



2007年中國佛教歷史文化訪問團記(二)

A Report on the DRBA Buddhist History & Culture Delegation to China, 2007 (2)

譚果式 文 BY MADALENA LEW

編輯部 英譯 ENGLISH TRANSLATED BY EDITORIAL STAFF

一個曾被九個國家——英、美、法、德、日、俄、意、奧、比利時等開闢租界的大城市，也是世界十大港口之一，更是中國第三大的城市——天津市，便是訪問團今天要去的地方。我們從哈爾濱直飛天津，來到了這個車水馬龍、熙熙攘攘的大城市中心。這裏有一座中國第二大尼眾道場兼佛學院——薦福觀音寺，在該處研讀佛學院的尼眾將近兩百人。住持妙賢尼師年輕有為，原來她是中國第一位建立尼眾佛學院，德高望重的隆蓮尼師的高足。

難怪她能在短短的三年，就可以把一個小小的老廟改建成如此宏偉的道場和佛學院！她雖事務繁忙，除做佛事外，但仍不忘常常講經說法，裨益眾生。這所觀音寺雖處在此繁華的鬧市中心，但卻像一朵出污泥而不染的蓮花，實令人敬佩！

風和日麗，不知不覺又回到北京，訪問團的行程也已過半了。今天，除了實法師和來法師因法務繁忙要回美之外，其他的團員大都去做好漢了——爬長城（有諺語說，不到長城非好漢）；並去參觀聞名中外的偉大建築——天壇。世界各地的旅客來到北京，無不以一遊故宮，天安門，和頤和園為快。訪問團當然也不例外，因此行程的安排也少不了這些地方。可惜天公不造美，細雨綿綿，帶來了一絲兒的遺憾！

Tianjin, a big city that once was a foreign settlement of nine countries – Britain, the United States of America, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, Italy, Austria, and Belgium, one of the top ten harbors in the world, and the third biggest Chinese city, also is the city that the delegates were visiting next. Flying over from Harbin, we arrived in Tianjin, a metropolitan city crowded with people and vehicles. Jianfu Guanyin Monastery, a nunnery with the second largest Buddhist Academy for

Bhikshunis in China, is located here. The Abbess, Dharma Master Miaoxian is young and promising. She is the outstanding disciple of virtuous and reputable Bhikshuni Dharma Master Longlian who established the first nunnery with a Buddhist Academy in China.

No wonder Dharma Master Miaoxian could renovate the small and old temple into such a grand Bodhimanda and Buddhist Academy for nuns in three years! Her workload is tremendous, for in addition to the ceremonies, she manages to speak Dharma often to benefit living beings.

Approximately 200 nuns study in this institute. Although located in the heart of a busy downtown area, this admirable Guanyin Monastery emerges like a pure lotus flower untainted by the mud.

On a peaceful, sunny day we came back to Beijing, reaching the halfway point of our trip. Dharma Master Sure and DM Lai had to return to the United States because of their busy schedules. The remaining delegates climbed the Great Wall to be a hero (It is said that he who doesn't reach the Great Wall is not a true man.) Later, we also visited the great, world famous architectural masterpiece, the Temple of Heaven.

Travelers come to Beijing from all over the world to visit the Imperial Palace (The Forbidden City), Tiananmen Square, and the Summer Palace. Of course, the delegates were no exception and these places



南京市是一個六朝的皇都，因此留下來的古跡文物極多；很多人可能聽過，有關日本侵華時大屠殺的事件，就是在這裏發生的。古代的秦淮河畔，現在仍是燈火輝煌；昔日的文人畫客，而今何在？只不過是留下了一些文人逸話和事蹟，讓人回味而已！

靈谷寺就是位在這六朝的南京古都，據說這間寺廟原在梁朝就建了。由於明朝皇帝朱元璋看到該寺的風水十分好，因此就把該寺搬到現在的位置，並命名為靈谷寺。該寺佔地本有三十萬平方米，但因毀於戰火，至清同治年間再行修建時則縮小了。訪問團得到靈谷寺住持淨然法師的引導，而能參拜一代聖僧——玄奘的頭骨舍利，亦實屬難得！靈谷寺之響有盛名，皆因供奉了玄奘法師的頭骨舍利可供人參拜。

除此，尚有一座聞名於世的22米高，54米寬的無樑殿，這座殿全是用磚砌成的，而不用一釘一木，故謂之無樑。原本是用來供奉無量壽佛的殿堂，因為「無量」和「無樑」是同一諧音之故，但現在是用來做展覽館了。靈谷寺尚有一寶，那就是一幅由古時代三位詩(李白)，書(顏真卿)，畫(吳道子)名家所合成的字畫。

南京的另一名剎就是棲霞古寺。因為在該寺裏有三件國寶：一是唐碑，二是隋塔，三是千佛岩。訪問團得到該寺的知客師宗覺法師引導都能得睹這三件國寶。也因為這三件國寶，想要研究中國文物的人都

were included in the itinerary. Unfortunately, the weather was not much help as it drizzled for quite a while.

Nanjing was the capital city for six dynasties; therefore, many historic sites and cultural relics remain. Many people might have heard about the great massacre which happened in Nanjing when Japan invaded China. The famous Qinhuai Riverbank of old is still ablaze with lights nowadays, but where are those poets and artists now? Only their anecdotes remained for us to recollect the flavor.

Linggu (Spirit Valley) Monastery is located in this ancient capital city of the six dynasties - Nanjing. It is said the monastery was first built in the Later Liang of the Five Dynasties Period. Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang of the Ming Dynasty realized the good geomancy of the monastery's location and wanted to build his own mausoleum there, so he relocated the monastery to its current site and named it Linggu Monastery. The original temple covered 300,000 square meters. Later it was destroyed in war and then a downsized version was built in the reign of Emperor Tongzhi of the Qing Dynasty.

Guided by the Abbot, Dharma Master Jingran, gratefully the delegates were able to worship right in front of the skull *sharira* of Great Master Xuanzang. Because the *sharira* are kept here for people to pay respects to, the name Linggu Monastery became so famous and well-known!

Moreover, there is another famous hall named Hall without Pillars which measures 22 meters high and 54 meters wide. This hall was constructed entirely of brick, without using a single nail or piece of wood. Originally it was dedicated to the Buddha of Immeasurable Lifespan. Later it was called Hall of No Pillars as a pun [Note: In Chinese "Immeasurable" and "No Pillars" sound alike] and became an exhibition hall. Another treasure in the monastery is a combined painting by three famous ancient artists: poetry by Li Bai, calligraphy by Zhenqing Yan, and a painting by Wu Daozi.

Qixia Monastery is another famous temple around Nanjing with three national treasures: a Tang dynasty stone tablet, a Sui dynasty stupa, and the Caves of a Thousand Buddhas.





來參訪棲霞古寺，尤其隋唐時代所留下來的舍利塔和千佛岩，佛像的雕塑，栩栩如生。

唐碑則封鎖在一間小小的碑亭裏，若無許可，不得入內。這個碑為唐代高宗皇帝於上元三年（西元676年）為紀念南齊隱士明征君（明僧紹）捨宅建寺而立，至今已有1300多年歷史，是南京地區唯一的一塊唐碑。據報導該碑石是由距今2.8億年前形成的棲霞灰岩雕成。而碑石則佈滿了海百合莖，中國孔珊瑚等淺海動物化石，約2萬2千多個。因此，該碑不僅是研究唐

Dharma Master Zongjue, the Guest Prefect, took time to show us all these three renowned places. Many archaeologists travel here to study Chinese cultural relics, especially those from the Sui and Tang dynasties, such as the stupa and the cliff with a thousand Buddha caves; all the Buddha images are particularly life-like!

The Tang dynasty stone tablet was locked in a small house. Only authorized people are allowed to enter. The tablet was commissioned in 676 C.E. by Emperor Gaozong to commemorate Ming Zhengjun (Ming Sengshao), a hermit of South Qi, who gave his house for building Qixia Temple. It is over 1300 years old and is the only stone tablet from the Tang dynasty in the Nanjing area. We were told that it was carved from Qixia limestone which is 208 million years old. Over 22,000 animal fossils such as stalks of sea lily and Chinese Goniopora columna are found in the tablet. Thus, it is not only a rare relic for the study of Tang history and literature, but also a rare treasure containing ancient animal fossils. Qixia Monastery is the southern branch of the China Buddhist Academy. Dharma Master Zongjue said there are 50 to 60 student monks here and sighed, "There are fewer and fewer people wanting to become monks now!"

Jiming (Rooster Crow) Monastery was originally for monks, but later became a nunnery! One of the top Buddhist Academies for nuns in China, it is located on the hillside of a city, quite tranquil in the midst of all the hustle and bustle. City walls dating from the Ming Dynasty remain to protect the monastery. Not only did the virtuous and reputable Abbess Zongcheng do an excellent job of administrating the nunnery and the academy, she was also a good model of cultivation for later generations given the *sharira* that remained after her cremation.

The Third Tianzhu's Fajing (Dharma Mirror) Monastery was originally number three of a series of Lingyin (Spiritual Concealment) monasteries. Actually, Lingyin Monastery and Fajing Monastery are separated only by a hill - Feilai Peak. Fajing Monastery was a courtyard for translating sutras during the Eastern Jin Dynasty, and later turned into a monastery that gradually became Fajing Monastery. Some sites in the monastery continue to be of historical interest, including Tuofeng (Camel Humps) Wall, beams from the Ming Dynasty, Three-Lives Rock behind the monastery, platforms for sutra translation, Lotus Cave, etc. Nowadays, Fajing Monastery is the only nunnery left in the city of Hangzhou. Two Dharma Masters who are sisters lead a few dozen monastics and laypeople in a self-sustaining lifestyle. The tea farm behind the monastery is something they are especially proud of!

A few days prior to our visit to Fajing Monastery, Hangzhou of Zhejiang Province was besieged by storms and torrential floods. Because Fajing Monastery is located at the foot of Tianzhu Mountain, water flowed down the mountain and flooded the monastery, its level rising as high as people's knees. However, when the delegation arrived, they saw no sign of the flood. According to the Manager, this is a result of everyone working together to clean up after the disaster! Furthermore, the flood did not affect the monastery's Main Buddha Hall at all. The tea farm was left intact too.

Leaving Hangzhou, the delegation headed for Shanghai's countryside to Fengxian County, where the nunnery, Ten Thousand Buddhas Pavilion, is located. The Abbess here is a rigorous, 88-year-old cultivator. She was sent to the monastery to join the monastic order at the age of five. Since she was well-liked, virtuous and talented, the locals protected her and the monastery during the Cultural Revolution so that she could continue to cultivate until the present day.

Ten Thousand Buddhas Pavilion was built during the Ming dynasty and renovated during the Qing dynasty. Ruthless warfare left the monastery devastated and dilapidated. However, the Pavilion was recently rebuilt under the lead of its Manager, Dharma Master Xingkang. She told us that during the construction period, she led everyone person-

代歷史和文學藝術的珍貴文物，還是古動物化石融為一體的罕見珍品。

雞鳴寺本來是僧眾道場，但後來也變成尼眾道場，成立一所在中國數一數二的尼眾佛學院。這個道場處於一個鬧中帶靜的市區小山坡上，還有一道明朝遺下的城牆作為護寺的防衛。住持宗誠尼師生前不但是德高望重，把道場和佛學院辦得有聲有色，往生火化後的舍利更是給晚輩們修行的好榜樣！

三天竺法鏡寺本是隸屬天竺靈隱寺的系列道場，與靈隱寺僅飛來峰之隔。東晉時是建用為「翻經院」，後改為道場並逐漸轉變為法鏡寺。寺內仍可見到一些古跡如駝峰牆壁、明朝的殿樑、寺後的三生石、翻經台、和蓮花洞等。法鏡寺現在是杭州市唯一的尼眾道場，由姐妹兩位法師領導數十出家和在家居自耕自給。寺後的茶園更是她們的自豪！

數日前，浙江省杭州市一帶因暴風雨侵襲，山洪暴發。由於法鏡寺位於天竺山下，故亦被水淹至膝。當訪問團到訪時卻看不出一點點兒水淹的痕跡。據當家師說這都是大家齊心協力救災和清理的效果！更蒙佛力加被，大雄寶殿卻毫不相干，茶園亦未受損壞。

離開杭州市，訪問團直奔上海市。在上海的郊區奉賢縣，有一個尼眾道場 萬佛閣。這裏的住持已是 88 高齡的老修行。她從 5 歲被送到寺廟出家。由於她的人緣好，修行德才兼備，民革時被該地民眾保護故仍舊能繼續清修至今。萬佛閣本來創建於明朝，重修於清代。由於戰火無情，該寺至今本已是瘡痍滿目，殘舊不堪。但經過監院性康法師的領導，現在的萬佛閣已煥然一新。據她告訴我們，她們從籌備、設計、買材料、訂購、監工、建造（輕工還是自做，重工才顧人幫忙），無不親力親為。難怪我們所看到的萬佛閣美侖美奐，實令人歎為觀止！

萬佛閣雖處於鬧市，但卻被一條小巷阻隔，大車均不能進入。因此當您步過小巷後，卻發現另有洞天。萬佛閣可以說是「麻雀雖小，但五臟俱全」。光是看那鐘、鼓樓與大雄寶殿連為一體的設計，便可見一斑！

ally and carefully planned, designed, bought materials for, ordered, supervised, and constructed the facility (they did the lighter construction themselves and only hired help for heavy construction). No wonder the Ten Thousand Buddhas Pavilion is absolutely gorgeous, leaving everyone in awe.

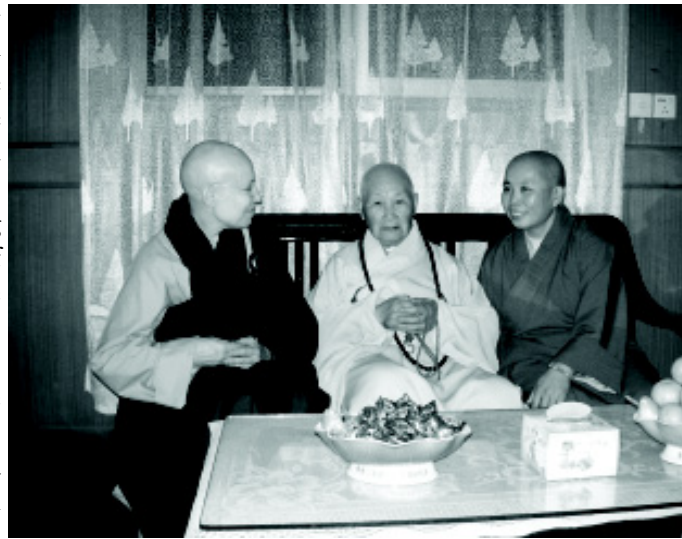
Although the Ten Thousand Buddhas Pavilion is located in a busy city, it is hidden behind an alley so that larger automobiles cannot get in. Consequently, when you walk into the alley, you will discover a whole new world. The pavilion maybe small in size but it has everything a monastery should have. The caliber is evident from the consistency of design of the bell and drum tower and the Main Buddha Hall.

Ten Thousand Buddhas Pavilion is constructed in the Tang dynasty architectural style. The ten thousand Buddha images placed upstairs are beautifully carved and adorned with shining gold. The high quality workmanship testifies to the worthy talents of the Dharma Masters there.

Shanghai is an internationally known metropolis and the last stop for the delegation. We visited Longhua (Dragon Flower) Monastery, the oldest and largest ancient monastery in the Shanghai area. Legend has it that this monastery was constructed during the Three Kingdoms period by Sun Quan of Eastern Wu for his mother and named after the story of Maitreya

Bodhistva realizing Buddhahood under the Longhua tree. The present Longhua Monastery was reconstructed during the reign of Guangxu of the Qing dynasty. However, it essentially maintains the original Song dynasty style of a Buddhist Chan Monastery with seven halls. Thus, it is a relatively more complete monastic building complex.

Since the former Abbot Ming Yang of Longhua Monastery and the Venerable Master go back a long ways and he had visited the Venerable Master and the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas





萬佛樓是仿唐代的建設，樓上所供的萬佛，更是莊嚴、美觀、雅緻、金碧輝煌！可見萬佛閣的尼眾法師們的才能，實屬可敬！

上海，是世界聞名的大都市。這是訪問團最後一站。我們拜訪了上海地區歷史最久，規模最大的古剎龍華寺。相傳該寺是三國時，東吳孫權為孝敬其母而建造的，並按佛經中彌勒菩薩于龍華樹下成佛的記載而命名。但現在的龍華寺是重建於清光緒年間，不過基本上仍



保持著宋代佛教禪宗的伽藍七堂制原貌，是一組較完整的寺廟建築群。由於前方丈明暘老和尚與師父上人的淵源極深，且老和尚亦曾三度到訪萬佛聖城，所以訪問團得以備受盛情接待並能深入藏經樓。除禮拜老和尚舍利之外，更能親睹龍華寺收藏歷朝的文物古跡及龍華三寶：龍藏、金印和冶金銅製毗盧佛像。

值得一提的是上海地區最古且是唯一的高塔——龍華塔，相傳始建於東吳赤烏年間，由吳孫權建，賜額「龍華」，用藏西竺康居僧會所請得的五色佛舍利。後經古建築學家鑒定龍華塔是重建于宋太宗興國二年，因為發現塔的磚身是北宋原物，從而認定龍華塔在宋代起至今已屹立千餘年。

此次訪問團全程由中國的東北部至南方，為期二十天。我們所到之處，均得各地道場的住持或監院法師們熱情接待，實有籍師父上人的德行高譽所致。而我們全程均是天清氣朗，平安無阻，此亦賴師父上人的福庇，龍天護佑啊！這次訪問團能得以順利成就，亦有賴各護法居士的齊心協力所致。在此，我謹以摯誠之心向各位護法居士敬禮，並願以此功德迴向法界眾生！



three times in the past, the delegation received a most warm welcome and were led to visit the Tripitaka Hall. Besides paying respects to Elder Master Ming Yang's *sharira* in the hall, we also got to see the monastery's antique collections from different dynasties and its three well-known treasures: a set of Dragon Tripitaka, a gold seal and a huge gilded brass Vairocana Buddha image.

One thing worth mentioning is that the Longhua Pagoda is the oldest and the only pagoda in the Shanghai area. It is said that the Longhua Pagoda was built during the year of Chiwu of Eastern Wu by Sun Quan, who gave it the name "Longhua" and used it to store the five-colored *sharira* obtained by the Indian monk Kang Ju Senghui. Architects specializing in ancient buildings verified that Longhua Pagoda was rebuilt during the second year of Emperor Tai's reign in the Song dynasty. They also learned that the bricks in the pagoda dated from the Northern Song dynasty, which confirms that the Longhua Pagoda has been standing for more than a millennium.

The entire itinerary from the Northeast to the South of China lasted twenty days. Everywhere we went, we received warm welcomes from the Abbots or supervising Dharma Masters at all the monasteries; it is only because of the Venerable Master's virtue and repute. Our entire trip was blessed with good weather, which is also a sign of protection from the Venerable Master and the pantheon of dragons and gods!

The reason that the delegation went so smoothly this time is also because of the sincerity and unity of the laity. My best and most sincere regards and respect to all the Dharma-protecting laypeople; and may all these merits be dedicated to all beings throughout the Dharma Realm!

長者的來函

A Letter from an Elder

仁德 中譯 CHINESE TRANSLATED BY REN DE

Dharma Realm Buddhist Association /
The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas

Thank you! Thank you for the gloriously exciting celebration that honored us Elders! Despite all the people attending, I truly felt honored! I'll be 80 within the year, yet I have never experienced feeling truly honored! —although I've received many kudos and at many a speaker's table throughout my life.

The children with their teachers, the hostesses and hosts, kitchen crew, everybody were wonderful collectively and individually! The hours flew by!

The Shaolin Monks were remarkable, formidable and inspiring as they demonstrated the Greater Reality! Certainly we of the West need to be reminded of this! *Dew Drops* will be a precious daily support. Thank you so much!

Surely the blend of cultures, especially when we gift our best for each other, will create conditions whereby our human family sharing this beautiful little planet will be enhanced and flourish! Our children's future will be Good! Peace, Wisdom, Good Will and Beauty will reign!

So, I thank you for your beautiful contribution towards the realization of this glorious Vision.

With all my heart

E. Star Flaniken

November 18, 2007

Dharma Realm Buddhist Association
The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas

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E. Star Flaniken

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November 18, 2007

致法界佛教總會 /
萬佛聖城

謝謝您！謝謝您們為我們老人家所舉辦如此燦爛的、令人興奮的慶祝節目！不知道旁人，個人是真的感覺受到尊敬了！年內我即將八十歲，儘管平生曾獲得許多稱讚，多次上演講台，但我從未覺得真正受尊敬。

學生和老師，男女住眾、香積組，

無論整體上和個人的表現，每個人都太美妙了！時間飛逝！

少林武僧在展現更大的事實時，他們的功夫真是了不起，又驚人！我們西方人當然有需要被提醒！〈朝露〉將是我每天珍貴的鼓舞。多謝您們！文化的結合，特別是貢獻彼此的長才，這份助緣將使我們人類家庭共享這美麗小星球的情形會增強和繁盛！孩子們的未來會好！和平、智慧、善心和美會盛行！

因此，本人感謝您們對於實現這榮耀之願景的美麗貢獻。

星·福蘭尼肯 至誠敬上
2007年11月18日



Reflections on Honoring Elders Day (2)

敬老節的回響之二

上人談少林武術

The Venerable Master Discusses Shaolin Martial Arts

摘錄自宣化上人《金剛經》淺釋

EXCERPT FROM THE COMMENTARY OF THE VAJRA SUTRA BY MASTER HSUAN HUA

編輯部 譯

ENGLISH TRANSLATED BY EDITORIAL STAFF

CELEBRATION IN HONOR OF OUR ELDERS



今年萬佛聖城敬老節最大的特色是有十二位少林寺的武僧，表演了聞名中外的少林功夫，不但獲得滿堂彩；且為大家所關心的話題。為什麼少林武術會被公認為中國功夫的代表？少林武術是怎麼起源的？〈大英百科全書〉記載中國功夫起源於周朝以前，當時中國人模仿動物鬥毆的姿勢，而創出健身與防身的武術。相傳禪宗初祖達摩祖師來到中國後，融合中國武術和印度武術創出少林拳，並留下〈易筋經〉和〈洗髓經〉，幫助少林僧人祛病強身，抵禦外侮，成為著名的少林武術。

宣公上人在講述金剛經時，恰逢舉行中國武術大會，上人因此談到少林武術，特錄之於下，以饗讀者。

This year's main attraction for Honoring Elders Day at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas was twelve Shaolin monks. They performed the renowned Shaolin martial arts which received an enthusiastic welcome and became a topic of great interest. Why is it that Shaolin martial arts has been deemed the representation of Chinese kung fu? Where does it come from?

According to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Chinese martial arts is traced back to the Zhou Dynasty or even earlier. At that time, Chinese people imitated the fighting styles of animals and created martial arts for health and self-defense.

Legend has it that when the first Chan Patriarch, Bodhidharma, came to China, he developed Shaolin martial arts which is the combination of Indian martial arts and Chinese martial arts. He also wrote and left two classics: *Yi Jin Jing* and *Xi Sui Jing* to help Shaolin monks stay healthy, prevent illness, and defend themselves from invaders. Shaolin martial arts thus became famous.

A Chinese Martial Arts Expo was held one day when Venerable Master Hua was lecturing on the *Vajra Sutra*. As a result, Venerable Master Hua spoke about Shaolin martial arts. We transcribed this portion of the talk to share with our readers.

今天晚間這個講經的時間搬家了，搬到或者三點半，或者四點鐘到五點半，或者六點鐘。爲什麼搬家呢？因爲美國這兒有一個中國的武術大會。中國的武術，是由菩提達摩祖師傳出來的。在達摩祖師以前，本來中國也有武術，不過沒有那麼盛行；那麼爲什麼達摩祖師到中國，那武術就這麼盛行呢？

因爲那時候在少林寺有一些個出家的和尚，那時候大約科學也沒有這麼進步，所以出家做和尚就沒有什麼工作；不像現在又可以打打字，印印這個筆記，有一些個工作，令你這個心不打妄想，這都是修行。當時，因爲出家人若沒有工作的時候，就發脾氣；發脾氣，你障礙我，我障礙你，大家都不能修行。菩提達摩是個祖師，他說：「我來教你們打功夫。你們把功夫學得精了（精就是精妙了），不但可以幫助修行，又可以運動身體。」

達摩祖師這樣一說，這些和尚說：「好啊，我要學會了功夫！」於是連中國的武術，再加印度的武術，達摩祖師把它合起來，變成一種少林寺的拳，即少林拳。那麼這一些和尚一打功夫，你也把這個功夫學得精妙了，他也學精妙了。人家打一拳，他這個銅筋鐵骨——我頭先不是對你們講，有銅頭鐵羅漢嗎？這和尚的頭，像銅那樣堅固，身像鐵那麼結實。所以就是你打一拳，踢一腳也不要緊的。所以很多出家人，當時都學這種功夫。

那麼學這種功夫，把妄想也都沒有了，一天到晚就是學功夫。所以把其它色、聲、香、味、觸、法這六塵的境界就都無動於衷了。色、聲、香、味、觸、法這六塵就都不動心了，無形中就持戒了。持戒，就在這個時候又生出定了；生出定就開智慧了。所以當時也有很多的人，因爲打功夫就開悟了；因爲這個，所以就傳出來有少林派。少林寺的和尚出來到什麼地方，人人都怕的，沒有人敢欺負少林和尚的。

所以這一傳呢，就傳到現在美國這兒，有了五個館。五個館，他們以前有的常常到這兒來看我。這回他們聽說我要去，特意送來四張票，請我們去看。你們其餘的，誰願意看中國的功夫，想要開悟，可以買票去。我這個呢，因爲我也沒打算去看，好開悟；所以他送來的，這兒有幾個沙彌，或者果彰同我去，因爲果彰是我最歡喜的一個好孩子，所以我要同他去。那麼今天把這個法會搬家了，就是這個原因，告訴大家一聲。你們誰願意要去看的話，也就自己買票去；至於開不開悟，我不保險的！



The sutra lecture time is changed to start at three-thirty or four and end at five-thirty or six o'clock. Why did we change the time? It is because there is a Chinese Martial Arts Expo here in the United States. Chinese martial arts was popularized by Patriarch Bodhidharma. Originally, martial arts did exist in China, but it was not as prevalent. Why did it become popular when Bodhidharma brought it to China?

Back then at the Shaolin Temple, the monks did not have as many jobs as the monastics nowadays since the technology was not as advanced and they did not type or photocopy notes like you do so that you have no false thoughts. All this is cultivation. At that time, when monastics had no work to do, they would get angry and start obstructing one another. No one could cultivate. As a patriarch, Bodhidharma said, "I will teach you martial arts. When you master it, not only is it good exercise, but it will also benefit your cultivation."

As soon as Patriarch Bodhidharma said that, the monks replied, "Great! I want to learn martial arts!" Therefore, Bodhidharma combined Chinese martial arts and Indian martial arts and created Shaolin martial arts. These monks practiced and gradually mastered it. When people punched them, they were not harmed since they had copper-like sinews and iron bones. Did I tell you that they have iron Arhats? Their heads are as solid as copper and their bodies as strong as iron. That is why so many monastics learned this kind of kung fu.

Learning martial arts helps to extinguish your distorted thoughts when it is practiced from morning to night. It also helps you not be turned by the states created by the six perceived objects: form, sound, smell, taste, objects of touch and dharma. You will not be moved by these states and invisibly you are upholding the precepts. When adhering to the precepts, samadhi arises and then wisdom is opened. So, many people at that time become enlightened from practicing martial arts. Because of this, the "Shaolin" sect came into being. When Shaolin monks went out in public, people were awed and no one dared to bully them.

With this transmission, Shaolin martial arts is now in the United States. They have five martial arts centers and often visited me here. This time when they heard that I was going to visit them, they gave us four tickets to watch their performance. The rest of you who wish to watch the performance and be enlightened, you can go ahead and purchase a ticket. I originally did not plan to go, but since we have the tickets, I will go in the company of a few Shramaneras. Perhaps Guo-Zhang could go with me. I like him a lot because he is a good child. This is the reason why the lecture time is moved. This is the announcement I would like to tell you. Those of you who are interested can purchase tickets. I cannot guarantee whether or not you will become enlightened.