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\* 本刊所刊登之文章纯属作者与受访者之个人意见, 并不代表本刊立场,特此声明。





"我们应该一马当先,以万马奔腾之势在新的一年里更积极推展佛教事业,并为维护我国的种族与宗教和谐尽一分力量,因为马是一种合群性很高的动物。"

法师还以马来鼓励信众,积极生活,创建更美好的居住环境。"马的特性是开朗的性格和积极的奋斗,而这是我们面对未来所应秉持的心态。昨日种种已成过去,我们应该一马当先,以万马奔腾之势在新的一年里更积极推展佛教事业,并为维护我国的种族与宗教和谐尽一分力量,因为马是一种合群性很高的动物。"

广声法师也呼吁大家,继续 支持佛总筹办的各项活动,共同 推展佛教事业。

之后,由佛总秘书长广品法师率众主持佛前上供,并唱诵宝鼎赞、大悲咒、摩诃般若波罗蜜多心经、药师咒等。最后,还将功德回向给大众,祝愿大家获得智慧、灭万年愚,破除障碍,吉祥如意。

此外,佛总属校文殊中学为 大家带来一系列的迎春节目,包 括歌唱与音乐演奏,为庆典增添 不少新春气息。







# 学佛, 毕业后尚要继续!

# — 佛总佛学班迎新与结业典礼简记

■火阳■

加坡佛教总会3月1日举行第25届华文佛学班和第11届英文佛学班结业,暨第28届华文佛学班和第13届英文佛学班迎新。新旧同学和佛学老师们聚集一堂,彼此都珍惜这一个机会,交流学习佛法的心得。

佛学班同学会会长洪本源在他的致词中,感恩 大德法师细心教导的同时,不忘向一起修学的同学 们致谢,因为大家的互相护持、互相协助,才能完 成学业。

洪本源不仅感激旧同学,也激励新同学。他表示刚来的新生,可能会感到一时困惑,对自己是否能够完成三年的佛学课程感到怀疑,但他鼓励同学们好好把握这一个求学机缘,对修学佛法抱着持之以恒的态度。

第25届华文班班长吴高雄代表毕业同学上台致

词时,除了表达同学们对导师们的感恩之外,也与大家分享了他们三年来学习佛法的点滴。"每个星期五晚上,同学们风雨无阻地从不同地方赶来,虽然上班后身体疲累,但还是打起精神聆听法师阐释佛法。"他还说课文中的文言文对于一些英校生来







说,无疑是很吃力的。但是,在法师们循循善导之下,学习上的难题都迎刃而解。吴高雄亦表示上了三年的佛学班,他们获得的不仅是一纸文凭,更重要的是学习到如何离苦得乐的佛学知识,让今后的人生有了光明的方向。

英文班的代表Peter Kwek 则表示他们原是一群对佛学一窍不通,但经过二年的修习,他们学会了诵念《心经》、静坐,甚至有机会参与每个月的共修,参与基本的巴利文诵经与讲座等,同学们实在大开眼界。

为了庆祝毕业,英文班同学们还制作了一个录影以志纪念。同学们通过录影发表他们这二年学佛之路的一些感受,以及对导师感激之语。不少同学表示佛法由内至外改变了他们的生活,他们除了活得比以前更自在之外,也使他们成为更优秀的人。整个制作是由Siew Hoon负责统筹与制作。



佛总教育主任有维法师对于修读了三年佛学的毕业同学有感而发。他说: "三年其实不是很长的时间,比起天人的寿命真的很短,但如果能把三年的时间用在学习佛法上,那是一生的受用,希望大家都会珍惜这个机会。" 有维法师还特别强调毕业并不代表结业,只是一个阶段的完成,接下来是将所学的佛法应用在生活上、心灵上,身口意上,这个比学习佛法更困难。他也鼓励毕业的同学们毕业后还须常随佛学、常随僧学、常常多听开示,多看书。他也希望同学们饮水思源,回到佛总服务,在服务中体验佛法。

佛总秘书长广品法师则告诉同学们,上学不光只是求知识,还有结交新朋友。这些旧识新交都是我们人生道路上不可或缺的,在菩提道上勇猛精进时,也可以互相学习互相交流。 广品法师更呼吁同学们好好使用学到的佛学知识,为佛教服务。他说: "在这里整个佛法不单是知识传授,还要加上应用,怎么用,就是如有维法师所说的"服务"。希望大家都能够在佛教界服务,不论是在那个道场,只要你有佛总的心,佛总都为你高兴,大家都是为佛教一条心,共同为佛教努力。当然,希望佛总需要你的时候,你会回来帮忙。"

广品法师也表示佛学班开办于1987年,同学会则是成立于1994年。今年是佛总同学会成立20周年,将准备庆祝一番,希望大家届时能出席。

# 深慧广慈

新加坡佛教总会全体理事、会员及职员 文殊中学全体理事及师生 菩提学校全体理事及师生 菩提学校校友会全体执委及校友 南洋佛教编辑部全体执委及职员 悉达多托儿中心全体管委及师生 马林百列菩提托管中心全体管委及师生 新加坡佛教总会佛学班同学会 光明山普觉禅寺 福慧佛教文化中心 海印学佛会 菩提阁 新加坡佛教青年弘法团 竹林寺 志愿佛教协会 海印古寺 能仁精舍 普济寺佛学研究会 法溪禅寺 先锋印刷装钉私人有限公司 国营印刷

# 利生无边

万佛林 新加坡佛光协会 法鼓山新加坡护法会 善德堂 净名佛教中心 地藏林 护国金塔寺 新加坡佛牙寺 新加坡佛教施诊所 慈航念佛社 般若念佛堂 圆觉宗(新加坡) 善福堂 飞霞精舍 普陀寺 大愿共修会 积善堂 准提宫 南海飞来观音寺 观音斋 素食林 仁婷贸易

# 佛智无上

宝光佛堂 如切观音堂 佛缘林 慈光福利协会 香莲寺 佛教会 (Buddhist Union) 观音救苦会 普福堂 禅义共修会 三宝堂 苦乐庵 宽济堂念佛社 慧明讲堂 福智协会 法藏精舍 观音堂佛祖庙 菩提佛院 天竺山毗卢寺 嘹亮佛经流通处 长青佛教文化服务社 佛教禅韵文物阁

# 三界导师

大悲院

释迦善女会

天善堂

善缘堂

天寿堂吕祖宫

忠德佛堂

旃檀林

清莲寺

莲池阁寺

妙音觉苑

天南佛堂

十方佛林

大悲佛教中心

法轮社

薝蔔院

观音宫

洛伽山庄

月云寺

释广品

释向扬

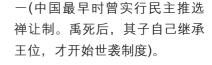
陈友明夫妇



■广品■

吠舍离(Vaishali)是我们朝圣 行程的第三站。吠舍离距比哈邦 首都巴特那(Patna)61公里。在 佛世, 吠舍离是由包括了跋耆, 离车(Licchevi), 毗提诃等8个不 国可说是世界上很早的共和国之

同族群所组成的跋耆国(Vajji)的 首府。这个国家没有一个最高的 统治王,是由各族选派代表组成 议会共商治理国家的政策。跋耆



### 吠舍离列为佛教圣地的原因是:

- 1. 佛陀38岁时首次到此
- 2. 佛陀在此度化其姨母大爱道等 五百宫女出家的地方;成为世 界首个比丘尼道场地。如今此 地尚可见到5字形比丘尼寺院 的遗迹。
- 3. 吠舍离亦译作广严城。佛陀在 此说过: 药师琉璃光如来本 愿功德经,维摩经。维摩诘居 士是吠舍离的一位德高的大 居士。
- 4. 佛陀度世有五大精舍中的二个 就在此, 猕猴池和庵摩罗园 (另三个为: 竹林精舍, 祗园 精舍,灵鹫山)。
- 5. 南传三宝经也是佛陀在此宣说



- 的。起源当时吠舍离发生瘟疫 和鬼怪作乱事件。佛陀受邀到 此净化。于是佛陀吩咐颂三宝 经,令此处恢复往日的宁静。 自此,此部成为南传护持洒净 重要的经典。
- 6. 此处是佛陀度化吠舍离女大施 主庵摩罗德地方。庵摩罗是大 医师耆婆的母亲; 皈依了佛 陀后献出庵摩罗园(即芒果园) 作为佛陀的精舍。庵摩罗最后 证得果位。
- 7. 此处是佛陀宣布三个月后将入 大般涅槃的地方。一天, 佛陀 对阿难尊者说佛陀得四神足, 能住世一劫。如来今者当寿几 何。如此再三向阿难尊者问 道。只因阿难当时只证初果, 被天魔迷惑,不解佛意。错过 请佛住世度生的因缘。阿难尊 者退下后到林中宴默。忽感异 梦。便来告佛:我在林间梦见 大树, 枝叶茂盛, 荫影蒙密。 惊风忽起, 摧散无余。将非世 尊欲入寂灭。我心怀惧, 故来 请问。佛陀回答说道: 吾先告 汝。汝为魔蔽不时请留。魔王 劝我早入涅槃。已许之期。斯



梦是也。

8. 佛陀入灭后一百年,于毗舍离 国有十个有关戒律非法的事舍 生。长老耶舍比丘于是在毗舍 离城波利迦园召集七百圣众 结集,是为佛史上所称。 结集,是为佛史上所称。 结集,是为佛史上所称。 方体生,又称七百结集。 大师西域记七百:「窣堵波,大师西域记七日:「窣堵波,是 大师西域记七百,吹舍釐城是之。 在一年,吠舍釐城诸 时长吠舍 下名(陀)召集七百贤圣於吠舍 城,依毘奈耶制止谬法,宣明 圣教。—也因为此次的结集,

- 造成佛教分裂成上座部与大众部。
- 9. 此处也是猕猴王献蜜供养佛陀的地方。

当年,玄奘大师来此对吠舍 离并作了以下的叙述: 伽蓝数百, 多已圮坏,存者三五,僧徒稀少。 天祠数十,异道杂居,露形之徒寔 繁其党。吠舍离城已甚倾颓,其故 基趾周六七十里,宫城周四五里, 少有居人。宫城西北五六里至一伽 蓝。僧徒寡少。习学小乘正量部 法。傍有窣堵波。是昔如来说毘摩 罗诘经。长者子宝积等献宝盖处。 其东有窣堵波。舍利子等于此证无 学之果。" 在玄奘大师的眼中, 衰败景象已非常明显, 如今更沦 为朝圣感慨不已的伤心处。

在此,我们可以见到有根阿育王石柱。柱顶雕有一只坐狮,其下为一朵覆莲。狮子面向西北方向佛陀涅槃处。 玄奘大师在其大唐西域记如此写道: 其西北有堵坡,无忧王所建,旁有石柱,高五六十尺,上作狮子像。此石柱是阿育王在印度各地竖立保留最完整的一根。狮子像保存相当完好。石柱并没有阿育王的诰文,只雕有笈多王朝时候的文字。

在石柱狮子面向的对面筑有



一个覆钵式的塔,是为了纪念猴 王献密的事迹。这塔建干阿育王时 代。后在贵霜王朝时将高度提升。 笈多王朝时更把它改为砖块建筑。 佛陀入灭后舍利分为八份供八国领 回供奉。其中一份分给了吠舍离。 此份据说供养干此塔。

另有座古塔离此塔不远处。 考古家发掘出深埋在地里的舍利, 认为是吠舍离人得到佛陀舍利后所 见的。如今发掘处依然受到保留, 但舍利已移至巴特那博物馆收藏。

在石柱后方有个水池。是猴 王献给佛陀使用的玛卡瑞池(Markat-Hrid)。佛陀说法的讲堂就在 此池畔旁。

王舍城(Raigir): 当天下午用 餐后, 我们续程前往王舍城。此 地距吠舍离约149公里。

Rajgir的意思是王之居所,故 译为王舍城。此城现位干印度比 哈邦(Bihar)内。原为摩揭陀国国 都,是频婆娑罗王(Bimbisara)所 建。后其子阿阇世王(Ajatsatu 译 为未生怨王)迁都至新都波吒厘城 (Palaliputra), 此城为旧城。此旧 城座落干山间,分内外两部分。 后毁于大火。阿阇世太子在离旧城 约四千米处建了一座新城,宫殿华 丽,全盛期有三十二个大门和六十 四个望楼。

悉达多太子告别王宫出家修 行,首次来到摩揭陀国,受到国王 频婆娑罗王殷切的款待。知道悉达 多太子是了不起的王子, 想留下太 子同治理国家, 愿意分半个江山给 太子。只是太子为度生而出家的心 意坚决给予拒绝了。频王知道太子 的心意后,十分欣赏,对太子说, 一旦成佛要来度化他。太子答应。

待太子成佛,成了释迦牟尼 佛后,带了弟子前来王舍城。频 婆娑罗王出宫谒见。当频王见到 受摩揭陀国人民尊崇的优频陀螺 迦叶随侍佛陀身边感到非常惊讶。 知道陀感化了优迦叶, 国王和大众 对佛陀更起了非常的信心。频王也 因此皈依了三宝,成了佛教有力的 护法之一。频王也是第一个皈依三 宝的国王。

频王皈依后, 为方便佛陀度 生有个固定的地方,于是,献地兴 建了一座精舍供养佛陀。这就是有 名的竹林精舍。是佛陀的第一个寺 院。往后, 佛陀来此说法住在此, 僧团也在此修行。

当时此精舍规模十分宏大, 共有十六个大院; 每院有六十间 房。并有五百楼阁,七十二讲堂。

佛陀灭度火化后, 阿阇世王获 赠舍利,在此建塔供养。后阿育王 重新取出,建立新塔供奉。

公元五世纪时, 法显法师 到来,见城已荒废。公元七世纪



灵山顶上平台

波罗蜜经, 佛说转有经, 持世经 和一部分阿含经。

灵鹫山位于王舍城西方。频 婆娑罗王为方便佛陀往返竹林精 舍和灵山, 特开设一条往山上的 石阶达山顶。如今,此阶尚存, 并不陡峭, 斜度不大, 非常好走。

在近山顶的路旁有二个山洞 分别为佛陀智慧第一的舍利弗尊 者和多闻第一的阿难尊者修行处。

到了山顶可见到有块像鹫鸟



通往山顶平台(位右下1/3处) 舍利弗尊者入定山洞 的石阶





阿难尊者入定山洞

玄奘大师也到过此处。 他描绘 城"外郭已坏,无复遗堵。内城 虽毁,基址犹峻,周二十余里, 面有一门","城中无复凡民, 唯婆罗门减千家耳"。

距离精舍不远处, 有座灵鹫 山(Griddhkuta),中国佛教界一般 称作灵山,是佛陀宣讲不少经典 之处, 如妙法法华经, 愣严经, 无量寿经,观无量寿经,大般若 头部的大石,可以会意,为什么此 山名为灵鹫山的原因。山顶面积不 大, 最前端有个用石砖砌成的防护 矮墙。往内, 可见到用砖砌成的凹 字矮墙。此墙到底是谁砌的,不得 而知。只见到有位兴都教徒在墙内 设了佛像, 让朝圣者供花, 捐款, 颂经, 此处到底归谁管, 无人知, 卖花款项和捐款最后落入谁的手里 也无人能晓。

# 佛总周E儿童 少年佛学班开学典礼

■ 佑桂 ■

漫假期,弹指即过,又见身着黄澄澄制服,带着阳光般灿烂笑容的小朋友们,三三两两的朝着佛总大门走来。这一天,2014年1月12日,正是佛总周日儿童/少年佛学班开学的日子。小朋友们走进大厅,毕恭毕敬的向佛陀问讯后,井然有序的直驱三楼礼堂,静候典礼的开始。

典礼在佛总秘书长广品法师到来后,正式开始。 首先,法师带领大家以虔诚恭敬的心礼佛三问讯。 接着,由法师为大众开示。法师以学生目前的重责 大任为题,告诫小朋友们,当下最重要的职责就是 把书读好,珍惜身为学生的黄金时代,好好努力用 功读书,千万不可沉溺于现代宠物 - 电子游戏中, 否则"少壮不努力,老大徒伤悲"。也唯有把书读 好,才不会"书到用时方恨少",将来离开学校出 社会才有能力独立工作,报效国家,帮助他人,以 慰父母辛劳,教养之恩。

论语泰伯篇里,曾子说:"士不可不弘毅,任

重而道远。";读书人,尤其是有抱负,有作为的人,肩负重任,为弘扬仁道必须奋斗终身。 法师今日的开示,不仅是对小朋友们的教诫,也是对我们这些离校多时的老师家长们的期勉,希望大家在繁忙的工作之余,也能充实自我,不离书本。 古人也说:"一日不读书,言语乏味,三日不读书,面目可憎。"。正所谓开卷有益,我们应当多多阅读,从书本中发掘知识,增长视野。感恩法师的智慧语录!

除了开示把书读好是学生的本职之外,在这新的开始,法师还传授小朋友们一个秘诀,那就是发愿。不但要发愿,还要把愿望唸七遍,如此这个愿就会牢牢记住了! 法师今日还特别准备了一个小盒子跟小朋友们结缘,除了唸诵七遍愿望之外,也可以把愿望写下来收进小盒子里。法师的贴心,让人倍感暖意。

最后,在大众供僧仪式下,圆满结束了今早的 开学典礼。

# 记佛总慈善组义工慰劳分享会

# 仅义路上师友随

■ 佑桂 ■

今年的慰劳晚会不同于以往,既没有娱乐节目,也没有猜谜游戏,而是以分享会的形式呈现。诚如向扬法师开场致词时所言,今晚晚会的主角就是佛总这批行菩萨行,以佛理感化狱友的辅导义工们。希望义工们今夜畅

所欲言,言无不尽的抒发心得,彼此交流,检讨改进,也让新进义工从中学习。除了感谢义工们坚持不退的精神外,法师也祝福这个团体愈来愈好!

佛陀为利不同根器的众生而 广说八万四千种法门。所以,秘 书长广品法师致词时说:"佛法 虽无初、中、高级之分,但义工 们在辅导时,应随狱友的程度之 高好的不同而采用不同的方式 高"同时,法师也鼓励以工 们,"虽然有些狱友进出监狱 大,但不要气馁,你们的付出是 值得的。"最后,法师祝福大家 马年一马平川。

接着,由广品法师颁发长期服务证书;有服务长达25年的张渊龙居士;20年的陈天发居士及其他十年,五年不等的义工们。

是什么样的动力和信念推动

















着这群不畏风吹日晒雨淋坚持去监狱辅导的义工们呢?在看到狱友们诵爱打法杨刚毅出了法杨刚毅是打法杨刚。据太师,是杨子和说太师,是他是一个一位是是一个可以自我挑战的机会。

接下来,由陈天发居士分享 如何持续不断。他认为应当把监 狱辅导当作生活的一部分,就像 吃饭一样自动自发。正因为他抱 持着这种时间一到就自动到监狱 报到的态度,获得狱友们的信 任,感化了狱友。此外,他也劝 诫新进义工不可用敷衍应酬, 交 差了事的心来作辅导, 而应带着 一颗真诚、平等的心。听到这么 多位义工发表心得, 最资深的辅 导员苏满那法师也跃跃欲言。带 着沙哑的声音, 法师感触的说出 透由今晚的分享, 可以让有心参 与辅导人士知道, 监狱辅导是不 简单的, 而义工们也应装备好自 己, 充实自己, 才可以有效的教 导狱友, 狱友们是否听进或接受 佛法的分享, 无须过于在意, 重 要的是义工们已为狱友们种下善 根的因。法师也鼓励义工们应当 多多分享,大家一起学习,一起 努力!

最后,康德宝居士起来作分享;他认为监狱辅导是在考验他

的耐力;每位辅导员可以用不同的方式与狱友分享,但应尽量生活化;有时也应给狱友机会发表分享。女辅导员蒋志慧居士,则提出一些辅导员会面对的问题,如狱友出狱后,是否应当继续辅导等。分享会就在一片讨论声与摸彩赠品欢愉声中圆满结束。

当我们在一个团体里承办事业时,所依靠的就是师法友。诚如监狱辅导一事,既有法师的指导,又有佛陀教法为主轴,还有同行善友的互相提携、关照。愿义工们在这个有着师法友知谐相随的菩萨行大道上,充分发挥"利剑",高举无惧之光,向仗义大道迈进永不退缩。加油了!可敬可爱的义工们!

# 学校的合作 伙 伴

"绝对是难得的经验!"吴玩娟女士,一个为菩提学校家长支援组服务了三届的家长,总结她这几年来当家长义工的经验,发出了以上感言。如今,为了更好地推动学校的活动,她仍然协调于老师与其他家长义工之间。她说: "在与其他家长义工们交流、沟通期间,我学到了许多家长之道。尤其让我引以为豪的是,我与我孩子一样,都是菩提学校的一份子!"

当学校推行全面性教育时,家长们的全面配合,将使学生获益。校长林惠珉女士强调: "家长们的积极配合有助于强化学生们在课堂的学习,促进孩子的健康成长,提高教育质量。" 林可恩是我校的小六学生,也是一名家长义工的孩子,她说: "我和妈妈有共同的话题了!"这与校长的话有异曲同工之妙!

自从2005年菩提学校的家长支援组成立以来, 它的规模越来越强大,这不仅表现在成员的人数上, 也表现于所推动的活动更多元、更全面。



家长与教师一同郊游,乐趣融融



在学校活动中提供的协助

一个很好的例证是去年底的小一迎新会,家长 义工们为将入学的新生排忧解难。今年一月份开学 的前两周,义工们为新生的家长们提供了一些如何 与学校携手合作,共同教育孩子的小贴士。有些家 长反应说,这许多小贴士的确有利于他们的孩子更 快、更好地融入菩提这个大家庭。

这些年来,菩提学校的家长支援组还负责策划了 不少学校活动。例如,这几年的教师节庆祝会,他们 不但不遗余力地帮忙策划,还担任庆祝会的主持和总 务。有些家长甚至与自己的孩子在教师节庆祝会上同 台演出。负责庆祝会筹备工作的家长义工徐月清女士说: "我认为,这是我们感谢师恩的最佳方法。"

我们非常感谢家长们的无私奉献,也安排了在"感恩日"与家长义工们一块儿庆祝。校方也为家长举办了不少讲座,以便家长提升他们与孩子建立关系及沟通方面的认知和技巧。家长们都获益不浅。

总而言之,恒久的、有效的合作伙伴关系取决于双方拥有共同的教育理念,一起为培育下一代而努力。



# Continuing the MUSIC-MAKING JOURNEY in 2013

■ Ng Bao Lin ■

he lights shine down on a group of talented musicians, as they played multiple joyful pieces for a very special night in December last year. The audience roars its approvals as the music slows and the curtains begin to close. This was the scene that many members of the Maha Bodhi School Alumni Band (MBSAB) and the Maha Bodhi School Symphonic Band (MBSSB) could not forget on the night of their very own concert, #throwback.

#throwback is a one-hour mini-concert organised by MBSAB, brought together with the MBS Main Band and Junior Band on the 28 December 2013, at Maha Bodhi School Hall.

As the title of the concert suggest, this concert was meant as a platform to bring members and audience through all the memories that both MBSSB and MBSAB had throughout these years.

Under the baton of Mr. Quek Boon Hui, MBSSB's Resident Conductor and Mr. Yeo Jie Yuan, MBSSB's Assistant Conductor and Music Director of MBSAB, many exciting pieces were presented to a crowd of 700 people. Pieces include Hymm to the Infinite Sky and Symphonic Episode I by Satoshi Yagisawa.

Additionally, the bands were very honoured to have Venerable Seck Kwang Sheng, Chairman of Singapore Buddhist Federation, together with Venerable Seck Kwang Phing, Secretary General of Singapore Buddhist Federation and Mrs. Elaine Quek-Lim, Principal of Maha Bodhi School attending the concert.

"It was an honour and privilege having them at #throwback. Their presence not only confirm their support and faith in the alumni band, it also acknowledges the hard work and effort that the members have been putting up till the actual performance," said Clement Ng, former President of MBSAB's Executive Committee.

The large group of audience who attended the

concert on this special Saturday was impressed by the performance put up by the three bands. Many cheered for an encore, wishing the concert would never end.

Mr. Chee Hock Wah, Vice President from the Maha Bodhi School Alumni even commented on MBSAB's very own Facebook group with a compliment message, in which



Finale item presented by the three bands

he said, "Thank you all for the superb performance last night. I fully enjoy the concert and great performance!"

This concert ended with a great success. It had not only created an opportunity for past members to participate or attend; this concert was also a good platform for members to celebrate the best of band music, the talents of the young musicians, and their passion for making music.

Just like any other concerts in the past, a post-concert retreat party was organised on 28 February 2014 at Maha Bodhi School to thank all participating alumni band members for their efforts and contributions in making the concert a success.

"I'm very happy to see that members, both young and younger, bond together and share their experience during this retreat session," said Mr. Low Kai Li, President of MBSAB's Executive Committee. Mr. Low further added that he hope to have more opportunities and chances for MBSAB to learn from each other.

Just a month before #throwback, the MBSSB had participated in the 5th Winter Band Festival, held in Hong Kong from 30 November 2013 to 4 December 2013.



Picture of Mrs Elaine Quek, members of Maha Bodhi School Alumni Board and Maha Bodhi Alumni Band Executive Committee



A group picture taken at the retreat session on 28th of February this year



Maha Bodhi School Symphonic Band with the teachers at Changi Airport before boarding the plane

The Winter Band Festival is designed to provide an educational and positive music learning experience for school bands from primary to college level. It aims to enhance ensembles' learning curve through workshop, performance and adjudication at one of the world's famous park, Hong Kong Disneyland.

MBSSB members, together with Mr. Quek, Mr. Yeo, and Mr. Jasen How, MBSSB's percussion tutor and all teachers had worked very hard to prepare themselves for this winter band festival.



Members queuing up for Satoshi Yagisawa's autograph

Their hard work paid off with MBSSB clinching the "Gold" Award, with their performance of Symphonic Episode I and Highlights from Aladdin.

Their trip to Hong Kong also

included a music clinic workshop with Satoshi Yagisawa, a renowned Japanese conductor and composer

in the band scene. During this workshop, Yagisawa coached the primary school students personally. Meanwhile, one of the main highlights of this workshop was when students were able to get the famous conductor's autograph and picture.

Agnes Pang, librarian of MBSSB mentioned that, "I feel that this trip to Hong Kong is a good opportunity to let me learn more through the music workshop with Satoshi and the music exchange session.

I also learned to work together with my section mates."

Students and teachers also got to spend their trip having fun in Hong Kong Disneyland and various Hong Kong scenic attractions.

For those who are curious on when they can catch MBSAB and MBSSB in action again - Fret not as "Reminiscence III", MBSAB's biennial concert series will be held at the end of 2014. Details are still in the works and updates will be available soon.

In addition, MBSAB has always been actively trying to welcome more alumni into her big family. Any alumni who have intentions to join this big family, you can write in to mbsalumniband@gmail.com.

The Maha Bodhi School Alumni Band (MBSAB) started with a CD recording project in 2005, which featured several of the many pieces that the band has played before.

Thereafter, the alumni remained largely dormant until 2009, when members were called back once again to be involved in MBSSB's ODYSSEY II. Since then, MBSAB has become a new platform for graduated members of MBS Main Band to further their passion in music and their ensemble experience.

The Maha Bodhi School Symphonic Band (MBSSB) was formed in 1996. Through the years, the symphonic band has achieved 8 consecutive Gold Awards at the biennial SYF Central Judging of Primary School Bands from 1998 to 2012. The band has also performed regularly at events held in conjunction with the SYF, like the opening ceremony in 2010 and the closing ceremony in 2008. Meanwhile, the band has also won a Gold Award at the 17th Australian International Music Festival in Sydney, Australia.



A photograph that was taken at Almshouse in Kowloon Walled City Park, Hong Kong



教主张"不为自己求安乐,但愿众生得离苦"的慈悲济世的思想。佛教的这种"慈悲喜舍"的思想告诉我们,作为学佛之人,应当悲悯众生的痛苦,尽自己的能力救度众生出离苦海。

"慈悲喜舍"四无量心中,慈是第一位的。慈是主动去关爱或怜悯他人,使他们活得快乐。佛门常说: "无缘大慈,同体大悲"。慈是一种至高无上的发自内心的情怀,与世间的爱不同,完全超越世间的一切烦恼。具有慈心的人,希望一切众生都

快乐, 还要脚踏实地去帮助他们。

悲是拔苦,拔除一切众生的痛苦。佛经上常说 苦海众生常被各种痛苦烦恼所缠绕,不得自由。因 此,诸佛菩萨常常发大慈大悲之心,希望救拔众生 出离苦海。这种悲心不仅是对众生怜悯与关怀,更 是以行动来救拔处于痛苦中的众生。

在现代社会,很多寺院通过多种渠道筹措资金来建立形式多样的慈善机构。比如建立慈善基金会, 扶贫助学,设立孤儿院与养老机构、举办义学等。

当别人的情绪十分悲观时,我们若能给人以温暖的话语,使人从 悲观的情绪中解脱出来,重新生 起生活的信心,也是一种慈悲。 不仅对人物质方面的帮助是慈悲济世的表现,遇到老病之人,给予热情的关照与呵护也是一种慈悲。当别人的情绪十分悲观时,我们若能给人人的话语,使人从悲观的话语,使人从悲观生活给中解脱出来,重新生起生活的信心,也是一种慈悲。凡是能帮助人们远离或减少痛苦的事业都可以积极地去做。通过这样的行为,不仅能使人感受到学佛人的慈悲和关爱,而且

也会更加尊崇佛教。

"慈悲喜舍"中的喜即欢喜、随喜、恭敬、赞叹,就是随喜他人的成就与福德。有随喜之心可以帮助我们去除对他人的嫉妒与不满。在我们周围常有很多人在长相、才能、学识等方面胜于我们。对于这些胜于我们的人,有叹,相反,他们对人存有妒忌之心,是为他们优于自己而高兴赞自己的人,以消除自己以流是让我们的人。而喜无量心就是让我们因及喜悦的心情。即便是冤家敌人,如果有欢乐的事,也同样表示无量欢喜。

心怀喜无量心的人,当看见别人做善事,他们会随喜赞叹;不但使做善事的人心生欢喜,自己也获随喜功德的利益。看见有人学习佛法,要随喜恭敬。学佛将来必定成佛,可以脱离轮回,免除生老病死苦,这是人生一件最大的要事,最应该赞叹随喜。我们看到任何人得到快乐,要时时随喜,保持一种愉悦的心情。

在现实生活中,为了让人欢喜,或者为别人取得成就而欢喜,就应当对人说温和柔软、欢喜赞叹的话语。谚云: "好言一句三冬暖。"菩萨依众生之根性,善言慰喻,使其充满信心与欢喜,藉由爱语与众生结善缘,再进一步使其欢喜接受佛法,信受奉行,成就普度众生的目的。而作为现代出家人,在与人相处时,若能够让众生因为有你而心生欢喜,我们自然能够在人的心中有良好的形象。

舍是平等心,舍弃我执我慢,等视自他的平等心,及舍弃财物等的布施心,舍弃自心过度的爱憎及烦恼的平等心。舍,是没有执着、没有厌恶而平等地对待他人及任何事情的心境。平等的态度可以帮助我们去除偏爱和执着的功德心。我们对一切人、事、物不起一点儿憎爱执着。做了好事不记在心里是舍;做了不如法的事,忏悔以后不再放在心里是舍;布施时不执着功德,三轮体空是舍。把慈悲喜舍的功德通通舍掉,不执着,那才是真舍。对众生



谚云:"好言一句三冬暖。"菩萨依众生之根性,善言慰喻,使 其充满信心与欢喜,藉由爱语与众 生结善缘,再进一步使其欢喜接受 佛法,信受奉行,成就普度众生的 目的。

没有贪嗔痴的心,平等对待,那就是于诸众生远离贪嗔痴,心住平等舍。

舍能使人远离贪心,作为一种乐善好施的行为, 舍从表面看是自己财物受到了损失,但是你却不仅 为自己求得了功德,而且还会受到受施者的尊重与 感激,使你感觉到心灵的富足,有时还能够使你得 到意想不到的幸福回报。

慈悲喜舍不仅是诸佛菩萨化导众生时具有的四种心,也是一个修行者应当具备的基本素养。如果我们都具有这四种心,我们不仅能够悲悯他人的痛苦与不幸,也能够为他人取得荣誉而欢喜。同时,我们还能够尽己所能解决别人的困难,让人过得欢喜幸福。

# 佛教介入公益活动

# 的思想渊源

■ 智华 ■

教传入中国以后,不断介入各种公益活动, 这与其受到传统儒家入世济世与道教劝善去 恶等思想的冲击交融不无关系,但佛教教义本身的 影响应该是十分重要的,尤其是佛教的福田观念、 慈悲观念、因果业报说、报恩思想等对其从事公益 事业均有较深切的影响。

# 一、佛教的福田观念

佛教介入公益活动,福田观念是重要的思想渊源。福田原指对佛行了布施,就以此布施功德,自己得利益成就。佛教以为,布施有如种子,田地比如佛陀,布施给佛陀,能产生幸福的田地,因此佛陀名之"福田"。"田"含有生长和收获的意思,"福田"即可生福德之田。凡敬待福田,即可收获功德、福报。

福田思想的重要经典依据是西晋沙门法立、法炬合译的《佛说诸德福田经》,经中说佛陀为天帝解说了"五净德福田"和"七法广施福田"。所谓"五净德福田"是指:一者发心离俗,怀佩道故;二者毁其形好,应法服故;三者永割亲爱,无适莫故;四者委弃驱命,尊众善故;五者志求大乘,欲度人故。此五福田"供之得福,进可成佛"。所谓"七法广施福田"则指:一者兴立佛图僧房堂阁;二者园果浴池树木清凉;三者常施医药疗救众病;四者作牢坚

超声生幸福的田地, 那就以为,布施有如种子, 布施有如种子,

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船,济渡人民;五者安设桥梁,过渡羸弱;六者近道作井,渴乏得饮;七者造做圊厕,施便利处。此七福田"行者得福,即生梵天"。两者都要求大众多多行善,以便得到福报。经文后面还举了不少例子,如波罗奈国的听聪,于大道旁作小精舍,"床卧浆粮,供给众僧。行路顿乏,亦得止息";拘夷那竭国的波拘卢,奉药果给众僧;罗阅祗国的阿难,到寺院中造作新井,提供香油浴具,洗浴众僧;天帝前生以珠宝施舍僧人;佛陀亦自陈前生在大过旁建厕所的事件等。可见,福田思想的开展,不但对佛、法、僧三宝的布施称为福田,对贫苦、羸弱和能获好的果报。

就福田而言,佛教关注功德善事的积极效果,如《杂阿含经》卷36记载佛陀为天子说偈云: "种植园果故,林树荫清凉;桥船以济渡,造作福德舍;穿井供渴乏,客舍给行旅;如此之功德,日夜常增长;如法戒具足,缘斯得生天。"但佛教排斥个人功利主义,那些为求福田才布施的行为,不能算是

真正的福田。《优婆塞戒经》卷4中强调: "施时不求内外果报,不观福田及非福田,施一切财,心不吝惜,不择时节,是故名为施波罗密。" 道宣律师在删定《四分律》时,曾专门就寺院和僧人对外施药施食等方面的行事做了规定: "若彼病者,慈心施舍,随病所宜。若非随病食施,得罪也。婴儿,狱囚,怀妊等,慈心施之,勿望后报。"可见,慈心随宜与不计回报的布施才是真正的布施,才是福田的本义。

# 二、佛教的慈悲观念

慈悲是佛教教义的又一重要思想。在梵文中, "慈"有友爱之情, "悲"有哀怜同情之意。佛教教导世人, 欲成佛道, 必须胸怀慈悲, 以慈爱之心给予人们幸福, 以怜悯之心拔除人的痛苦。佛教的这种慈悲道德观对中国社会影响深远, 民间长期尊奉的观世音信仰, 即较好体现了大众对救苦救难、大慈大悲思想的认同。

《大智度论》卷26中说: "大慈与一切众生 乐,大悲拔一切众生苦;大慈以喜乐因缘与众生,

# 大慈与一切众生乐, 大悲拔一切众生苦; 大慈以喜乐因缘与众生, 大悲以离苦因缘与众生。



大悲以离苦因缘与众生。"简而言之,就是"慈能与乐,悲能拔苦"。《大般涅盘经》卷15中也说:"为诸众生除无利益是名大慈,欲与众生无量利乐是名大悲。"慈悲观念为佛教从事社会公益活动奠定了坚实的理论基础。

佛陀之道在于能行,慈悲践行很重要的一端即在布施。《大乘义章》卷14中说: "言布施者,以己财事分布于他,名之为布;辍己惠人,目之为施。"布施又可分为财施,法施,无畏施。从财施来看,诸佛、菩萨的大慈大悲,在利他上没有什么不

可以舍的,小如财物,大至捐身舍命,乃至舍身饲虎。从法施来看,诸佛,菩萨已证诸法实相,已得无上智慧,以方便救渡众生,使解脱众生成为可能。无畏施就是指救人急难,令众生消除害怕、恐惧。佛教世界中,诸佛、菩萨之所以能够普度众生,亦正源于慈悲心所产生的无边力量。

布施而外, 佛教以为爱语和利行也是度众生的 方式, 也是慈悲行。爱语是以善言劝谕, 并以平等 心亲近众生,随机施教。利行则是笃行种种善行, 利益众生。这种普及一切众生的慈悲观,后来进一 步演变为不杀生、放生和素食的思想。隋唐时期. 佛教寺院和僧人修置放生池、大力提倡护生放生。 唐肃宗乾元二年曾经颁布圣旨,在全国的81处地 方设立放生池, 蓄养鱼虾之类, 禁止人们捕捉, 当 时著名的书法家颜真卿还为此专门书写碑文。据宋 代王谠《唐语林》卷4记载, 唐宪宗时宰相元稹在 江东,也曾经"修龟山寺鱼池,以为放生之所"。 此外,结合《唐会要》等典章制度,我们还可以发 现, 隋唐以来凡遇三元节(正月十五上元节、七月十 五中元节、十月十五下元节)、中和节(二月一日)等 节日, 朝廷都会颁布禁屠钓或断屠等约束。这种禁 约,除受到道教信仰的影响外,显然也与佛教护生 观念影响不无关系。

# 三、佛教因果业报说

因果业报说,又称为"因缘业报说"、"因果报 应说"、"果报论"等,是佛教伦理的理论基础。

# 5 杀生之罪能令众生堕于地狱、畜生、饿鬼,若生人中得二种果报,一者短命,二者多病。 3 3

因果业报的思想,源于印度婆罗门教,而后起的佛教沿袭其说,并将其融入整个佛教思想,随后传入中国。佛教认为,宇宙的万事万物都受因果法则支配,是由"业"即人们自身行为和支配行为的意志决定的。"善有善报,恶有恶报"的因果观深入民心,令人知所取舍,而消极地不作恶,积极地行善。

《善恶因果经》中说: "杀生之罪能令众生堕于地狱、畜生、饿鬼,若生人中得二种果报,一者短命,二者多病。"可见,"善自获福、恶自遭殃"的道理要求人们从自身做起,并劝化一切众生,自利利他、共致福业。

善恶的行为生起一种业力, 它将带来善恶、苦 乐的因果报应, 形成了善业善果、恶业恶果的业报 转回。东晋名僧慧远在其《三报论》中进一步指 出: "业有三报:一日现报,二日生报,三日后报。 现报者, 善恶始于此身即此身受。生报者, 来生便 受。后报者,或经二生、三生、百生、千生,然后 乃受。"慧远"三报"说把因果报应的时空及时作 了扩延, 传统"积善余庆、积恶余殃"的思想, 纳 入了"三世二重因果"的业报轮回流程。民间"善 有善报,恶有恶报"的因果观不再困惑于现实中报 应的迟钝或不仁(诸如"好人没好报"、"恶人没报 应"等),而继续推演为"善有善报,恶有恶报。不 是不报, 时辰未到"的果报观——现世的处境总有 其前世的"因",而现世的业力又早已种下了来世 的"果"。过去因与现在果构成第一重因果,现在 因与未来果构成第二重因果。



世间不如意事十之八九。对於快乐,每个人皆有不同的定义。陈先生在中风过后,以他半身不方便,但仍能行走之躯,加入义工行列,作为他快乐的定义。

陈先生家境原本就只能糊口。不料一场中风,将 他推入人生谷底。无法出门工作的他,眼见家中山穷 水尽只剩半杯米, 想开煤气了结全家, 却因无力偿还 水电,煤气早被切断,无法结束生命。人生至此,还 有快乐可言吗?幸好,就在他最绝望的时刻,一位 生命之家的义工, 送来了米粮, 送来了希望, 不但 拯救了他的生命, 更激起他感恩之心, 想回馈社会 的心、希望尽一己之力帮助需要帮助的人。现在的 他, 虽然手脚不甚灵活, 但却毅然加入生命之家成 为义工, 挨家挨户的送米粮, 探望老人家。现在等 待义工到来出发送米粮,已经成了他每天最期待的 事。当了义工之后,陈先生不仅生命改变了,他也 影响他的孩子一起做义工,帮助老人家粉刷墙壁, 铁门等。所以, 现在陈先生"最大的快乐, 最大的 幸福就是把自己的精神力量奉献给他人",在他有 限的生命里,投入自己全部的力量为人群服务。他 的世界现在是一片蓝天, 他的生命是充满无限希望。

从陈先生的这个故事里我们清楚得了解到,体障者不论是身体或心理都不等于是残疾者,他们有些虽然是先天残疾、视障、或后天意外患病而截肢,但他们体障心不障;他们也是热爱生命、自食其力的一群,有些更积极参与义工,帮助他人。身体五官俱全的我们,看到这些画面,内心除了深感震撼给予赏识策励外,也应效学他们不因自己残障之躯,却能发挥"老吾老以及人之老,幼吾幼以及人之幼"的精神,开启"我为人人,人人为我"的心。

现代生活环境讲究环保,心灵环保亦应重视!对于体障人士,不畏自身残障而行义,开拓出自己一片天的实例,在在都给了我们这些体健人士最好的心灵提升。正所谓天生我才必有用,即使身体有缺陷,但只要不自卑,不妄自菲薄,以正面的态度处世,必为大众所接纳,无碍地融入社会,一片晴朗蔚蓝的天空就在眼前!

不要说快乐难找,难定义!让我们向体障行义人士学习,发挥爱心行善,以"病人之病,忧人之忧"的心,伸出援手帮助他人,共同为创造优雅社会努力,相信您的快乐指数定能冲上云霄!

# 佛度众生的善巧方便

■ 通徳 ■

个一生说法四十九年,谈经三百余回,讲说 八万四千法门,每种法门都是针对众生的一种烦恼。为了善巧方便地度化众生,佛陀常会采取 种种譬喻言辞,讲说佛理,从而令众生在潜移默化 中受到佛陀的接引教化。

在《法华经》中,讲述了某地有一位长者,有一 天他的家中失火,刚从外面回来的长者见此情景大为 惊恐。他于是叫孩子们赶快从屋中出来,但孩子们在 屋内玩得正开心,并不知道家中已经发生了大火。

眼看情况危急,父亲对孩子们吼叫: "孩子们, 家中失火了, 赶快逃出来吧。"孩子们似乎没有听到 父亲的呼叫声, 依然尽情地在屋内玩耍。

这位担心孩子们安全的父亲焦急地叫道: "孩子们,我这有珍奇好玩的玩具,赶快出来拿吧。"孩子们一听说有稀奇的玩具可玩,便争先恐后地跑出屋外,他们因而得以幸免干难。

佛陀常说世间犹如火宅,但众生不知家中突然失火,也不知自己处于被火烧死的恐怖之中。因此,佛陀发大悲心,以孩子处于火宅中而不自知的比喻,令众生明了世间犹如火宅,只有如实修行,才能出离火坑,得到永久的安乐。



下面这则穷子喻的典故,也说明了佛陀度化众 生的慈悲善巧。从前,有一位长者的独生子,离开 父亲在外面流浪,变得穷困潦倒。

他的父亲离开故乡到处寻找这个儿子,虽然尽一切努力,最终没有找到儿子,这个父亲就在一个城镇住了下来。

其后经过几十年,原本贫穷如今变成悲惨境遇的儿子,流浪到父亲的家门口。父亲一眼就认出这个流浪儿就是自己的儿子,心中十分欢喜。谁知这个流浪儿一见到父亲招呼,拔腿就跑。见到儿子逃走,长者随即派遣佣人追回流浪的儿子。但儿子担心受骗死活不愿意回去。

为了让儿子心甘情愿回到家中继承家产,长者 又派佣人接近儿子,告诉儿子说,有一位长者愿意 给他待遇优厚的工作,经过这样的方便引诱,儿子 于是接受了其工作,成为父亲的佣人。

作为父亲的长者慢慢培养和提拔不知是自己家 而辛勤工作的儿子,让他掌管金银财宝的仓库,然 而儿子却不知其主人就是自己的父亲。

父亲看到儿子已经变得通情达理,为人善良感到十分欣慰,父亲自知将不久于人世,有一天召集亲朋好友,对他们说:"诸位,这个是我多年来寻找的儿子。今后,我的所有财宝都是他的。"

故事中的长者就是佛陀,迷惑的儿子指一切众生。佛陀的慈悲,像施与独子的父爱般施与一切众生。佛以一切众生为儿子而予以教化,以涅槃之宝使他们成为真正的富有者。

佛陀怀着以众生病为己病的慈悲情怀,将一切众生视为子女而平等地教化。佛的大悲是一味的,但会随着众生根性的不同,其救度方法也会有差别。就如天上下的雨是一味的,但不同草木所受的恩惠也各不相同。

世间的父母不管有多少子女,其爱心都是一样的,若其中有个生病的孩子,父母就会格外地关心他。佛陀的大悲心也是这样,虽然平等地对待一切众生,但对于罪业深重者,无知而烦恼者,就会特别地怜悯。佛陀是慈父悲母,佛陀因对众生的慈悲心,而一心为众生尽力。他们若无佛陀的慈悲就不能得到救度。他们皆是佛子,都因受到佛陀善巧方便的救度得以离苦得乐。

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# The Journey

One 'who freely offers to do something' or 'works for an organization without being paid'. According to the Online Dictionary, this is what it means to be a volunteer. I have always liked the act of volunteering. You could say I got bitten by the volunteer bug back in Secondary School.

It all started with a camp called Youth Volunteer Involvement Programme (YVIP), organized by Student Volunteer Corps when I was 15 years old. After the camp, we were attached to a home for the next two weeks where we would interact with the beneficiaries there. My group was attached to Sun Love Home for the Intellectually Disabled and Dementia elderly.

But as I recalled further, perhaps my first taste of volunteering would be when I was much younger. I had memories of my mother bringing my brothers and I to the Society for the Physically Disabled. We gave gifts to the people there during special occasions such as Christmas. Though the memories are now slightly hazy, I do remember having such experiences and interactions with people who were wheel-chair bound.

Through my tertiary education years, I volunteered with two other organizations: Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery and Singapore Buddhist Mission, before where I am today at Singapore Buddhist Federation.

# **The Question**

In the many years of my volunteering journey, I never really asked myself why I devoted my time to helping others. It was only when I was involved in organising a major Buddhist event in 2013 that I really dug deep.

Whilst in the process of planning the event, there were moments where my team's efforts were not appreciated. Sometimes, earnest ideas and suggestions were dismissed and brushed off. On several occasions, we felt we were being taken for granted.

After this episode, I reflected on my actions and motivation for being involved in this project. Then it hit me. "Did I help others because I sincerely wish to help them, or was it to my own benefit? Was it out of guilt, to look good in front of others or to earn favours? If it was

sincerely to help others, then why was I hurt and affected by such reactions from the other parties?"

Criticisms are part and parcel of life. Even noble individuals like Mahatma Gandhi, Mather Luther King, and Mother Teresa were disliked, criticized, threatened (and killed) by others. So what more a person like me? In volunteering, I've learnt we cannot just stick to the good side of things; we need to embrace both the bad in the good, and the good in the bad.

So how does one volunteer from one's heart? What does it mean to have a heart of a volunteer? To me, I liken the heart of a volunteer to a Bodhicitta heart.

# The Heart of Bodhicitta

In Buddhism, 'Bodhicitta' is the heart of the mind of Buddhahood; the mind that strives towards awakening and compassion, for the sake of all sentient beings. 'Bodhi' means great enlightenment, while 'Citta' can be interpreted as intention or aspiration. There are also three important aspects of Bodhicitta that we need to understand.

### Wisdom

We need to understand the wisdom of emptiness; of non-attachment - that all conditioned things have no inherent self and is constantly changing. What is gained will be subjected to loss because these causes and conditions are susceptible to change. Therefore there is nothing to hold on to at the beginning because nothing is truly gained.

We also need to understand that we are here today because of others. We are all interconnected and interdependent. For example, a cup was made by many individuals before it became a cup. The potter who moulded the porcelain, the painter who designed it; all of them played a part to make this cup so that I can drink and use from it. Similarly, what we have and enjoy today is not just due to our own karma and efforts, but it was also due to the hard work and love of others. With this mindset, we will think less of 'me', and more of 'them'.

### Compassion

Once we understand this, the second aspect to understand is compassion. Because when we understand the impermanent nature of all phenomena; that there is non-self and things can change for the better, compassion will slowly arise in us as the main source of motivation to create positive conditions for others.

Ajahn Brahm once mentioned that people who contemplate on Annica (impermanence) don't become cold and heartless. He said, "The more you contemplate on the ephemeral nature of all things, that things will one day pass, the more compassionate you become. Because all

In Buddhism, 'Bodhicitta' is the heart of the mind of Buddhahood; the mind that strives towards awakening and compassion, for the sake of all sentient beings.



your loved ones has a crack in them. That's why you handle them gently, and you care for them."

True compassion is not sad. It is joyful. That is why compassion can actually be an addiction, because people who are genuinely compassionate feel joy, not sadness.

# Aspiration

The last and third aspect of Bodhicitta is aspiration. This aspiration is one driven by pure intention and faith. Faith in what? The faith that each and everyone of us have the same potential to be enlightened.

When we have cultivated such a heart, will we be able to stand strong in our aspiration, undeterred in times of adversity and criticisms. Definitely not an easy task but possible with right effort; consistent mindfulness, meditation, and reflection. This is what I try to strive for in my volunteer work, and even in my daily life.

I have always found the practice of Bodhicitta very inspiring and motivating. The attitude of doing good not just for ourselves, but for the benefit of all sentient beings. Before I start and end my day, I would recite a short mantra in my heart, to remind myself that the decisions and path I choose are not for myself, but for the benefit of my loved ones and for all sentient beings.

### What Matters Most

At the end of the day, it is not a matter of hours we have clocked to distribute food for the poor, or the number of zeros we have raised. It is something not measured by time sheets or figures, but measured in the receiver

There is a beautiful Bodhicitta seed in all of us, nestled somewhere in our hearts, waiting for the right conditions to grow.

and giver's heart.

There is a beautiful Bodhicitta seed in all of us, nestled somewhere in our hearts, waiting for the right conditions to grow. What conditions have your created for your Bodhicitta seed to grow?

I would like to share a verse from a song that never fails to remind me the true act of giving and loving.

I come when you love me,
I leave when you reject me,
But truly I am always here.
As you and I are inseparable.

Keep giving, keep striving.

May your Bodhicitta seeds grow and blossom into beautiful flowers one day.

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宜说法是诸佛菩萨和历代祖师为了方便度化 众生,而针对众生的根机和得度因缘,采用 善巧方便的手段为众生说法的方式。在《法华经· 方便品》中,佛陀告诉舍利弗说:"诸佛智慧,甚 深无量,其智慧门,难解难入,一切声闻、辟支 佛所不能知。所以者何?佛曾亲近百千万亿无数诸 佛,尽行诸佛无量道法,勇猛精进,名称普闻。成 就甚深未曾有法,随宜所说,意趣难解。舍利弗, 吾从成佛已来,种种因缘,种种譬喻,广演言教, 无数方便,引导众生,令离诸著。"佛陀告诉舍利 弗,诸佛智慧深广无边,声闻、辟支佛无从知晓。 但是,佛陀对于甚深之法,能够根据众生的因缘, 采用各种譬喻言辞,无数善巧方便,随宜说法,引 导众生开佛知见。

佛陀在谈及《法华经》的殊胜微妙之时,又告诉舍利弗说: "如是妙法,诸佛如来,时乃说之,如优昙钵华,时一现耳。舍利弗,汝等当信佛之所说,言不虚妄。舍利弗,诸佛随宜说法,意趣难解。所以者何?我以无数方便、种种因缘、譬喻言辞、演说诸法,是法、非思量分别之所能解,唯有诸佛乃能知之。"经文反复强调,诸佛如来所说的法虽然深广难懂,但诸佛常会通过各种因缘,以善巧方式随宜说法,令众生得度。

在各种佛教典籍中,佛陀为了令众生明了自己 说法的深意,更好的依教奉行,从而成就道业,常 常以各种譬喻言辞,随宜说法。

佛陀住世时,曾有弟子因为修行用功过度,产

生了退失道心的念头。佛陀了解情况后,便以弟子 出家之前所弹的琴为例,劝告弟子,修行应当适度 用功,防止过犹不及。如《四十二章经》云:

沙门夜诵迦叶佛遗教经。其声悲紧,思悔欲退。佛问之曰: "汝昔在家,曾为何业?"对曰: "爱弹琴,佛言弦缓如何?"对曰: "不鸣矣。" "弦急如何?"对曰: "声绝矣。" "急缓得中如何?"对曰: "诸音普矣。"佛言: "沙门学道亦然,心若调适,道可得矣。於道若暴,暴即身疲。其身若疲,意即生恼。意若生恼,行即退矣。其行既退,罪必加矣。但清净安乐,道不失矣。"

对于弟子用功过度产生的退道思想,佛陀作了 生动形象的开导。佛陀以弟子在家时经常弹的琴为 喻,告诉弟子,学道和弹琴一样,若是太懈怠了,

> 修行一旦悔退,罪业必定 会增加了。只有身心清净 安乐,道就不会失去。



则道业无成;假使用功过度了,则退失道心。佛陀 认为,懈怠道业不好,用功过度同样不好。心意如 果调整适宜,道就可得了。

佛陀认为,在修道过程中如果一味地急躁冒进,身体就会疲倦。如果身体疲倦了,心意就会恼恨,恼恨如果产生了,自然会后悔而不愿继续修行。修行一旦悔退,罪业必定会增加了。只有身心清净安乐,道就不会失去。所以,佛陀劝告弟子,一定要掌握正确的修道方法,防止过犹不及。通过这样随宜说法,不仅可以消除弟子修行中所遇到的烦恼,而且还能使弟子掌握正确的修行方法,树立正确的修行态度。

观世音菩萨是诸菩萨中随宜说法的代表。当众 生应当以什么身份得到度化之时,观音菩萨就会 随缘示现,随宜说法。如《观世音菩萨普门品》中 云:

佛告无尽意菩萨: "善男子,若有国土众生, 应以佛身得度者,观世音菩萨即现佛身而为说法; 应以辟支佛身得度者,即现辟支佛身而为说法; 应以声闻身得度者,即现声闻身而为说法;应以梵 王身得度者,即现梵王身而为说法;……应以长者 身得度者,即现长者身而为说法;应以居士身得度 者,即现居士身而为说法;应以宰官身得度者,即 现宰官身而为说法;应以安罗门身得度者,即 罗门身而为说法;应以比丘、比丘尼、优婆塞、优 婆夷身得度者,即现比丘、比丘尼、优婆塞、优 婆夷身而为说法;应以长者居士、宰官、婆罗门妇女 身得度者,即现妇女身而为说法; ……无尽意, 是观世音菩萨成就如是功德, 以种种形游诸国土, 度脱众生, 是故汝等应当一心供养观世音菩萨。是观世音菩萨摩诃萨, 于怖畏急难之中, 能施无畏, 是故此娑婆世界, 皆号之为施无畏者。"

这段经文是佛陀针对无尽意菩萨的请问而说, 无尽意菩萨问佛,观世音菩萨为何要在娑婆世界度 化众生,以及以什么方法来度化众生。佛陀就告诉 无尽意菩萨,众生应当以什么身份得到度脱,观音 菩萨就会示现什么身份来为这些苦海众生说法。观 音菩萨之所以示现各种不同的身份来度化众生,其 目的是为了让这些应当得到度化的众生对其有种认 同感,从而更加方便地随宜说法,度化众生。上段 经文中所指的观音菩萨示现不同身份为众生说法, 就是为了与众生保持亲近的距离,有助于简便快速 地度脱众生。

在《法华经·五百弟子授记品》中有则故事,有一个人到亲友家做客,因在宴席中饮酒过度而醉卧不起。这时,他的亲友因为有公事要外出,便将无价宝珠系在客人的衣服里面,作为客人的衣食之资。这个人当时醉卧,亲友系宝珠于衣服中却浑然不知。起来之后,游行到其他国家。为了衣食之需,辛勤劳作,十分辛苦。若得到少许财物,便十分满足。

不久, 亲友见到他过得如此艰苦, 便呵斥他说: "大丈夫为何为了衣食如此艰苦? 我过去为了让你过上安乐的生活, 在某年月日, 将无价宝珠系

在你的衣服中,而你现在竟然不知晓,还如此勤苦烦恼,以求活命,不是太过于愚痴了吗?你现在可以将此珠宝换取金钱,你就能过上衣服丰足的如意生活了。"

五百弟子通过这一比喻,来说明佛陀为教化五百弟子,令他们发智慧心,废寝忘食,使他们于不知不觉中证得阿罗汉道。当五百弟子认为灭度资生艰难,得少为足之时,佛陀为了觉悟五百弟子,又告诉弟子说:"诸比丘,汝等所得,非究竟灭。我久令汝等种佛善根,以方便故,示涅槃相,而汝谓为实得灭度。"

在佛教史上,有关随宜说法的事例不胜枚举。 刘宋文帝在位期间,笃信佛教,曾邀请西域三藏求 那跋摩来中土翻译经典,弘扬佛法,求那跋摩应邀 赴建业,宋文帝命居住祗洹寺。

一天,宋文帝向求那跋摩请教说: "寡人常想 戒杀持斋,但又难以做到,怎么办呢?"求那跋 摩说: "帝王所修之道,与一般士庶不同,朝野士 庶,号令不行,若不约己节物,何以修身。帝王是 以四海为家,万民为子,出一嘉言,则士庶欢喜; 实行一善政,则神人以和;轻徭薄赋,则风调雨 顺,桑麻遍野。以此持斋,功德很大;以此戒杀, 其持戒功德绝不是减少半日之餐,保全一只家禽之 命,然后弘扬佛法所能比的。"

宋文帝听后,抚几感叹说: "正如师所说,理事融通,没有滞碍,若不是开悟明达之人,怎么能说出如此有启示的话语,真不愧为人天师表,当代大善知识!"

求那跋摩能够针对宋文帝的疑惑,及时观机设教,随宜说法,使文帝听后心悦诚服,依教奉行,戒杀持斋,并以帝王的影响力带动了一大批信徒戒杀持斋。

在现代弘扬佛法的过程中,作为代佛宣法讲经 法师,应当以诸佛菩萨和历代祖师为榜样,不断掌 握善巧方便度化众生的方式,通过随宜说法让更多 众生明了佛法的深意,得到佛法的真实利益。



# 也是

位高僧在山泉旁边的一块石头上打坐。正当他心境如水,渐入禅定时,有一只类似飞蛾的小虫从空中掉落水中。这一异样的响动引起了他的注意,高僧毫不犹豫地伸出一只手将小虫从水中捞上来。可是他做完这件事,重新开始入静时,又有一只小虫在水中挣扎,于是他又一次将小虫捞出……如此反复多次,使他简直无法正常得修法。坐在他身旁的弟子实在忍不住面对高僧说:

"师父啊!您是不是换一个地方打坐,免得这些小事情影响了您的修行。"

高僧缓缓地抬起头,静静地看了一眼弟子说: "这也是我的修行。"

• • • • • •

对大乘佛教修行人而言,慈悲心是修行的基石,在他们眼中无论是动物还是人,生命的形态无论高级或低级,其形体无论大小,形象无论丑美,智力无论高下,甚至一只微不足道的小虫都值得尊敬,应该关爱和救护。

为此甚至舍弃自己的生命也在所不惜。真正能做到的就是一位菩萨。

我想:假如将这种慈悲情怀及于世,那么我们居住的这个地球也就是实实在在的"极乐净土"了。

份

■ 达亮 ■



### 更正

在第485期,《这一刻真美妙》、《选择快乐》的文章作者实为"法云",误印为"妙云",谨此致歉。若有不便,尚望海涵。

编辑部



**首人** 誊不动是指一个人在遭受他人毁谤和赞誉之时、始终保持平淡的心态,不为所动。诸佛菩萨和历代祖师都是毁誉不动的典范。佛菩萨和历代高僧大德不仅自己能够做到毁誉不动,而且还常在经典中劝诫弟子在修行实践中要做到毁誉不动。

在《维摩诘经·佛国品》中,佛陀于诸菩萨、 比丘等无量百千弟子前示现神通之力,一切大众 目睹佛之神力,叹未曾有,合掌礼佛,瞻仰佛陀尊 颜,目不暂舍。长者子宝积于佛前以偈颂赞佛云:

目净修广如青莲,心净已度诸禅定; 久积净业称无量,导众以寂故稽首。

. . . . . .

度老病死大医王, 当礼法海德无边;

毁誉不动如须弥, 于善不善等以慈。

偈颂称扬佛陀不仅在面对各种毁誉的处境之时,都能够安稳不动如须弥山,而且还能够以神通之力,令诸弟子恭敬赞叹,礼拜供养。

六祖慧能禅师晚年预知时至,他于太极元年七月,命令门人到新州国恩寺建塔,第二年夏末塔始建成。七月一日,慧能召集弟子说: "我到八月将要离开世间。你们若有疑问,尽早相问,为你们破除疑问,使你们不再迷惑。我若去后,没有人教你们。"

法海等弟子听慧能禅师言说之后,悉皆涕泣伤 感。只有神会神情不动,也不流泪。

慧能禅师告诉众人说:"神会小师,却得善不

慧能禅师认为,人有生灭变化,佛性没有生灭变化。若是明白这个道理,就能做到"毁誉不动, 哀乐不生"了。 善等,毁誉不动,哀乐不生。其他的人都没能做到,十几年在山中修行,究竟修了什么道?你们现在悲伤哭泣,是为了谁忧伤?如果是伤心我不知道往哪里去,其实,我自己知道我的去处,我如果不知道自己的去处,是不会事先向你们通报的。你们悲伤哭泣,都是因为不知道我的去处。如果知道我的去处,就不该悲伤。佛法本性本来没有生灭来去,又为何悲伤呢?"

慧能禅师认为,人有生灭变化,佛性没有生灭变化。若是明白这个道理,就能做到"毁誉不动,哀乐不生"了。当慧能告诉弟子自己不久将要入寂之后,只有神会做到了毁誉不动,神情平静,因而

受到慧能的称赞,认为神会懂得佛性没有生灭去来的道理。

在诸多佛教经典中,都讲到佛陀在面对他人的 毁谤之时,常会以坦然自若的神情来对待,并以比 喻说理的方式来教化诽谤自己的人改恶向善。《四 十二章经》第七章"忍恶无嗔"云:

佛言:有人闻吾守道,行大仁慈,故致骂佛。佛默不对,骂止,问曰:"子以礼从人,其人不纳,礼归子乎?"对曰:"归矣!"佛言:"今子骂我,我今不纳,子自持祸,归子身矣!"犹响应声,影之随形,终无免离。慎勿为恶!

佛陀以人送礼物给别人, 而别人不接纳为比



喻,告诉这个辱骂自己的人,当他辱骂自己,而自己不接纳,就像他送礼给人,别人若不接纳一样,罪过将会回归到自己身上。佛陀一番不动声色入情入理的话语,使做恶者哑口无言,羞愧不已,从而改恶向善。

与佛陀以平静的心态对待他人的毁谤不同,现 实生活中有很多人在面对侮辱之时,常常会情绪失 控,失去理智,以牙还牙,做出后悔莫及的事情。 因此,只有以平静的心态,冷静处理遇到的侮辱, 才能使问题得到圆满的解决。

一个人若能做到对于他人的毁谤不动声色不容易,对于他人赞誉能做到不为所动也很难。有很多人在面对他人的赞叹之时,常会得意忘形,骄傲自满。曾有个人整天喜欢溜须拍马,给人戴高帽子。他的老师很看不惯弟子这种行为,于是便警告弟子说:"你做人要诚实一点,不要华而不实,到处给人戴高帽子。"弟子听后说:"老师,你不知道,现在的人都喜欢听赞扬奉承的话,像你这样清高务实,不喜欢奉承的人太少了。"老师听弟子这么一说,微笑着点头:"你说的的确是这样。"

弟子转身便向人说,自己刚刚又卖给老师一顶 高帽子。为人师表者,有时面对他人的赞也会誉欢 喜接受,更不用说一般的人了。

对于各种赞誉,高僧大德都能够做到不为所动。近代高僧印光法师就是典型的代表。印光法师处处以常人自居,把自己看成是"粥饭僧"、"常惭愧僧"。印光法师不仅反对自己住世时别人对他的赞誉,更反对在自己过世后做大肆宣传。印光在《复了凡、冶公二居士书》中说:

光一生不妄誉人,亦极恶人妄誉己。……光已 七十九,过二十日即八十,死或在年内,或尚要受 几年罪。光死只许你们认真以净土法门自利利他, 若为光作赞传诔等,传送遐迩,乃系光之怨家。光 一生不受人之虚誉,以死而无知而虚誉之,是为 欺心。光只要弥陀慈父肯垂怜,此外一不愿闻也。

印光法师为人正直,既不喜欢妄加赞叹别人,也不喜别人妄加赞叹自己。法师认为接受别人所给予的虚假荣誉,就是欺心。当有人提出为法师作赞文、传记、诔文之时,印光法师非常反感,指责这样做的人是自己的怨家。印光法师认为,弟子们只要认真修持净土法门,从事自利利他的行为,就是对自己最好的赞誉。

由于印光法师的德行与影响,很多弟子将其奉为菩萨,并有弟子在言谈或书信中称印光法师为菩萨示现。法师知道后甚为反感,并严厉地批评了弟子对自己妄戴高帽的言语。印光法师在《复袁德常居士书三》中,对弟子们对他的尊崇之词提出批评:

"通告社员书菩萨示现四字,万万不可用。用之则罪过无量,且令具眼者,谓印光与汝均属狂妄之徒。敢以博地凡夫,妄称菩萨,此尚无引人造罪之咎,亦可与尔我消其罪业。无知之人见之,则引以为例,而一切僧俗,通以菩萨示现为称。此种大罪过,由尔我而始,则其流弊何所底止。宜以墨涂此四字,旁书洞鉴时机。庶于事于理,于自于他,均无妨碍矣。"

印光法师还告诫弟子,以后凡是有提及自己的 文字,只可直叙其事,不得妄戴高帽。给别人戴 高帽,可能弟子们认为是光荣之事,但不知道本不是自己的帽子,被人妄为戴上,别人便会说是假冒,被戴高帽的人就会受到大众的诽谤。为此,印光法师还专门提到自己被人戴高帽的事:民国九年(1920),常州的庄蕴宽居士到普陀山法雨寺,作了一首赞誉印光法师的诗,印光法师到他房中交谈的时候,庄居士就把这首诗交给印光法师。印光法师看后笑了笑,将诗歌又放在桌子上了。因为庄居士给印光法师戴的帽子太高,不敢戴了。印光法师认为,世间有很多好名之人,喜欢求人为自己戴高帽,但是自己与这些好名之人不同,别人以为光荣的事,自己却认为可耻。

印光法师不仅对别人给予自己过分的赞誉反感,即便是恰如其分的评价,他也淡然处之。民国二十六年(1937)春,上海女高中生杨信芳梦中经观音菩萨点示: 印光和尚是大势至化身,即赴苏州拜谒印光法师,告以梦景。印光法师训斥说: "莫瞎说,莫瞎说,以凡滥圣,招人毁谤。此梦更不许汝对人说,否则非我弟子。"

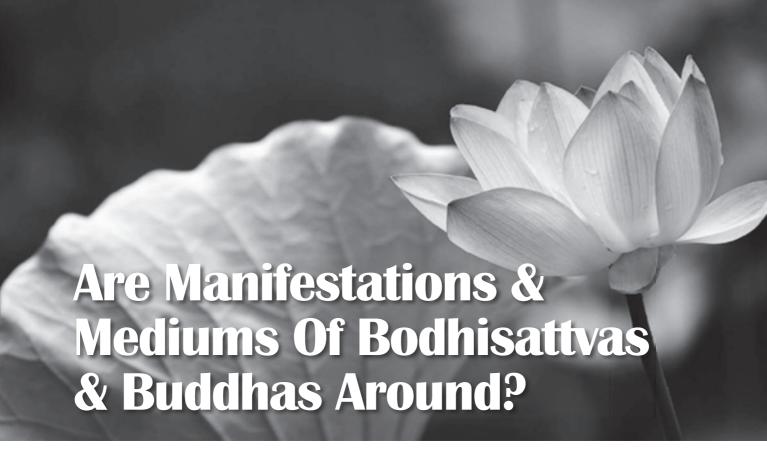
印光法师晚年,由于弘法利生和人格魅力的影响,信众对他的评价极高。面对信众对自己的赞叹之辞,印光法师深感不安,并提出批评与反对。印光法师临往生前,在《致德森法师书二》中说:

"光大约不久了,故将已了者了之,不能了者亦了之。光死,决不与现在僧相同,瞎张罗,送讣文,开吊,求题跋,敛些大粪堆在头上以为荣。……倘阿弥陀佛垂慈接引,千足万足。至于作传铭赞诔联者,教他们千万不要敛大粪向光头上堆,则受赐多矣。"

印光法师不仅对信众的赞叹不以为怀,即便是来自政府的奖赏也淡然视之。民国十一年(1922),印光法师六十二岁时,定海县知事陶在东,会稽道道尹黄涵之,汇师道行,呈请大总统徐,题赐"悟彻圆明"匾额一方,赍送普陀,香花供养,极盛一时,四众弟子叹为佛门盛事,而印光法师仿佛不知道一样。有人向他提及此事时,法师即以"虚空楼阁,自无实德,惭愧不已,荣从何来等语"一言带过,而且日后从不再谈总统赐匾额一事。

毁誉不动不仅是对人的一种考验,也是个人修 养的直接体现。只有我们做到毁誉不动之时,才能 够化解矛盾,提升自己,成为受人尊敬的人。





### ■ Various Dharma Protectors ■

n interestingly phrased question arose recently - 'Why do mediums not get any Buddha to answer their devotees' guestions?' Before there is further confusion, we should be clear that the use of mediums is not a Buddhist practice. Instead, for Chinese culture, it is part of folk religion. There are naturally irreconcilable aspects of different religions, which is why they are different in the first place and remain so. In this sense, even if a medium of any religion claims to be able to 'channel' a Buddha or Bodhisattva through him or her, this is entirely frowned upon by all orthodox Buddhists with right understanding. The only exception is the traditional but very exclusive use of a few trusted oracles in Tibetan Buddhism involving time-tested and dedicated Dharma protector deities (who are not Buddhas or Bodhisattvas) for very special matters.

Even if there are some who claim advice from some mediums believed to represent Buddhas and Bodhisattvas to be effective, Buddhists should never consult their services. There are two kinds of 'mediums' – the false ones and the genuine ones. As it is difficult

to discern one from the other, one might be paying (or contributing 'donations') while being tricked. For false mediums, there are again two kinds. The first are the downright fakes, who consciously put on theatrical acts to fool devotees to part with their money. The second are somewhat but not total fakes, who subconsciously autosuggest themselves, often also through peer pressure of those who believe they are special, to have the ability to call upon 'higher beings'. Such 'mediums' are still false, even if they have no intention to deceive, and do wish to help others.

Despite power of the autosuggestable mind, that can even express seemingly superhuman feats of endurance, there are still obvious physical and spiritual limits. If a medium, say, is supposedly possessed by an 'animal-god', such as a 'monkey', why is he or she not able to climb and swing from trees, somersaulting like a real monkey? Unless... the medium was not really possessed by such a being, while being unable to fully autosuggest oneself to believe such feats can be done. Even if capable of some acrobatics, there is the puzzle of how a character from a fictitious novel can as-

sist real people with real problems. If the Monkey King in 'Journey to the West' (which is not a proper Dharma text) was written to have learnt the Dharma, this begs the question of why, if he is real, his 'mediums' do not preach it directly, which would surely lead to full house classes attended by thousands.

Even if a medium is genuine, he or she will not be able to 'summon' the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas - as the enlightened ones never taught that they are summonable through any medium. In fact, in the Surangama Sutra (楞严经), Sakyamuni Buddha, our fundamental teacher, clearly instructed Bodhisattvas and Arhats who manifest in various manners in our world to aid us to never ever reveal their true identities while alive, at most disclosing who they are just before (or after) departure. While this might sound deceptive, the purpose of this is exactly the opposite - for preventing legitimisation of self-proclaimed identities for deception by anyone. Imagine if the Buddha taught instead, that all Bodhisattvas and Arhats should announce who they are to the whole wide world. Not that there are not already many, there would be even more with bold false claims.

Therefore, anyone who puts up an actual or virtual signboard (e.g. biodata, namecards, websites, posters, tickets, books, magazines) claiming oneself to be a Buddha, Bodhisattva or Arhat is directly not a true Buddhist, much less a Buddhist teacher or spokesperson for any of the enlightened, who are explicitly forbidden to claim any enlightened identity in our era. As the Buddha gravely put it, 'Thus as I have said, is named the Buddhas' speech [teachings]. Not thus as said, is Papiyan's [Mara: the evil one] speech.' ('如我 所说, 名为佛说。不如此说, 即波旬说。') Those who make audacious claims and remain in this world are out to gather fame and fortune. Such worldly ambitions straightaway render them spiritually impure. In some cases, false teachers have been influenced or possessed by Mara (or his minions) personally, to confuse the masses, and distract them from the true Dharma.

Genuine mediums, at most, can only 'channel' gods and ghosts. Even the duo can be hard to differentiate as there are some ghosts (or wandering spirits) who like to possess mediums to relay messages, while impersonating others. Helpful to some extent as they might be at times, and playful at other times, their advice is not ultimate as they are not enlightened – which is why they are ghosts. Even if a god possesses a

medium, the messages conveyed are still imperfect as he or she is not a fully enlightened 'Teacher of humans and gods', a title reserved for Buddhas. Believability in mediums arises when they seem to know past events and current situations. This is simply because gods and ghosts (and some humans) can read the thoughts of their devotees about their past and present to limited extents, so as to give seemingly 'relevant' answers, that do not guarantee accurate forecast of the future.

Mediums are also surely not messengers of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas as they are usually consulted only by non-Buddhists or confused Buddhists lacking in understanding. As such, the gueries presented to them are usually mundane in nature, while they are never asked profound Dharma enquiries. Thus, these mediums are never 'tested' on their authenticity as 'enlightened' spokespersons. Even if not asked, they ought to speak more in congruence with actual Buddhist teachings, using more direct references from the Buddha's teachings to further interest in the Dharma. For instance, if a medium claims to be able to 'summon' Guanyin Bodhisattva, he or she should be able to expound on her teachings, such as the Heart Sutra, with incomparable clarity, delivering detailed sermons often, instead of merely advising on worldly woes.

Mediums of the like above are also never dedicated students of the Dharma, for if they are, they would have come across the Surangama Sutra teaching, which admonishes assumption of sacred identities for 'branding' their 'spiritual' consultations. Some might imagine that since the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas have great compassion, they should also manifest through mediums. Well, the enlightened will never go against the unequivocally stated Surangama teaching, as this would confuse us. Even if they really do help through mediums, they will never say they are the enlightened, which would counter that teaching. The Buddha's warning against seeking (and being) such mediums is clear and indisputable. Even though Buddhists know others 'borrow' the statuses of Buddhist enlightened beings for medium practices, it does not mean this is agreeable. As these great beings originate from Buddhism, all should learn its true teachings to know what they really stand for.

The more one frequents mediums, the further one digresses from the path to Buddhahood. There would be greater refuge in gods and ghosts than in the 'Teacher of humans and gods' (and ghosts and all other

beings). One might be asked to do practices against the Dharma too, such as animal sacrifice, which creates negative karma, aggravating existing problems. With possible addiction to medium advice for life's issues instead of learning and applying the Dharma, this can stunt growth of personal wisdom. Most importantly, even if the advice is somewhat helpful, it does not lead to liberation, as gods and ghosts themselves are still trapped in the rounds of rebirth. With much proximity to mediums, especially those with access to real ghosts, the devotee's karmic affinity with them might deepen, to further associate with them when being reborn.

If one comes across 'teachers' with repeated use of self-proclaimed titles of being such and such an enlightened being, or as a special earthly representation, it is best to keep far away.

Since summoned beings are unenlightened, they have greed, hatred and delusion to some extent. This means there might be a price to pay if their wrath is incurred, or if their expectations are not met. Praying to enlightened Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, there is no such problem. Since consultation of mediums does not ensure ideal results, and might even be dangerous. Buddhists stay clear of them. What is the alternative for those who wish to 'look for' deceased ones? As stated in the Ksitigarbha Sutra (地藏经), one can ask the Buddha, who has perfect compassion and wisdom, for help, before sincerely being mindful of his name. Connecting to his blessings, inspired answers will arise in the mind or in a dream so vivid that one will know it is not imagined. Mindfulness of the Dharma for diligent practice helps us much in everyday life too.

In Tibetan Buddhism, although some masters are believed by disciples to be manifestations of the

enlightened, they never personally claim so. Even H.H. the 14th Dalai Lama, the most popular Tibetan Buddhist teacher, when asked if he is Guanyin Bodhisattva, says he is just 'a simple monk'. If one comes across 'teachers' with repeated use of self-proclaimed titles of being such and such an enlightened being, or as a special earthly representation, it is best to keep far away. All authentic Buddhist teachers would follow the Buddha's advice to attract the interested through the Dharma itself, not through such dubious marketing, which unfortunately easily attracts those uninformed of the Surangama teaching. Regarded as a 'demon-reflecting

mirror' that reveals those affected by inner and/or outer demons, it must be used for self-reflection and for checking the integrity of 'teachers'.

There are many kinds of false teachers riding on the name of Buddhism for easy gain of popularity. Some use many Buddhist terms and even speak of Buddhist sutras, mantras, meditation and such – for luring in nominal or new Buddhists who are vaguely familiar with them, to look credible, while reinterpreting them with self-concocted twists, throwing in non-Dharma in the mix that deviates from the real deal. This makes their teachings

different, as if of a new tradition with exclusive 'benefits', while they are corrupting the actual teachings. Anything that radically differs from what the Buddha and great ancient Buddhist masters taught is almost always erroneous. Some claim to have special powers, such as being able to recall devotees' past lives for advising accordingly – when these stories cannot be verified at all. This is how they stay off the hook.

They play mind games, making wide and thus safe guesses to suggest having predictive power, getting devotees to publicise only right guesses. Any open display of supernormal powers, not that they are real in the case of false teachers, that especially fosters the ego and distracts others from the true Dharma is forbidden by the Buddha. Those who display them are not true Buddhists. Pretending to be able to heal some is one of the easiest ways to attract crowds. If they are really so capable, why not directly visit hospitals? Any

true physical healing does not lead to good rebirths or liberation from rebirth anyway. The Buddha was thus focused on being a spiritual over a physical doctor, as death is inevitable. That said, practice of the Buddha's true teachings already can lead to natural healing due to eradication of negative karma that causes illness.

What if a 'teacher' who clearly flouts rules of conduct set by the Buddha seems to have some genuine supernormal powers? Well, even Mara (the most evil being in a world system) has some supernormal powers. Even ghosts, as above, can read minds. Thus, merely showing some powers does not guarantee truth of claims of being enlightened or a representative of the enlightened. It is no gauge of having real compassion and wisdom, while being bait for drawing in devotees. Since such powers can be demonically influenced, we must totally steer clear of such 'teachers', who might demonically influence us to be blind followers. Just as unexposed stage tricks, due to our lack of scrutinising ability should not make us think illusionists are miracle men, those who perform stunts in the name of religion should not simply be taken as real 'saviours'.

With their bursting egos, false teachers tend to sell themselves through others, as being the 'best' teachers available, photoshopping to add auras of light around their pictures. With heavy international marketing, they can easily gather many of the faithful but deluded. Some use planted or incomplete 'testimonials' of those who 'had' semi-imaginary 'healing' effects with their 'assistance' to attract more. The more lavish packaging there is, the more should all be alert. The biodata of false teachers is also usually elaborate

but upon closer look, is vague and untraceable to reputable and still existing people and institutions in the Buddhist community. Some appear monastic or even pseudo-monastic, especially those without a recognised lineage, or with one that disowned them. Some are established in worldly life, and tap upon this for popularising themselves as 'Buddhist teachers' – when these factors are not connected at all.

Some create spurious awards to praise and promote

themselves. Some claim to have had special private instructions from late great teachers, so as to lean on their fame, while appearing to be their top disciples taking up the mantle. Some create fake histories through detailed (auto)biographies by their 'devotees', with outlandish claims of their 'supernormal powers' and 'enlightened' experiences, which cannot be proven. While ensuring such tall tales circulate, they cunningly pretend to be 'humble'. Some even claim to have met the 'enlightened', who 'endorsed' them, which makes them their 'equivalent' or their 'messengers'. Such ways of promoting the so-called 'Dharma', focusing on personal claims is wrong as the Buddha taught us to rely on the Dharma, instead of any personality. If a person is relied on in excess, one can easily be misled eventually.

How do the truly enlightened manifest in our world then? A great example would be Great Master Yinguang (1861-1940). Despite living a truly humble and frugal life, he was so awe-inspiring in conduct and instruction, that adheres strictly to the Buddha's teachings, that he was posthumously conferred as the 13th Patriarch of the Pure Land Tradition by the Buddhist world, while being revealed to be a manifestation of Mahasthamaprapta [Dashizhi; Great Power Arrived] Bodhisattva. Never flashy, yet he remains prominent in his influence as an outstanding teacher. Remember - even the Buddha, who announced his true and full enlightenment, did not keep harping on his status, and let the worth of his actions and teachings speak for themselves. Egoistic imposters however, seek more attention for deluded reasons. Their demons are all clearly reflected in the great mirror of the Surangama Sutra!









编者的话

原因是指引起一定现象的原由,结果是指由于原因的作用而引起的现象。有原因必有结果,故佛家最讲究因果。

(注解: 过堂: 佛教是指吃斋饭 持午: 佛教指不吃晚饭)



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# 我在法国僧院学到的40件事

一行禅师带我回到心中真正的家

### 玛丽·派特森 著 张瓅文 译

有多少次我们喝茶的同时,其实是喝下悲伤?我们喝茶的当下,心里却在担心其他事情。专心,可以点燃当下的喜悦,也能创造生活中各方面的正念。本书揭露日常生活中的心灵启发,以及如何在混乱中找到平衡,并以正念行事。

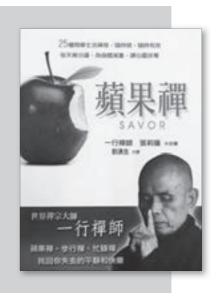
作者透过引人入胜的小故事, 巧妙地将佛法融入生活经验, 全书收录了40件你我经常遇上的生活寻常琐事, 它们触动我们的喜怒哀乐, 也给予我们喜悦和乐的生命体悟。

# 苹果禅

### 一行禅师、张莉莲 合著 刘汉生 译

苹果禅,故名思意,这是一本以佛教角度导人如何正常饮食的书籍。国际知名佛教精神领袖一行禅师与营养学家张莉莲,以正念的方式教导人群如何饮食、运动以及日常生活上的其他层面,从而为身体减重,让心灵排毒。

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# 用正念拥抱恐惧

安度情绪风暴的智慧

一行禅师 著 士严 译

人都有恐惧的时候,老是担忧着事情可能出错、说错话、做错事, 又或者害怕失去这个、失去那个,害怕生老病死。其实,恐惧的情绪只 是一种情绪。它来,它走,我们能够做到的是好好察觉它,照顾它,这 就是正念,无需恐惧。

本书提供具体修习正念的方法: 释放身心恐惧的八项正念修习、呼吸练习、放松禅慈心禅。每刻都是一个机会,让你与内在和好,重建平安和谐。





# 让世界和解

全球慈青与清修士的实践之路

王玉萍 著

人趁年轻时,应该做些什么?有人周游列国,有人打拼事业,也有人把时间用来服务人群、服务社会。本书就是收集了有关世界各地青少年用生命实践善念的故事,从中感染到积极正面的力量,更体会到一群年轻人如何充分地将菩萨精神散发人间。作者文笔清新流畅,一篇篇小故事写来,就是能够抓住读者内心最深层的感动,

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Frederick Lenz 合著 林慧卿 译

一位酷爱滑雪生命的美国大学生,在尼泊尔的一次滑雪奇遇中,领悟到人生中的真谛,如释重负地摆脱世间烦恼。本书是以小说为骨架,佛教义理为血肉,完全跳出一般传统佛教书籍的模式。书中通过作者与法波法师的对话,对于业、开悟、涅槃、空性以及无形次元的能量作多方探讨,引领读者由灵性的观点了解生命的本质、自我的价值与万物存在之意义。



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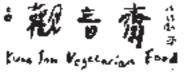
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