

The Venerable Master Hua and President Sadat

上人與埃及總統 薩達特



陳果頌 講於2011年3月14日萬佛城大殿
A talk given by Wayne Chen on March 14, 2011
in the Buddha Hall at CTTB

一九九〇年暑假，我從台灣來到萬佛聖城，從那時候開始，我就感覺到自己始終在上人的呵護和引導下成長。不論是在培德中學讀書，或是到大學和研究所求學，或是在法界佛教總會為上人工作，或是在顧問公司當管理顧問，在世界各地奔波，都感覺到上人一直在扶持和保護。

師父上人的教誨，很多時候是在不經意的時候展現出來。在過去，我越來越感受上人的教誨時，讓我有所啟發，就是師父對當今世界其實有非常深入的了解，這是我當下的感應。

過去幾個月，我們看到世界很多很多的變化，尤其是在中東及北非的國家。多中東、北非國家的人民，開始站起來，團結起來，對抗自己國家的集權專制獨裁。我相信，在座的很多人都知道過去幾個禮拜裡所發生的非洲和平革命：從一月二十五日開始，非洲有不同層面的人用大致和平的方式，來表達對集權政府的不滿。

在埃及，利用遊行，或是工人的罷工來表達對於總統的不滿。有上百萬的人陸陸續續走上街頭，從不同的社會背景和宗教背景上團結起來。埃及的和平革命，主要發生在開羅和亞歷山大港，當然，還有其他的城市參與。在這之前，另外一個北非的小國家突尼西亞（Tunisia）也成功達到了歷史性的革命。

今年二月十一日，在短短幾個星期的和平抗爭之下，埃及總統穆巴拉克宣布辭去總統職位，結束了三十多年的獨裁專政。這件事情震撼了全世界，世界各國都認同這是中東和阿拉伯世界的歷史性的時間點。

I came to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas in the summer of 1990. Ever since then, I have been immersed in the Master's teachings. Knowingly or unknowingly, I felt I was surrounded and protected by his teaching regardless of whether I was a student in the boys school, away for college and graduate school, working here for Dharma Realm Buddhist Association and for the Master, or traveling around the world as a management consultant.

The Venerable Master's teaching often manifests in surprising ways. Over the years as I learn more and more about him, I realize how deeply the Venerable Master was engaged in the contemporary world. It is a tiny reflection.

The world has seen many changes in the recent few months, in particular in the Middle East and North Africa. People in these countries are standing up against totalitarianism, authoritarianism, and dictatorships. Perhaps many people in the audience tonight know about the peaceful Egyptian revolution, which happened just a few weeks ago. It took place following the popular uprising that began on January 25, 2011. The uprising, in which the people placed a great deal of emphasis on the peaceful nature of the struggle, was mainly comprised of a campaign of civil resistance that featured a series of demonstrations, marches, acts of civil disobedience, and labor strikes.

Millions of protestors from a variety of social, economic, and religious backgrounds demanded the overthrow of the Egyptian president (Hosni) Mubarak. The campaign took place in Cairo, Alexandria, and other cities in Egypt. Following the Tunisian revolution that was successful just prior, Tunisia was the first country actually in recent months that succeeded in a revolution by their people.

On February 11, after weeks of demonstration, President Mubarak resigned from office. His resignation ended a 30 year

但是，很多人都不記得，甚至不知道在三十年前，埃及曾經有個非常傑出的總統穆罕默德·安瓦爾·薩達特（Mohamed Anwar Sadat）。薩達特總統早年，很多人認為他不適合擔任埃及總統，認為他沒有能力，也沒有人望。但是，薩達特總統以他自己的努力，帶領著國家和平進步發展。同時，他也帶領埃及贏得了戰爭，而且逐漸成為阿拉伯世界所共同擁戴的英雄。薩達特總統是追求和平的領導者，以埃及總統身分和以色列簽訂了和平條約，也為埃及經濟建設奠定了良好基礎，他也榮獲諾貝爾和平獎。

我知道埃及薩達特總統和師父上人的故事時，感到非常驚訝。這裡有封薩達特總統辦公室寫給師父上人的信。是最近在早年的《金剛菩提海》雜誌找出來的。我簡單翻譯一下：

「謹代表薩達特總統感謝您的來信！您提到青年人道德教育的重要。至誠感激法界大學董事委員會的一致決定：邀請薩達特總統擔任法界大學榮譽校長。希望這個跨越國界和文化的友好關係能夠維持多年。恭敬接受。敬祝身體健康、事事如意！」

這封信是薩達特總統的幕僚長所寫的，一九七九年四月十七日從總統辦公室寄出。

非常不幸，薩達特總統寄這封信，大概兩年後，就被埃及基本教派的軍事組織暗殺身亡。上人當時為薩達特總統舉行追悼會，誦經迴向。當時的副總統穆巴拉克（Mubarak）繼位，成為新的埃及總統。穆巴拉克是這樣成為埃及總統的。

今天，雖然埃及和平革命有非常好的進展，但是還有非常長的路要走，才能夠達到民主、和平、繁榮。同時，非洲北部，還有很多國家也有相同的、歷史性的掙扎。觀察眼前發生的這些歷史性世界大事，我能深深感受到，師父上人和埃及前總統的交流，讓萬佛城和法大與埃及這個遙遠的國土有如此不凡的關聯。

師父上人和這位埃及前總統從來沒有見過面，但是我深信，上人是肯定這位總統的人格和道德的，還有他為埃及的付出貢獻。也許上人知道，在薩達特總統過世後，埃及和中東地區會因專制獨裁和領導人沒有道德，而陷入極大痛苦。

接下來，我想分享兩句薩達特總統的名言。

dictatorship in Egypt. This is considered as one of the most pivotal historical events in the Middle East and Arab World.

However, not many people remember or even knew that 30 years ago, Egypt had a good president. His name was Mohamed Anwar Sadat. Early on during his presidency, many people thought he was not up to task of being the president. However, President Sadat led his country to victory in wars, became a hero in the Arab world, signed a peace treaty with Israel, laid the foundation for economic development, and won the Nobel peace prize.

I was really surprised when I found out about the connection between Venerable Master Hua and President Sadat. Here I'm going to read a letter from President Sadat's office to the Venerable Master in 1979. The letter was published in an early issue of the *Vajra Bodhi Sea*.

Dear Chan Master Hsuan Hua,

It is my great pleasure to convey to you the thanks and recognition of His Excellency, President Sadat for your kind message in which you set forth the importance of education in instilling virtuous and constructive ideas into the minds of young people.

Highly appreciating your noble sentiments towards him represented in the unanimous decision of the Dharma Realm Buddhist University's board of trustees to name him as an honorary chancellor of the university, His Excellency the President earnestly hopes that harmonious relations between people of different cultures and national backgrounds will be promoted over years. Kindly accept most sincere regards, wishing you and all the best of health, happiness, and success,

Hassan, Chief of Cabinet of the President

This letter was written April 17, 1979, from the office of the president.

Unfortunately, a few years later, after this letter was written, President Sadat was assassinated by a fundamentalist faction within the Egyptian army. Mubarak, who was the vice president at the time, became Egypt's president.

Egypt is not out of the woods yet, today. They still have a long road to democracy, peace, and prosperity. And many other countries are struggling to make similar progress. While we are watching these historical world events unfold before our eyes, I'm particularly inspired by our connection with the Egyptian country and culture through Venerable Master Hua and Egypt's former president.

Even though I believe the Venerable Master never met President Sadat in person, there's no doubt in my mind that the Master acknowledged President Sadat's virtue and what he had done for his country. Perhaps the Master even knew that in his absence, Egypt and the Middle East would fall under tremendous suffering brought upon them by authoritarian dictatorships and leaders without morals.

I would like to share two quotes from President Sadat:

•“Fear is, I believe, a most effective tool in destroying the soul of an

是：「恐懼是摧毀人的靈魂，和民族靈性的最有效工具」。「不能改變自我思想的人，永遠無法改變現實，因此不會進步。」我覺得很有意思的，薩達特總統提到人的心念和心念的力量。

薩達特總統寫這封信給師父上人，已經是三十多年前的事情了。信裡提到教育、道德品質、人際和諧的重要。今天，我們可以反躬自問：過去三十年，我們在這些方面是不是已經有了明顯的進步呢？

最後，我想說非常歡喜能夠不斷向上人學習。靠著上所講過的經典，所留下來的書籍、開示，還有上人親自教過的法師和居士，來學習上人的教化，也學習上人種種的點滴。

individual – and the soul of a people.”

•“*He who cannot change the very fabric of his thought will never be able to change reality, and will never therefore make any progress.*”

This is quite interesting that President Sadat is commenting on the power of the mind and people's thoughts.

It has been over 30 years since the letter was written. The letter I just read seems to place emphasis on education, moral character, and harmonious relationships between people. We could ask ourselves today, whether we have made significant progress in these regards since the Master's and President Sadat's passing.

In closing, I wish to share that I very much enjoy learning from the Master and about the Master through his sutra commentaries, through the lectures and books he left us, through the people whom he taught directly, and the people who worked closely with him and learned from him.