

萬佛聖城三十週年系列活動(一)

感恩回顧・精進前瞻

The 30th Anniversary of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (I) Reflecting with Gratitude & Renewing with Vigor

2009年5月4日至7月5日於萬佛城 The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, May 4 - July 5, 2009

編輯部編輯整理 Edited and Compiled by Editorial Staff

「大家談」首先登場

周瑞芬 文 / 譯

為了迎接萬佛聖城三十週年，方丈所提出的「大家談」系列於五月四日正式開講，以便住眾個人和聖城各部門來暢談感恩回顧與精進前瞻。這項活動的目的在於：感謝上人、道場及對聖城有貢獻的人；同時增進聖城內部的溝通與瞭解。

就以個人的體驗來說：同修與我在五年半前搬進萬佛聖城，在未搬進聖城前的十多年，我們也每年都來聖城。但當時因為對聖城的運作與價值觀不瞭解，又以一般社會上的看法來觀察，好像只看到種種可以改進的地方。過去五年多來，我有幸能在各個不同的部門服務。時間愈久，我愈覺得不可思議，每個部門能在極有限的人力與財力來完成任務。

舉例來說：這次的萬佛寶懺來參加的人數比往年約多了一倍，所以我們必須啟用所有的住宿設備。而我們的知客恆選法師只有兩位義工幫她，看來是來不及的。可是奇蹟似的在大巴士到達菩提精舍之前，一切已就緒。這只是許許多多的故事之一，每個部門都有很精采的故事與各位分享。

我們希望能透過這一系列「大家談」的介紹使大眾對各部門的使命與運作有較深的瞭解，因而對每個部門與部門裏的每一個人為了實踐師父的願景所做的努力與貢獻生起感恩的心與護持的心。(編按：大家談活動的內容，不久將陸續摘要登出，以饗讀者。)

The “Let’s Talk” Series

Written and translated by Priscilla Yeh

As part of the events for the 30th Anniversary of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, the “Let’s Talk” series proposed by Abbot formally kicked off on May 4, 2009. The “Let’s Talk” series is a forum for various functional departments as well as individuals to reflect with gratitude and to look into the future with vigor. The purpose of the series is to show gratitude to the Venerable Master, CTTB and all the individuals who have made contributions to CTTB, and to facilitate better communication and understanding within CTTB.

Here is my personal experience. Before Ray and I moved into CTTB almost six years ago, we visited CTTB every year for over ten years. As occasional visitors with an outside-world perspective, I seemed to see mostly how things could be done better in CTTB without knowing any of the constraints each department had to work with. In the last five or so years, I have had the honor of working with many different departments in CTTB. The more I worked with a department, the more impressed I became with how well things are being done with so few resources, both human and financial.

For example, since we were expecting almost twice as many participants for the 10,000 Buddhas Repentance this year, we had to open all the dorms and cottages in order to accommodate all the people. Yet our guest prefect, DM Hsuan, has only two volunteers to help her get everything ready before people arrive. It seemed so impossible, but somehow she got it done before the big buses pulled up in front of Bodhi House. This is just one of the numerous examples; every department has its amazing stories to tell.

With this “Let’s talk” series, we hope that everyone will gain some insight into each department and hence appreciate the contribution each department and all the people in the department are making toward the fulfillment of the Venerable Master’s vows. (Note: the content of “Let’s Talk” will be published in the future.)

Firebird Youth Chinese Orchestra Visits CTTB

By Wen Zhenghou / Translated into English by Wu Zaiqian

Around 10:30 a.m. on May 30th, 2009, two huge buses from San Jose pulled up outside the Main Buddha Hall of CTTB. When the doors opened, out came a group of teenagers ranging in age from 7 - 17, dressed mostly in red uniforms, who are the band members of FYCO, Firebird Youth Chinese Orchestra. They, for the first time of their lives, came to visit CTTB as well as to have some cultural or

「火鳳」參訪萬佛城

文正後 文 / 武在前 英譯

五月三十日星期六上午十點半左右，萬佛寶殿外傳來了兩輛大巴士抵達，從上面陸續下來一群陣容整齊的身著紅衣制服的青少年——他們就是來自聖荷西的「火鳳青年國樂團」(FYCO)成員，首次來聖城做藝術交流與參訪之旅。

「火鳳」的今年來訪正好趕上萬佛聖城開光三十週年；聖城是第一次承辦與接納這樣大型的藝術團體，負責連絡與接待的則是顏亞日老師帶領的培德中學國樂團。賓主雙方共聚小齋堂用餐，互作交流。齋畢，男女校學生陪同客人們簡單參觀了一下萬佛聖城，並幫忙佈置大帳篷內的場地。下午一點半正式演奏會開始。此時觀眾席也座滿了人，許多人甚至席地而坐。

上演的曲目都經過謝團長極為精心的挑選，其中有廣受歡迎的黃梅調兩首，有反映農民豐收喜悅心情的二胡齊奏，有維吾爾民歌輕快舞調的〈雪山蓮〉、也有取源於竹林七賢的阮籍、阮賢的阮琴合奏——〈天風環珮〉、有古意雅然的〈將軍令〉(培德國樂團亦常演奏)；更有謝團長作曲的一首讚佛讚僧曲〈嵩山少林寺〉，笙與古琴的反覆迴轉，聽眾猶如置身於巍峨的嵩山、目睹那古樸莊嚴的寺廟，並體驗那晨鐘暮鼓的出家人生活，這一首——給我的印象最深！

這次「火鳳」之所以能夠成行，其關鍵人物是謝坦團長。謝團長的母親是宣公上人的皈依弟子(隔著大洋皈依)。二十世紀八十年代，謝母思慕萬佛城，當她兒子準備踏上北美的留學之旅時，她殷殷囑子，到美國後一定要去找到宣化上人，你找到萬佛城時，就是找到自己的家。可惜謝居士當時並未能體會母親的一番苦心；二十幾年後，他暮然回首時，不僅慈母仙逝了，宣化上人也圓寂了；慈母的叮嚀與錯失的良機，使他歎吁不已。所以第一次在灣區認識從萬佛城來的培德中學國樂團，有如他鄉遇故知。

artistic exchange with us.

FYCO's visit coincided with CTTB's 30th anniversary and it is also the first time that CTTB received such a huge artist group. The main contact person on our part is Mr. Agis Gan, the director of the Chinese Orchestra of the Developing Virtue Schools (DVS). The guests and the hosts both had lunch together in the Small Dining Hall and had some exchanges. After the meal, our students led the guests on a brief tour of CTTB, and then quickly helped them set up the instruments in the Big Tent. FYCO's performance started at 1:30 p.m. and many people gathered to listen, almost filling the tent to its full capacity. Some sat on the floor while elders sat more comfortably on white chairs.

The music program of FYCO was well designed by the director of FYCO, Mr. Xie Tan (Gordon Lee). Among those pieces he selected, there were two popular Huangmei tunes; an Erhu ensemble, "Happy Harvest", and "Snow Lotus" which is a beautiful dancing music piece that incorporates energetic rhythm of Central Asia. There were also some music pieces either composed or compiled by Mr. Xietan: 1) two Ruan Ensembles, "Topsy" and "Wind from Heaven", which can be traced to the Seven Worthies of the Bamboo Grove of the Western Jin Dynasty; 2) "The General's Command", full of ancient elegant touches and also a favorite of DVS's Chinese Orchestra; and 3) "The Shaolin Temple of Mt. Song" which was chosen as the central piece of this performance. This piece was adapted from the music style of the Henan Opera, developing after the ABA pattern in Rondo form. The alternating use of the Sheng and Guqin (musical instruments) sent out a revolving tune. It brought the audience back to the lofty and majestic mountain of Song, giving a sense not only of witnessing the ancient monastery, but also of experiencing the life of the monks there. This piece impressed me most profoundly.

The trip and performance of FYCO were both a success due to Director Xie's planning. Mr. Xie's late mother was a disciple of the Venerable Master Hua (she took refuge while she was in Beijing and Venerable Master was in the US—separated by the Pacific Ocean).

In the early 1980s, Mrs. Xie admired CTTB and yet had no chance to come to CTTB herself. Thus when her son was about to undertake his graduate studies in an American university, she exhorted him earnestly to go find Venerable Master Hua and CTTB, saying that if he found CTTB, it would be the same as if he had found his own home. However, Mr. Xie didn't follow his mother's instruction and did not come to CTTB. In a blink of an eye, two decades flashed by. Mr. Xie then realized that not only had his mother passed away, the Venerable Master Hua also had entered the Stillness—



之後聖城三十週年籌備委員會從二月底一直請顏老師代為聯絡。賓主雙方都需要做極為周密的準備。一是火鳳成員多數非佛教徒，他們對來不來一個佛教的地方必有不同聲音；二是租巴士費用極為昂貴；三因為主辦方系一非營利宗教組織，不可能付什麼演奏費；加上其他複雜因素，使得這次極不被看好的「火鳳」之旅能順利成行，在我看來幾乎是菩薩加持下的一次奇蹟。希望聖城以後能成為推動世界文化交流的人文之都。

感恩與追思

晁山文 / 譯

萬佛聖城在5月30日舉行「宣化老和尚涅槃十四週年紀念法會」。宣公上人住世時，以其智慧與慈悲教化無數眾生，如今雖然入涅槃多年，仍然備受許多信眾懷念。今年參加老和尚涅槃紀念法會的善信總計將近兩千人，其中有千名信眾從南加州和舊金山灣區分乘20輛大巴前來萬佛聖城。而來自洛杉磯和長堤地區的六輛巴士是在5月29日清晨早課時分就抵達萬佛聖城。合計近千人參加了當日清晨的朝山，因人數眾多，朝山隊伍分成八排。「南無宣化老和尚」的響亮唱誦聲在清晨的空氣中迴盪不已，深深表達出大家對老和尚的感恩與追思。

當天上午普佛時，來自舊金山灣區和大沙加緬度地區合計14輛巴士陸續抵達萬佛聖城，都趕上了傳供儀式。鮮花、水果、素饌等108道供品，從每一位法師和居士的手中，相繼向前傳。傳遞的過程彷彿一波波的浪潮，不斷將供品湧到佛前的供桌上，每個人臉上流露出的是恭敬與誠心。

越南裔的明照法師在午齋時開示指出，上人的法能夠讓一座道場更加堅固。他認為宣公上人大雄大力大慈悲，我們凡有所求，必能隨心滿願。他很高興看到今年參加上人涅槃法會的人比去年更多，希望大家明年再來萬佛聖城參加宣公上

an opportunity forever gone. Mr. Xie felt remorse and regret. Therefore, when he first encountered the DVS Chinese Orchestra, he felt as if meeting with an old cherished friend from his hometown.

Thereafter, the 30th Anniversary Committee of CTTB asked Mr. Gan to initiate the invitation to FYCO. The whole event took sincerity on both sides, careful planning and follow-up. There were many adverse conditions to overcome: 1) Most FYCO members were not Buddhists and some had dissenting opinions about coming to CTTB which Mr. Xie had to turn around through persuasion. 2) The long-distance travel to northern California is extremely costly. It cost about \$1,000 to rent a big bus just for 12 hours. 3) CTTB is a non-profit organization and could not pay an Orchestra to perform. In addition to this, there were other adverse factors, which complicated the whole event. Thus in the planning stage I felt the possibility of FYCO's visiting CTTB was extremely slim. To me their successful coming and performing in CTTB was a miracle blessed by the Bodhisattvas. Finally I hope that CTTB in the future could become a center of cultural exchanges between the East and the West.

In Gratitude and Memory

Written and translated by Chao Shan

The 14th Anniversary of the Venerable Master Hua's Nirvana was commemorated on May 30, 2009 at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB). Venerable Master Hua taught and transformed numerous living beings when he was alive. Although he passed away years ago, many followers still remember him. There were close to 2,000 people attending his Nirvana Commemoration Ceremony this year. Among them, about 1,000 people came in 20 chartered buses from southern California and the San Francisco Bay Area. Six chartered buses from LA and Long Beach arrived CTTB in the early morning on May 29 around the time of the morning ceremony (4:00 AM). There were about 1,000 people altogether for the pilgrimage. Since there were so many people, they were divided into eight rows. The vibrant chanting of "Homage to the Venerable Master Hua" lingered in the early morning air, expressing people's gratitude towards and memory of the late Venerable Master Hua.

Another 14 chartered buses came one after another from the San Francisco Bay Area and the greater Sacramento area to CTTB during the universal bowing time. People on those buses all arrived in time for the special meal offering for the Venerable Master Hua. One hundred and eight kinds of offerings including fresh flowers, fruits and vegetarian dishes were passed from every single Dharma Master and layperson to the person next to him/her. The offering items were thus passed from the back of the hall to the altar table in front. The faces of all who were at the ceremony shone with reverence and sincerity.

The Vietnamese Dharma Master Ming Zhao pointed out in his speech at



人涅槃法會，並且繼續增長菩提心。

恆哲法師說曾經有一位越南法師請問上人姓什麼？上人說自己真正的名字就是虛空。不論自己發生什麼事情，上人說一切都沒問題，因為一旦有所擔心，就是自私。上人也說能在美國聽楞嚴經、法華經、華嚴經都不是偶然，所以大家要

不怕苦，不怕難，不怕沒錢，能忍耐真心修行。上人又說過，萬佛聖城不能交給中國人或美國人任何一方。四眾弟子共住應如水乳合，誰來誰有份。恆哲法師由衷希望所有發願要幫上人弘法的人都能快點來，一起同行。

萬佛聖城方丈恆律法師則強調，上人的精神就是力行實踐他所說的不自私的利益眾生，上人來到這個世間，正是要幫助大家增長菩提心，恆律法師祝福大家菩提心日日增長。5月30日當天下午，在華嚴法會即將開始之際，天空中現出祥龍形狀的雲層，見者欣悅。奇妙的是，華嚴法會期間，每天氣候都相當溫和清涼，一點都沒有進入六月的炎熱之感。

華嚴法會 瑞感禎祥

史春秋 筆 / 魏果時 譯

北加州的天氣是屬夏乾熱冬寒濕的地中海式氣候，而群山之中的瑜珈市夏天更是熱。有如往常，從五月初起，天氣開始轉熱，從小熱到炎熱；而山谷中的瑜珈小城，則孟夏就已具盛夏威了。奇妙的是，今年不一樣：從涅槃法會開始，這華嚴法會（已歷時三年沒辦華嚴法會了）一路下來——到今天的星期五（6月5日），天氣居然「晴轉多雲，時而小雨」（星期二上午，沒想到居然六月



lunchtime that the Dharma transmitted by the Venerable Master Hua will enable a monastery to strengthen its foundation. Dharma Master Ming Zhao said that our wishes will be fulfilled due to the Venerable Master Hua's great courage, power, and compassion. He was happy to

see more people

come this year than the year before. He hoped everyone would continue to develop their Bodhi mind and come again next year for the Venerable Master Hua's Nirvana Commemoration Ceremony.

Dharma Master Je said in her speech that a Vietnamese Dharma Master once asked Venerable Master for his surname. The Venerable

Master said that "empty space" was his real name. No matter what happened to him, he would say everything's OK because once one started to worry about oneself, one started to be selfish. The Venerable Master also said that it's not by chance that we are able to listen to the explanations of the *Shurangama Sutra*, the *Dharma Flower Sutra* and the *Avatamsaka Sutra*, so every one of us should know who we really are and not be afraid of hardship, difficulty and poverty. The Venerable Master wanted us to be patient and cultivate with sincerity. He also said that CTTB was not for Americans or Chinese only. The four assemblies should stay together in harmony. Whoever comes here has a share in it. Dharma Master Je hoped from the bottom of her heart that all people who vowed to help the Venerable Master propagate the Buddhadharma would come quickly and work together.

The Abbot of CTTB, Dharma Master Heng Lyu, stressed that the spirit of the Venerable Master is to practice selflessly benefiting living beings. The Venerable Master came to this world to help people develop their Bodhi minds. Dharma Master Heng Lyu wished everyone to develop their Bodhi mind day by day. When the Avatamsaka session was about to begin that afternoon on May 30, the clouds in the sky formed the shape of a Chinese auspicious dragon. Everyone who saw the clouds was delighted. Incredibly, the weather has been pleasant and cool during the Avatamsaka session, and people don't

還能下場小雨，使得乾燥的大地普得潤澤，群生(植物與動物)普得清涼，而且，這無形中減少多少火災的危險及擔心。如果這樣下去，十一、二日的家長學生不也可以在涼風拂面的笑聲掌聲中辦中學畢業典禮嗎？美哉如斯！

有一天下午與果時居士談起此事。他說清涼國師註完《華嚴疏鈔》時，夜夢化為百千條金龍飛向十方，表此經將來必將流佈十方；而諸龍王必有發過大願，凡華嚴經、華嚴法會所在之處，牠們必會去擁護去成就，所以我們現在以中、英、越三種語言在恭誦《華嚴經》，感應到涼風習習、氤氳變鬣，又有什麼奇怪的呢？且古來，以《華嚴經》來祈福禳災者，比比皆是，如憨山大師與蓮池大師等等。

古德曾有偈：「顯通稀有事，處處益群生。」幸甚哉，我等既蒙宣公上人巍巍之德蔭、諸龍君拳拳護法之誠，又躬逢此華嚴法會瑞感禎祥之時，故謹為之誌。

法會活動側記(一)

晁山文 / 譯

更妙的是，華嚴法會進行到六月九日誦完華嚴經三十六卷之後，一位法師和一位居士走出佛殿時，忽見空中出現大尊觀世音菩薩聖像，當天還有人目睹空中出現地藏王菩薩聖像，以及大型白色圓拱形(大白傘蓋)在上空罩著萬佛聖城。種種瑞相使得法會氣氛更為祥和殊勝，大眾誦華嚴經之心更加虔敬。

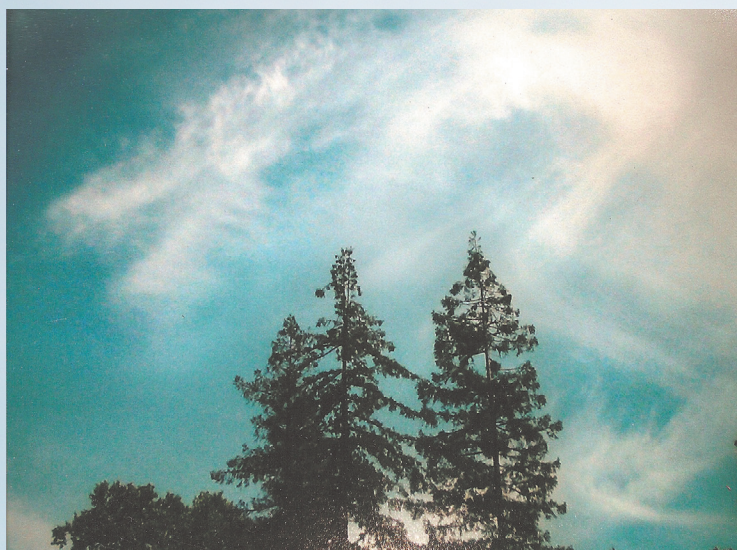
☞待續

feel the summer heat as they normally do here in June.

With Avatamsaka Session at CTTB, Auspicious Clouds Hover

By Shi Chunqiu / Translated by Wei Guoshi

The climate of Northern California is of a moderate Mediterranean type: very dry and hot in the summer while cold and rainy in the winter. Ukiah, located in Ukiah Valley, is hotter due to its geographic location. As usual, this year the weather in Ukiah started to heat up in early May and the heat kept building up in intensity from mild to simmering.



Although it is still only midsummer, the heat already felt like July—this is characteristic of Ukiah. But this year there was a difference—and what a wondrous difference: starting with the Nirvana Day and continuing into the Avatamsaka Session (It has been three years since the last Avatamsaka Session), which has been in progress for one week, the weather has changed from “dry, hot, and clear” to “cool, breezy, with partial clouds” and even sometimes “rainy”—it rained last Tuesday morning (who would have expected that it would rain in June—rare indeed). The rain not only moistened and cooled the land, including the vegetation and animals scorched by the sun, it also greatly reduced the fire hazard and eased many worrying hearts. Should this continue, wouldn't all the students and their parents be able to hold their graduation ceremonies in the midst of laughter and applause, while bathed in the cool breeze? How marvelous should that be the case.

One afternoon I discussed this with Joey Wei. He reminded me that after National Master Qing Liang finished his composition of the *Prologue to the Avatamsaka Sutra*, he dreamt of himself turning into hundreds of thousands of golden dragons flying off into all directions, indicating that the Dharma of Avatamsaka would spread far and wide. On the other hand, those dragon kings must have made their great vows to uphold and protect the Sutra. Whenever and wherever there is the Sutra or someone practicing the Avatamsaka Dharma, they will go to protect and support this person. Thus when we are now reciting

the *Avatamsaka Sutra* in three languages (Chinese, English, and Vietnamese), it is not strange for us to have the response from dragons—who turned the hot weather into cool weather with gentle breezes and clouds in the sky to block the sunlight. Moreover, since ancient times there have been scores of people including

eminent monks such as Great Master Hanshan and Great Master Lianchi, who relied on the *Avatamsaka Sutra* to pray for blessings and to quell calamities.

The ancient virtuous monks once said, “When the spiritual powers were manifested, they were rare—manifested only to benefit living beings everywhere.” How extremely fortunate we are! We are protected and blessed by the Venerable Master Hua's virtues which are like a high mountain; now we also experience the sincere protection and support of dragons who have come to show their delight and support to those who practice and recite the *Avatamsaka Sutra*. Having experienced such things, I recorded them carefully and dated it: June 5, 2009.

A Sketch of the Dharma Ceremony (I)

Written and translated by Chao Shan

What's more, on June 9, after the assembly finished reciting the 36th roll of Avatamsaka Sutra, while one Dharma Master and a layperson were stepping out of the Buddha Hall, they saw a big image of Guanyin Bodhisattva in the sky. On the same day, someone also saw an Earth Store Bodhisattva image up in the sky and a huge white arch (the great white canopy) covering the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. All these auspicious marks have made the atmosphere of this Avatamsaka session more peaceful, supreme, and wonderful. Hence, the assembly recite the *Avatamsaka Sutra* with a more sincere and respectful mind.

☞To be continued