

# *News From The Dharma Realm*

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*THERE IS NOTHING WHICH DOES NOT FLOW FORTH FROM THE DHARMA REALM.*

*THERE IS NOTHING WHICH DOES NOT RETURN TO BE CONTAINED WITHIN THE DHARMA REALM*

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## *Father Hand Pays Respects at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas*

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"Any of you who wish to convert to Catholicism have a ideal opportunity to do so," said the Venerable Abbot Hua to a group of more than 150 people gathered at Gold Mountain Monastery a few years back. The occasion was a luncheon honoring the late Cardinal Yu Bin and the Abbot's comment evolved like this: He said, "Buddhism is an old-fashioned religion. It retains the traditions, the disciplines, the rules and regulations that were set forth by Shakymuni Buddha more than 3000 years ago. Now that you have had a chance to explore it for a while, you may be feeling ready for a change. You may want to try something different. That's why I'm suggesting to you, on the occasion of this visit with Cardinal Yu Bin, that if there are any of you who would like to convert to Catholicism, this is permissible. It's perfectly all right with me, in fact, I'm the one who's initiating the idea. I won't enclose any of you within the tiny prison of Buddhism."

Then the Venerable Abbot turned cheerfully to the Cardinal and inquired, "Cardinal Yu, could you make such an offer to Catholics?" The Cardinal shook his head and was at a loss for words.

Such open-hearted acceptance of all faiths is the embodiment of Buddhist ideals in actual practice. This all-encompassing view of religions is inherent in the founding of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas as a Center for World Religions. Over the years since the City's inception, those who abide here and those who visit have but begun to get a glimmer of the scope and depth of this view. There is nothing compromising about this view nor is it designed to cheat or deceive. That is because it is not borne from any ulterior motive. There is no seeking for reputation in it nor is there a desire for profit. There is no bid for publicity or any attempt to satiate desires for wealth, sex, fame, food, or sleep. Only when such motivating factors have been expelled, only when such a view is grounded in the purity which arises from honest development of precepts, samadhi, and wisdom, is it truly worthy of being called "all-encompassing." No element of contention, greed, seeking, selfishness, or pursue of self-benefit can be found within such a view.

Time and again old precedents yield and inconceivable events arise on a daily basis. Take the time the late Cardinal Yu Bin spent a week at the City. At that point in his life, he was in direct line for Papal nomination. Such stalwart figure in the Catholic Church, and perhaps for that reason he was able to bring forth new faith and come respectfully to pay his regards to the Buddhadharma which encompasses the Dharma Realm. The City made his heart peaceful, he said, and in body and mind he experienced the all-pervasive oneness of the Buddha-nature. And because "there is nothing which does not flow forth from the Dharma Realm", his heart was able to be free of concerns about the definitive boundaries which believers with less foresight place upon their faiths. Certainly we must call that visit by His Eminence unprecedented!

On June 19, 1983, another unprecedented event occurred. Father Hand, a Catholic priest for over thirty years and Sister Lee, a fully ordained Catholic nun came to the City for a two-day visit. Their first request was that they be given a small room wherein they could conduct Mass during their stay. Unable to solve this question, the assembled Sangha requested the Venerable Abbot's advise on the matter. The Abbot's reply to their request was that they could do Mass in the Hall of Ten Thousand Buddhas and that any residents or guests at the City who wished to, could attend the ceremonies.

Donning the robes of their clergy for the duration of the service and intoning the rituals of their faith, the Jesuit priest and the sister said Mass before Kuan Yin Bodhisattva in the Great Hall and several Buddhist disciples in residence at the City attended the services.

For those who witnessed the unprecedented invitation extended and accepted, and for those who participated in the Mass held before the Thousand-Handed, Thousand-Eyed Bodhisattva, a deeper appreciation was awakened as to the magnitude of the universal view regarding all religions which prevails at the City.

*With the Dharma Realm as substance, what lies outside?  
Empty space is its function, all is included.  
The ten thousand things are equal, apart from distinctions.  
A single thought unproduced puts an end to words and teachings.  
- "Dharma Realm Verse"  
by Venerable Abbot Hua*

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The fat man has a fan.



The man has a map and a bag



The fat man sat on a mat.

THE FAT MAN, BOOK ONE. is the first in a series of phonetic readers, introducing short "a". These readers are as yet unpublished but are presently being read in Instilling Virtue Boys' and Girls' school with much enthusiasm.