



## 服務空間成員訪問萬佛聖城 ServiceSpace Members Visit City of Ten Thousand Buddhas

左達文/譯

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DHARMA REALM NEWS | 法界音

「服務空間」與「業廚」創辦人尼朋·梅塔，與40餘位會員以及來自印度甘地靜修院的兩位修士，於2015年10月26日參訪萬佛聖城，對培德中學學生談愛心布施與服務精神，並與法界佛教大學師生交流。

印度裔的尼朋·梅塔原任職於矽谷著名的高科技公司「昇陽」，1990年代末期，眼見當時矽谷榮景的背後充斥著人性的貪婪，因此決定以自身的技術背景，創辦非營利組織，提倡捐贈經濟，盡力做慈善事業。如今「服務空間」在全球已擁有50萬名會員，其後並成立「業廚」素食餐廳，顧客在用餐後收到的賬單金額為零，「因為前面的顧客已經為你買單了」。顧客可隨喜捐錢，當作下一位顧客的餐費。

尼朋·梅塔演講時指出，他與同修古芮曾於2005年1月回到印度，展開三個月的步行朝聖之旅。當時他們自我限定每天的生活預算只有一美元，吃的是每天遇到的同胞所提供的食物，夜裏住宿在願意讓他們落腳的人家。

尼朋說，有天遇到一位老者問他朝聖旅程還有多少路？尼朋計算之後告訴老者，不料老者回答：「你不是真正的朝聖，你心裏還在計算著剩下多少哩程。」尼朋大為吃驚，從此深刻體會「不要計算」的人生哲學。

返美之後，尼朋與古芮陸續創辦多個慈善組織，提倡布施與慈善服務的風氣。尼朋鼓勵培德中學的學生參與「21天善行」的計劃，亦即連續21天日行一善，但每天所做的善事不能重覆。尼朋笑說：「就是行善，你也要發揮一些創意。」一名女學生當場行善，公開向她的同學表達謝意，令大家都很感動。

曾為歐巴馬總統起草伊朗憲章的麻省理工學

Nipun Mehta, founder of ServiceSpace and Karma Kitchen, along with over 40 members and two brothers from Ghandi Ashram in India visited the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) on October 26<sup>th</sup> 2015. They talked to students of Developing Virtue Secondary School (DVSS) about love, giving and service. They also exchanged ideas with faculty and students of the Dharma Realm Buddhist University.

Indian-born Nipun Mehta used to work for the well-known hi-tech company SunMicro. In late 1990s, he saw that the driving force behind the prosperity of Silicon Valley was human greed. He decided to establish non-profit organization focusing on charity work. Today, "ServiceSpace" has over 500,000 members all over the world. He later founded "Karma Kitchen" vegetarian restaurant. After having the meal, patrons of this restaurant will receive a bill of zero balance because "people before you already paid for you." So the patron can pay whatever amount he/she would like to pay for the next patron.

When introducing his personal experiences to the students, he said that he and his wife Guri went back to India in January 2005 for a three-month pilgrimage. They limited their daily budget to one US dollar. They ate whatever people offered to them and stayed in wherever people invited them to stay for the night.

Nipun recalled that they met up with an elder one day during the pilgrimage. This elder asked them how much further did they have to go for this pilgrimage. Nipun told this elder the answer after calculation. Unexpectedly, this elder said to Nipun, "You are not really going on a pilgrimage. You are still calculating how many more miles to go in your mind." Nipun was taken aback and learned the life philosophy of "Not calculating" from then on.

After they came back to the US, Nipun and Guri established quite a few charity organizations to promote giving and charitable service. Nipun encouraged the students to engage in the "21-day Kindness" project which is to do one kind thing a day for 21 consecutive days without repetition. Nipun said smilingly, "You have to be creative even when doing kind things." A girl student expressed her gratitude for her fellow student on the spot publicly which was a way of practicing



曾為歐巴馬總統起草伊朗憲章的麻省理工學院教授Preeta Bansal，也隨同「服務空間」成員一同參訪萬佛聖城。她參與白宮事務後發現，從權力核心進行改變是很困難的，真正的改變必須從草根大眾做起。

尼朋以及「服務空間」成員隨後和法界佛教大學師生交換意見，尼朋指出，宣公上人的法語，例如「不攀緣」、「吃苦了苦，享福消福」、「千兩黃金不賣道，十字街前送知音」等教誨引領他多年。尼朋邀請法大師資擔任「服務空間」董事，他自己也被選為法界佛教大學新任校董。尼朋同時希望邀請培德中學與育良小學學生成立慈悲圈，多做善事。✿

fellow student on the spot publicly which was a way of practicing kindness and everyone was moved.

Preeta Bansal, an MIT professor who drafted the Iran Constitution for President Obama, came along with ServiceSpace to visit CTTB. She said that after getting involved with the White House affairs, she figured out that it's difficult to make a change from the core structure of political power and that real change comes from the bottom up.

Nipun and ServiceSpace members later held a discussion with Dharma Realm Buddhist University students and faculty including Dharma Master Heng Chih and Doug Powers. Nipun noted that Venerable Hua's Dharma quotes had led him for years such as "Don't climb on conditions"; "To indulge in your blessings is to exhaust them. To endure suffering is to build merit"; "Even for a thousand ounces of gold, I would not sell the way. But I would give it for free, right at the crossroads, if you could just hear my sound." He invited DRBU faculty to join the board of ServiceSpace, and he himself has been elected as one of DRBU's new board members. He also encouraged students at Developing Virtue Secondary Schools to create kindness circles and to do more kind acts. ✿