. When viewed from the nearby mountains, the scenery of Florence is like something out of a beautiful painting. The arched bridges on the river lined up one after another. The domed cathedral with multicolored marble rose up in its midst. Surrounded by dark green trees, it is a city full of the spirit of the arts.

We had the great opportunity to visit the Uffizi Museum where some of the most valuable artistic treasures are collected and stored. The arrangement of the display was simple. It had 45 rooms for sculptures, paintings, etc. They were all great works of art done by famous artists. It was such a worthwhile trip in that I got to actually see and



館；它的佈置簡單樸素，有45個陳列室，擺設的有雕刻、繪畫……等等藝術珍品，皆是名家經典之作，自小耳熟能詳的畫作，在此得以欣賞到真蹟真品，感到無比的親切和熟悉，確有不虛此行之感。上人說：「我們無論在那個國家，都要幫助那個國家平安、幸福」。訪問團在法車上和其他行住時，繼續修行，做早晚課、儘量誦佛號菩薩聖號，僧俗二眾也沒讓麥克風空閑的講法說故事；我們的導遊來自北京的趙先生談他如何因天安門事件而流浪天涯，並在最後一天也能跟著做早課了。有位義大利籍比丘大行法師，說流利英語華語，在義大利時加入我們並分享知識。8月6日弘法團結束義大利之旅，回到法國巴黎，準備返美；為期三星期的弘法之旅，參訪了七個國家（包括途經的摩納哥小國），也藉此機會了解各國的風土民情及歷史文化，與他們結法緣，希望佛法能幫助他們，讓他們得到平安、幸福。8月7日我們自巴黎順利返美，圓滿了此次歐洲弘法之旅。



appreciate some of the great works that I had heard about since I was young.

The Venerable Master said, "Whichever country we are in, we should help that country to be peaceful and happy." On our "Dharma bus" and in the various places we walked and stayed, our delegation continued its practice, doing the daily ceremonies and reciting the Buddhas' or Bodhisattvas' names as much as time allowed. Both the Dharma Masters and laypeople made full use of the microphone on the bus to share Dharma stories. Even our very knowledgeable tourguide Mr. Zhao, originally from Beijing, shared his personal story of fleeing from China after the Tiananmen incident and joined us in morning recitation on the last day. We were joined during the Italy trip by DM Da Xing, an Italian Buddhist monk who also spoke English and Chinese, and who generously shared his knowledge of Italy with us. We ended the trip to Italy on August 6th. The delegation returned to Paris, France, and then continued on to return to America. During the three weeks of this Dharma journey, we visited seven countries (including Monaco, which we passed through on the way). We got to know the natural conditions, social customs, history and culture of each country. We created Dharma affinities with the people of Europe in the hope that the Buddha Dharma could help them to attain genuine peace and happiness. We arrived back in America from Paris on August 7th, feeling that our trip to share the Dharma in Europe had been fulfilling and successful for all concerned.

