

# Comments on a Most Extraordinary Elderhostel at The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, October 12 - 18, 1997

## 參加萬佛聖城長青大學殊勝課程之感想

### 1997年10月12至18日

I had chosen this program primarily for my sister's interests, not expecting that the week would have such a profound effect on me. The 3 o' clock check-in, a walk in the nearby woods, a superb vegetarian dinner, a compatible group of fellow Elderhostelers, the introduction to our trio of scholars, Steven, Lucy and George, and resident hosts and hostesses—it all promised to be unusually engaging, and perhaps even fundamentally significant.

The mystery of our heightened awareness, the fact that each of us was feeling healthier every day, the atmosphere of calm and harmony in the City, the sense of limitless space and time, was all put in focus, for me, in Steven's lecture on Friday on The Five Schools of Buddhism. I was already pretty comfortable with Teaching (intellect/wisdom), Vinaya (regulations/moral codes), and even—in my own way—Chan (concentration/meditation). But, Pure Land and Esoteric—those were disciplines I could at best tolerate when I encountered them in the outside world. Well, what a pale endorsement the term 'tolerate' turned out to be, after a week's experience in the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB)!

What I realized was that I had been exposed, that whole week, to all five schools of Buddhism, simultaneously-in-action, both with our scholars, Steven, Lucy and George, and with the 250 residents of CTTB. And just as it takes an All Five Schools' approach to create a harmonious city, it took this week's experience to boost me from 'tolerance' to 'honor and respect' for each of these schools, equally.

This was an experience that will have a profound effect on my life. I thank you very, very much for the opportunity to have participated in it.

Most sincerely,  
Emmy Lou Miller  
3890 La Donna Ave.  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

我來參加長青大學之課程，主要是因為我姊妹的興趣，全未想到這一個星期對我會這樣深遠的影響。

下午三點報到、林間漫步、豐盛的素食、長青同學們的和合、介紹三位學者：史蒂芬、露西、喬治，以及城內常住們的招待，這一切都很有趣，也讓人覺得很有意義。

對我而言，我們自覺的高昇、日益增進的健康、聖城安寧祥和的氣氛，無限空間與時間的感受，全都歸納入史蒂芬在星期五的演說：佛教五宗中了。我原本對教理（知識/智慧）、戒律（規矩/道德）頗能接受。對禪宗（入定/打坐）也能以我自己的方式實行。

以前我在外面接觸到淨土宗與密宗時，勉強堪忍。但是在萬佛聖城一個星期的經驗，把我的「堪忍」態度轉換了過來。

整整一週，我完全融浸在佛教五宗內，與我們的指導員：史蒂芬、露西，與喬治，以及萬佛聖城 250 位住眾同步行動。一如得用佛教五宗創造出一個和諧的聖城一樣，費了一個星期才把我從「堪忍」轉化成對每一宗抱持平等的「崇高與尊敬」態度。

這次的經驗，對我的生命影響深遠。我由衷感謝你們提供這次機會。

愛咪·米勒敬上  
3890 La Donna Ave.  
Palo Alto, CA 94306