

OPENING SPEECH BY IAN AND JUDY GREEN AT SANTA ANA 2010

NAM MO BON SU THICH CA MAU NI PHAT

Hoa Thuong Thich Nguyen Tri, Venerable Sangha, Honoured guests, Brothers and Sisters. My wife Judy and I are so happy to be with you today at the opening of the Jade Buddha showing here at Bat Nga temple, Santa Ana.

In the year 2000 a massive boulder of Jade was discovered in the far North of Canada. It was 18 tonnes of gem quality jade and nothing like it had ever been found before. It was called "the find of the millennium" and it was given the name "Polar Pride".

In early 2003 I received a call from an American Buddhist who was searching the world for someone to make a Buddha from Polar Pride.

A few months later I saw Polar Pride in Vancouver. I then spoke to my master, Lama Zopa Rinpoche and that night he had a vision that this boulder would become a Buddha that would change the world. The next day Rinpoche told me "You must turn this jade gem into a Buddha as a holy object to offer to the world."

It took another 5 years of great effort by my wife and I as well as thousands of people around the world who offered their time and money to create the world's largest gem-quality Jade Buddha.

Lama Zopa Rinpoche named the Buddha "The Jade Buddha for Universal Peace". He said "It will illuminate the world and bring inconceivable peace and happiness and help prevent the destruction that is happening so much in the world, including war." Rinpoche said if you leave the Buddha in one place, then only a few can see it - but if take the Buddha around the world then billions of beings can receive its blessing of peace and harmony.

The world tour began in March 2009 in Danang in Vietnam. From Vietnam the Jade Buddha travelled to Australia and Canada and it will continue touring USA until May 2011.

So far around 4 and a half million people have come to pay homage to the Jade Buddha.

After North America the Jade Buddha travels to Germany, Sweden, Norway, England and France, before returning to Asia.

When the tour is eventually over in 5 or 6 years the Jade Buddha will come to its final home at the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion that we are building in Bendigo, Australia.

Our aim is that this world tour will inspire everyone who sees the Jade Buddha to find peace...peace in their home, their schools, their work and most importantly peace in their heart and mind.

We know that it is not possible to achieve such a magnificent display as we have here in Santa Ana without the contribution and cooperation of hundreds and perhaps thousands of

people. We congratulate Thich Nguyen Tri and the organising committee at Bat Nga on their great efforts.

Our prayer is that the lasting legacy of the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace tour of Santa Ana will be to inspire everyone to find a peaceful resolution to their differences so that they can work in peace to benefit all.

May the Buddhadharma flourish. May peace break out around the world.

NAM MO HOAN HY TANG BO TAT, MA HA TAT

To commemorate this occasion we wish to present Thich Nguyen Tri with a photograph of His Holiness the Dalai Lama consecrating the Jade Buddha in December last year in Sydney, Australia.