

蘇美度法師再訪萬佛聖城

Ajahn Sumedho Visits the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas Again

章白華文 / 顧美娜 英譯

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On July 20, 2017, 83-year-old Ajahn Sumedho visited the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) accompanied by Ajahn Passano, Abbot of Abhayagiri Monastery, and a group of bhikshus. When nearly 10 of them arrived at the administrative office of CTTB, Rev. Heng Sure, Chairman of the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association, and Dharma Master Heng Lyu, Abbot

of CTTB, and a group of bhikshus from Tathagata Monastery all bowed down to pay respects to Ajahn Sumedho. The bhikshus from Abhayagiri Monastery also bowed to Rev. Heng Sure and Abbot Heng Lyu.

After Abbot Heng Lyu's greetings, Rev. Heng Sure updated Ajahn Sumedho that an editing team convened by him (Rev. Sure) is working on the biography of Master Hua. It's scheduled to be published before the 100th anniversary of Master Hua in 2018. Events to commemorate Master Hua's 100th anniversary are in the early stages of preparation.

Ajahn Chah, teacher of Ajahn Sumedho, was born the same year as Master Hua, in 1918. Next year there will be commemorative events for his 100th anniversary. The English version of Ajahn Chah's biography to commemorate his 100th anniversary is in the last layout phase. Ajahn Passano noted that some people wanted to translate Ajahn Chah's biography into the Thai language but it doesn't work because Asian readers expect different things. It (the Thai version) has to be rewritten.

Rev. Heng Sure felt the same way. He said that the China and Hong Kong periods of Master Hua's biography have been published. This new book starts from 1962, when Master Hua came to the United States until 1995, when

高齡83歲的蘇美度法師於2017年7月20日下午造訪萬佛聖城，無畏寺方丈帕沙諾法師帶領數位比丘陪同前來。一行近十人抵達行政辦公室時，法界佛教總會會長恒實法師、萬佛聖城方丈恒律法師，以及如來寺多位比丘都向蘇美度老法師恭敬頂禮。無畏寺的比丘群也向恒實法師與恒律法師頂禮。

方丈恒律法師向來訪貴賓致意後，恒實法師向蘇美度法師報告近況，由實法師擔任召集人的編輯小組，目前正編纂宣公上人傳記美國篇，預定2018年上人百年誕辰前出版。紀念上人百年誕辰活動的籌備工作，正在起步中。

蘇美度法師的師父阿姜查和宣公上人同樣出生於1918年，明年也將舉行百年誕辰紀念，紀念阿姜查百歲誕辰的傳記英文版

即將完成。帕沙諾法師表示，原本有人希望將阿姜查的英文傳記直接翻譯成泰文，但是考量亞洲讀者想看的內容和西方讀者想看的不同，因此泰文版得重新寫。

恆實法師深有同感，指出宣公上人傳記的中國篇與香港篇已問世，這次將出版的是上人1962年來美以後的事蹟與影響。蘇美度法師問道：「是否以英文出版？」實法師點頭稱是。書中第一部分是上人年譜，第二部分是上人對人類的影響，如何改變許多人的一生，第三部分是上人建立僧團、興辦教育、宗教交流等方面的貢獻。

蘇美度法師指出，多年前他到舊金山時，有位教授露絲·英格·韓滋告訴他一定要見宣公上人，因此他特別前往金山寺。第一次見到上人，他心裡的反應強烈得驚人。他一生中只有見到自己的師父阿姜查和宣公上人時，曾經有過這種感覺。

法界佛教大學終身榮譽校長易果容則回憶，他最初在找尋佛教師父時，先到舊金山找一位日本人學習參禪，但在經過布希街時遇到宣公上人，感覺上人更有內涵。1966年1月，向上人分租房間，自此追隨一生。蘇美度法師笑稱1966年正是他出家當沙彌的年頭。

宣公上人生前曾說，和蘇美度法師是往昔的老同修，因此特別贈地助其興建無畏寺。蘇美度法師上次來訪萬佛聖城是在2014年，當時並對聖城住眾開示。此次則於20日下午四時至五時，在萬佛殿答覆問題。當天問答內容本刊將於下期刊登。❀



he passed away and his influence until now. Ajahn Sumedho asked, “Is it in English?” Rev. Sure affirmed it is, and introduced the three parts in this book: The first part is about events in the timeline of Master Hua’s life. The second part is his influence on people - how he changed people’s lives. The third part is his work in establishing the Sangha, education and interfaith, etc.

Ajahn Sumedho pointed out that when he went to San Francisco years ago, Professor Ruth Inge Heinze told him, “You must meet Master Hua.” Hence he went to Gold Mountain Monastery. When he saw Master Hua for the first time, he had a surprisingly strong reaction which he only experienced when meeting his teacher Ajahn Chah and Master Hua.

Ron Epstein, Emeritus President of Dharma Realm Buddhist University, recalled that when he looked for a Buddhist teacher, he came to San Francisco to follow a Japanese Zen master to learn Zen meditation. However, when he passed Bush Street, he met up with Master Hua and felt that Master Hua was more solid than his Japanese teacher. Professor Epstein rented a room from Master Hua in January 1966 and has followed him ever since. Ajahn Sumedho said with a smile, “That’s the year when I was ordained as a shramanera.”

Venerable Master Hsuan Hua once said that he and Ajahn Sumedho were fellow cultivators in their previous lives. Therefore Master Hua gave a piece of land to Ajahn Sumedho so he could build Abhayagiri Monastery. The last time Ajahn Sumedho paid a visit to CTTB and gave a talk was in 2014. This time he answered questions at the Buddha Hall from 4 to 5pm on July 20. The questions and answers will be published in the next issue of our publication.❀

