

# Hoang Phap Monastery

---

## Speech of the lay people's feeling

Namo Sakyamuni Buddha  
Dea Masters, Monks and Nuns,  
Dear Mr. and Mrs. Ian Green,  
Dear participants,

Since we knew the news of the Jade Buddha's arrival in Vietnam, we lay Buddhists felt very happy and we expected that day to come. We were just like children expecting Mom's coming home. And the day came, Vietnamese people and Vietnamese lay Buddhists had a chance to pay our homage to the most precious Jade Buddha at the present time.

The Jade Buddha arrived, Vietnamese people's feelings seemed to be moved and crowds of visitors have been arriving in Hoang Phap Monastery to pay their homage to the statue with their sincere feelings. Not only did the adults arrive, but also did the children. Arriving at our Hoang Phap Temple were not only the healthy but also the unhealthy; for example, the sick and the handicapped people. Not only did Buddhists arrive at the show, but also did the non-Buddhist followers. Not only did the Kinh people arrive, but also the ethnic people.

Though it was rather hot or it rained heavily, all of these difficulties were overcome and people stood in line paying their sincere homage to the Jade Buddha. Lines of people continuously moved forwards to the statue hall. Their eyes looked straight at the statue. Happiness shone on their faces as they knew they would have their opportunities to worship the Buddha. Some people even took many times to come back and worship the holy statue. But it seemed they still didn't satisfied with their worships.

Deep in our minds, we felt so moved that we were not be able to utter out any words. Looking at the strict and solemn statue of Sakyamuni Buddha sitting in his relaxing posture whose kind smile, compassionate eyes shining on us, made us remember the days when the Buddha was still alive on earth. Now He is still sitting here, not by flesh but in form of a precious stone, saying nothing, but conquering the Bodhi minds of billions of people in this planet and making the earth shake. By the form of the Jade Buddha, the statue wants to deliver a message of love and wisdom to everybody.

Although the exhibit of the Jade Buddha at Hoang Phap Monastery is going to come to an end after a short period of its display, we really want to stop time so that we still have another chance to pay our homage to the statue. And though we know that the Buddha does exist in our minds, not from the outside world, we still need this Jade Buddha statue to awake the inner Buddha in our minds; if not, our inner Buddha will not be woken up. Therefore, being close to the holy statue is just like an innocent child needing to live near a mother. But now at this moment things seems to be in a dream again.

To be able to pay our visit to this Jade Buddha is really a big merit we Buddhists have had. On behalf of all of the participants, I'd like to express my gratitude to Venerable Thich Chan Tinh who made great efforts in bringing the Jade Buddha to Vietnam. I'd also like to express my thanks to Mr and Mrs Ian Green who donated their jade to have it made into a Jade Buddha so that people would have a chance to pay their homage to the Buddha that helps provoke their Bodhi minds. I'd also like to express my thanks to local authorities, masters, monks and nuns and male and female lay Buddhists of good wills who have helped us in bringing this jade Buddha show to its great success.

Finally, I wish with all of my sincere vows, the Buddha will support masters, monks and nuns. I wish masters, monks and nuns good health with great shining wisdom. I also wish people enjoy great peace and bliss, hoping Mr and Mrs Ian Green good health to be able to carry on their holy task. I wish the exhibits of the jade Buddha around the world will also gain their great successes.

Namo Amitabha Buddha