

# 聖城 CTTB 改變 My 我的 Life 人生

Starting from when I was a child, I had to go to a monastery every Saturday with my mother. There, I learned about another monastery that was a very spiritual place—The City of Ten Thousand Buddha (CTTB), where everyone cultivates and every student is studious and angelic. I constantly heard compliments about this place from people, and my curiosity was aroused. I thought home was a horrible environment, and so I used the stress of living there as a reason to come to CTTB, the farthest place away from my parents. They'd heard that CTTB was a wonderful place, but they gave me the green light reluctantly.

Making the decision to come here changed my life. I never expected myself to be in a single gender school. The reason that convinced me was the lack of distractions caused by the other gender. Being in an all-girls school taught me many values that I would never have learned if I'd stayed in a co-ed school. In Developing Virtue Girls' School, I met many different kinds of people from all around the world. Life is very different when a lot of international people live together under one roof. The obligation to follow the fixed schedule of this place has guided me along, as I came here with horrible time management. Though I am still poor at managing my time, the schedule makes my life a lot neater.

When many girls live together in a dorm, the unexpected happens. Not everyone gets along, and we have to deal with problems ourselves. This is something that we all have to live with and to learn from. When people of different backgrounds and different cultures work together, conflicts

小時候，每個星期六都得和媽媽去道場。在那裡，我認識了一個地方——萬佛聖城——大家都是修行者，學生個個都很用功。我也常常聽到讚美聖城的話，我的好奇心就油然而生。家，是個令人感受壓力的環境，我以此作為來聖城求學的理由，因為那兒離我父母最遠。他們也聽說聖城是一個很棒的地方，便勉強的同意了。

聖城改變了我的人生，我從來沒想像過自己會就讀一所單純的女校。我之所以選擇在這兒讀書，是因為這裡沒有異性的干擾，我在這兒學到了許多在男女合校中所學不到的價值觀。在培德女校，我遇見了來自世界各地的人，這為宿舍生活增添了各種色彩。而且，這裡的生活井井有條，它改變了我來這兒之前缺乏時間管理的觀念。雖然我還是有一點不會管理自己的時間，但至少現在我的生活比較簡單了。

當一大群女生在宿舍一起生活時，會有很多想像不到的事情發生：不是每個人都能和睦相處，但這種問題是我們自己要解決的，我們因而從中獲取經驗。當不同文化背景的人生活在一起時，爭論是難免的，而我也從中獲取經驗，提升自我。我面對很多難題，但我相信，最後的自己一定會更好。這些生活經驗是別的地方學不到的，無論是男女合校或自己的家。尤其是自己的家，因為在家時，人總是被保護的！



徵文得獎作品—B組（高中組）  
慈悲獎 培德女中 陳薇羽

By Wendi Chan, Developing Virtue Secondary School  
Winner of the Compassion Award, Group B  
(High School) in the 30th Anniversary Essay Contest



inevitably result. These conflicts have constructed a better me. I have had to crawl up a tall ladder to get over all the friction that I was experiencing, but at the end of my hard work, I've polished myself to a shine. These lessons cannot be found anywhere—not in public schools, and definitely not at home. At home, one is protected from the pain of the outside world.

Working in the dining hall and doing all sorts of community service, such as recycling and cleaning the kitchen, are things that I would never do if it weren't for this place, which has allowed me to try out many new activities. Thinking about it, CTTB, a place for cultivation, has created opportunities for me to get dirty, work in the farm, and usher for events like Honoring Elders Day, Buddha's Birthday, Shi Fu's Nirvana Day, etc. These are activities that I wouldn't usually have a chance to even get close to. I cannot say that I am a volunteer in CTTB, because I'm obliged to take part in such activities, but it's these activities that allow us to stand out. Living a city life, I wouldn't even volunteer. Here, I have learned that volunteering means to help without expecting anything in return, to contribute to society solely from the bottom of one's heart.

Where could anyone find a community where everyone is so close to each other, like in a family? Where would you find a community where so many people willingly volunteer on a daily basis? Where would one see such big pots and so much food cooked daily? Where would one see peacocks strutting around freely in any neighborhood, crying out loudly daily at random? This place is like no other. We work in our own community, not depending on anyone else. People who live in CTTB often think: if I don't do it, who will? Whereas in any city, the citizens depend on street cleaners to keep the environment clean. Seeing trash on the ground, no one would even bother to pick it up; but here, everyone does his part to keep the grounds clean.

With the daily ceremonies, I've learned to reflect on myself. Before, I never stopped to wonder why I was behaving the way I was. Here, I've learned that everything I do affects the people around me, and I often stop and reflect on my actions. In doing so, I see how I've changed through the years. Coming to this place definitely has made a great impact on my life. I've done so many things I never thought I would. Being mesmerized by city life, I only saw the superficial part of life. I never saw life raw.

In CTTB, life is raw; every day, I experience hardships through labor and interactions with people. Life is not perfect, but it is a long road that everyone has to walk on, overcoming the obstacles that come along the way. Being in CTTB has given me the chance to experience the difficult part of life; it has allowed me to realize that life doesn't always run the way we want it to, even though our fate lies in our hands.

在聖城得做社區服務，例如在廚房幫忙或者做環保工作，都是我在外面絕對不會嘗試的活動，所以來到聖城可說是令我增廣見聞。回想起來，聖城這個修行的地方，讓我學會了種菜，參加有意義的活動，例如敬老節、懷少節、上人涅槃日、浴佛節等，這些活動是我平常都沒機會去接觸的。雖然我不是義工，但我必須負起這些工作，我們自願參與這些活動，卻讓我們顯得更傑出。若我還在都市生活的話，我是絕對不會去當義工的！在這兒，我學到當義工的真義就是做事不求回報，而是純粹從心底想幫助社會。

除了這兒，還有哪兒可以找到一個那麼和諧的社區呢？還有哪兒可以找到那麼多願意天天做義工的人？還有哪兒可以找到那麼多大鍋子和大量的食物？還有哪兒可以找到那麼多孔雀自由自在的漫遊？這裡是獨一無二的！我們自力更生，不靠外人來生活。在這裡的人都想：「我不做，誰會去做？」這態度跟都市人的想法完全相反，因為在大城市的人都依靠清潔工人來保持城市的乾淨。若是看到地上有垃圾都不會有人撿，但在這裡每個人都會做好自己的本份——保持整潔。

在參加每天的早晚課時，我學到了自我反省。以前，我未曾反省自己的行為是否妥當。但在這裡，我意識到自己的言行是如何影響著身邊的人，所以我經常會注意自己的舉止。因此，我看得出自己多年來的成長。來到聖城的確改變了我的人生，我做了許多自己未曾想過的事情。都市的生活只讓我看到生活的表面，而我從來沒看過生活的真面目。

在聖城，生活是實面的；每天我都會在與人們的互動中而碰到難題。生命不是完美的，這是一條漫長的旅程；在這漫長的路途上，會有許多必須克服的難關，因此在聖城讓我體驗到人生的苦。雖然說命運操之在我，但卻讓我覺悟到人生不是每次都會如願以償的！

