

20240313_Interview Translation 002

Interviewer: Venerable Jue Fang

Interviewee: Venerable Tzu Hui

00:02 Venerable Jue Fang

This is Venerable Jue Fang interviewing Venerable Tzu Hui on the 13th of March, 2024. This recording is taking place at Fo Guang University, Taiwan. This is part two of the interview after a short break.

Thank you, Venerable Tzu Hui. Now, let's proceed with the second part of our interview. As you served as the Chairperson of the Nan Tien Institute from 2011 to 2022, could you please share with us Venerable Master Hsing Yun's belief in founding the Nan Tien Institute?

00:46 Venerable Tzu Hui

As for the cause behind establishing the Nan Tien Institute in Australia, why did our founder, Venerable Master Hsing Yun, choose to do so? In fact, when he was building Nan Tien Temple, he had this aspiration, feeling that Australia was a suitable place to have a Buddhist higher education institution. Because Australians, for us, were harmonious and kind-hearted. If we combined this with an education rooted in Buddhist values, it could help individuals develop a well-rounded personality alongside their professional skills, resulting in having more well-rounded talents.

01:51 Venerable Tzu Hui

Therefore, after the completion of Nan Tien Temple, Venerable Master Hsing Yun immediately set his sights on establishing an institute. When the Nan Tien Institute was established, we were particularly grateful that the Prime Minister of Australia came to visit in person and inaugurated the opening of the Institute. To our knowledge, it was rare for a Prime Minister to inaugurate a university personally in Australia. This gave us greater strength, encouragement and confidence in running schools in Australia.

02:36 Venerable Tzu Hui

Particularly in Australia, as we've mentioned before, we certainly hoped to cultivate talents with professional skills for the nation and society. However, behind that talent cultivating, if we also increase the cultivation of healthy and sound character, such talents will develop in an even more sound manner. Therefore, we use the philosophy of Humanistic Buddhism as the distinctive feature of our Institute.

03:07 Venerable Tzu Hui

Therefore, we are also very thankful to the Australian government for allowing our Nan Tien Institute to incorporate Humanistic Buddhism into our education offering and granting us TEQSA accreditation, something that is not commonly found in universities in the world today. Especially in this era of advanced materials, civilisation and

technology, if one can be educated in their character via Humanistic Buddhism, I think one will truly become a sound individual. And only then can they create a perfect and healthy society for our country and society.

03:43 Venerable Tzu Hui

Thus, with the government's support for our Humanistic Buddhism initiative at Nan Tien Institute, we will definitely use this as our signature to cultivate more well-rounded professionals for Australian society. So, this is Venerable Master Hsing Yun's aspiration. What is his aspiration? The earth is my home, and the whole world is my home, so Australia is also my home. Therefore, I should also make some contributions to education in Australia.

04:24 Venerable Jue Fang

Thank you, Venerable Tzu Hui. (Venerable Tzu Hui: OK.) So, this year marks the 30th Anniversary of Nan Tien Temple, and Nan Tien Institute is also entering its 13th year. May I ask what your expectations or future prospects are for the Nan Tien Temple and the Nan Tien Institute?

04:43 Venerable Tzu Hui

From our Chinese view, reaching 30 years old is significant. Nan Tien Institute [Temple] has reached its 30th year. In Chinese culture, there is a saying, "Thirty years old is the age of maturity", indicating that by this age, one should have grown into adulthood, and their development is considered complete. Following this, one should contribute and offer based on what they have learned. I believe that Nan Tien Institute has also reached this stage. Apart from ensuring the sound operation of the Institute, there should also be more contributions made by the Institute to the country and society. This includes cultivating useful talents for the development of our future prospects.

05:32 Venerable Jue Fang

OK. Thank you, Venerable Tzu Hui. Thank you. (Venerable Tzu Hui: Is that okay?)