

The Holy Vajrasana Temple and Retreat Center is part of the Xuanfa Institute and is located on almost nine acres of land east of Fresno in central California on the "Blossom Trail" near the Sierra foothills between Yosemite and Kings Canyon-Sequoia National Parks.

The Xuanfa Institute is a nonprofit international religious organization founded by Zhaxi Zhuoma Rinpoche to propagate the correct Buddha-dharma that can liberate living beings from the sufferings of this world and enable those who practice this Buddha-dharma and cultivate themselves in accord with the dharma to realize the good fortune and wisdom needed to become a Buddha.

This is a very sacred spot. It can be visited by Buddhists and non-Buddhists alike and serves as a portal for them to access various holy beings and receive their blessings.

The Holy Vajrasana Temple & Retreat Center

(A Pilgrimage Site)

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This site has been empowered by H.H. Dorje Chang Buddha III as the Fourth Vajra Throne in the world today and the first in the western world. This is also the site of the Holy Vajra Poles.

In the background is one of the "Flaming Wish-Fulfilling Jewel" corbels and posts at the Holy Vajrasana Temple in Sanger. They are replicas of designs found at the Mindroling temple complex in the Shannan prefecture south of Lhasa, Tibet.

Vajra Thrones

The Fourth Vajra Throne in this world and the first to appear in the West has appeared near Sanger, California, at the site of the Holy Vajrasana Temple and Retreat Center. “Vajrasana” is the Sanskrit term for “Vajra Throne.” Vajra Thrones are sometimes referred to as bodhimandas as they can literally be translated as “places of enlightenment.” They are places where great holy beings became enlightened and also sites empowered by these holy beings so that others who practice there may also become enlightened. Shakyamuni Buddha’s Vajra Throne is located in Bodhgaya in northeast India. Wu-tai Shan, a mountain in Shanxi, China, is the Vajra Throne for Manjushri Bodhisattva, while Guru Padmasambhava created another Vajra Throne at Kathok Monastery in eastern Tibet. All Vajra Thrones exist because of their dharma connection to the great original buddha—Dorje Chang Buddha.



1-Shakyamuni Buddha.



2-Mahabodhi Temple, Bodhgaya, India.



3-Manjushri Bodhisattva.



4-Wu-tai Shan Monastery, Wu-tai Shan, China.



5-Guru Padmasambhava.



6-Kathok Monastery, Tibet.



7-H.H. Dorje Chang Buddha III

The Holy Vajrasana Temple & Retreat Center



8-Holy Vajrasana Temple & Retreat Center under construction at Sanger, California.

H.H. Dorje Chang Buddha III, a manifestation of this first Samboghakaya Buddha and the teacher of all Buddhas including Shakyamuni Buddha, empowered the Fourth Vajra Throne at the Holy Vajrasana Temple and Retreat Center. This site will become as powerful as the other three Vajra Thrones. People from all over the world are already making pilgrimages to this site to pay their respect to the holy manifestations there and to be empowered by them. How did we find out this was such a holy place? For Zhaxi Zhuoma Rinpoche, the abbot of the temple, it started in 2003 when, on her way to meet her Buddha Master, H.H. Dorje Chang Buddha III, she witnessed a giant rainbow around the sun with a red robed being sitting in it that she captured in the photograph below. The beautiful rainbow lasted for



several hours as she drove south. Later that day she received a tantric initiation and a very special red vajra pill from her Buddha Master. However, the pill flew out of her hand in a flash of red light to a holy place. She was not told where that holy place was. It was at that time that she first saw her Buddha

9-Photo of rainbow taken by Zhaxi Zhuoma Rinpoche in 2003 near Bakersfield. The tiny dots in the lower left corner are parking lot lights that give an indication of the scale of this phenomenon. There were also what appeared to be Sanskrit letters in the sky earlier, but they had dissolved by the time this picture was taken.

Master turn blue, a most auspicious sign as that is the color of the original Dorje Chang Buddha. At that time no one knew that her master was a manifestation of this Samboghakaya Buddha.

It turned out the holy vajra pill that she received in 2003 had gone to the site of where she moved six years later to establish the Xuanfa Institute and what is becoming the Holy Vajrasana Temple and Retreat Center. An elderly neighbor told her that a monk had purchased that site years earlier because he had received a sign that this was a special site where he was to start a temple. It had been a grey overcast day and he had been driving around with some nuns looking for a suitable site and suddenly the clouds parted and a ray of sun came down and lit up the very land where the Holy Vajrasana Temple now stands. The farmer who owned the land did not want to sell it, but the monk insisted. As the abbot and her disciples worked to remodel the farm house located on the site and constructed a chapel for the Dharma Protectors, many strange events occurred. Colored lights and spirit beings made their presence known. Rainbows and magical “orbs” could be seen on many photographs taken around the property. On November 8, 2010, when they were about to cut down some metal poles, one of the poles started shaking quite violently. It was most strange—like a giant tuning fork vibrating back and forth. Zhaxi Zhuoma Rinpoche thought this was something she should report to her Buddha Master, and did, only to have Him roar with laughter and tell her that she absolutely should not cut down those poles.



10-Green Tara empowered the Holy Vajra Pill after it was discovered at the temple.



11-After a meditation session at the temple, many spirit beings could be seen in the flash of the camera as they danced around the poles.

What the Rinpoche found out later was that the Dharma Protectors had come to the Xuanfa Institute and were making their presence known through these metal poles (two more had started shaking)—they had become Holy Vajra Poles, serving as portals to another dimension, and they were evidence that this was where the vajra pill had flown to over seven years earlier. This was indeed a holy place.

Because the Dharma Protectors had arrived and the yurt was

dedicated to them, the Rinpoche was given a special Retreat Dharma to transmit to qualified students who came there to practice. In January 2014 a fourth pole also started to shake and now all five of the poles shake—sometimes together, sometimes individually. Some pilgrims and others who come, see the poles



13-Contractors also found the temple attic was filled with orbs.



12-Disciples found the Vajra Poles to be a good place to meditate.

shake, some do not. Some have even reported seeing the Dharma Protectors as well as various colored lights and radiating energy around the poles. It is not just Buddhists who receive these blessings. The contractors working on the temple were also amazed by this phenomena. Beings from other realms also come to receive their blessings.



14-A group picture that was being taken at the Holy Vajra Poles was interrupted when one of the poles started to shake.

His Holiness the Buddha has said: “I uphold the principle that all Buddhist sects are equal. Anyone who wants to practice *The Supreme and Unsurpassable Mahamudra of Liberation*, may do so. It does not belong to any one of the Buddhist sects. If one wants to practice esoteric Buddhism, one can come to the Holy Vajrasana Temple where there is one of holy virtue who became accomplished through the Ni-wan Dharma and who can perform initiations for you.”

The temple also sponsors many events including Kuan Yin Great Compassion Empowerment Dharma Assemblies, Learning from Buddha Seminary classes and seminars, Amitabha Buddha Dharma Assemblies for those who have passed over or seeking blessings, and different types of meditation retreats.



15-Kuan Yin Bodhisattva Great Compassion Empowerment Dharma Assemblies have been held in Thailand as shown above and in downtown Clovis, California; Salt Lake City, Utah; & Hendersonville, North Carolina. The temple has held these ceremonies to help living beings receive the empowerment of this great holy being. All offerings from these assemblies go to help those in prison receive the dharma or to free captive living beings.

Meditation Retreats: The Holy Vajrasana Temple provides several methods of



taking retreats and provides instruction in different meditation techniques using the guidance provided by H.H. Dorje Chang Buddha III in *Learning from Buddha* and the *Great Dharma of Zen*. Although group retreats may be held complete with Oryoki meals, the temple is focusing on offering advanced seven- and thirty-day Solitary Retreats as part of its Xiuxing Practice Program for students enrolled in the Learning from Buddha Seminary.



17-A Solitary Retreat cabin at the temple.

The Bodhighara:

The Sri Maha Bodhi Tree (*Ficus religiosa*) in Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka, is the oldest living human-planted tree in the world with a known planting date. The sacred tree, a descendent of the historical tree under which Shakyamuni Buddha quietly sat to become enlightened in Bodhgaya, India, was brought to Sri Lanka in 288 BCE by the



19-A descendent of the Mahabodhi tree under which Shakyamuni Buddha sat to attain enlightenment was installed at the temple on May 11, 2014. There are light beings dancing around the sacred tree.

Ven. Sangamitta, the sister of Ven. Arahath Mahinda. The two venerables were the daughter and son of the Emperor Asoka who sent them as missionaries to the island. It has been tended by an uninterrupted succession of guardians for 2,300 years, even during the periods of foreign occupation and the many civil wars. Sri Lankan Heads of State have sought the blessings of the Sri Maha Bodhi before commencing any important work. It is a

very important site of pilgrimage for the devout.

A descendent of the Maha Bodhi Tree in Sri Lanka was installed as a Bodhighara (Bodhi Tree Shrine) at the Holy Vajrasana Temple in Sanger, California on May 11, 2014 along with a water source for making offerings. Many visitors have come to see and pay their respects to this holy tree. A beautiful Buddha Light appeared around the sun when one group of pilgrims arrived.

Starting in 2023 the tree did not die down after our chilly winters. Hopefully, it now has a strong enough root system combined with climate warming to thrive.



20-There is a Thai Spirit House located behind the Bodhi Tree.



18-Visitors to the temple circumambulate the Bodhi Tree, chanting and making water offerings to show their gratitude to the Buddha for His Dharma.

Learning from Buddha Seminary: LFBS is a virtual school established after we went on-line to comply with COVID restrictions. It offers three levels of membership: a free auditing program open to anyone, a Buddhist Studies Program that is open to anyone with a paid membership, and a Xiuxing Seminary Program that is only open to those who have taken refuge and are serious Buddhists practitioners, also with a paid membership. You can receive a Buddhist Studies Certificate by completing 36 credits of courses with quizzes and homework. You can receive a Xiuxing Seminary Certificate by completing 72 credits of courses that include presentation of a final project or paper and a 30-day Solitary Retreat. There are also special programs that enable students to focus more on their practice and other aspects of Buddhist studies. All Buddhist sects from the Theravada, Mahayana, or Vajrayana traditions as well as non-Buddhists who want to become holy beings by practicing morality and meditation and thus developing their wisdom are welcome at the Learning from Buddha Seminary. You do not need to become a Buddhist to benefit from the teachings of the Buddha.

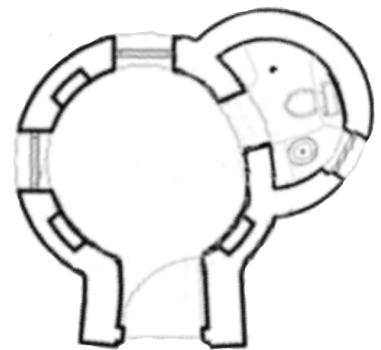
The courses do focus on the discourses and sutras of H.H. Dorje Chang Buddha III and the most Honored Shakyamuni Buddha as well as the classic commentaries by ancient patriarchs and matriarchs and the biographies of holy beings. They cover the initial stage of seeking the provisional goal of seeking a good life and ending bad behavior, a goal of non-Buddhists, to the intermediate stage of renunciation with the goal of escaping samsara and entering nirvana through individual liberation, the goal of Arahats. It extends to the great stage of cultivation of the path to becoming a Bodhisattva and ultimately a Buddha with the development of bodhichitta and wisdom or prajna and the realization of the true nature of reality. *For more information on the Learning from Buddha Seminary go to <http://learningfrombuddha.org/>.*

Holy Heavenly Lake Xuanfa Dharma Center:



22-The "Hermit Caves" would be like this prototype built by Cal-Earth Institute in Hesperia, California.

The construction of Holy Heavenly Lake Buddhist Town in Hesperia, California aims to establish a grand platform for the True Dharma, fostering mutual support and collaboration. With those goals in mind, the Holy Vajrasana Temple hopes to continue offering courses at Buddhist Town. We would also like to establish a permanent Xuanfa Dharma Center there and in time hopefully a second temple. "Plans for adobe "Hermit Caves" and/or yurt or canvas structures for solitary retreats are also planned for this location.



21-These earthen structures consist of an eight-foot diameter main dome with a smaller attached dome for a bath as shown in this plan view.

Zhaxi Zhuoma Rinpoche:

Zhaxi Zhuoma, the abbot of the Holy Vajrasana Temple & Retreat Center, was born in southeastern Ohio. Her parents, of German-Irish-Ojibwa ancestry, had European roots in America predating the American Revolution and with even earlier indigenous roots in the Great Lakes region. She began her spiritual quest to seek an end to the suffering that she experienced and saw in others, but she could not find any answers. Someone told her that only within Buddhism would she find the answers she was looking for. This proved to be true.

On a business trip to Asia, she found the path of the Buddha and began her search for a master who practiced and taught the true Buddha-dharma of Shakyamuni Buddha. In 1987 she left her job in international banking to become a nun. She studied and practiced at many monasteries in America and in Japan with several excellent Japanese, Korean, and American Masters. However, no matter how hard she tried to practice within these traditions, she could not find what she was looking for or the answers to her questions.

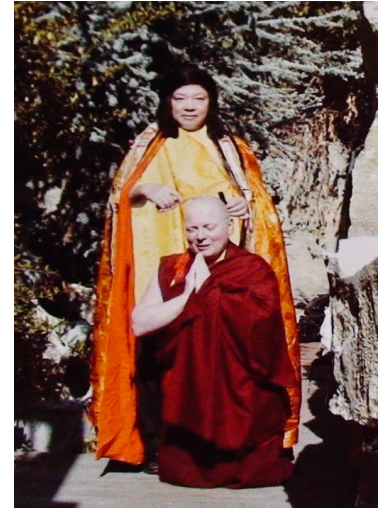
She had already been introduced to the esoteric dharma when she met her Buddha Master, His Holiness Dorje Chang Buddha III. She had finally found the perfect guru who could answer all her questions. Her Buddha Master could communicate directly with the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas and had the complete knowledge of the true Buddha-dharma just like Shakyamuni Buddha! She had the extremely good fortune to train intensely and directly with her Buddha Master and receive many very profound Buddha-dharmas from His Holiness the Buddha. She found that her Buddha Master is the highest Buddha in the world and why He is recognized as such by so many outstanding enlightened Buddhists in Asia and the West. However, this great holy Buddha Himself says that He is “just a humble being—a most ordinary practitioner” even though the world’s most eminent monastics and dharma kings have recognized Him in writing as the greatest holy Buddha living in the world today—the third incarnation of Dorje Chang Buddha.

Zhaxi Zhuoma, shares her experiences—what she saw and heard while following her guru—in the book *Thus Have I Seen: The Marvelous True Buddha Dharma and Its Power to Transform*. She wrote the book to help

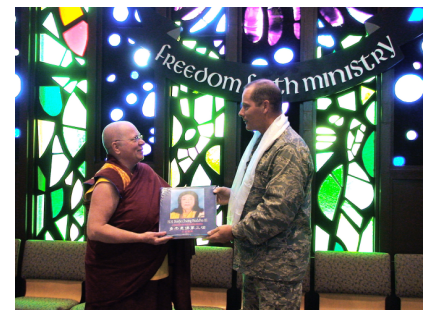


25- Presenting Big Blue Book at a former Catholic retreat center in New Mexico.

others better understand what it was like to follow a true Holy Being--a Buddha. She also talks about what it is like to take the “Big Blue Book” about H.H. Dorje Chang Buddha III to officials in all fifty states, Indian reservations and many ventures. Again, beings from other realms joined her and her entourage. The book also includes certain practice Dharmas and methods to be used in following the Buddha. The book is available on Amazon and <https://holyvajrasana.org/thus-have-i-seen>.



23-H.H. Dorje Chang Buddha tonsuring Zhaxi Zhuoma.



24-Presenting Big Blue Book to US Air Force Academy in Colorado.

Temple Art: There are many statues, thankas, and paintings of the Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, and Dharma Protectors throughout the temple, the Protector Chapel, and in the Solitary Retreat rooms. One of them is this original painting of Lord Yama holding “The Wheel of Life”. This image was first established by Shakyamuni Buddha to teach certain principles including the twelve links of dependent origination and the laws of cause and effect. It shows the six realms in which we can be reborn as heavenly beings, asuras, humans, animals, ghosts or spirits, and hell beings, but it also shows a Buddha in each of these realms, indicating the way to escape the sufferings of Samsara.



26-Lord Yama holding the Wheel of Life.

How you can help:

We still need to finish the infrastructure work at the temple. We need landscaping, parking, driveways, a water tower, hydrants, privacy fencing, and gates. We also need more sleeping/practice structures—cabins, yurts, tent platforms—with bathrooms for those coming to do solitary and group retreats. We also want to build the Stupa of Vajra Manifestations to celebrate H.H. Dorje Chang Buddha III coming to this world and especially His coming to America. We also have a project to build a walkway of 21 prayer wheels to honor Tara who blessed the Holy Vajra Pill when it returned.

Donations to support the temple and its programs may be made to the Xuanfa Institute at <https://xuanfa.net/donations>. Write to donate@xuanfa.net with any questions.



Contact the Xuanfa Institute at xuanfainstitute@gmail.com or for more information go to <http://holyvajrasana.org>.

To be notified of the abbot's weekly blog and news concerning the temple go to <https://www.zhaxizhuoma.org/>.