

My Affinity with the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas

我和萬佛聖城的因緣

A Talk Given by Hanh-Nhan Nguyen at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas on March 6, 2020

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My Dharma name is Guo Nhan. Today I would like to share how I came to know CTTB, and was accepted to live here to cultivate. I came to know the Buddhadharma in 1986, and then I became a vegetarian a few years afterward. I used to attend many Vietnamese temple. However, in 1989, a friend of mine introduced CTTB to my husband and me. He said that there is a virtuous, well-respected Dharma Master cultivating at this temple. My husband and I then went to CTTB; we were overwhelmed with joy when we also discovered that CTTB had schools as well. My husband and I planned for our two younger sons to attend school and also for us to cultivate at CTTB. In 1991, our sons were accepted, and so we moved to CTTB. However, since our eldest son was still attending college, my husband had to stay behind and remain working

我的法名是果人。我想分享一下我是如何認識萬佛城，以及如何常住在這裡修行。我從1986年起認識佛法，幾年後我成為一名素食者。以前我去過許多越南寺廟。八九年的時候，有一位朋友跟我們介紹了萬佛聖城，他說有一位有德行、廣受尊敬的法師在這裡修行。於是我先生和我就來到了萬佛聖城。當我們發現這裡還有學校的時候，我們興奮不已，我先生和我就計劃讓我們的兩個年紀還小的兒子來聖城上學。九一年的時候，我們的老二、老三兩個兒子被錄取了，

to support the family.

From 1989 to 1991, prior to moving to CTTB, I did my best to learn Great Compassion Mantra and Shurangama mantra in Chinese, though it was very hard to learn the Mantras in Chinese. I was still determined to learn them so that when I come to CTTB, I could keep up with assembly during ceremonies. Subsequently, I moved to CTTB. I still had a hard time due to the language barrier. I couldn't speak Chinese, nor was I able to speak English well. Nonetheless, I did not feel hopeless. About a year later, my husband moved to CTTB to live with us. During those years whenever the Venerable Master came back to CTTB, my husband used the time very wisely. After Morning Ceremony, a few people followed the Venerable Master to study Buddhist literature. Though I did not understand Chinese, I still went along each time to listen until the end of the class. In mid 1993, our whole family moved back to LA. Leaving CTTB really affected my husband and I; no words could describe our deep sadness. Though we had moved out of CTTB, I continued to follow CTTB's schedule. Every day before leaving for work, I did Morning Recitation. On the way to work, I recited a hundred eight times the Great Compassion Mantra. In the evening, I recited sutras and Amitabha's nameshoping to be able to return back to CTTB one day.

Eighteen years later, all of our sons have grown up, so my husband and I decided that we should return to CTTB. My husband made a visit to CTTB and respectfully asked the Abbot of CTTB if we could move back. The Abbot answered, "Welcome back." When we heard this response, we were filled with joy. In 2011, my husband and I moved back to CTTB. During the time I was living outside of CTTB, the Venerable Master did not stop watching over and guiding me. For example, I usually recited the *Avatamska Sutra* in Vietnamese. There are eight volumes, and when I was halfway through reciting the seventh volume of the sutra, I started to slack off and stop reciting it. A few weeks later I had a dream where I saw the Venerable Master hand me two thick books with red covers. When I woke up, I didn't understand what the Master was trying to tell me.

所以我和兩個兒子搬到了聖城常住。但是大兒子還在上大學，我先生不得不繼續在外工作來養家餬口。

從一九八九年到一九九一年，在搬來聖城之前的這段時間，我盡我所能的學習中文版的〈大悲咒〉和〈楞嚴咒〉。雖然用中文來學習這兩個咒對我來說很難，但我決定要把它們學會，我想這樣當我來到聖城參加早晚課的時候，我就可以和大眾一起用中文持誦這兩個咒了。

我在聖城常住之後，由於語言上的障礙，度過了一段困難的適應期。因為我不會講中文，英文也講得不好，不過我並沒有放棄希望。一年之後，我同修也來到聖城和我們一起生活。

在那些年中，每一次上人回來聖城，他都會把時間運用得很充分。每一次早課之後，就會有一些人跟著上去學習經文。雖然我不懂中文，我還是跟著他們一起去學，每一節課我都參加，並且都堅持到最後。

九三年年中的時候，我們全家又搬回了洛杉磯。離開萬佛城對我和我先生來說影響都很大，沒有言語可以形容我們當時的悲傷。雖然我們搬出了聖城，但我繼續遵循城裡的早晚課。每天上班前，我都會做早課；在上班的路上，我會持誦108遍的大悲咒；晚上，我誦經和念阿彌陀佛的聖號，希望有一天能回到聖城。

十八年後，我們的兒子都長大成人，我先生和我決定再搬回萬佛城。我先生先拜訪了聖城，並恭敬地請問方丈法師我們是否可以回來。方丈法師回答說：「歡迎回來。」聽到他的回答，我們高興極了。2011年，我先生和我搬回了聖城。

在我住在道場外面的那段時間裡，上人沒有停止照看和引導我。舉個例子，我通常會持誦越南文版的《華嚴經》。越南文版的《華嚴經》一共有八卷，當我誦到第七卷一半的時候，我開始有些懈怠，然後就不誦了。幾個星期後，我做了一個夢，夢見上人遞給我兩本厚厚的紅色封面的書。我醒來後並不

A few days later, I understood that the Master was reminding me to continue reciting the *Avatamska Sutra*. The eight volumes of the *Avatamska Sutra* (Vietnamese version) were thick books with red covers, matching the description in my dream.

Two years ago, I made a false statement, and then realizing my mistake, I wanted to repent, but did not know how. A friend of mine told me that the Venerable Master once said that anyone who wants to make a wish, should recite the *Earth Store Sutra* one hundred times. Then his or her wish will come true. I was so happy and applied this for my repentance; halfway through the hundred times of reciting the sutra I dreamed of the Venerable Master, wearing a brown sash and a bamboo hat on his head. The Venerable Master smiled happily. I then asked him how he was. He replied, "Good, good." When I woke up, I was so happy believing that the Venerable Master understood my repentance. There were other dreams I have had that involve the Master, but I don't remember the details, so this is all I can share. Having moved to CTTB, I have changed a lot: I have learned to be more open and forgiving and my deportment has improved immensely as well, especially my deportment in walking, standing, sitting, and lying down. ❀

明白師父想要告訴我什麼。

幾天後，我明白了是師父在提醒我要繼續誦《華嚴經》。之所以我想到這一點，是因為就像我前面提到的，越南版的《華嚴經》一共有八卷，那些書都是厚厚的，並且是紅色的封面，這就與夢中所見的書相符合。

兩年前，我說了不符合事實的話，後來我意識到自己的錯誤，我想懺悔，但不知道怎麼做。我一個朋友告訴我，上人曾說如果有人想許願的話，他可以讀誦《地藏經》一百部，這樣他的願望會實現。我聽了後非常高興。想通過誦一百部《地藏經》來懺悔自己的錯誤。在誦到大約五十部的時候，我夢見了師父上人，他穿著棕色的袈裟，頭上戴著竹帽。上人笑得很開心。然後我問候上人：「您最近好嗎？」他回答說：「好，很好。」當我醒來時，我很高興，我相信師父上人接受了我的懺悔。

我還有其他與師父上人有關的夢境，但我不記得細節，所以就不在這裡分享了。自從我來聖城常住後，我也改變了很多：我學會更加放開和包容，我的威儀也進步很多，尤其是在個人的行、住、坐、臥方面。 ❀



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