## 回家,真不容易! It is not easy, You are home!

陳玉講於2013年12月28日(佛七圓滿日)萬佛聖城大殿 Spoken by Chen Yu at the Buddha Hall of CTTB on December 28, 2013, the completion day of Amitabha Buddha Recitation

我叫陳玉,來自瑞士阿爾卑斯山腳下,日內 瓦湖邊美麗的城市洛桑。本人學佛粗淺,若有 不如法之處,請各位指正。

有感於這次來萬佛聖城曲折卻圓滿的經歷, 以及對《阿彌陀經》中「不可以少善根福德因 緣得生彼國」這樣一句經文的感悟,所以今天 想分享的主題是,來到人間極樂淨土不容易。

這是我第一次來聖城參加法會;在此之前, 幾位佛友都告訴我,萬佛聖城是人間的極樂淨 土。因此今年暑假發願,聖誕期間一定要去萬 佛聖城,並且在這半年裏做了很多功課,希望 能夠多種善根,使此行圓滿。可是現實並不如 我所願,並且一波三折,面臨的最大問題是簽 證。首先,簽證面試由於種種原因,重新預約 了三次才成功;接下來,簽證的結果是需要幾 週時間進行審核。三個月過去,仍然在審核 中;一直到聖誕假期快到了,還沒有任何消 息。這個時候我感到很失望,想要放棄,也生 了退轉心。

這時候,幾位來自明州的善友開始默默地為 我做功德迴向,並且鼓勵我不要放棄,也不要 執著,因為此行需要福德因緣具足。

然後,奇蹟發生了。十二月二十三日,也 就是假期前一天,我接到通知將護照送到大使 館,因為簽證審核通過了。在美國大使館門外 等了七個小時之後,我終於拿到了我的美國簽 證。在拿到簽證的十五分鐘之內,我就在大使 館門口,用3G網訂了隔天最早的機票飛到聖 城。

由於是最後一刻買的機票,所以旅途的規 劃並不是很好,需要轉機三次,途經日內瓦、 法蘭克福、紐約,經過二十八小時抵達萬佛聖 城。但是感恩各位善友一直為我迴向,使得一 路順利,一路天晴。我記得很清楚,當一位善 知識送我抵達聖城時,我說:「終於來了,真 不容易!」善知識的回答是:「終於『回家』 My name is Chen Yu, a student from Lausanne, Switzerland, which is a beautiful city at the foot of the Alps along Lake Geneva. I'm a beginner in terms of learning the Buddhadharma, so if there is anything inaccurate, please kindly correct me.

My topic today is, "It is not easy to go to the Ultimate Bliss Pureland in the human world." It is inspired by my twisted yet lucky fulfilled trip to CTTB and from the text of the *Amitabha Sutra*, which states that, "One cannot have few good roots, blessings, virtues, and causal connections to attain birth in that land."

This is my first time attending Dharma session at City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. A long time ago, a few Dharma friends told me that CTTB is the Ultimate Bliss Pureland of the human world. With curiosity, I vowed during the summer holiday that I should visit CTTB during the Christmas holiday. During the past six months, I have been trying to cultivate vigorously in an effort to plant some good roots to make my wish come true. However, it was not as smooth as I had expected. The major obstacle was the US visa. First, due to various reasons, I had to reschedule three times for the visa interview. Having submitted my visa application, I was informed of an administrative process that would take a couple of weeks. However, three months passed, and there was still no news about my visa, even as the Christmas holiday approached. I was disappointed, and I began to feel defeat. I did not believe I would be able to come here.

At that time, a few good-knowing advisors from Minnesota quietly started to create virtues and transfer the merits to me. They also encouraged me to neither give up hope nor give up my dedication to the Dharma. Sometimes, we need both virtue and friends to get things done!

Then a miracle occurred. On the 23rd of December, I was told to send my passport to the US Embassy in order to obtain the visa. After waiting outside the US Embassy for seven hours, I finally got my visa. Within fifteen minutes of receiving my visa, I stood outside the embassy and used my phone's 3G capabilities to purchase the earliest plane ticket to San Francisco.

Since it was a last-minute ticket, the itinerary did not yield the best flight. I needed to transfer three times, via Geneva, Frankfurt, and New York, before arriving in San Francisco. Afterwards, it finally took me 28 hours to arrive at CTTB. Fortunately, my dear Dharma friends had been persistently transferring merits to me. Thus, the trip was smooth 了,真不容易!」

佛七期間,諸上善人俱會一處,念佛 念法,還有孔雀等種種雜色之鳥,還有 從未見過的美麗星空,讓我更深刻地體 會萬佛聖城是人間的極樂淨土。

這次經歷給我兩點啟示。第一,要到 人間極樂淨土的聖城修行,需要很大的 善根、福德和因緣具足;因此,我必須 珍惜。第二,要往生西方極樂淨土,更 加需要精勤修行,廣結善緣,才能在關 鍵時刻一心不亂,保持正念。

(問:在日內瓦這麼遠的地方,您怎 麼聽說到萬佛城?)

最先知道萬佛聖城,是因為一位挚 友在她的微博上描述:「二00九年皈 依於加州萬佛聖城。」當時在我心中就 種下一顆種子,知道加州有一座萬佛聖 城。然後,二零一二年,有一次機會來 到加州,當旅途快結束的時候,我在思 考還有什麼地方沒有去。這時候,這顆 種子就突然萌芽了,因為我想起了加州 有一個萬佛聖城。

那次來到聖城,城裏的樣貌和現在的 差不多,只是自己的福德因緣不足,來 到聖城,見到了祖師殿,但是萬佛殿的 門是關著的,外面空無一人,所以我以 為萬佛聖城是一座佛教博物館!

之後我告訴我這位好朋友,說我來到 了萬佛聖城,可是什麼也沒有看到。我 還跟她說,我懷疑萬佛聖城會不會是一 個博物館?在接下來的時間裏,她給我 分享了很多很多萬佛聖城的信息、宣公 上人的事蹟,以及萬佛聖城的法會。

也很感恩她介紹我萬佛聖城的經典學 習組,以及佛經翻譯委員會的各種翻譯 工作,讓我能夠深刻體會到,佛法不是 像自己以前認為的,僅僅是燒香拜佛、 求佛菩薩讓我學業進步、工作順利、身 體健康,而是包含博大的智慧,所以讓 我對聖城這個地方充滿了嚮往。

我從來沒有想過自己會皈依,但是回 到瑞士之後,我就開始看關於佛法的書 籍,吸取相關的資訊;然後不知道為什 麼,就突然很想皈依三寶。我也不知道 怎麼解釋,我想可能是上人的加持。 參 and beautiful. I remember clearly that when I finally arrived at CTTB with a ride from a good-knowing advisor, I said: "Finally, arrived! Not easy!" He said, "Finally, arrived home! Not easy!"

During the Dharma session at CTTB, all the good-knowing and virtuous cultivators gathered together to chant the Buddha's name and learn the Dharma. I also saw peacocks and other multi-colored birds. In addition, I saw the clearest and most beautiful starry night I have ever seen — exactly as described in the *Amitabha Sutra*. All these confirmed why my Dharma friends said that CTTB is the Ultimate Bliss Pureland of the human world.

I have two take-home messages. First, to come to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, the Ultimate Bliss Pureland of the human world, is not easy. It requires good roots, blessings, virtues and connections. I shall cherish my blessings. Second, to go to the Western Pureland of Ultimate Bliss requires even more of a constant vigorous cultivation. It is also necessary to harbor broad Dharma affinities with all living beings in order to help remain mindful and focused. Amitabha!

(Question: How did you hear about CTTB from Geneva, which is so far away?)

I first heard about CTTB from my best friend. Her description of her profile on her Sina Weibo account was, "Took refuge with the Triple Jewel in the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas in California in 2009." This statement planted a root in my heart because I then found out that there was a temple called CTTB in California. Later, I had a chance to visit California in early 2012. Before the end of the journey, I started to think about the places that I had left to visit. It was at this moment that this root started to grow, since I realized there was a temple called CTTB in California that I had yet to visit.

Everything is almost the same as when I visited this temple (CTTB) in 2012. However, since I did not have enough virtues and blessings, I only had the opportunity to visit the Fundamental-Buddha-Teacher Hall. The Ten-Thousand-Buddha Hall was closed. I did not see anyone, either. So at that time, I was wondering if perhaps CTTB was a Buddhist Museum!

Later, I told my friend that I visited CTTB but did not see anything extraordinary in particular. I also told her that I doubted CTTB was a museum. Since then, this friend has shared with me a lot of information about CTTB, Venerable Master Hua, and the Dharma sessions at CTTB.

This friend also told me how to participate in the online Sutra lectures and translation activities of BTTS. These lectures and activities made me realize that the Buddhadharma is not the same as my previous perception, which was that I should wish a lot in front of the statues of Buddhas and expect them to bestow upon me good results in my studies, career, and health. In my new understanding of the Buddhadharma, I realized it was far beyond wishing. Instead, the Buddhadharma is about great wisdom that I can learn from. This is what greatly attracted me to come here.

I never thought about taking refuge before. However, when I went back to Switzerland, I started to read Buddhist books and gain information. Later, without any reason, I suddenly decided that I wanted to take refuge with the Triple Jewel. I don't know how to explain this sudden desire. Perhaps this comes from the blessings of Venerable Master Hua.