



# 宣公上人涅槃廿一週年紀念法會暨妙覺佛教學院動土

## The Commemoration of the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Venerable Master Hua's Entering Nirvana and the Ground Breaking Ceremony of Wonderful Enlightenment Buddhist Institute

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當天早課過後，隨即為在家人傳授「八關齋戒」。清晨六時五十分起，山門前的三步一拜朝山；以及清晨七時在佛殿念誦「普賢行願品」，與萬佛聖城其他大型法會類似。上午八時在大帳篷裏普佛三十分鐘後，方丈恒律法師宣布：向東區「妙覺佛教學院」預定地出發。

年長與行動不便者，都由專車接送。能够步行者，紛紛追隨著法師們，一步一腳印，邁向旭日升起處。動土典禮現場，地面平整、通行方便，瑜伽市承包商即將為此興建計劃全面展開整地工程。這也顯示「妙覺佛教學院」的興建，不僅為僧團以及認真修行的在家人，提供專心辦道的阿蘭若處，建造過程同時兼具促進地方經濟之效。

(Continued from the front inner cover)

Right after Morning Ceremony that day, the ceremony for the transmission of the Eight Precepts was held for laypeople. Similar to other major Dharma assemblies at CTTB, there was the Three Steps, One Bow ceremony from the Mountain Gate at 6:50 A.M. and the recitation of the *Chapter on the Practices and Vows of Samantabhadra Bodhisattva* in the Buddha Hall at seven. At eight in the morning, after half an hour of Universal Bowing in the Big Tent, Abbot Dharma Master Heng Lyu announced that everyone would walk over to the East Campus WEBI site.

The elderly and handicapped were transported by car, while everybody else followed the Dharma Masters step by step in the direction of the rising sun. The site of the Groundbreaking ceremony was flat, even, and easy to walk on. A contractor in Ukiah will soon begin the site preparation work for the construction of the Wonderful Enlightenment Buddhist Institute. The construction of this project will not only provide an aranya (pure dwelling) for the Sangha and serious lay cultivators to single-mindedly cultivate the Way, it would also give a boost to the local economy.

The night before the Commemoration of the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Venerable

在紀念宣公上人涅槃廿一週年法會的前一晚，方丈恒律法師引述宣公上人生前的交代：「東區能夠圓滿發展成就，萬佛城才算上了軌道。」資深比丘恒來法師也回憶，上人在1980年代初，即有發展東區的構想，因當時上人已預見現有的佛殿將不夠大。恒來法師並表示，上人希望未來的東區不僅提供安靜的修行環境，更將研究世界各宗教，邀請各宗教領袖前來，讓他們感覺受歡迎，大家互相交流。如此我們可擷取各宗教的優點，融入修行中。

這項發展計劃的正式名稱為「國際哲學倫理研究院」，近年法總內部將其改稱「妙覺佛教學院」，並冠以總稱「妙覺山計劃」。資深比丘尼恒良法師坦言，萬佛城目前已經太小，有時快要擠爆。未來西區將是世間教育中心，東區是僧伽教育、修行、宗教交流、傳戒中心。上人曾預言，東區發展計劃一旦實現，正法將可世代長久流傳。恒良法師認為這項計劃是上人發展萬佛城願景的最後要素。

「妙覺山計劃」項目經理團隊成員武親道，以越南話向在場眾多越裔信眾解釋宣公上人開發東區的願景。擁有建築師執照的項目經理團隊成員狄果基，說明妙覺山計劃的建設規模；例如第二階段預計興建的大雄寶殿，面積將為目前西區萬佛殿的五倍大。未來東區妙覺佛教學院將不開放給遊客參觀，大部份時間關閉。只有特定節日與法會，信眾可上殿過堂，進入大雄寶殿、齋堂等公共區域。項目經理團隊的另一位成員朱建和指出，未來參加法會的在家人，原則上住在西區。恒良法師補充說明，東區也有計劃加建居士住處，給認真修行的居士住宿。

妙覺山計劃在宣公上人心目中，是未來正法住世所繫的重大建設。上人涅槃廿一週年紀念日上午九時，在方丈恒律法師帶領大眾念誦大悲咒灑淨後，與比丘恒來法師、客僧無畏寺方丈帕薩諾長老、比丘尼恒持法師、恒賢法師、恒良法師、易果居士、曼都仙諾縣議員凱瑞·勃朗等，合計八人，共同拿起鏟子鏟土。這個歷史時

Master Hua's Entering Nirvana, Abbot Dharma Master Heng Lyu quoted the Master, who said, "Only when the East Campus has been successfully developed will the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas flourish." Senior Bhikshu Dharma Master Heng Lai also recalled how the Master had already envisioned the development of the East Campus in the early eighties, because he had already known that the present Buddha Hall would not be large enough. Dharma Master Lai explained that in the Master's vision, the East Campus would not only provide a quiet environment for cultivation, it would further provide a place to study world religions, and to welcome leaders from other religions and exchange ideas so that we could take the very best ideas of each religion and put them into practice.

The formal name of this project is "The International Institute of Philosophy and Ethics," though in recent years DRBA has been calling it "The Wonderful Enlightenment Buddhist Institute" and "The Wonderful Enlightenment Mountain Project." Senior Bhikshuni Dharma Master Heng Liang frankly admitted that CTTB is currently too small and sometimes reaches the point of overflow. In the future, the West Campus will be the powerhouse for worldly education, while the East Campus will be the center for the education and cultivation for the Sangha, for interfaith dialogue, and for precepts transmission. The Venerable Master once predicted that the realization of this vision will ensure that the proper Dharma will dwell in the world far into the future and for many generations to come. Dharma Master Liang believes that this project is an essential element of the Venerable Master's final vision for the development of CTTB.

John Vu, a member of the WEBI management team, translated the Venerable Master's vision of the development of East Campus for the largely Vietnamese audience. Bill Dede, a certified architect and another member of the project management team, described the scope of the WEBI construction project. For example, the second phase is the construction of a large Buddha Hall, whose area will be five times bigger than the present Buddha Hall on the West Campus. The future Wonderful Enlightenment Buddhist Institute will not be open to visitors and tourists and will be closed to the public most of the time; only during specific celebrations or Dharma assemblies will the public be able to enter the Buddha Hall, the Dining Hall, and other public areas. John Chu, another member of the project management team, pointed out that laypeople who wish to attend Dharma assemblies, will live in the West Campus. Dharma Master Liang added that the East Campus project also has plans to add laity residences for serious lay cultivators.

As part of Venerable Master's vision, the WEBI project will be a major construction effort and the heart of the proper Dharma in the future. At nine in the morning, Abbot Dharma Master Heng Lyu led the assembly in reciting the Great Compassion Mantra and purifying the boundaries. Afterwards, Abbot Dharma Master Heng Lyu, together with seven others, including Dharma Master Heng Lai; guest monk, Abbot of Abhayagiri Monastery, Ajahn Pasanno; Dharma Master Heng Chi'h; Dharma Master Heng Hsien; Dharma Master Heng Liang; Ron Epstein; and Mendocino County Supervisor, Carre Brown,

刻，令現場共約千名法師與居士都十分動容，法喜充滿，虔誠迴向施工順利成功。

六月初再度當選連任的縣議員凱瑞·勃朗特別致詞指出，萬佛聖城是屬於全世界的佛教徒，而非私人機構；聚集在此的是真正有德行與智慧的人。她說：「曼都仙諾縣很幸運也很自豪，縣內有這樣一座殊勝的道場。本人對於這座學院的啟建深感興奮，希望早日見到它的落成。」

這項意義深遠的動土典禮，就在大眾的祝福中，圓滿完成。這也是萬佛聖城多年來，舉行宣公上人涅槃紀念日最有意義的禮物。當四眾弟子再度回到西區大帳篷時，傳供大典準時於9時50分展開。這時最晚一批的大巴士也已抵達，今年共有17輛大巴士來自南北加州，帶來更多人潮湧入大帳篷內，部份信眾留在佛殿裏，總人數約為兩千。為及時完成傳供，共分九區進行，每一區都準備了香、花、燈、果、食、寶等供品，從後方一一往前傳送。四眾弟子紛紛以最虔誠的敬意參加傳供，表達內心對宣公上人的深深懷念。

午齋中，萬佛聖城近鄰無畏寺方丈帕薩諾長老應邀開示說，由於住眾不斷增加，萬佛聖城正在建設中，不免帶來負擔，無畏寺也正經歷同樣的情況。但這將利益更多眾生，道場裏的人也會利益更多人。帕薩諾長老認為，紀念上人最好的辦法，就是生活中實踐感恩，身口意舉止以道德為依歸。

宣公上人座下最資深的比丘尼恒持法師引用上人多副對聯與開示，指點大家修行、發菩提心、降伏煩惱、集中精神、立世處身、擴大心量、如何生活、準備往生等要點。例如活在世間要做到：

志如金剛 心如鐵石 消災延壽  
身體健康 精神愉快  
行似松柏 影似江海  
增福迎祥 性情柔和 世界和平

broke ground for the new project with their shovels. This historical moment caused the thousand Dharma Masters and laypeople present to be moved and filled with Dharma joy. Everyone sincerely dedicated the merit to the future success of the construction.

Supervisor Carre Brown, who was re-elected in early June, said in her keynote speech that the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas is not a private institution; instead it belongs to all the Buddhists of the world, and that the City is a place where people of genuine virtue and wisdom gather together. She remarked, "Mendocino County is proud and certainly fortunate to have this wonderment in our community. I am very excited about the construction of the Institute and anxiously wait for its completion."

Amidst the blessings of the assembly, this profoundly meaningful Ground Breaking ceremony reached its completion. This is a most meaningful gift that the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas has given in Commemoration of the Venerable Master Hua's Entering Nirvana. After the fourfold assembly returned to the Big Tent on the West Campus, a Special Meal Offering began promptly at 9:50. By this time, the last few buses had arrived. This year, a total of seventeen buses came from all over California, and a grand total of two thousand people in all attended. In order to complete the Special Meal Offering ceremony on time, the Big Tent was divided into nine sections, with each region passing incense, flowers, lamps, fruit, food, and jewels row by row from back to front. The fourfold assembly performed the Special Meal Offering Ceremony with the utmost sincerity and respect in order to express remembrance of the Venerable Master Hua.

During lunch, Venerable Ajahn Pasanno, the Abbot of neighboring Abhayagiri Monastery, talked about the similar burdens currently shared by CTTB and Abhayagiri in construction efforts to accommodate more residents. However, he said that these projects will benefit more living beings, and the residents in the monasteries will also benefit more people. Venerable Pasanno said that the best way to commemorate the Venerable Master Hua is to put kindness into practice in our daily lives and use virtue as a standard for the deeds created by our bodies, mouths, and minds.

The most senior Bhikshuni under the Venerable Master Hua, Dharma Master Heng Chi'h, quoted several couplets by the Venerable Master. These couplets guide people to cultivate, resolve for Bodhi, subdue their afflictions, focus their concentration, situate themselves in the world, open their hearts, regulate their lives, and prepare for their rebirth. The Master taught us how to live. He said:

*With a will like vajra  
And a mind like solid rock,  
Let us avert disasters and strive to lengthen life,  
So humankind experiences physical well-being and  
Each of us enjoys lightness of spirit!  
With the stature of evergreens and the reflective art of rivers and seas,  
We shall strive to increase blessings and invite good fortune,  
So we treat each other with gentle empathy  
And ensure that harmony prevails in our world.*

資深比丘恒來法師講述當年親炙上人學習佛法時，弟子們曾各自嘗試不同的苦行。恒來法師決定採取「生食」苦行，日中一食只吃未煮過的食物。上人聽了不置可否，只是端坐如佛。恒來法師試行一段時間的「生食」法門後，發覺滋味不好受，而且於修行無益，主動說要放棄。上人這時開口了：「誰教你要嘗試這種愚蠢的法門？佛教是依中道而行。」

方丈恒律師指出，2016年對我們而言，是不平凡的一年，因為今年恰是萬佛聖城成立40週年。上人1976年費盡千辛萬苦創辦萬佛聖城時，曾表示萬佛城不屬於他自己或任何人，而是屬於所有眾生。方丈說：「身為佛弟子，應將佛陀教誨應用於日常生活，心平氣和，不要生氣，儘量利益眾生。若能如此，東區妙覺山計劃一定能圓滿成就，利益更多眾生。」

為迎接兩千人用齋，萬佛聖城大齋堂的法師與義工數十人全體總動員，數週前即已開始準備。法會當天，多口大灶與大電鍋更是源源不絕煮出天廚妙供。越南三明治小組14名義工在24小時之內，接力完成兩千份美味三明治，法會當天一掃而空。炒米粉總共用掉五大箱150包米粉，炒出又香又彈牙的米粉，連小朋友都愛吃。來自聖荷西的14歲越裔少年黎福就說，炒米粉好好吃，下次還要跟爸媽再來。知客組則是為五百多位掛單的善信準備住宿；一切的忙碌都是以最恭敬的心，來紀念大家的精神導師宣公上人。

12日下午舉行三皈五戒與大悲懺法會，無言堂則延長開放時間為三小時，供大眾瞻仰舍利與上人生前使用的文物與墨寶。來自聖荷西的越裔居士黃凱茜表示，這是她第四趟來萬佛聖城，每次來都感到身心特別放鬆，很有靜心滌慮之效。當天她第一次得知妙覺山計劃，覺得對佛教在美國的發展將很有幫助，只是她並不清楚這項計劃的細節。由於許多信眾都很關心這項興建計劃，妙覺山計劃委員會已推出全新網站，公開說明這項計劃的最新進展，網址：[www.cctbwebi.org](http://www.cctbwebi.org)。✿

Senior Dharma Master Heng Lai recounted, that when he studied under the Venerable Master, disciples of the Master would try out various ascetic practices. At one point, Dharma Master Lai decided to take up the ascetic practice of eating only raw vegetables for his only meal of the day. Upon hearing of this, the Venerable Master did not express his opinion on the matter, but only sat upright like a Buddha. After trying out the Dharma-door of eating raw vegetables for a time, Dharma Master Lai realized that the practice was difficult and also of no benefit to his cultivation, so he gave up. The Master spoke up then, saying, “Who taught you to try such a stupid Dharma-door? Buddhism is about following the Middle Way.”

Abbot Dharma Master Heng Lyu pointed out that the year 2016 is not an ordinary year for us, because this year is also the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. When the Venerable Master, after painstaking toil and effort, first established CTTB back in 1976, he proclaimed that the City belonged neither to him nor to any other person, but to all living beings. The Abbot said, “As Buddhist disciples, we should practice the teachings of the Buddha in our daily lives—remaining calm and harmonious with others, not getting angry, and trying our best to benefit living beings. If we can do this, the East Campus WEBI project will definitely be successfully completed and will benefit more living beings.”

In order to accommodate two thousand people for lunch, dozens of Dharma Masters and volunteers working in CTTB's Big Dining Hall had been preparing for weeks. On the day of the Dharma assembly, the kitchen staff continued to prepare delicious food for the assembly. The Vietnamese sandwich group, which consisted of fourteen volunteers, managed in 24 hours to make two thousand tasty sandwiches, which were all devoured. Five boxes, each of which contained 150 bags of rice noodles, were used to make the mouthwatering and chewy stir-fried rice noodle dish, which even young children loved to eat. Phuc Le, a 14-year-old Vietnamese youth from San Jose, said that the rice noodles were absolutely delicious and that he wanted to come with his parents again. The housing group helped arrange housing for over five hundred guests. All the hustle and preparation were done with the greatest respect in memory of our spiritual master—the Venerable Master Hua.

The Transmission of the Three Refuges and Five Precepts and the Great Compassion Repentance ceremony were held on the afternoon of the 12<sup>th</sup>. The No Words Hall was open for an extended three hours so the assembly could pay respect to the Master's sharira and view historical artifacts he used during his life and the Master's calligraphy works. Cathy Huynh, a Vietnamese laywoman from San Jose, said that this was her fourth time at CTTB and that both her body and mind become especially relaxed each time she comes, calming and cleansing her. She heard about the WEBI project for the first time that day, and even though she was not clear on the details of the project, she felt that it would greatly bolster the development of Buddhism in America. Since many people are concerned about this construction project, a new website has just been launched that describes the most recent developments of the WEBI project. The website address is [www.cctbwebi.org](http://www.cctbwebi.org). ✿