

6/2-6/8

This summer my mother took me to stay at CTTB for about two months. It was a happy trip. When the airplane started descending from the cloud, I could not believe that I was actually arriving in America--I started weeping with tears of joy! Coming out of the airport, we rode in a car for three hours; after 8 PM, we arrived at what I consider to be the most sacred place on earth--the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas.

The stunningly beautiful rainbow welcomed us; the colorful and exquisite peacock feathers, the chirping birds, the leaves that sway in the breeze--I could not

help but praise the picturesque scenery. The scenery here is like a delightful and magnificent painting and poetry. Suddenly, a Dharma Master approached and greeted us, and led us to our rooms.

The next day, I got up bright and early at 3:30 in the morning. I was ready to go to the Buddha Hall for morning recitation. The impressive sound of chanting made me feel harmonious and peaceful. After two or three days, the Avatamsaka Retreat began. We recited four rolls of the *Avatamsaka (Flower Adornment) Sutra* everyday. After each roll, we recited the Avatamsaka Syllabary. It was an indescribable feeling to

be reciting with four or five hundred people in the Buddha Hall and hearing the sound all around my ears.

During the first week, in the afternoon I would go help a Dharma Master water the plants in the garden. Once in a while, she would tell me some stories. I found them especially interesting. The Dharma Master told one story that took place when she was at CTTB during her precept-training period. She was sitting at her desk with her Bodhi beads at hand, reciting the Buddha's name. Suddenly she could not move one of the beads. When she tried again, the bead would just fall back down. There was this tug-of-war,

# 暑夏聖城遊記

## CTTB Journal on Summer

林親善 (12 歲) 2006 年 12 月文

BY LIN CHIN PU (12 YEARS OLD) IN DECEMBER 2006

施親蕙 英譯 ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY SALLY SHIH



6/2-6/8

今年暑假媽媽帶我到聖城住了兩個多月左右，這真是一趟快樂的旅行。當飛機從雲端漸漸往下降，我真不敢相信自己已經到了美國，我興奮的哭了！出了機場之後，坐三個小時的車，在晚上八點多，抵達我心目中神聖的目的地—萬佛聖城。

美麗的彩霞歡迎著我們；孔雀漂亮的羽毛與小鳥優雅的叫聲，還有樹葉在微風中輕輕的動著，讓我不禁在心裏讚美，這裏的風景真是如詩如畫。突然有位法師走過來，她向我們打個招呼，就領著我們到房間休息。

隔天一大早，我三點半起床準備到佛殿做早課，佛殿裏莊嚴的唱誦聲，使我內心充滿祥和與平靜。接著

華嚴法會開始了，每天唸四卷《華嚴經》，每卷唸完時，接著唱「華嚴字母」；五、六百人同時在佛殿裏，聲音繚繞耳邊，那種美好的感覺是無法形容的。

第一個星期的下午，我去一位法師的花圃幫花澆水，偶爾她會說一些故事給我聽，其中一個我覺得蠻有趣的：法師說她在聖城受戒時，在書桌前拿著菩提念珠念佛，突然間念珠拉不上來，她撥念珠，念珠自己又往下掉。一拉一扯，好生奇怪，低頭一看，才發現是一隻孔雀竟然跑到桌下在啄她的念珠，原來孔雀把念珠當成串的「玉米粒」了！

06/09-06/15

第二星期，大阿姨、媽媽、表姊

和我，到舊金山和優勝美地國家公園遊玩。這趟旅遊有點無聊！送大阿姨和表姊搭機回臺灣，我和媽媽又回到聖城。

06/16-06/22

第三個星期的某一天，三個「台北佛青會」的大朋友終於來了，這下子我當然不可以偷懶，早晚課都乖乖去做，我和佳慧姊姊、怡茹姊姊、亞璇姊姊，重新組成「我們四個」，從此至終，她們都是我的保姆喔！這個星期，有時候我去廚房幫忙，大家都好熟練地工作。有一次是用湯匙挖苦瓜籽，我當場臉紅，又緊張又擔心做不好，因為在家裏只會享受，根本做不到什麼事，更別說挖苦瓜籽了。

06/23-06/29

with her pulling and pushing the bead. She found the situation strange. When she looked down, she discovered that a peacock was under her desk. The peacock was pecking at the beads, apparently mistaking the Bodhi beads for a string of corn.

6/9-6/15

During the second week of the visit, my eldest aunt, mother, cousin, and I left CTTB. We went to San Francisco and a Yosemite national park for a tour. This trip was a bit boring! After the sightseeing, my eldest aunt and cousin boarded a plane back to Taiwan, my mother and I returned to CTTB.



6/16-6/22

One day in the third week of my visit, three older friends from Taipei Buddhist Youth Group finally arrived. Now, I would not be able to slack off anymore. I needed to be on my best behavior and attend morning and evening recitations. Sisters Jia Hui, Yee-Ru, Ya-Hsuan, and I formed the “Us Four” group again. From that point on to the end, any one of them could be considered as my nanny.

This week, I would be helping out at the kitchen part time. Everyone seemed to know what he or she was doing. There was this one time when I had to spoon out bitter melon seeds. I blushed due to

embarrassment because I was worried that I would not do a good job. I enjoyed myself all the time when I was at home. I did not help with any chores---definitely not spooning out bitter melon seeds.

6/23-6/29

The fish pond at CTTB has not been cleaned for a long time. Two female Dharma Masters wearing waterproof pants and rain boots were in the pond cleaning. Several other Dharma Masters were also helping out by the pond. Sister Ya-Hsuan and I also went to help pour water into the pond. The pond clean-up project took four or five days to complete. The Dharma Masters worked till passed



聖城的魚池很久沒清了，有兩位女法師，穿著防水褲與雨鞋便下池整理，有幾位法師也在池邊幫忙，我和亞璇姊姊也進去幫忙裝水。清理水池這項工作，大約花了四、五天終於大功告成。每天法師們都弄到九點多，乍看之下當法師好像很輕鬆，實際上他們很辛苦又很忙，能安然的面對一切難事，真不簡單！

06/30-07/06

第五個星期的第一天下午，我在大齋堂的一個小角落挑四季豆，突然從小齋堂傳來很大的撞擊聲，大家馬上衝過去。推車倒了，車上的豆皮都掉到地上，有位法師的耳朵被割到，她說沒關係、不要緊，要我們趕快回去做事。法師做事真的是為大家，不

為自己，而且遇到事情臨危不亂，真令人敬佩。

當天晚上，一個半月的華嚴經課程開始上課了。早課之後，David哥哥帶著所有學生，做一下運動，到法界佛教大學二樓的禪堂，打坐半個小時，感覺還不錯，因為早晨很寧靜，空氣很清新，太陽光慢慢照進屋內，小鳥的叫聲愈來愈大聲，然後我們大家一起步行到齋堂吃早餐，我整個人充滿活力和自信。

接下來，有些人到廚房洗碗；有的人則是到菜園拔菜，我們選擇了後面那一項。今天要做的工作是：拔大白菜。大白菜個個都長得胖嘟嘟，我在拔時，還差點跌倒！

八點一到，學生紛紛趕回教室聽

課，首先 Martin 老師要我們學生自我介紹，這堂課就輕鬆過去了。下午課程開始進入主題：華嚴經入法界品第三十九。第三天，大家都很興奮，因為聽說英國 B.K.教的團體要在後來來訪。在課程中，有翻譯員輪流幫我們翻譯。第五天，英國 B.K.教的團體來了。B.K.教是由一位印度女性所發起的，她幫助印度許多女性可以讀書，全球有七千多所 B.K.教傳教的地方，他們身著白色的衣服，這次來聖城的是英國 B.K.教團體，是生長在英國的印度人，但是帶領他們的卻是白人，代表他們並沒有種族之分，太好了！而且 B.K.教領導者大部分都是女性。接下來是打坐，B.K.教領導者說要聽音樂，可是她們卻忘了帶 CD，就由一

nine o'clock every night. They made the project look easy, but in reality, they worked very hard and were very busy. Being able to face such a difficult task with a peaceful mind is not easy.

6/30-7/06

One afternoon during the fifth week of the visit, I helped sort string beans at the main dining hall. Suddenly, we heard this loud crash in the small dining hall. Everyone rushed over to see what happened. A cart had overturned and all the string beans had fallen to the ground. A Dharma Master injured her ear in the accident. She said that it did not matter and it was not urgent. She told us to get back to work. Dharma Masters worked

for the benefits of others, not themselves. When faced with a difficult situation, they still remain calm. Such an attitude is very admirable.

A month and a half of *Avatamsaka Sutra* classes started that evening. The following day, brother David took all of the students out for some exercise after the morning class. We went to meditate at the Chan Hall in Dharma Realm Buddhist University. It felt pretty good with the quiet morning and fresh air, the sun slowly slipping into the room. The sound of birds chirping became louder and louder. Then, we walked over to the dining hall for breakfast. I was filled with energy and confidence.

Next, we had the choice of washing dishes or picking vegetables at the garden. We chose the latter one. Today's assignment was to pick napa cabbages. The napa cabbages were big and plump. I almost fell over while exerting force to pick one.

At eight o'clock in the morning, students rushed back to the classroom for classes. First, a teacher named Martin asked us to introduce ourselves. That was an easy class. The afternoon class introduced *Avatamsaka Sutra*, Chapter 39, "Entry to Dharma Realm."

On the third day, everyone was excited, because we heard that the British Brahma Kumaris (B.K.) religious group



個人哼音樂。每個宗教各有不同的地方，我們應該試著學習它好的一面，互相包容，才不會發生宗教戰爭。

07/14-07/20

第七個星期，因為這個星期上課的地方是在佛根地，坐車大約要十幾個小時，我沒去上華嚴經的課程。我留在聖城，早上做早課，有時則是和亞珠阿姨一起去做事，亞珠阿姨對我很好，也很照顧我，常常把我帶在身邊一起做事，這個星期她帶我去延生堂清洗牌位，或是去幫忙法師打掃行人道，工具是用掃把子和竹掃把，掃把子我是第一次用，沒想到還蠻好用的。有一天，遇到一位法師，她問我華嚴經課程的老師是誰，我回答：「Powers.(英文：跑兒)」她又問：「你

們老師『跑了』？」的確，許多人都去佛根地上課，老師當然也要去。第七天我認識朱迪(Judy)，她跟我差兩歲，她的媽媽把她交給某一位法師，從此之後，我們三人就被其他法師稱為「三人行」，子曰：「三人行，必有我師焉，擇其善者而從之；其不善者而改之。」我們真是如此。

07/21-07/27

第八個星期，去佛根地上課的那些同學回來了，這星期的授課老師換個方式上課，要我們學生做報告，之前的老師都用講故事的方式上課。Laura阿姨、亞璇姊姊和我一組，報告內容為善財童子參訪第十五法寶髻長者和第十六普眼長者，Laura阿姨用英文做報告；亞璇姊姊用中文做報

告，我則負責畫圖，上台報告兩次，大家回應都不錯。

08/04-08/10

第十個星期，有一位法師和David老師幫我們上課，除了上華嚴經以外，還有經文的翻譯和戒律，大家對於戒律很好奇，一直問問題，包括我也是。為什麼菩薩戒有「十重」跟「六重」的不同？自來水被消毒過算不算殺生等等？上星期的老師，也來教我們唱華嚴字母，華嚴字母是梵文和中國字不一樣。

08/11-08/16

第十一個星期，這星期有實法師的課，從柏克萊來了一些人，所以這星期上課的人比之前大增，上課的方式是用幻燈片，實法師是一個很有趣

would come the day after tomorrow for a visit. During classes, there were several translators taking turns helping us with translation. On the fifth day, the Brahma Kumaris group arrived. The Brahma Kumaris religion was founded by an Indian woman. She has helped many women to obtain an education. There are over seven thousand missionaries worldwide. They all wear white. This particular group of visitors to CTTB were British of Indian descent. However, their leader was Caucasian. It signified that there was no racial division. That was great! The leaders of the Brahma Kumaris are mostly

women. The next activity was meditation. A Brahma Kumaris leader mentioned that they wanted to listen to music. However, they forgot to bring the CD. Instead, they had one person humming. Every religion has its uniqueness. We should try to learn the positive points and accept the differences to avoid religious wars.

7/14-7/20

During the seventh week of the *Avatamsaka Sutra* session, the classes were held at Buddha Root Farm. I did not go because it would take more than ten hours of car ride. I stayed at CTTB. I attended morning recitation and helped out with Aunt Ya-Zhu. Aunt Ya-Zhu was very

nice to me. She took good care of me. Oftentimes, she would take me along to do chores. She took me to Long Life Hall to wash plaques and sweep sidewalks this week. We used a bamboo rake and a bamboo broom. It was my first time using a bamboo basket. Surprisingly, it was very useful.

One day, I encountered a Dharma Master who asked me the name of the teacher for the Avatamsaka Sutra Session. I answered "Powers." Please note that the Chinese pronunciation of the term "powers" sounds like the expression "run away." The Dharma Master then asked me if the teacher had run away. Indeed, many



的老師，大家都上得很開心。上課中，實法師說，我們禪宗瀋仰法脈有一個歌訣，在「禪門日誦」這本書裏，內容如下：

金頂毘盧派源流訣一

聞定靜宗道 慈福真法德  
正善印義祖 普弘信玄妙  
崇現本來少 性空圓明照  
思修常安果 親傳無為教

我們現在是在「親」這一輩。

08/17-08/23

第十二個星期第二天，華嚴經的課程結束，有些人到分支道場參訪，有人回家，剩下的人則還留在聖城，準備參加「地藏七」。地藏七的第二天晚上，法師派我上台結法緣，從來沒有在那麼多人面前說過話，有點

「怕怕的」，我選了華嚴經裏一則善財童子參訪善知識勝熱婆羅門的故事。

一天中午，我遇到一位阿姨，她把一隻鳥交給我，跟我說：「我剛剛遠遠看見這隻小鳥撞死在玻璃窗旁。」因為她有公事要忙，所以我只好向一位法師求助，她說：「不行！我等一下要打鐘鼓，我們下午迴向後再去！」因為小鳥還有體溫而作罷。下午法會開始，我把小鳥抱進大殿參加法會，在唸經迴向時，本來小鳥受驚嚇、嘴巴張大的表情，轉變為安詳，真的不可思議！

做晚課時，又有一條魚死了，法師把牠從水裏撈起來交給我，要我和幾個人一起去埋，我們幾個人一起唱地藏王菩薩的聖號，把魚埋葬了。緊

接著我去找媽媽，我看見媽媽和一位阿姨捧著一隻鳥，我問媽媽：「妳在做什麼？」媽媽回答：「我們在吹乾鳥的羽毛，因為牠掉進了水中。」原來，有隻鳥正在喝水，一不小心掉進了水裏，被人救起來，然後把牠交給牠們。Sandy 姊姊看見，就把牠放在箱子裏，帶回房間照顧，準備隔天早上看小鳥沒事了，就放牠走。

08/24-08/27

快要回台灣了，整個暑假過得真精采，在聖城我學到了許多東西，也學到許多做人的道理。在那兒，給大人添了不少麻煩，很感謝大家包容我，讓我渡過一個很豐富的暑假！

people have gone to Buddha Root Farm for classes. The teacher definitely would have to be there also!

On the seventh day, I met Judy. She and I were only two years apart in age. Her mother has left her with a Dharma Master. From that point on, three of us were given a nickname by other Dharma Masters as “three’s company.” Confucius says, “There must be a teacher for me in the company of two other people; imitate the good and change the bad behavior.” We were indeed like that.

7/21-7/27

The classmates who attended the session at Buddha Root Farm returned in the eighth week. The teacher used a different teaching method this week. We had to do a report. The teacher had conducted classes by telling us stories previously. Aunt Laura, sister Ya-Hsuan, and I were in a group. The content of the report included the Youth Good Wealth visiting #15 the Elder Dharma Cowl and #16 the Elder Universal Eye. Aunt Laura did the report in English, sister Ya-Hsuan did the report in Chinese, and I did the drawings. We did the presentation twice. The reports were well received by others.

8/4-8/10

For the tenth week, a Dharma Master and David were our teachers. In addition to learning about the *Avatamsaka Sutra*, we also learned about sutra translation and precepts. We were all very curious about the precepts and kept asking questions such as: Why is there a difference between the six major and the ten major Bodhisattva precepts? Is treating water to kill bacteria a violation of the killing precept? The teacher from last week also came to teach us to sing the *Avatamsaka Syllabary*. The *Syllabary* is Sanskrit which is different from Chinese character.

8/11-8/16

For the eleventh week, the classes were conducted by Dharma Master Sure.

There were some people from Berkeley joining our classes, so the class was much bigger. Dharma Master Sure used slides to conduct class and was a very entertaining teacher. Everyone had a great time. In class, Dharma Master Sure said that our Weiyang school of Chan has a verse, which he quoted from the *Chan Daily Recitation Book*:

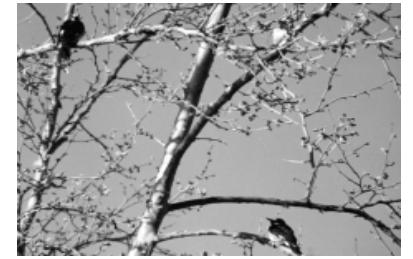
“Verses on the Source and Lineage of the Golden-crowned Vairochana Sect — Samadhi and stillness of hearing are the sect’s tradition. Kindness and blessings are the true virtue of the Dharma. Proper goodness seals the meaning of the patriarchs. Universally propagate and believe in its profound wonder. It’s exalted manifestation has always been rare. The nature is empty, perfect, and brightly illuminating. Reflect upon and cultivate the fruition of eternal peace. Personally [in Chinese, the word is *chin*] transmit the unconditioned teaching.” We are now in the *Chin* generation.

8/17-8/23

The *Avatamsaka Sutra* classes ended on the second day of the twelfth week. Some people went to visit other DRBA branches, some went home, and some remained in CTTB, getting ready for the Earth Store Bodhisattva’s Seven-Day Session. I was scheduled to speak Dharma on stage on the second evening of that week. I had never spoken in front of so many people before. Even when I think back now, I am still a little afraid. I chose to speak about the Youth Good Wealth’s visits to the Brahman Supreme Heat from the *Avatamsaka Sutra*.

One afternoon, I encountered an aunt who gave me a bird. She said that from afar she had seen this bird crash into a window and die. Because she was busy, I asked a Dharma Master to help. However, the Dharma Master said she had to hit the bell and drum right then. She suggested that we go after the transference ceremony. I decided to put off the burial because the bird was still warm. When the afternoon session began, I took the bird into the Buddha Hall with me. It appeared to be afraid and had its mouth wide open. As the session progressed, its expression became peaceful. It was inconceivable!

During evening recitation, a fish died. A



Dharma Master removed it from the pond, gave it to me, and asked me to find some people to help me bury it. We recited Earth Store Bodhisattva’s name during the burial. Then, I went to look for my mother. I saw her and an aunt holding a bird. I asked her what she was doing. She told me that they were trying to dry the bird’s feathers because it had fallen into the pond, apparently while drinking water. The bird had been rescued and given to my mother and the aunt. When sister Sandy saw it, she put it in a box and took it back to her room to care for it. She was planning on letting it go the next day if it felt well enough.

8/24-8/27

It was almost time to go back to Taiwan. This summer vacation has been fabulous. I have learned many things at CTTB. I also learned how to be a good person. I caused some problems for the grownups. I appreciated that everyone treated me with such kindness and tolerance, allowing me to have a meaningful and fulfilling summer vacation!