

20240302_ Interview Translation 002

Interviewer: Venerable Jue Fang

Interviewee: Venerable Tzu Chuang

0:01 Venerable Jue Fang

Venerable Tzu Chuang, thank you. So, our current topic is that you have been the head of Fo Guang Shan Overseas Executive Council and also responsible for establishing Fo Guang Shan temples across the world. Currently, Fo Guang Shan has over two hundred temples worldwide, with Nan Tien Temple being the largest Buddhist temple in the Southern Hemisphere. Could you share how you have implemented Venerable Master Hsing Yun's philosophy in building temples in the Americas, Europe, Asia, Oceania, and so forth?

0:39 Venerable Tzu Chuang

Venerable Master Hsing Yun trusts me and believes that I am capable of everything because I've been supervising temple constructions worldwide for a long time. So, he also asked me to go abroad for expansion. I felt that when we considered building these temples, it was necessary for me to go and check out each place before buying. Since we had a limited budget, so I think I had to consider carefully at each place.

1:24 Venerable Tzu Chuang

I considered transportation convenience, affordability, and whether the environment was suitable for building our temples. Whether it was a place convenient for the devotees to come and worship. So, it took a long time to find a suitable place.

1:48 Venerable Tzu Chuang

With Venerable Master Hsing Yun's trust, I went to find these places. Started by finding a temple site in Taipei. I searched for a long time and finally found a newly built place that was being renovated: the Ding Ji Building on Songjiang Road, with available spaces on the 14th and 13th floors. When I visited it, I felt that the place was suitable, and the price was fair because we were working to a budget.

2:36 Venerable Tzu Chuang

Building a temple in a high-rise was unusual in Taiwan. Initially, I was very worried, but Venerable Master agreed immediately. So, I was very grateful for his trust and confidence in me. Then later, I went to various places around the world. Besides Nan Tien Temple, I later went to Paris and saw that ancient castle, which is now near Disneyland Paris.

3:22 Venerable Tzu Chuang

At that time, this several thousand-year-old or several hundred-year-old castle, I cannot recall its year, seemed a very long way from the centre of Paris, but I was confident that it was an ideal site for Dharma propagation. I felt it would be a good

place for Buddhist practice and also as a Chan Academy. Devotees visiting it would find it both a spiritual and educational sanctuary.

3:54 Venerable Tzu Chuang

Again, Venerable Master said OK without hesitation. There were many places like this. I feel Venerable Master Hsing Yun is compassionate. He sympathised with me in searching for suitable locations in places I didn't know.

4:17 Venerable Tzu Chuang

Venerable Master knows that I will find a place that has good public transport links for our devotees, is suitable to be our Dharma centre, and fulfils all the right conditions. So, I am very grateful for his trust in me.