

# 不准地震！ Earthquakes Are Not Allowed!

謝果雯講於2014年4月18日 萬佛城大殿  
沙彌尼果荷、沙彌尼近南 英譯

Spoken by Guo-Wen Hsieh at CTTB Buddha Hall on Apr. 18, 2014

English Translation by Shramaneriika Guo He and Shramaneriika Jin Nan



BODHI FIELD 菩提田

諸佛菩薩、師父上人、各位法師、各位善知識，阿彌陀佛！今天想講的主題是地震與上人的因緣。這裏講的地震，主要是發生於美國加州的地震。

1906年，距今108年前，三藩市發生了上世紀最大的一次地震。那個地震有多大呢？約在芮氏7.8級到8.3級中間，當時官方公布的死亡人數是478人。政府官員低估死亡人數，是怕房價因為地震的關係下跌。距今保守估計，那次的死亡人數約在3,000人以上，損失估計

All Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, Venerable Master, all Dharma Masters and all good wise advisors, Amitabha! My topic today is about the Venerable Master and earthquakes. I am referring to the earthquake that happened in California, U.S.A.

In 1906, the largest earthquake in the last century struck San Francisco. How big was the earthquake? It was around a 7.8 to 8.3 magnitude. The death toll announced by the government was 478 people. The government officials underestimated the magnitude of the quake to prevent the value of property from falling. According to the conservative estimate nowadays, the death toll then was more than

是四億美元，大約是現在的82億美元。加州第二大的地震，發生於1989年10月17日，強度是6.9到7.1級。今晚我想講講那次的地震。

這要先講到1968年，當時很多預言家、科學家都說三藩市會發生大地震。因為1906年那次超級大地震，讓大家心有餘悸，所以很多預言家、科學家講說，三藩市會發生大地震。可是上人在1968年的正月初一那天，宣佈只要他在三藩市一天，他就不准三藩市地震。師父的解釋是說，不是說不許震，而是大的地震，就要轉成小一點的；小一點的，就化為沒有。總之，即使有地震，不會有災害。

從1968年之後，每一年師父在新年期間都會宣佈說，三藩市不會有地震。這樣子一直到了1989年，那一年上人正好到臺灣主持消災祈福法會。師父才一離開三藩市，三藩市就發生了六點九級的大地震。地震發生後，上人從臺灣回到美國加州，金輪寺有一位弟子就請問上人，師父不是講過不准三藩市地震嗎？為什麼三藩市還是發生了地震？對於弟子的問題，上人的答覆是，他太專注於臺灣的事情了，把功德迴向給臺灣人；因為太專注於這個事情，所以他把三藩市忘了。

在臺灣弘法期間，上人為法忘軀，絕食不吃飯，把所有的福報都迴向給臺灣的眾生。當聽到三藩市地震的消息，上人特地搭機回到三藩市；停留了數天，又趕回臺灣繼續主持法會。他只是說他忘了，回來看一下，然後又再到臺灣弘法。

根據網路上公布的資料，1989年地震造成的損失大概是10億美元，死亡人數約62人。跟1906年那次的地震比較起來，損失真的是遠遠不及。

1992年，當時我還住在洛杉磯。有段期間我們會固定每週六晚上，搭巴士到柏林根市的國際譯經院去聽上人講法。這樣子維持了三、四個月，每次都是晚上出發，到達時大約是清晨四、五點。一到譯經院，上人還沒開始講法之前，金輪寺的團員就會在佛堂唸《阿彌陀經》，然後唸佛，等待師父開示。

記得有一次才剛到，上人就跟團長要我們團員的名單，而且在開示之前還特地拿出這個名

3,000 people, and the estimated financial loss was four hundred million US dollars, equal to 8.2 billions US dollars today. On October 17, 1989 another large earthquake happened in California, it was California's second largest earthquake in the last century and had a magnitude of 6.9 to 7.1 on the Richter scale. And I would like to talk about that particular earthquake.

Back in 1968, many prophets and scientists predicted (based on the 1906 earthquake) that there would be another big earthquake in San Francisco. However, the Venerable Master announced on the first day of the first lunar month that he would not allow the earth to quake as long as he was in San Francisco. The Venerable Master said that he couldn't prevent earthquakes, but he would make a large one turn smaller ones to stop disasters.

Since 1968, Venerable Master announced during every New Year, that there would not be any earthquakes in San Francisco. In 1989 the Venerable Master happened to be hosting a Quelling Disasters and Praying for Blessings Dharma Assembly in Taiwan. As soon as the Venerable Master left San Francisco, an earthquake of magnitude around 6.9 hit San Francisco. I recall that the Venerable Master returned to California from Taiwan after the earthquake. A disciple from Gold Wheel Monastery asked the Venerable Master, "Didn't the Venerable Master say that he would not allow any earthquakes in San Francisco? Why was there still an earthquake?" When being asked this question, the Master said that he was too focused on the matters in Taiwan and forgot to transfer some merit and virtue to San Francisco.

When Venerable Master propagated Dharma in Taiwan, he completely forgot about himself for the sake of the Dharma. He was fasting and transferred all those blessings to the living beings in Taiwan. During the propagation, he especially took a flight back to San Francisco for a few days when he heard about the earthquake in San Francisco. Then he flew back to Taiwan again to continue hosting the Dharma Assembly in Taiwan. He only mentioned that he forgot about it. He said he had returned to check on it, then he went back to Taiwan to continue with the Dharma-propagation.

I checked on-line and found out the loss from the earthquake in 1989 was about one billion US Dollar and the death toll was about 62. The damage was nowhere near as extensive as in the 1906 earthquake.

Back in 1992, I still lived in Los Angeles. For three or four months, we would take a bus up to Burlingame every Saturday night to listen to Venerable Master's Dharma talk. We always departed at night and arrived in Burlingame about four or five early in the morning. Each time we arrived in Burlingame, the assembly at Gold Wheel Monastery would recite *Amitabha Sutra* and Amitabha Buddha's holy name before Venerable Master's Dharma lectures.

Once when we just arrived in Burlingame, the Venerable Master

單點名。大家都覺得很奇怪，因為聽法聽了很多次，從來就沒有點過名，後來也沒有。當時也沒有Wi-Fi，沒有iPad，沒有internet，沒有手機，所以也不知道發生什麼事情。後來才聽說，洛杉磯發生了大地震。

因此那次聽經，大家心裏都很不安，不曉得家中是否安好，因為有時地震之後引發的災害才是可怕。像1906年那次大地震之後，大火就連燒了三天，造成很大的經濟損失。那時候我們全家都上來聽經，沒人在家，心中就很擔心會不會有水管或瓦斯管破裂的情況。所以法會結束之後，歸心似箭，想趕快回家看看有沒有什麼事情。



結果回到家，沒有東西摔下來，也沒有東西破裂，就像沒有發生地震似的。於是我們想，這應該不是什麼大地震，因為家中一切安好，沒有東西移動過的樣子。當時我試着打電話給一位在洛杉磯的朋友，詢問一下她當時地震的情況。她說當時她在睡覺，地震很大，大到把她從床上搖了下來。所以那可不是小地震。

我上網查了一下資料，發現當時是7.5級的地震。可是很幸運地，震央在沙漠。現在想想，覺得自己蠻愚癡的，聽經的時候為什麼需要擔心呢？上人在的時候，只要我們來參加法會或聽經，所有不好的、不如意的事情都會消災免難，遇難呈祥的。因為上人在，他老人家就是我們的靠山。

每次回想上人還在世的時候，我都覺得那是一

asked our group leader for the name list of the group. He even did a roll call of the list before the talk. At the time, we thought that it was kind of odd because the Venerable Master had never done this before. We didn't have Wi-Fi, iPads, Internet or cell phones, so we were not aware of what had happened. Later on, we heard there was a big earthquake in Los Angeles.

Consequently we were not feeling peaceful during the lecture. We were wondering if everything was okay at home in the aftermath of the earthquake. The fire after the earthquake in 1906 continued for three days and caused terrible damage. At that time, our whole family was up north listening to the lecture. No one was home, so we were worried that there might be a broken pipe or gas leak. As soon as the lecture was over, we were all anxious to go home to check on the conditions.

When we got home, we found that everything was okay. Nothing had smashed or broken. It was as if there was no earthquake. We thought that it probably was not a large earthquake because everything was fine at home. Nothing had been moved around. I then called a friend in Los Angeles. She told me she was sleeping when happened and the earthquake was so powerful that it shook her off the bed. So it was not a small earthquake.

I looked it up on-line and saw that was a 7.5-magnitude earthquake. Luckily, the epicenter was in the desert. Thinking back, I felt I was really stupid: Why was I worried when I listened to the lecture?

When Venerable Master was around, as long as we came to participate in Dharma Assembly or listened to the lectures, we did not have to worry at all. All the bad fortunes would be eradicated; we'd all be free from difficulties and everything would be auspicious. Whenever Venerable Master was around, he was our honorable patron at all times.

The time when the Venerable Master was still in this world, was a beautiful and unforgettable period. No matter what happened, everything was okay as long as the Venerable Master was around. However, that period of time was way too short. As a matter of fact, the Venerable Master would like us to be independent and not rely on him all the time. I remembered once a few people surrounded the Venerable Master when he had just hung up the phone with a disciple. The Venerable Master lamented, saying, "My disciple ask me about almost everything. They even ask me if they should inhale their next breath."

In 1994, a disciple in Los Angeles asked Venerable Master for

段非常美好又難忘的時光。因為什麼事情只要上人在，Everything is OK! 現在想起來，那段時間太短了。上人其實要我們自己站起來，不要凡事都依靠他。記得有一次，私底下有幾個人圍著上人，上人正好跟某弟子講完電話。上人掛了電話，對旁邊一位居士用有點感慨的語氣講：「我的弟子凡事都要問我，連下一口氣要不要呼吸都來問我。」

1994年，洛杉磯有一位弟子有事請示上人。上人沒說不行，但是他告誡她說：「如果有事情，妳要負責。」結果才沒幾天，就發生了1994年的洛杉磯北嶺大地震。那次地震是經濟損失最大的一次地震，損失了大概有兩、三百億美元。當時的新聞畫面，五號公路柔腸寸斷，斷成好多節，但是死亡人數並不多。

這十多年來根據我的觀察，瑜伽鎮雖然位於地震頻繁的加州，小小的地震是有，可是有感的地震卻很少，這麼多年來只遇過一、兩次。可見萬佛城為北加州帶來了平安吉祥，天災人禍自然就很少。

記得上人在的時候，每次法會結束上人都會加持我們，祝大家吉祥如意，隨心滿願。有些人覺得來參加法會、來拜懺、念觀音菩薩，或念地藏菩薩，也沒有見到所謂的「感應」，比如見光、聞香，或者看到佛給他摩頂；回家之後，也沒有發大財，就覺得來這裏參加法會沒有什麼感應。

可是我倒覺得，來參加法會的人，回去之後，如果沒有遇到地震，沒有遇到風災，沒有遇到水災，沒有遇到九二年洛杉磯的暴動，或者像最近馬航失事，前幾天的韓國輪船失事，沒有遇到這些天災人禍，這就是最大的感應。因為平安就是福，不是嗎？

上人講這些吉祥話的時候，並不像我們一般俗人講的應酬話、客套話。像新年我們跟人家講「恭喜發財」，其實這只是一種客套話。準確地說，上人講的話，就是一種命令，龍天護法善神就得聽他的招呼，軍令如山，一定要執行的。曾經有人質疑過，上人有什麼權力不許三藩市地震。上人說：「我就是有這個權力，你也不一定知道。」其實上人就是有這樣的功德德行，才能夠講出這樣子的話。❀



instruction. He didn't give a direct answer. He only said, "You are responsible if anything happens." A few days later, the 1994 Northridge earthquake hit Los Angeles. The earthquake caused the largest property damage of about 20 to 30 billion dollars. I remembered the scenes on the news. The highway was broken into sections, but not many people died.

In the past decade, even though Ukiah is located in California where earthquakes often happen, we have not had a serious earthquake. We can easily see that the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas brings peace and auspiciousness to northern California; we have had less disasters and difficulties.

I remembered when the Venerable Master was around, at the end of every Dharma assembly he would bless us, wish everybody auspiciousness and that our wishes will be fulfilled. After attending repentance ceremonies, reciting Guan Yin Bodhisattva's holy name or reciting Earth Store Bodhisattva's holy name, some people might feel that they did not obtain any response like seeing light, smelling fragrance or being anointed by the Buddhas; neither did they make a big fortune when they went home. Perhaps they might have felt that they obtained no responses after attending sessions.

However, from my point of view, those who did not encounter any disasters or difficulties such as an earthquake, wind disaster, flood, and the Los Angeles riot in 1992, or even the more recent Malaysia Airlines accident or Korean Steamer accident had a greatest response. Isn't being safe a blessing?

Whenever the Venerable Master blessed us with auspicious words, Master would not just speak words out of politeness or courtesy like many people would do casually during the New Year time for example. Whenever the Venerable Master blessed us, his words were like a mandate to the celestial dragons, Dharma protectors, and good spirits, they had to carry out the order. Occasionally, there were questions about Master in his ability to prevent the earthquakes in San Francisco. Master would say: 'Perhaps I could very well have such ability, you just may not be aware'. In fact, I could confirm that Venerable Master indeed had the virtuous conducts to speak like that and have such ability. ❀