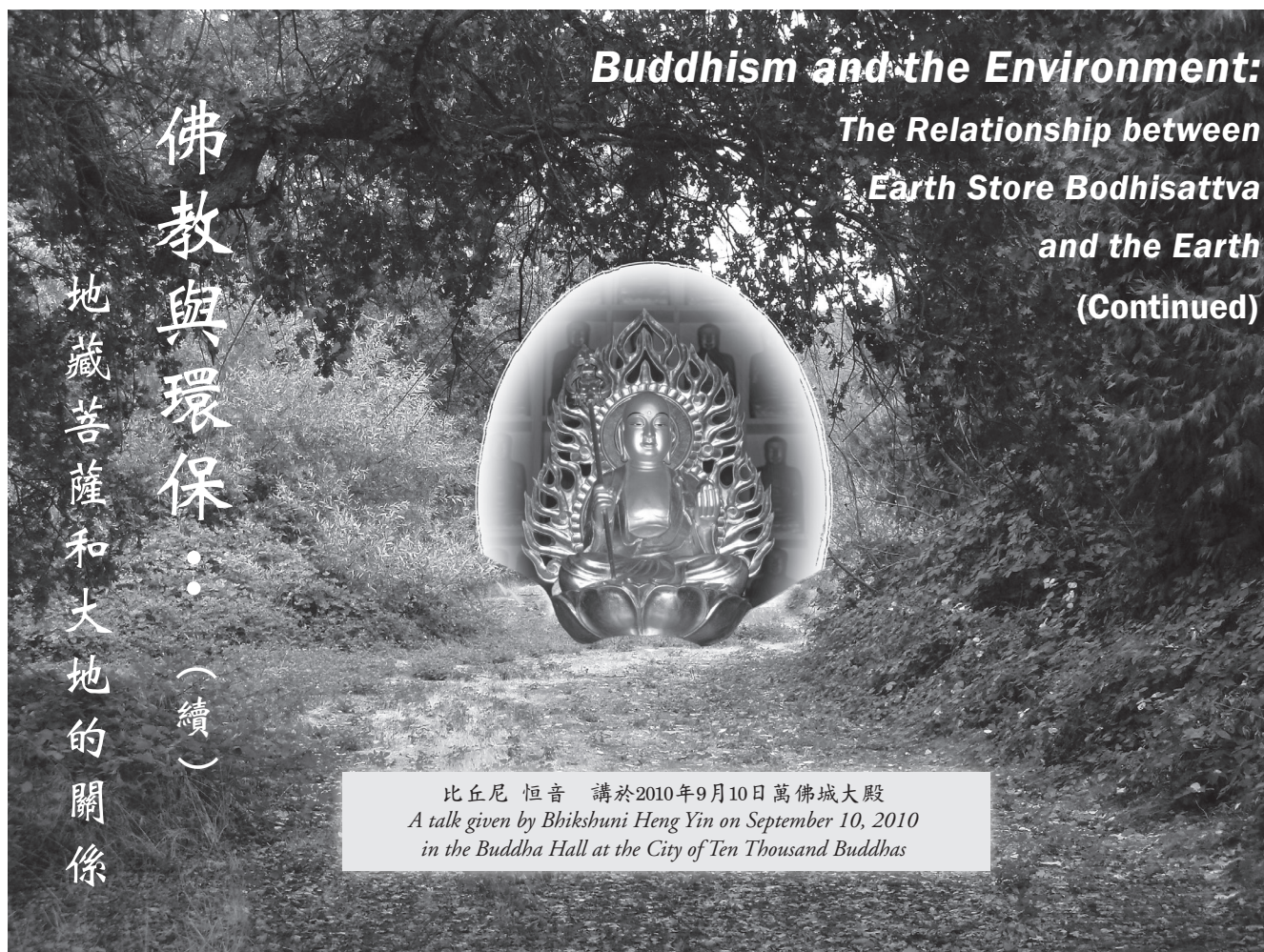


地藏菩薩是救地獄的眾生。很多人覺得《地藏經》是比較難信的，因為描述了地獄和鬼類；但是就算人不相信地獄和鬼的存在，但僅僅觀察一下這個世界，就可以發現存在很多的地獄以及鬼。比如納粹實施的大屠殺，南京大屠殺，很多戰爭的狀況，還有很多工業性農場。屠宰場每年有一百多億的豬，四千萬頭牛和一百億的雞，都在地獄裏。還有家庭暴力、兒童虐待、吸毒酗酒、人口販賣、兒童病，或者是在監獄裏，這些都是相當於地獄。還有餓鬼，好像許多貧窮的國家，人吃不飽飯就是在受餓鬼的苦；也可以說，有錢人消耗得越來越多卻不滿足，這也像是餓鬼。我們一直在要更多的地方，所以森林被砍掉了，我們也因此有這麼多的鐵、柏油、水泥、高速公路；這就是因為我們人類的欲望，想要有更多的地方。

Earth Store Bodhisattva rescues beings in the hells. One of the reasons that some people find the *Earth Store Sutra* hard to accept is the description of the hells or of ghosts. But even when people don't believe in hells or ghosts, just take a look at the world; there are certainly very hellish places and experiences from the historical things such as the holocaust, the Nanjing Massacre or any of the wars that are still going on, or factory farming. Each year in the U.S. there are 123 million pigs, 40 million cows and 10 billion chickens suffering under such hellish conditions. There are also victims of domestic violence, child abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, human trafficking, child soldiers, our prison systems: are these not hells? On the other hand, who might the hungry ghosts be? Besides the obvious answer of the millions of humans living on the edge of starvation in many developing countries, we might say that even affluent people who are addicted to consuming more and more are like hungry ghosts never satisfied with what they have. As long as we are not content or desire more stuff, we are hungry ghosts. The demand for more, the cult of shopping, has resulted in clearing of forests and open wilderness for mega shopping complexes, suburban sprawl and a gigantic asphalt network of highways across the land, all to cater to victims of 'influenza,' the disease of having a lot and wanting more.

I'm going to give a little bit of background about global warming. There is



Buddhism and the Environment:
The Relationship between
Earth Store Bodhisattva
and the Earth
(Continued)

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比丘尼 恒音 講於2010年9月10日萬佛城大殿
*A talk given by Bhikshuni Heng Yin on September 10, 2010
in the Buddha Hall at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas*

下面講一下溫室效應。地球暖化雖然現在有一點爭議，氣候的科學是很複雜的，所以有人認為地球暖化不是人類造成的或者根本沒有這回事。可是不能否認人類的發展造成了地球重大的改變和破壞。是有可能地球會先變冷二、三十年，但這並不表示地球不會出現長期的暖化，也不表示我們的二氧化碳排放就可以這樣子持續下去。最近一些有名的佛教領袖和科學家，包括菩提比丘，出版了一本書，書名叫《佛教對氣候危機的反應》；他們也設立了網站ecobuddhism.org。

其實我們的地球是非常古老的，有四十五億年的歷史了；最簡單的生命於三十億年前形成；人類才出現了十五萬年，那時我們只是過打獵採集的生活；只有在最後一萬年全新世，才有穩定的氣候，才有文化、農業、城市的發展，文明的發展。由於溫室氣體的排放，這種氣候是穩定的。二百年前溫室氣體排放也很穩定，是百萬分之二百八的二氧化碳排放；然後有了工業革命，地球進入地質的紀元叫做「人類世」，因為人類的經濟活動已經發展到能夠支配這個星球進化的路徑。

石油和瓦斯是千萬年前藻類、草樹等經過漫長的變化而形成的混合物。燃燒石油和瓦斯就會放出大量已經有多劫不再流通的二氧化碳。目前二氧化碳的濃度大約在百萬分之三百九，是六十五萬年來的最高量，並且還在繼續攀升。地球上的平均溫度比前工業定額提高了零點八攝氏度，結果是世界各地有了巨大的變化，極端的氣候事件從上個世紀五十年代起已經四倍了。作為佛教徒，必須儘量綠化我們的生活，也該問問自己如何生活得更儉樸、更慈悲，能使氣候保持得更穩定。《金剛菩提海》月刊最近刊登了綠化生活的系列，希望大家都去看一看。阿彌陀佛！

some debate about whether global warming is really human-caused or is even happening, as climate modeling is very complex. But it is definitely true that the human impact is altering the planet in tremendous and destructive ways.

There may even be global cooling as the first weather variation we experienced in the next few decades. But that does not mean our level of the greenhouse gas emissions is acceptable



and we can continue business as usual. Recently a number of eminent Buddhist leaders and scientists including Venerable Bhikkhu Bodhi have written a book called *A Buddhist Response to the Climate Emergency* and they also have a website called ecobuddhism.org.

Let me give some background. The earth is 4.5 billion years old; the simplest life forms on earth, 3 billion years old. Modern human species came 150,000 years ago, but it wasn't until the last 10,000 years the Holocene Epoch 全新世 that we have had stable climate conditions for civilization, agriculture, city life and culture to develop. During the hundred thousand years before that, there was extreme climate change and people could only live a hunter-gatherer lifestyle. So this ten thousand years of stable climate results from a self-regulating atmospheric system, depending on a particular concentration of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane to partially block radiation of solar energy to space. Prior to the Industrial Revolution of the early 18th century, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the Holocene atmosphere was stable at 280 ppm (parts per million). And then with the Industrial Revolution, the earth entered a geological epoch named Anthropocene, because human economic activity has come to dominate the evolutionary path of the planet.

Oil and gas are the remains of algae, plants, and tree that live by drawing carbon dioxide from the ancient atmosphere hundreds of millions of years ago. When we burn them, we release fossil carbon that has been out of circulation for eons. Currently the carbon dioxide level is around 390 ppm, the highest in 650,000 years, and it's continuing to rise. The increased global average temperature is 0.8 degree Celsius above pre-industrial norms. Consequently, there's great change all over the earth, and extreme weather events have quadrupled since the 1950s. It's quite important as Buddhists that we should be a good example in the lifestyle that we choose. So we should ask ourselves, how can we live more simply and compassionately using less so that we can keep our climate from shifting out of a stable pattern. *Vajra Bodhi Sea* recently published a series on green living; I hope everyone can take a look at it. Amitabha.