

# 圣母殿<sup>1</sup>花园里的大榕树



这张照片拍摄于黎明之城<sup>2</sup>创建仪式（1968年2月28日）结束后不久。一棵孤零零的榕树站在一片完全荒芜的土地上。

到1965年底，是该确定黎明之城城中心的时候了。母亲<sup>3</sup>请了法国建筑师罗杰·昂也<sup>4</sup>来设计这座未来之城。他给母亲带来一张本地治里以北地区的地图。母亲住在本地治里室利·阿罗频多修道院她的房间里，很可能从未踏足过该地区，因为当时还没有通往这个地区的公路。母亲专注地冥想了一阵，然后指向地图上的一个特定区域。

罗杰·昂也开着一辆吉普车来到母亲所指的地方，发现在这片俯瞰孟加拉湾并几乎完全荒芜的高地上有一棵孤零零的榕树。母亲得知

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<sup>1</sup> 圣母殿(Matrimandir): 母亲称其为“宇宙母亲的殿堂”，“心灵的殿堂”，访客俗称其为“大金球”、“黄金球”。

<sup>2</sup> 黎明之城(Auroville): 又名曙光村，曙光之城，地球村。请点击[这里](#)阅读和下载黎明之中英文简介。

<sup>3</sup> 母亲(The Mother)简介请点击[这里](#)阅读。

<sup>4</sup> 罗杰·昂也(Roger Anger, 1923-2008): 母亲指定的黎明之城圣母殿和城区规划建设总建筑师。

这里有一棵榕树非常高兴——在印度，榕树被视为神圣的树——并决定将它作为黎明之城的地理中心。

在黎明之城创建仪式期间，在这棵榕树的树荫下举行了这座未来城的展览。根据母亲的要求，在榕树树干周围安了一个不锈钢圆环<sup>5</sup>，上面刻着当地泰米尔语和法语的字句：“黎明之城，服务真理之城”。

这棵榕树（植物学名称：*Ficus benghalensis*）属于榕属（无花果属），现在可能已有一百多岁了。榕树的特点是有气生根，从树枝上垂下来，向着地面生长，并扎根泥土成为新的树干。（这个榕树的直径现在保持在大约五十米，以便使它与周围环境保持一定的比例。）

（本文英文由 Gilles G. 于 2009 年 3 月编写）



大榕树和它的一些气生根

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<sup>5</sup> 译者注：现在(2019年)这个圆环因为锈迹斑斑等原因已经被移除。这里的社区居民们在商议用不同的方式呈现“黎明之城，服务真理之城”。

## Matrimandir - The Banyan Tree



The Banyan tree soon after the Inauguration Ceremony. Lone tree in a totally barren landscape

By late 1965, the time had come to define the centre of Auroville. Roger Anger, the French architect to whom the Mother had asked to design the future town, brought to her a map of the area north of Puducherry. She was in her room at the Ashram and had probably never set foot in that area, for at that time there was no motor able road leading to it. She concentrated and pointed to a particular area on the map.

The architect took a jeep and drove to the area she had pointed at and found there a solitary banyan tree in an almost totally barren plateau overlooking the Bay of Bengal. The Mother was very happy about the presence of a banyan tree, a tree regarded as sacred in India, and decided to make it Auroville's geographical centre.

During Auroville's Inauguration Ceremony, it provided shade to an exhibition on the future town and, at the Mother's request, a stainless steel ring bearing the words (in Tamil and in French) "Auroville, the City at the Service of Truth" was placed around its trunk. (This ring is now on display outside the Town Hall.)

This Banyan Tree (*Ficus benghalensis*) belongs to the Ficus (fig tree) family and is now probably a little more than a hundred years old. Banyans have the peculiarity of producing aerial roots which grow down from the branches towards the ground and take root to become new trunks. (The diameter of this banyan is now kept at approximately fifty metres so that it remains in proportion with its surroundings.)

(Compiled by Gilles G., March 2009)



Banyan Tree with some of its aerial roots