

# Holy Buddhist relics to bless Melbourne

Melbourne will be blessed by a tour of one of the world's largest collections of sacred Buddhist relics. Several thousands Buddhists are expected to view and venerate these relics which are said to provide a blessing to each city they visit.

The Great Stupa Holy Relic Tour Melbourne 2008 will held at Quang Duc Temple, 105 Lynch Road, Fawkner. It will be open daily from October 11 to 19 and entry is free. The relic tour will commence with a magnificent multi-tradition ceremony on the morning of Saturday October 11. All are most welcome to attend.

The relics are on loan from the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion that is being built in Bendigo Victoria. Around 100 individual relics will be on display including those of Shakyamuni Buddha, Kasyapa Buddha, 16 Arhants, Shariputra, the 5th and 13th Dalai Lama, Masters from the Thai, Vietnamese, Chinese and Tibetan traditions. Many of these relics date from the time of the Buddha and even earlier. Even in these days, holy beings are still manifesting relics. Several relics in the Great Stupa Holy Relic collection have been produced in recent years. For example Luang Poo Chob, a forest monk from Thailand and Geshe Lama Konchog from Nepal, whose heart relic is included in the tour, passed away in 2001.

This relic tour has already been viewed by tens of thousands in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Auckland, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide. In each city it is hoped that the Great Stupa Holy Relic Tour will be the cause of harmony and unification between Buddhist groups and all religions.

The visit will coincide with Buddhist talks and updated information on the Melbourne tour can be found on the Great Stupa website: [www.stupa.org.au](http://www.stupa.org.au) and Quang Duc website: [www.quangduc.com](http://www.quangduc.com)

For further information please phone:

- Ian Green, Chairman, The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion on 0417 398877.
- Venerable Nguyen Tang, Quang Duc Temple on 0412 794254.

## **The Great Stupa - a powerful force for world peace**

The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion is being built at Atisha Centre near Bendigo in southern Australia. It will be the same size and design as the Great Stupa of Gyantse that was built in Tibet in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Being 50 metres square at its base and rising to a height of nearly 50 metres the Great Stupa will be the largest stupa in the western world.

The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion will be a symbol of peace in the world. It will also be place of pilgrimage for Buddhists of all traditions. Located next to the Stupa are a meditation centre and a monastery.

"This stupa will be very significant for Buddhist Spirituality and Tibetan culture. Support for such noble work is a good method to create virtuous Karma." His Holiness Dalai Lama

"It will give so much peace, so much peace of mind to people all over the world. It will purify the mind so that people get inner peace."  
Lama Thubten Zopa (Spiritual Director FPMT)

**Sacred relics of the Buddha** Relics arise due to the purity of the spiritual master's mind. Small, crystalline, pearl-like deposits called ringsel appear within the ashes when the body is cremated. From the time of the Buddha these relics have been objects of veneration. Buddhists believe that by paying respect to relics they purify their minds, collect positive merit and create the causes to achieve liberation and enlightenment.

Shortly after his passing, the Buddha instructed his students to cremate his body and place his relics in a stupa. People could visit the stupa, venerate it and renew their connections with the teachings. Since that time hundreds of thousands of stupas have built, commemorating great teachers and symbolising the brilliance of the enlightened mind.

*In the "Lion's Roar of Maitreya" Sutra, the Buddha said: "Whether you make offerings to me now or in the future you make offerings to my relics the merit will be the same the ripened result will be the same."*

Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche has said that "Viewing and venerating these holy objects creates the cause for enlightenment"

### **Relics on tour to Melbourne**

Relics being toured to Melbourne include Shakyamuni Buddha, Buddha Kasyapa, Moggalana, Shariputra, 16 arhants, Lama Je Tsong Khapa, His Holiness 5<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, His Holiness 13<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, Phra Sivali, Luang Poo Choo, Thai arhants, relics from the Sakya tradition, Atisha, Dromtonpa, holy objects from the Gyantse stupa, Venerable Pai Sheng, Master Ven. Shih Siew Chin, Venerable Thich Huyen Vi, Guru Rinpoche, His Holiness 16<sup>th</sup> karmarpa, Lama Thubten Yeshe, Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche, Geshe Lama Konchog and Ribur Rinpoche.

### **About Stupas**

A stupa is a sacred symbol of Enlightenment and the path to Enlightenment that promotes harmony and peace within our world. As Lama Zopa Rinpoche said "Just seeing, touching or even dreaming about such a great stupa can be the cause for Enlightenment." As His Holiness Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche said "A stupa creates a lightning rod for the blessings of your guru, and for the blessings of the Buddha's of the 10 directions and the three times to descend."

Stupas are often a repository for the relics of great saints and teachers. To a Buddhist such relics give immense power to a stupa because the essence of the teacher's wisdom is distilled into their relics.

The word "stupa" is Sanskrit for "to heap" and this refers to the mound like shape of the earliest stupas. Stupas were first built in pre-Buddhist times as burial mounds raised over the graves of Asian kings.

Shortly after his passing, the Buddha instructed his students to cremate his body and place his remains in a stupa. People could visit the stupa, venerate it and renew their connections with the teachings. Since that time hundreds of thousands of stupas have built, commemorating great teachers and symbolising the brilliance of the enlightened mind.