

# No, it's way too small. 不，這還太小了！



Spoken by Bhikshu Heng Lai  
at the Buddha Hall of CTTB on June 6, 2014  
比丘恒來講於2014年6月6日萬佛聖城佛殿



Buddhas, Bodhisattvas Venerable Master and Great Assembly, Amitofo! They wanted me to say something, so I will say something. I will tell a story of how we got this place. Back in the early 1970s, I used to take Shi Fu (Master) all the time in the car. We used to look at real estate all the time. We had two or three real estate agents always looking for properties for us to look at.

So, one day a real estate guy called me and said, “I am going to tell you about this place up in Ukiah. I don't know if you are interested or not. It is very, very big. You might not be able to use it, but I'll tell you about it anyway.” So he described our current CTTB, the former Mendocino Hospital grounds. He said it is for sale. There are many, many buildings on it. And it is so big that you can say it's a city.

諸佛菩薩、上人和大眾，阿彌陀佛！他們請我上來講一些關於上人的事情，所以我就講一個如何買到萬佛聖城的故事。那是在一九七〇年代，我常開車載上人各處去看房地產，也有兩、三位房地產經紀人幫我們找地方。

有一天，一個經紀人打電話給我，告訴我說：「我跟你講，瑜伽鎮現在有一個地方要賣，不知道你們有沒有興趣？這地方面積非常大，雖然不一定適合你們，不過我還是跟你們講一下。」所以他就描述現在的萬佛聖城——當初的曼德仙諾一家醫院——正在拍賣。醫院裏有很多很多建築物，面積大到像一座小城市。

So, right after I put the phone down, the phone rang again. And it was Shi Fu. Shi Fu said, “Yeah, what?” I said, “There is a big city for sale in Ukiah,” “Oh, really? Let’s go take a look.” So, at that time, we were making arrangement, making plans to go to Seattle to meet with the two Three Steps One Bow Monks - Heng Ju and Heng Yo, who were bowing to Mablemount in Washington. So we were going to meet them in Seattle. Shi Fu told us that after we met them when we drive back, we can take a look.

At that time, there were Gwo Fa (Bob Olson), Randall Peterson, Gwo Jen who is now Heng Sure and me, Gwo Hui. At that time, we were all laymen. We got in Gwo Fa’s truck and drove all the way down Highway 101 to take a look at this place.

So, we came here. Gwo Jen (Heng Sure) has a camera, so he took all kinds of pictures, and Wally German\* was there. They gave us a great tour of the property. There were so many buildings in there. They were all empty. They were there to maintain them and taking care of them. It was owned by a big vineyard company. They didn’t want the buildings. They just wanted the vineyards, just the agriculture part. So, they were trying to get rid of this part, where the buildings were.

By this time, many other groups had already looked at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. They called it the old Mendocino Hospital grounds. Many other groups had already looked at it. The Hare Krishna looked at it, Mahasri Yoga looked at it. All kinds of other groups as well as companies had looked at it to buy. So, we went back to San Francisco to talk to Shi Fu. We were all excited about it. I told Shi Fu we would develop the pictures to show Shi Fu and Shi Fu said, “No need, I already looked at it.”

At that time, DRBA did not have a lot of money, but Shi Fu was not intimidated by that. So, he negotiated right away. “Maybe we can’t buy the whole property at once, but we can buy one building. So, we’ll buy the hospital.” So, Shi Fu skillfully negotiated the property. Eventually, we decided to buy the whole property through Shi Fu’s great skill, and even

當我一掛上電話，電話馬上又響了，是上人打來的。上人問我：「啊，怎麼樣？」我回答他：「瑜伽鎮有一個像城市一樣的地方要賣。」上人說：「喔，真的嗎？我們去看看。」當時我們正準備要到西雅圖，去探望正在三步一拜的兩位比丘恒具和恒由；他們正一路往華盛頓山朝拜，所以我們準備在西雅圖跟他們會面。於是，上人指示我們看完這兩位法師，回程順道來看看這一塊地。

當時一起去的有：果法（鮑伯·歐森）、彼德森、果真（就是現在的恒實法師），還有我（果回）四個人，那時候我們都是在家人。我們就坐在果法的卡車裏，沿著101公路一路開下去看這個地方。

於是我們到了這地方，果真（恒實）有一台照相機，他就四處去拍照。威利傑曼\*也來了，他們帶著我們到處巡視。我們看到好多建築物，而且都是空的，他們就待在那裏維護這些房子。當時這地方是屬於一個公司的，這間公司專門種植葡萄，他們不想要建築物，只想要留著可以種葡萄的地方，所以他們想把有建築物的地方賣掉。

在我們來之前，已經有許多其他宗教的人來看過了，他們稱這個地方為舊曼德仙諾醫院。印度教的Hare Krishna，還有Mahasri Yoga都來看過，很多公司也來看過。回到三藩市之後，我們就去跟上人報告，我們都很興奮。我對上人說，照片沖洗好以後就拿給他看，上人說：「不用啦，我已經看過了。」

那時候法界佛教總會沒有多少錢，但是上人卻不因此而退卻；相反地，他已經準備要跟對方議價。上人說：「也許我們不能買下整個地方，但是我們可以買一棟，那就買這間醫院吧！」經過上人很技巧的議價，最後我們決定買下整塊地。即使我們當時沒有很多錢，上人卻絲毫沒有畏懼，他說：「這個地方就是未來弘揚佛法的

\*Water German is the vineyard owner on the east border of CTIB. He was the former grounds manager of the Mendocino Hospital before DRBA bought it.

\*威利傑曼是萬佛聖城東郊葡萄園的園主。在法總購買聖城之前，他負責管理曼德仙諾醫院的土地。

though at that time we didn't have a lot of cash, a lot of money, he was not afraid of that. He said this place is our future place. We should just get it. And a lot of people were in opposition. Some of Shi Fu's disciples said, "It is way too big. We can't possibly take care of such a big place, and live there. It is way too big. And Shi Fu said, "No, it is way too small."

So, through Shi Fu's skill and his wisdom, we are able to acquire the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. We acquired it in 1976. Through causes and conditions, he had me come up here. At that time, there was just a skeleton crew which means very small number of people taking care of the property. My job was kind of to drive around and look at things at night, to make sure everything is smooth. It is kind of a security job. Just drive around and looked things in this old truck.

One night, I drove around the old building to make sure nobody was breaking in or anything. The next day, Shi Fu called, and said, "Where did you go last night?" "I was driving around looking at all the old buildings." He said that "I was sitting on the roof of the truck. I was looking at all those buildings and wondering where you were going."

But from the time that we acquired the property on forward, Shi Fu was completely fearless. He had no qualms about CTTB being too big or too hard or too difficult to deal with. He was completely fearless and understood that in the future some disciples would oppose the idea of buying this place. Shi Fu said, "Don't need to worry! The place is going to be the future for Buddhism." Amitofo! ❀

地方，我們應該買下它。」那時也有很多人反對，有些上人的弟子說：「這個地方簡直太大了，我們根本沒辦法照顧和住在這地方。」但是上人說：「不，這還太小了。」

由於上人的權巧和智慧，我們得以在1976年順利買下萬佛聖城。也因為一些因緣，上人派我來萬佛聖城，當時只留下少數幾個人負責照顧這個地方。我的工作就是晚上開著舊卡車各處巡邏，確保一切平安沒事，也就是保安工作。

有一天晚上，我照例開車巡邏，確定沒人闖入甚麼的。隔天，上人打電話來問：「昨天晚上你去了哪裏？」我回答：「師父，昨晚我就開著卡車各處巡邏這些舊建築物。」上人說：「噢，我坐在卡車頂上跟著，我就在想你到底要去哪裏。」

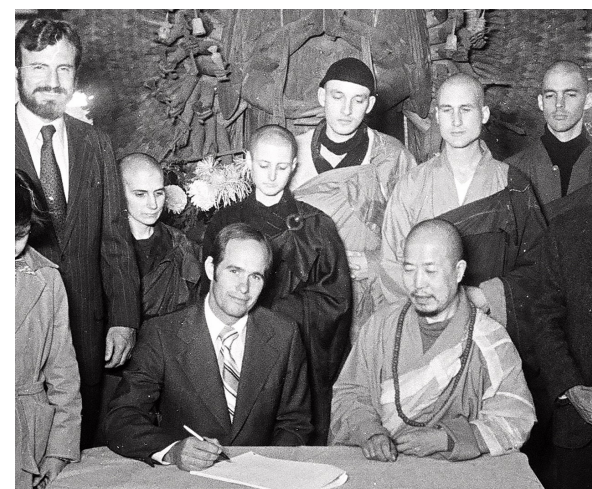
從一開始準備買萬佛聖城這塊地，到最後買下來，上人對是否太大或是太難照顧這些問題，從來沒有疑慮過。他一點都不害怕，也知道會有些弟子反對買萬佛聖城的主意，但是他都是說：「哦，不用擔心！這個地方將是佛教的未來。」阿彌陀佛！ ❀



1974年曼德仙諾州立醫院及農場待售  
Mendocino State Hospital and farm for sale in 1974



萬佛城俯瞰  
CTTB-Aerial View



1976年6月12日簽約購買萬佛城  
1976.6.12 Signing Purchase Contract for CTTB