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## Let's Get Together to Plant Bodhi Seeds: Assembly of Purification and Liberating Living Beings at Amitabha Monastery

連日的陰雨，擋不住台灣各地居士的熱忱，紛紛來到花蓮壽豐鄉參加彌陀聖寺新園區灑淨法會。儘管舟車勞頓，大家的心情是熱切又興奮。因為，我們終於在台灣有了一座「小山區」，雖然尚未建設，但大家已經迫不及待的想來這兒念佛修行，並為建道場盡一份心力。

中午大夥兒抵達彌陀聖寺，匆匆吞下超美味的午餐，旋即衝到新園區，不敢耽擱法會的時程、更不願讓尚囚在籠中等著被放生的飛禽多等待一分一秒。此次法會邀請高雄法界聖寺能法師前來主法，隨著梵唄，籠中的飛禽慢慢地不焦躁了，奇妙的是：當法師們開始為牠們皈依三寶並灑甘露水時，十幾籠的飛禽竟然都乖乖地安定下來了，不叫不跳，靜靜地等著法師為牠們灑淨。鳥兒出籠時，雖然很賣力地振翅飛行，但是速度都沒有很快，幾乎所有的鳥兒都棲息在附近的樹上，看著我們完成儀式。

雲法師告訴我們有關彌陀聖寺的緣起：

1991年周老太太將位於花蓮縣壽豐鄉的道場獻給上人，上人取所在地「壽豐」，與阿彌陀佛即「無量壽、無量光」，意義相符，命名新道場為彌陀聖寺。1993年上人在台剃度三十位善女人出家，此地成為正法佛學院的落腳處；多年來尼眾在此辦道修行。

2010年因緣成熟，在離彌陀聖寺十分鐘行腳處，買下這片大型的修行地。原

It had been raining for days but it couldn't dampen the enthusiasm of laypeople from all over Taiwan. We assembled at Amitabha Monastery at Shoufeng in Hualian, Taiwan, to attend the assembly of purification for the newly purchased land next to the monastery. The travel to the property had been lengthy but we were excited that finally we owned a property situated in the mountainous area. Although the site was not yet under construction, we were eager to be there for cultivation and to contribute our skills and talents.

After arriving at Amitabha Monastery, we downed our delicious lunch and then rushed to the new property, not wanting to delay the schedule and especially not to make the birds wait in their cages for liberation, not for even one minute longer. The assembly was led by Dharma Master Heng Neng of Dharma Realm Sagely Monastery in Kaohsiung. The birds calmed down gradually after we started reciting. The Dharma Master held the refuge ceremony and sprinkled sweet dew on the birds. Miraculously all the birds in more than ten cages hushed, became quiet and still. The doors of the cages were opened to set them free and they flew out with a slow steady speed. Almost all the birds perched themselves in the nearby branches watching us complete the entire ceremony.

Dharma Master Yun shared how Amitabha Monastery came to be established:

An elderly layperson, Mrs. Chou, donated the monastery to Venerable Master Hua in 1991. Taking the name of the town, Shoufeng, which means 'long life' in Chinese, and the similar meaning of 'Amitabha,' defined as 'limitless life span and boundless light,' Venerable Master Hua named the new monastery 'Amitabha Monastery.' The Master shaved the heads of 30 laywomen in Taiwan in 1993 and established the Proper Dharma Buddhist Academy there. Many Buddhist nuns have practiced and cultivated in the Amitabha Monastery since then.

When the conditions were ripe, our monastery purchased a large tract of land to be used for spiritual practice in 2010, about a ten minute walk from Amitabha Monastery. The previous owner, Mr. Tsai, was an architect. He had been developing the property since 1992. It has had basic infrastructure,



地主蔡先生是位建商，大約是從1992年開始陸續建設園區，二十年後，園區中的道路、植栽等基礎設施已具規模；彷彿從上人開始在壽豐成立道場時，這片土地就給準備著。園區中處處可見巨石林木，這些樹木不是一天、兩天長成的，一如我們的修行需要積久功深。總之，再好的地方也要以修行為主，否則就會像泡泡水般，看似絢麗，終歸幻滅。

因為園區很大，所以分兩次來灑淨，之後大眾坐下來聆聽法師們的開示。

恒能法師：這次北、中、南、東的居士都來到這裏集合，很難得的這麼多人來到這裡，這都是受到師父上人德行的感召，師父上人的願力很大，我們不成佛，師父上人也不成佛，因此不要辜負師父上人的美意，不要讓他等太久了。我們修行要很小心，要看清楚，不要走錯路；如果走錯了路，要回頭是很難的。

恒江法師：今天在佛菩薩與師父上人的加持下，具足了天時、地利、人和。連日下雨，今天雨停了，天氣很好，不冷也不熱。買下這片土地因緣具足、順利。各地的居士都來到這裡參加法會，象徵著法總的凝聚力。釋迦牟尼佛是在菩提樹下成道的，小小的菩提樹種子可以成就參天的菩提樹，我們的修行也是如此，希望大家在這裏種下菩提種子。我們期待在這片好山、好水、好地理的地方，接引更多的眾生。

雲法師結語：值遇建道場乃稀有難得之事，但法的力量一定要夠才能成就，大家多念佛、多用功迴向，這就是為道場建設盡一份心。記得要保持上人的家風！希望生者在此用功辦道，亡者聞法離苦得樂，冥陽兩利。大家好好用功，努力修行，幫助更多的眾生！

的確，人身難得、正法難聞，幸運的我們，要好好珍惜難得的人身與難聞的正法，大家一起來護持道場、精進修行，方不辜負我們難得的幸運。

such as roads, trees and other flora, for some 20 years. It seemed when the Venerable Master decided to set up Amitabha Monastery at Shoufeng, this area had



been reserved for its future expansion. There are huge rocks and tall trees everywhere in this special place. Just as it takes the trees many years to grow so tall, it takes many years for us to practice to our fullest potential. In general, true practice is required; otherwise, it is a waste of any good place.

We divided into two sections for the purification ceremony, since the area was so large, then sat down to listen to the lectures given by Dharma Masters.

*Dharma Master Heng Neng:* It is a rare occasion for so many laypeople from northern, central, southern, and eastern Taiwan to have come together here today. You are all inspired by the virtue of Venerable Master Hua. The Venerable Master has a great vow—if we don't become Buddhas, he doesn't want to become one. Therefore, we should not disappoint him or keep him waiting too long. We should be very cautious in our cultivation and not to walk down the wrong road. It is very difficult to return once we get lost.

*Dharma Master Heng Chiang:* With the blessings of the Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, and the Venerable Master, we have acquired the right time, right place, and the right people. It rained for several days, yet it stopped this morning. The weather is pretty comfortable, neither cold nor hot. We had the right conditions to successfully obtain this land. Your attendance symbolizes the cohesion of Dharma Realm Buddhist Association. Shakyamuni Buddha was enlightened under the bodhi tree. A small bodhi seed has the potential to become a big tall tree. Our practice is also like this. We plant *bodhi* seeds here today and expect that we will attract more and more people to this wonderful place.

*Dharma Master Yun:* It is very rare and significant to have the opportunity to build a monastery. We need plenty of vows and strength to accomplish this great event. Keep reciting and transferring merit—this is how laypeople can support the monastery. Remember, we must faithfully observe the traditions given by the Venerable Master Hua. I hope all of you who are still living will make every effort to practice, while those who have passed on will be released from all pains and gain joy. Thus, both the living and the deceased are blessed. Everyone has to take full advantage of this area for spiritual practice and benefit many more beings.

It is so true that it is hard to obtain human bodies and to hear Buddhadharma. We have to treasure the blessings of being human and being able to encounter the proper Dharma. Let us commit ourselves to becoming protectors of the monastery and practice vigorously so that we may make the best use of these special blessings.