

# The Jade Buddha for Universal Peace

## Fact Sheet

### **The Jade Buddha for Universal Peace**

The Jade Buddha for Universal Peace is the largest Buddha carved from gemstone quality jade. The Jade Buddha is 2.5 metres (8 feet) high and sits on an alabaster throne of close to 2 metres high. The Jade Buddha itself weighs around 4 tonne (4.5 ton) and has been valued at \$5 million. Its size and beauty make it a wonder of the world. The Buddha has been carved from a rare boulder of translucent jade ("Polar Pride") which was discovered in Canada in the year 2000.

### **Modelled on the most famous Buddha in the world**

The Buddha inside the Mahabodhi Stupa in Bodh Gaya (India) is the model for the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace. This Buddha was chosen because it is recognised by Buddhists as being the closest to the Buddha himself. The Mahabodhi Society at Bodh Gaya gave special permission for a detailed photographic study of the statue. These photographs became the reference upon which the sculptors and carvers created the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace.

### **Polar Jade – the highest quality Nephrite**

In late 1990s a remarkable new find of jade was discovered just south of the Yukon border in Canada. It contained stone so green, clear and vibrant that it was unlike any other jade ever found. Inspired by its surroundings it became known as "Polar Jade".

Under scientific investigation Polar Jade has been found to be harder than any other variety of Nephrite jade. It shines to a brilliant polish which is one reason why there is an increasing demand for Polar Jade as a gem for precious jewelry and for carving fine art. Polar Jade was always in very limited supply and is now considered to be unavailable.

### **Polar Pride - the find of the millennium**

In the year 2000 the gem world was amazed with the discovery of the largest boulder ever found of gem quality polar jade. This 18 tonne boulder was named Polar Pride. It was immediately dubbed "the find of the millennium".

Internationally known author and gemologist, Fred Ward writes about Polar Pride in his book "Jade": "Without doubt, this is the largest piece of gem grade jade found in my lifetime and perhaps the millennium. Without going into too much in the geological formation, it is a very, very rare occurrence."

### **Five years in the making**

The Jade Buddha project began in early 2003 when Ian Green received a phone call from Cheyenne Sun Hill, a jade jewelry designer in California. Mr Sun Hill explained he was a Buddhist and had been looking for a temple to create a jade Buddha from Polar Pride.

A few months later Ian Green met with Cheyenne and Mr Kirk Makepeace, The President of the jade mining company in Vancouver for his first look at Polar Pride. Ian then spoke to his spiritual master Lama Zopa Rinpoche who divined that this jade boulder would illuminate the world.

Rinpoche told Ian Green “you must turn this jade boulder into a Jade Buddha as a holy object to be offered to the world”.

The next 5 years were devoted to raising the funds to make a deposit on the “Polar Pride”, selecting the best jade master carvers, shipping the boulder to Thailand, preparing a total of 4 prototypes, carving and polishing the Jade Buddha. The Jade Buddha was completed in December 2008 and is now valued at \$5 million.

## **The Jade Buddha for Universal Peace**

Lama Zopa Rinpoche named the Buddha the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace in the belief that this Buddha will inspire all beings to follow the peaceful path. Rinpoche said of the Jade Buddha “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.”

## **Blessing the Jade Buddha**

The project was first blessed in Northern Thailand before the carving process began. Phra Chuwit Thammavichitdet led a group of five monks who blessed the boulder of jade, the carvers and everyone who would work on the project.

When the Jade Buddha was completed it was blessed by Venerable Krubar Boon Choon Yamsunkhvaro in an event attended by 100,000 people on the Thai – Cambodian border.

Finally the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace was consecrated on December 1 2009 at the Sydney Entertainment Centre, Sydney Australia.

## **An international achievement**

The Jade Buddha is a great international achievement; it commenced with the discovery of a rare 18 tonne boulder of translucent jade in Canada in the year 2000; it is based on the famous Buddha from Bodh Gaya, India; the Buddha prototype was designed by an Australian and a Thai sculptor, it was carved by skilled craftsmen in Thailand. The face was painted by a master painter from Nepal. And it is currently on a world tour which will take it to Asia, Australia, North America and Europe.

## **World tour**

Lama Zopa 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 “it makes it so easy for billions of beings to receive the blessings of the Jade Buddha”.

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

The world tour of the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace is being taken is expected to last for several years. The tour commenced in Danang, Vietnam in March 2009. After three months in Vietnam it toured the capital cities of Australia during the second half of 2009. In February 2010 it commenced its tour of USA and Canada where it is booked out until May 2011.

In the first year of its world tour (concluding March 2010) it was recorded that over 4.5 million visitors had seen the Jade Buddha.

In second half 2011 the Jade Buddha will travel to Germany, England and other European destinations before going back to Asia in 2012. The Jade Buddha is scheduled to make return visits to USA, Vietnam and Australia. Eventually the Jade Buddha will go to its home at the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion in Bendigo, Australia where it will be a symbol of peace to inspire the world for millennia to come.

## **Mandala Lights around the Jade Buddha**

Very unusual lights have regularly appeared in photographs taken of the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace. These lights first appeared at Quán Thế Âm temple in Đà Nẵng. They have since appeared at every showing of the Jade Buddha in Vietnam, Australia and USA.

These lights appear in a wide range of conditions and even appear inside buildings such as the Museum of Western Australia in Perth and the Sydney Entertainment Centre. But not all people seem to be able to take these photographs. The lights have been called "Mandala Lights" because of the symmetrical design which has a similarity to a Buddhist mandala. The lights appear to be semi-transparent and while they appear to be largely white when enlarged they are seen to be made up of many colours. Enlargements of the lights have also shown colourful patterns within the lights.

## **Milestones**

- January 2003 Ian Green receives phone call from Cheyenne Sun Hill regarding "Polar Pride".
- April 2003 Ian Green meets Mr Kirk Makepeace, President of jade mine and sees "Polar Pride".
- April 2003 Lama Zopa Rinpoche has a vision of a giant Jade Buddha and requests Ian Green to make this Buddha "as a holy object to offer to the world".
- 2004 negotiations concluded with mining company for purchase of "Polar Pride" in a series of installments.
- 2005 Negotiations concluded with Mr Vanit Yotharvut at jade carvers in Northern Thailand.
- 2005 Photographic study of Buddha in Bodh Gaya completed.
- 2005 Shipping of "Polar Pride" from Vancouver to Bangkok.
- 2006 "Polar Pride" arrives at Thai carvers.
- 2006 first prototype complete and Vanit Yotharvut meets Lama Zopa Rinpoche in Singapore to discuss prototype.
- 2007 Blessing ceremony held by Thai monks as project commences. Ian and Judy Green in attendance.
- 2007 Australian Sculptor, Jonathon Partridge makes first of 5 trips to carving factory.
- 2007 Second and third prototype completed.
- 2007 Cutting of "Polar Pride" commences.
- 2008 Fourth prototype completed and approved by Lama Zopa Rinpoche.
- 2008 (first half) Sculpting complete
- 2008 (second half) Polishing complete
- December 2008 Final blessing ceremony in Thailand to conclude carving process.
- January 2009 face of Jade Buddha painted
- March 2009 tour of Vietnam commences in Danang
- June 2009 tour of Australia commences
- December 1 2009 consecration of the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace.
- February 2010 tour of USA commences at Escondido (San Diego)
- March 2010 4 million visitors to the Jade Buddha in the first year of its world tour
- June 2010 First showing in Canada commences at Mississauga (Toronto)
- September 15 2010 Street parade through streets of San Jose CA is greeted by Mayor of San Jose at City Hall. 170,000 people attend showing in San Jose "Peace Hall".
- October 23 2010 City of Santa Ana proclaims this day to be Jade Buddha for Universal Peace day.
- November 2010 one millionth visitor in USA sees Jade Buddha at Hawaii Convention Centre.
- June 4 2011 first showing in Europe at Zentrum Buddhas Weg, Frankfurt
- July 11 2011 Jade Buddha involved in major road accident near Berlin. Jade Buddha, all display items and container suffer major damage.

- July 19 – September 13 2011 restoration of Jade Buddha undertaken near Berlin. This period includes showings at Oslo and Gothenburg.
- November 27 2011 European tour concludes at Marseilles.
- January 13 – 26 2012 Chinese New Year, Jade Buddha is in centre of Orchard Road Singapore.

## The tour so far:

### VIETNAM MARCH – MAY 2009

• Quan Am Temple, Danang (13-15 Mar 09)	Attendance: 150,000	
• Dai Tong Lam, Ba Ria Vung Tau (21-26 Mar 09)	Attendance: 350,000	
• Pho Quang, Ho Chi Minh City (29 Mar -5 Apr 09)	Attendance: 400,000	
• Hoang Phap, Ho Chi Minh City (7-24 Apr 09)	Attendance: 500,000	
• Van An Temple, Dong Thap (May 09)	Attendance: 650,000	
• Phat Tich, Bach Ninh (Hanoi) (May 09)	Attendance: <u>1,500,000</u>	3,550,000

### AUSTRALIA JUNE – DECEMBER 2009

• Brisbane Square, Brisbane Australia (June 2009)	Attendance: 10,000	
• Wat Thai Buddharam (June 2009)	Attendance: 5,000	
• Darling Harbour, Sydney (July 2009)	Attendance: 100,000	
• Van An Temple, Sydney (July 2009)	Attendance: 10,000	
• Minh Quang Temple, Sydney (August 2009)	Attendance: 15,000	
• Phap Hoa Temple, Adelaide (Sep 2009)	Attendance: 10,000	
• Museum of Western Australia, Perth (Oct 2009)	Attendance: 25,000	
• Minh Quang Temple, Sydney (Nov 2009)	Attendance: 5,000	
• Sydney Entertainment Centre (Dec 2009)	Attendance: 8,000	
• Quang Duc Temple, Melbourne (Dec 2009)	Attendance: 15,000	
• Quang Minh Temple, Melbourne (Dec 2009)	Attendance: <u>12,000</u>	215,000

### USA / CANADA FEBRUARY 2010 – MAY 2011

• Phap Vuong Temple, San Diego CA (7 Feb – 2010)	Attendance: 120,000	
• Bao An Temple, Orlando, FL (Feb 2010)	Attendance: 10,000	
• Minh Dinh Quang Temple, Tampa, FL (Mar 2010)	Attendance: 10,000	
• Viet Nam Temple, Houston Texas (April 2010)	Attendance: 120,000	
• Wat Buddharangsi, Miami, Florida (9-18 Apr 2010)	Attendance: 15,000	
• Quan Am Mon'ry, Memphis, TN (24 Apr - 3 May 2010)	Attendance: 10,000	
• Lien Hoa Temple, Charlotte, NC (9-16 May 2010)	Attendance: 15,000	
• Linh Son Temple, Worcester, MA (22 May - 5 June 10)	Attendance: 15,000	
• Phap Van Temple, Toronto Canada (12-20 June 2010)	Attendance: 40,000	
• Tu Vien Tuong Van Haymarket, VA (26 June - 17 July '10)	Attendance: 20,000	
• Westlock Med. Ctr, Edmonton Canada (24 Jul – 1 Aug.'10)	Attendance: 15,000	
• Hoa Nghiem Mon. Vancouver, Canada (6 - 15 Aug 2010)	Attendance: 20,000	
• Co Lam Temple Seattle, WA (21 – 29 August 2010)	Attendance: 35,000	
• Ngoc Son Mon. Portland, Oregon (4 - 12 Sept 2010)	Attendance: 30,000	
• Peace Hall, San Jose, CA (17 Sept - 1 Oct 2010)	Attendance: 170,000	
• Kim Quang Temple, Sacramento, CA (3 - 17 Oct 2010)	Attendance: 50,000	
• Bat Nga Temple, Santa Ana, CA (22 - 31 Oct 2010)	Attendance: 220,000	
• Compassion Eyes, Huntington Bch CA (5 - 15 Nov '10)	Attendance: 80,000	
• Hawaii Convention Center, HI (27 - 28 Nov 2010)	Attendance: 15,000	
• Tinh Do Tu Vien, Las Vegas, NV (18 Dec - 02 Jan '11)	Attendance: 5,000	
• Minh Dang Quang, Houston, TX (8 - 23 Jan 2011)	Attendance: 5,000	
• California Ctr for Arts, Escondido CA (29 Jan - 6 Feb '11)	Attendance: 10,000	
• An Lac Mission, Ventura, CA (12 - 27 February 2011)	Attendance: 12,000	
• Mesa Conv. Centre, Phoenix AZ (5 - 13 March 2011)	Attendance: 31,000	

• Kim Cang Monastery Atlanta GA (19 - 27 March 2011)	Attendance:	6,000	
• Tu Vien Lien Hoa New Orleans LA (2-10 April 2011)	Attendance:	6,000	
• Phap Hoa Temple Wichita, KS (13 -19 April 2011)	Attendance:	5,000	
• Truc Lam Temple Chicago, IL (23-30 April 2011)	Attendance:	15,000	
• Minh Dang Quang, Philadelphia, PA (4-8 May 2011)	Attendance:	<u>20,000</u>	1,125,000

## EUROPE

• Zentrum Buddhas Weg, Frankfurt, Germany (4-12 June 11)	Attendance:	20,000	
• Vien Giac Temple, Hannover, Germany (18-26 June 11)	Attendance:	12,500	
• Linh Thuu Nun Temple, Berlin, Germany (2-10 July 11)	Attendance:	6,500	
• Khuong Viet Temple, Oslo, Norway (4 – 10 Aug 11)	Attendance:	5,000	
• Phat Quang, Gothenburg, Sweden (13 – 21 Aug 11)	Attendance:	5,500	
• Union Bouddhiste, Paris, France (1 Sept – 9 Oct 11)	Attendance:	27,000	
• The Esplanade, Grenoble, France (15 - 30 Oct 11)	Attendance:	2,500	
• Hotel Villa Maria, Lucerne, Switzerland (5 – 13 Nov 11)	Attendance:	8,000	
• Assoc. Bouddhique De Pho Da, Marseilles (19-27 Nov)	Attendance:	<u>8,500</u>	95,500

## ASIA

- Nhee Ann City Civic Plaza, Singapore (13-26 Jan 2012) Attendance: 305,000

**Total to date 5,285,500 (as at 26 January 2012)**

## Sculpting the prototype

Before the carving process began large scale prototypes of the Jade Buddha were produced out of clay and fiberglass. All together full-size four prototypes of the Buddha were created before the final one was approved. Each prototype was personally reviewed by Lama Zopa Rinpoche. Classically trained, Australian sculptor Jonathon Partridge worked alongside the Thai sculptors at Jade Thongtavee to create the final prototype for the carving of the Jade Buddha.

## Skilled cutting and carving of the Jade Buddha

Once the prototype for the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace was approved, the cutting and carving of the Polar Pride boulder began. Cutting jade is a very slow process as diamond saws grind their way through the boulder. Once the boulder was roughly cut it went through a process of refinement as the Buddha and lotus base gradually took shape.

The carving was overseen by the head carver at the factory. Jonathon Partridge also visited Thailand in the final months to personally oversee the exacting detail that was required to make the statue. In total it took around two years for Jade Thongtavee to design, cut, carve and polish the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace.

## Highly regarded jade carvers

The carving of the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace was entrusted to Thailand's oldest and most highly regarded jade factory, Jade Thongtavee Co. Ltd. Jade Thongtavee was founded by Mr. Boonthong Yotharvut who studied jade sculpture techniques in China before setting up Jade Thongtavee in 1973. Jade Thongtavee now employs over 30 skilled craftsmen and women. Their work exhibits a delicate craftsmanship that is highly sought after by collectors and Buddhist temples. The carving of the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace was overseen by the son of the founder and current factory manager, Mr Vanit Yotharvut.

## **Why did we paint the face of the Jade Buddha?**

The face of the Jade Buddha was painted in gold after advice was received from Lama Zopa Rinpoche. The painting of the face has made the features of the face much clearer and as a result more inspiring. The original statue in Bodh Gaya is painted and indeed it is a Buddhist tradition for statues to have their face painted in non-reflecting gold. It is considered to be inauspicious to see your face reflected in the statue of a Buddha. The face was painted by Rajeesh, a renowned Nepali artist.

## **Every piece of Polar Pride is used**

The workers at Jade Thongtavee were instructed to carefully collect every chip that came from Polar Pride during the carving process. These pieces of jade have been transformed into unique mementos of the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace which are available for a limited time at each tour venue.

## **Nephrite Jade – The Stone of Heaven**

Nephrite or “true” jade has influenced civilizations in Asia, South America and the Pacific since the beginning of history. Wherever jade has occurred people have found value in it as a tool, a healing stone and as a connection to the gods. The hardness and toughness of jade was first exploited for tools over 5000 years ago.

Jade conjures the magic of legend, especially in China where Nephrite Jade was known as the stone of heaven. Ancient Chinese myths told of jade being plucked from the rainbow and cast down to the earth. With such importance attached to it, the Chinese have traditionally valued jade above other worldly possessions.

Today the healing quality of jade is valued around the world.

## **Jade from the arctic regions of Canada**

Deep in the heart of the Canadian North, under the shadow of rugged British Columbian mountains lie beds of nephrite jade. First discovered in the 1960s the jade deposits of British Columbia are without parallel in the world. However jade mining in British Columbia is a difficult and expensive process. The earth is free of snow only three months of the year and being in a remote area, supplies must be flown in. Removing the jade requires a great deal of care during the long journey through rugged terrain.

## **One of the world’s great jade Buddhas**

There are several large jade Buddhas at Buddhist pilgrimage places around the world. Famous jade Buddhas exist at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Myanmar, Wat Phra Kaeo Temple of the Emerald Buddha in Thailand and at the Jade Buddha temple in Shanghai. The Jade Buddha for Universal Peace is destined to take its place beside these Buddha statues as one of the most famous and revered in the world.

## **Comments about the JADE BUDDHA FOR UNIVERSAL PEACE**

“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.”

*Lama Zopa Rinpoche 2003*

“I was most impressed to see the reactions elicited by the Jade Buddha during that ceremony.”

*Allaster Cox, Australian Ambassador to Vietnam, Hanoi May 2009*

“Skillfully carved from an 18-tonne boulder of translucent gemstone-quality jade, the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace is not only a work of art but also a message of peace.”

*Campbell Newman, Lord Mayor, City of Brisbane, Australia, June 2009*

“I am thrilled that such a positive image has made its way to Sydney. It gives me great hope, and I encourage all of you here today to return to this sacred place with your friends and family.”

*Kylie Kwong*

*Darling Harbour Sydney, Australia July 2009*

“Apart from being a symbol of community unity and cultural diversity, the Jade Buddha has already proven to be a large scale tourist attraction, drawing local, interstate and international during its recent exhibition...”

*Nick Lalich MP, Mayor of the City of Fairfield. Sydney September 2009*

Unfortunately for a number of us it is a sad time whilst we gather to say goodbye. Goodbye to something that has become a part of the lives for many of us. We have come here many times during the last two weeks and sat with what felt like a close friend and certainly a very calming influence. We have contemplated what it is we could do to strive for world peace. We have contemplated what we could do in our own personal lives and in our own little way to get that world peace. And, whilst we have been doing all of that, we have had the good fortune of having this statue by our side. It has been a quite remarkable two week period for all of us associated with the statue.

*Suresh Rajan Executive Officer for the Ethnic Communities Council of WA. Australia October 2009*

“The Jade Buddha brings a message of peace in the world. This message has never been more timely and appropriate.”

*Kelvin Thomson MHR for Wills, Melbourne Australia December 2009*

“The County of San Diego (California) has announced its Proclamation that February 7 2010 is declared JADE BUDDHA FOR UNIVERSAL PEACE DAY throughout San Diego County.”

*SAN Diego County Board of Supervisors Feb 7 2010*

“The people of Orange County are honoured to have this opportunity to join people around the world experiencing this messenger of peace.”

*Bill Segal, Orange County Commissioner (FL) USA*

“I do hereby proclaim Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010, as Jade Buddha for Universal Peace Day.”

*Joseph C. O'Brien, Mayor City of Worcester, USA May 2010*

“The exhibition of the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace in Canada will provide Canadians with the rare opportunity to view this magnificent symbol of peace and compassion. It inspires all those who see it to cultivate peace worldwide as well as in their own hearts, minds, homes and families. The rarity of the jade and the magnificence of the carving remind all Canadians of the importance of the peaceful pathway in preventing suffering and destruction.”

*The Honourable Jason Kenney, PC, MP Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Canada July 2010*

“We are honoured to have the privilege of this visit to our province and appreciate the important significance that it holds for many of our citizens.”

*Gordon Campbell, Premier, British Columbia, Canada August 2010*

“The jade Buddha that you have created looks just as if it were from Bodh Gaya. By creating this and bringing it around the world, I believe it will help spread peace through many countries. To view this holy image, I felt the same sensation as I felt when viewing the holy Buddha image in Bodh Gaya. I was truly surprised.”

*Khenpo Jampa Tenphel Seattle, USA August 2010*

“This tour represents the hope for a brighter future and a broader place of understanding, where diverse groups of people come together in the spirit of friendship and cooperation.”

*Christine O. Gregoire, Governor, State of Washington USA August 2010*

“A peaceful heart leads to a peaceful environment. This is an opportunity to worship the Jade Buddha as it is a symbol of peace. Jade stone has been considered the "Gem of Heaven" and is a symbolic link between humanity and spirituality. Its aim is to inspire everyone who sees it to find peace...”

*Su Co Tien Lien, San Jose, USA September 2010.*

“The city of Santa Ana is proud to welcome this international symbol of peace to our city.”

*Mr Miguel Parido, Mayor of City of Santa Ana 23 October 2010*

“The Jade Buddha helps to further substantiate the faith and belief of local Buddhists, and helps combine more power toward creating and bringing peace to this universe.”

*Most Venerable Thich Thang Hoan, Ventura, 12 February 2011*

Dear Ian and wife,

The Jade Buddha left this morning and leaves a kind of happy sadness or sad happiness behind. It's difficult to describe.

Thanks to the venue and trust in us we could have a really wonderful week. Many more people than thought came, about 20000 throughout the week. For us it was amazing to see that we could reach all people, not only vietnamese buddhists but all people of the larger region came, and not only once. We could connect them to the dharma in a special way and the air of harmony and peace was present all the time.

I'm truly thankful that you made this possible and hope that in due time our ways will cross personally.

With warm regards from my heart

in metta

*Sister Hue Nghiem, Frankfurt, Germany. June 15 2011.*

Dear Ian

So many thanks to you and the whole team, they are all so wonderful people and they have supported me so much.

I'm sorry that I did not write to you earlier, but I'm still so busy, also I wanted to apologize the harsh tone I used in the emails some times because I was very nervous.

Afterwards I was aware of all the help I received from so many people, and also the blessings of the Buddhas.

At the end it really turned out so nice and also so beneficial for many people, and I received a lot of positive feedback.

*Felix Brenken, Villa Maria, Lucerne, Switzerland November 17 2011*

There are three significant things about the Jade Buddha: It is made completely of jade, its size is very large and it has inexpressible benefits.

*Lama Zopa Rinpoche Bodhgaya 19 Jan 2012*

## **Awards given in honour of the JADE BUDDHA FOR UNIVERSAL PEACE**

- Vietnam Book of records: Award for “World’s largest gem-quality Jade Buddha” April 2009.
- San Diego County CA, USA: Proclamation that February 7 2010 is declared JADE BUDDHA FOR UNIVERSAL PEACE DAY throughout the County.
- City of Worcester (MA) USA: Proclamation of declaration of Jade Buddha for Universal Peace Day May 22 2010.
- State House, Boston, Massachusetts USA. Official recognition. 5<sup>th</sup> June 2010
- City of Santa Ana (CA) USA: Proclamation recognizing Jade Buddha Day October 23 2010.

## **The value of holy objects**

It is explained by the Buddha in the Sutra of the Mudra of Developing the Power of Devotion:

*The minute you see a holy object you create numberless merits,  
So no question if you actually make prostrations,  
Offerings and so forth you create far greater merit.*

In the White Lotus Sutra it says:

*Even just making one sound, or a cymbal offering  
Even just offering one single flower*

*To the form of One who has Gone to Bliss (Buddha) on a stone wall*

*Even if one makes the offering with the attitude while it is angry*

*Those living beings will gradually see ten million Buddha's.*

*Anyone who puts their palms together completely,*

*Or even with one palm or just one time bows down in respect*

*To a stupa which contain relics, even with a distracted mind (without virtue)*

*Verbally saying I prostrate to the Buddha just one time or a few times*

*All those beings will achieve supreme enlightenment*

As Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche explains:

*“Just by holy objects such as the Jade Buddha and the Great stupa existing in the world it makes it so unbelievably easy for us sentient beings, whether we are in this world*

*or will be born in this world or are from other universes, to purify the obstacles for happiness, peace and realisations on the path, and also to achieve liberation and enlightenment.*

*These holy objects make it so easy for us to create the causes of merit. Only then can one change the distracted negative emotional thoughts, the ignorant nature of the mind that harms you and harms the world.”*

## **The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion**

The Jade Buddha for Universal Peace will finally be housed inside the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion which is being built in Bendigo, Victoria, Australia. The Great Stupa is based on the famous Gyantse Kumbum that was built in the 15th century. The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion will be 50 metres (164 feet) wide and 46 metres high which will make it the largest stupa outside Asia. It will be a place of pilgrimage for Buddhists of all traditions as well as a place of worship for the fast growing Australian Buddhist community.

The Great Stupa has a vast collection of sacred Buddhist relics including those of Shakyamuni Buddha, Kasyapa Buddha and the 16 Arhants. These relics have been offered from many Buddhist traditions.