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Jun 2020 Vol. 26

目前会讯 宗旨

以多元的内容和多 文体的形式来诠释 佛法,从而达到自 他身心净化的目 的。

"目前"解读:

是旧时禅门用语,与"觉"、 "正念"、"眼前"、"当下" 义同。"目"是眼睛,"前" 是前面;通过眼睛的下垂对当 前的色身、感受、烦恼、妄念 保持在了知觉醒的心理状态, 处在此了知觉醒的心理状态就 能够把色、声、香、味、触、 法所造成的干扰降到最低,从 而达到透视它们的目的,这就 是"目前"的意义所在。



封面解读:

四依止之依义不依语

图的中央是一只张嘴长鸣的 鸟。图的外框则是微垂的眼睛,表示的是我们的觉性。 整体所要表达的是:活在觉性下来体会任何的语言文字 至终都是为了表达空性的 义理,这就是我们所应依 止的义。

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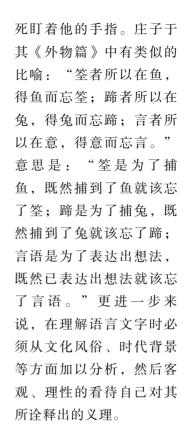
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四依止是修道者应有的四种依据 和信念.即"依法不依人"、 "依义不依语"、"依智不依 识"、"依了义经不依不了义"。 对于这四者,一般上都有个别独 立的诠释: 但是若把四者的次序 加以调整并贯穿,则可以如此理 解: 借经悟道: 换句话说, 只有 了义的经典才能说得完整, 所以 说"依了义经不依不了义"。 了义经中所阐述的法就是真理. 真理具有超越性,不论是谁说 的,所以说"依法不依人"。当

真理要通过语言文字作为表述的工 具时,或多或少都会有所局限,因 此必须以其阐述的义理为主导,而 不是根据语言文字,这是要避开语 言文字的障碍, 所以说"依义不依 语"。对真理的认知除了通过语言 文字的识别之外,还需要切身的体 会, 只有切身体会到的才是智慧, 所以说"依智不依识"。

不

经典中佛把自己所 说的法比喻为标月指,意 思是要众生顺着他的手指 的方向见天上的月而不是



更深的角度:语言文字是为了表达义理,而任何的义理至终必须回归到众生本具的觉性,这就是我们所应依止的"义";不应依止佛的方便之说,否则便是与佛道不相应,与解脱生死无关。这是"依义不依语"。



Editor's Note "Relying on

Ultimate Truths instead of Words" is to convey to the followers: because the language as a medium has its limitations, when practising buddhist doctrines we should be careful not to be fettered by languages and words, instead we should study and understand according to the principles; In other words, if the speaker has a hidden message or some underlying meaning, we should learn to understand the underlying meaning. This issue has several thematic articles, with a thorough analysis of "Relying on Ultimate Truths instead of Words", worth reading.



"Reliance on Ultimate Truths instead of Words" The Four Reliance -

The four reliance are the four things which a practitioner should rely upon and trust, i.e. "relying on the dharma instead of persons", "relying on ultimate truths instead of words", "relying on wisdom instead of knowledge" and "relying on teachings on ultimate truths instead of non-ultimate truths". Normally, we give the four reliance each its individual and independent interpretation. However, we would have the understanding in the following paragraphs if we adjust the order of the four and piece them together in sequence. As the saying "realising the truths through studying the sutras" goes, perfection is possible only if we learn from sutras which teaches us the ultimate truths. Hence, we say "relying on teachings on ultimate truths instead of non-ultimate truths". As teachings from such sutras are the truths, which possess the characteristics of transcendence regardless of who relates it, thus we say "relying on the dharma instead of persons". As there are limitations to the explanation of the truths with the use of written and

spoken words as tools, we ought to base the explanation on the ultimate truths instead of written and spoken words, so as to avoid the impediments caused by the latter. Hence, we say "relying on ultimate truths instead of words". As the attainment of wisdom is possible only through personal experience, we need to have personal experience of the truths besides the knowledge gained through written and spoken words. Hence, we say "relying on wisdom instead of knowledge".

E



We should understand that while the purpose of written and spoken words is to express the principles of the truth, and any of such principles must be traceable to our innate awareness, which is the "ultimate truths" that we should rely upon. We should not rely upon the convenient teachings of the Buddha, as in doing so we would not be connected to the dharma. and has nothing to do with liberation from life and death. This is the meaning of "relying on ultimate truths instead of words".



The words "ultimate truths" in "relving on ultimate truths instead of words" refers to the absolute principles. and the word "words" refers to spoken words in ancient times when there were no written words, and broadly. both spoken and written word today. Among the three types of praina (wisdom) mentioned in Buddhist shastras and sutras, i.e. literary prajna, contemplation prajna and true form praina, "relying on ultimate truths instead of words" belong to the domain of literary praina. Through written and spoken words, Buddhist practitioners attain literary praina by understanding wisdom, developing wisdom and growing wisdom.

However, if practitioners do not understand the limitations of written and spoken words, the written and spoken words would become a cage that traps their wisdom, let alone the development of literary wisdom. Hence, when we get to understand, develop and grow wisdom through written and spoken words, instead of focusing on the superficial expressions, we should look at the absolute principles that they convey on the whole; otherwise we tend to develop prejudices, like a blind touching an elephant to figure out what it is but unable to gain a full picture.

In Buddhist literature, the Buddha made the moon-pointing finger a metaphor for the dharma he expounded. His intention is to tell sentient beings to see the moon by following the direction of his finger instead of fixing their sight on his finger. Zhuangzi had a similar metaphor in his

work titled "On External Objects": "One sets up the bamboo fish trap to catch fish, but once the fish is caught, he should forget about the fish trap. One sets up the rabbit trap to catch rabbits, but once the rabbits are caught, he should forget about the rabbit trap." What it means is that since the objective of the fish trap is to catch fish, once the fish is captured, he should not be attached to the fish trap. Likewise, since the objective of the rabbit trap is to catch rabbits, once the rabbits are captured, he should not be attached to the rabbit trap. Similarly, the objective of words is to put across one's thinking. Once the thinking is conveyed, he should not be attached to the words. Furthermore, in understanding written and spoken words, one should analyse them from the angles of culture, customs and the background of the corresponding period before examining objectively and rationally the principles of the truth he has deduced.

To delve further into it, we should understand that while the purpose of written and spoken words is to express the principles of the truth, and any of such principles must be traceable to our innate awareness, which is the "ultimate truths" that we should rely upon. We should not rely upon the convenient teachings of the Buddha, as in doing so we would not be connected to the dharma, and has nothing to do with liberation from life and death. This is the meaning of "relying on ultimate truths instead of words".







我听懂了

师父指向挂在 天上的明月,快道! 快道! 标月之指,真正是 为了直指人心, 道出你的修行体会。 从回应中, 师父可以探出徒弟的 觉性深浅程度。

吃饱了吗?

"依义不依语",简单而言,就是读取弦外之音的意思。

我们见面常以"吃饱 了吗"来打招呼,含义并非 字面那么肤浅。

甲虽然饥肠辘辘,但 是因恐叨扰对方,还是回答:喔!吃饱了。这时候最 怕肚子不配合而咕噜作响, 对方如果不想请客,也只好 假装没听见了。

乙回答:还没吃饱,你要请客吗?偶遇的仁兄只好慷慨解囊了。

丙很气愤地回答:气 都气饱了,哪里还吃得下! 意味着在职场上为了五斗米 而折腰,长时期忍气吞声, 结果伤了肠胃。

丁抚摸着撑圆的肚子,回答还没消化完,不能让肚子太辛苦了!这是典型的卖乖,炫耀富贵。更有另类者,吃了消化丸,再拼命享受美食,好像不如此活着便没有什么意义!

修行人的回答,展现 的是对觉性的体验。

甲僧回答:从来就不 饥不饱。说的是觉性的特 质,饿的是肚子,只当我们 的色身作怪,觉性却是泰然 自若。觉性和色身之间是有 距离的,就算只是一丝的距 离,也能产生抽离感,从而 作到身苦心不苦。

乙僧不回答,只是吃饱后,连钵也打破。展现的是能长时间处在觉性绵密的状态,再也不用学些什么方便法门来"果腹",因此连

钵也打破了!

圣人能长时间处在觉性中不与烦恼相应,以如此状态面对人生,就是圣人和我们凡夫的差别所在。我们会迷失,一迷失觉性就不见;知道自己迷失时,觉性又回来了。事实上,觉性不曾离开,只是我们不习惯时时提起而已。

低头思故乡

每逢佳节倍思亲,最 脍炙人口的诗句,"举头望 明月,低头思故乡",对游 子而言,带出排遣不去的乡 愁,淡淡的,却感觉得到。

修行人师徒也常赏 月。师父指向挂在天上的明 月,快道!快道!标月之 指,真正是为了直指人心, 道出你的修行体会。从回应 中,师父可以探出徒弟的觉 性深浅程度。

现代的我,想借用 "低头思故乡"来回应。 "低头"就是回头是岸,回 到觉性, 回光返照。"思故 乡"除了土生土长的家乡, 更指内在本具的觉性, 是人 生最佳的避风港, 歇息了再 出发。应该更进一步体会、 探究真正故乡(觉性)的解 脱特质。依惠能大师的五个 体会作为参照系:何期自 性, 本不生灭; 何期自性, 本不动摇;何期自性,本自 具足;何期自性,本自清 净;何期自性,能生万法。 我们的心境决定我们看到的 故乡风景。终于大悟,故乡 就是最后的归宿,真正回家

The master points to the bright moon in the sky, "Say it! Say it!" The finger pointing to the moon is really pointing to one's mind, and talking about the experience of one' practice. From the reply, the master is able to gauge the disciple's level of awareness.

Have you eaten?

"Relying on ultimate truths instead of words" to put it simply means to read between the lines, understand the subtle implication.

We often use the expression "have you eaten" as a way of greeting, however, the implication is not as simple as what the words mean.

A person, A, was very hungry. But as he did not want to impose on others, he replied "oh! I have eaten." If his stomach chose this moment to growl (causing him some embarrassment), the other person may pretend not to hear if he did not want to give him a treat.

B replied: No, I have not eaten, are you giving me a treat? The person thus asked will have to part with his money.

C fumed: I'm so angry that I have lost my appetite! He meant that he had been suffering at work and had been tolerating all these while and had hurt his stomach in the process.

D rubbed his expansive tummy and replied that the food in there had not digested, and he shouldn't exert his stomach further! This is the typical show-off, flaunting his riches. Another person ate some digestive pills so he may indulge in good food again, it seems that his life is meaningless without behaving as such!

Practitioners' replies demonstrated the experience of awareness.

Monk A replied: There is no feeling of hunger or feeling full. He is talking about the characteristic of awareness; hunger is in the stomach, it's just the feeling of our physical body, but awareness is at ease and being composed. There is a distance between awareness and the physical body, even if it's just a fraction of a distance, detachment may arise, so that we can achieve having physical suffering without mental suffering.

Monk B did not answer, he only broke his bowl after he was done eating. He displayed the state of being in continuous awareness, and do not have to rely on any mundane convenience methods to "fill the stomach", therefore he broke his bowl!

The sage is able to remain in awareness for a long time without any mental afflictions, the sage faces his life as such, and that is the difference between the sage and the common people. We will be lost, and once







we are lost, we lose the awareness; once we know we are lost, we regain the awareness. In actual fact, the awareness has never left, we are just not used to constantly maintaining the awareness.

I bowed my head and thought of my far-off home

We tend to miss our loved ones during festive seasons, there's an oft quoted line of a poem, "I lifted my head and looked out on the bright moon, I bowed my head and thought of my far-off home". To the wanderer, it conveys a sense of homesickness that could not be displaced, the feeling is very slight but it is there.

The master and the disciple often admires the moon. The master points to the bright moon in the sky, "Say it! Say it!" The finger pointing to the moon is really pointing to one's mind, and talking about the experience of one's practice. From the reply, the master is able to gauge the disciple's level of awareness.

The modern me wishes to reply using the lines "I bowed my head and thought of my far-off home". "Bowed my head" means repent and salvation is at hand, return to awareness and



reflect mindfully upon myself. Whereas "thought of my far-off home", besides the hometown where we grew up in, it also means our intrinsic awareness: it's the safe haven of our life where we may take a rest before setting off again. We should further experience, probe the enlightenment of our actual hometown (awareness). With reference from the Five Statements of Master Hui Nena:

Who would have thought that the self-nature is intrinsically without birth and annihilation!

Who would have thought that the selfnature is inherently complete and perfect in itself!

Who would have thought that the selfnature is inherently unmoved by any phenomena!

Who would have thought that all things are the manifestation from self-nature!

Our minds decide what we saw as the view of our hometown. Till we are finally enlightened and realized that hometown is our final refuge, we are finally home. 文・释持果

只有我最好

"全世界的人,只有我最好!",有些人总是自以为是,甚至包括一些修行的人,也敢妄自尊大,批判别人: "你修的那个法门不能得到解脱,我修的法门最好,修我的吧!"

学生在学佛课上问法师: "我可以修净土吗?""我可以 禅修吗?什么法门最好?"法师 答:"佛陀有八万四千法门,你要 修什么法门都可以,问题是你选了 一个法门修了,你的烦恼还一直增 加,就应该考虑那个法门是不是适 合你。"所以没有哪个法门最好, 只有哪个法门最适合你的问题。

佛陀在世所说的法,经过时间的推移或岁月的变迁,加上不同社会的风俗和生活习惯的差异,为了使信徒对佛经容易理解,而渗入自己的思想,久而久之,佛法难免产生一些变化,甚至出现矛盾。我们又应该怎么选择呢?

"依法不依人"指点我们在听闻佛法的时候,不要执着于说法者 所用的语言文字,而是要用心听他 分析佛法。"依义不依语"是要指 点我们在钻研佛法的时候,必须了 解它内在的真正涵义,不要停留在 语言文字上。

"真正好的东西,无需打广告。那些喜欢卖弄自己有多厉害的人,其实在卖弄的时候已经暴露了自己的愚痴。宝剑要懂得收藏在鞘里,必要时候才亮出鞘来,才不会白白磨损其锋利。"

禅宗有则故事,说苏东坡与佛印一起坐禅,他问佛印禅师: "你看我坐禅的样子如何?"佛印禅师点头赞道:"像一尊佛。"他顺口也问苏东坡:"你看我的坐姿如何?"苏东坡揶揄说:"像一堆粪!"。佛印禅师听了,并不 动气,只是置之一笑。苏东坡高兴的回家诉说此事,小妹听了说道: "其实今天输的是你。禅师心中有佛,才看到你好像佛;你心中有粪,所以才会说禅师是粪!"苏东坡羞愧得满脸通红!

轻率批评别人,往往出于傲慢,太相信自己,自我膨胀。泰自己,自我膨胀。秦自之:"凡夫不知道之是,才会妄自尊大,总喜见比人高明,所以喜人的意见比人高明,所以有人。至于圣者,他没有压力,所以和人怎都,他都当作别人怎都,他的智者凡是说什么存在,我也说存在;凡是说什么不存在,我也说存在。我与世无争,世与我争而已。"

很多事情的产生都不是由于 对或错,往往也不是我们能够控制 的,一切都是因缘和合的。当我们 的智慧和觉知不够,烦恼就会产 生;如果我们能让心静下来,去观 察当下的因缘,就可以避免无谓 的痛苦。做人不妨如草,越低调越 好,没事别找事而自寻烦恼。一个 人能征服自己,至少可以成为自己 世界里最伟大的人。

人生最大的敌人不是别人,永 远是自己。

1 《杂阿含经》卷2: (CBETA 2019.Q3, T02, p.8b16-19)

说到"依义不依语",我想和大家分享打太极拳的一些领悟。

太极拳分杨式、吴式、孙 式、陈式等各家各派,招式无 穷,如果想全部囊括,要练完所 有招式,穷其一生,也不大可 能。

但是呢,我想说的是太极拳是没有招式的,它其实是一种心态,一种意境,用这种心意打出来的拳,就是太极拳。所以, 千招万式,如果不能顺乎自然施展,便非太极拳。打太极拳,在 乎心意,不在形态。

同样的道理,如果我们不 去深探佛法的精神而停留在一些 仪轨文字的表象,那么,纵使你 说得天花乱坠、地涌金莲,你还 是没能得"道"。所以我们在观 察一个人的道行时,不仅要听其 言,更要观其行,因为明白其动 机最重要。 自古以来,语言文字的作用在于表述,例如表述历史、有用在于表述,例如表述历史、古人。不少古人。不少古法、"道"。不少古法、"道"。不少古法、"有一个"一个",所以叫做"'文',所以叫做"'文',所以叫做"'文',有一个",有一个"一个",如"有",如"有",是要做事。如"要",我们也没有必要,是要做事。我们也没有必要,是要做事。

然而读这么多书,别说难读明白,想读完更有问题。如果不是要做博士,我们也没有必要读这么多经书,就好比没有必要去学所有门派的太极拳。学任何东西,掌握其核心思想就可以了,不用去看所有的参考书。

唐朝的的六祖识字不多,难以深入经藏,但他可以为僧众解说许多的佛经,这是因为他的智慧过人,一通百通,真正明白佛法的精神!见月忘指,得意而忘象,"依义不依语",六祖惠能大师是最佳的典范!



打

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我理解"依义不依语"的 意思就是学佛不要停留在文字层 面,而是要真正去了解事情的本 质,因为这样最能与智慧相应。

有些人说话滔滔不绝,但是 空洞虚浮,让人无所依从,甚至 前后矛盾。依"义"的意思就是 让我们滤过其千言万语,归纳总 结出内涵与精髓。

对于大学生写论文,老师常常说:用一两句话把你想写的长篇大论说出来。实质上,整篇论文最重要的就是这一两句话。

真理,常常可以用一两句话就概括了。那为何要长篇大论呢?因为真理需要阐述、说明和举例,这样才能一生二、二生三,而描绘出大千世界。

佛教的教义,其实就是要我们明白一个"心"字,从一个字竟然繁衍出三藏十二部,八万四千法门,这都出自佛菩萨和祖师们的苦口婆心。

环视这个世界,可以发现 很多人是不喜欢或不能接受事情 的本质的,所以他们宁可相信花 言巧语,渴望五花八门的神通境 界。叫他们分析真理,他们会很 失望。这就是为何信奉邪教的人 会络绎不绝。 文。李德钊

依义学佛长智慧

此外,一些较聪明的人还会利用一些学说来忽悠别人。有一回我胃痛去看病,我问医生: "为何情绪会影响消化功能,造成胃痛?"他回答: "Oh,这是因为脑和消化道是一体的。"这是目前学界很流行的学说。但是他回答问题了吗?

其实病人渴望的是医生说明 其内在机理,甚至辅导病人摆脱 负面情绪,而不是拿出一些学说 来做挡箭牌。这种现象或许也可 以用来解释"依义不依语"吧?

语言文字的背后要带出什么?那就是"义"。但如何去理解这个"义",实在跟个人的福慧很有关系。

很多时候,没有智慧,文字 面的知识只会给你增添烦恼。很 多时候,没有福报,我们会错失 聆听真理的良机,甚至可能会错 意,结果一无所获。

因此我觉得即使须要"依义不依语",我们还是得老老实实地栽培自己的福慧,才能敏锐地捕捉眼前的各种禅机。

鱼子赘语之十:

延续性

文●释法梁



使用禅机必须有针对性,马祖大师显然清楚弟子怀海的 修行进度,知道他已见性,才会进一步通过禅机来暗示他要 守护觉性,这是马祖大师的慈悲与智慧。

对于禅宗"见性成佛"的说法,一般上有两种解释:一是只要一见性就是成佛了,一是见性只是成佛的因。若从禅门诸多祖师的语录所阐述的禅法修行理路而言,"见性成佛"显然是指见性是因,是顿入禅法的根本要求,而不是只要一见性就成了佛的意思。

所谓的"见性"指的是发现自己本具的觉性,对于一个这样的禅修者而言,下一步所要做的就是对此觉性的守护,这也叫做"保任",强调的是觉性的延续性,是另一"契人空所应有的特性"之一。

《洪州百丈山大智禅师语录》记载 马祖大师有一次在经行的时候,百丈怀海 禅师在旁侍候着他,见到一群野鸭飞过, 马祖大师就问:"那是什么?"怀海答: "野鸭子。"大师又问:"他们要飞去那 里?"怀海说:"飞过去了。"大师于是 转回头,用手指朝怀海鼻子一弹,他痛得 失声大叫;大师于是说:"你又说飞过去 了?"怀海顿时有所省悟,一回到侍者寮 便哀哀的放声大哭。

马祖大师最初问的是野鸭子,当怀海禅师回答"飞过去了",马祖大师机锋一转,以手指弹得怀海大叫时,又一句"你又说飞过去了",马上把他拉回到当下的觉性,让他警觉到之前只是看到野鸭子而忘失了觉性。

与之相似的有另一则公案,结果截然不同。《景德传灯录》记载,漳州保福院的从展禅师有一次用手杖敲打一根露出围栏上的柱头,然后又敲打身旁僧人的头,僧人痛喊一声。禅师问他:"那露柱为什么不痛?"僧人无言以对。²相较于怀海禅师,此僧人并未有任何的觉悟,于此,可以如此思考:僧人并未见性,故不知露柱喻指觉性,这是其一;既然未见性,就没有所谓"保任"觉性这一回事,那当然就不知道痛的是头,露柱(觉性)是不会痛的,这是其二。

使用禅机必须有针对性,马祖大师显然清楚弟子怀海的修行进度,知道他已见性,才会进一步通过禅机来暗示他要守护觉性,这是马祖大师的"慈悲";让对方产生痛楚的震撼,借以铭记要守护觉性,这显示了马祖大师的"智慧"。

- 1 师侍马祖行次,见一群野鸭飞过。祖曰: "是甚麽?"师曰: "野鸭子。"祖曰: "甚处去也?"师曰: "飞过去也。"祖遂回头,将师鼻一搊,负痛失声。祖曰: "又道飞过去也?"师於言下有省,却归侍者寮,哀哀大哭。《洪州百丈山大智禅师语录》
- 2 师见一僧乃以杖子打露柱,又打其僧头。僧作痛声。师曰: "那个为什麽不痛?"僧无对。《景德传灯录卷第十九·漳州保福院从展禅师》

Daily Chan Reflection

- By Venerable Fa Liang
- Translated by Wuxin



The Flexibility of Space

What you need is some space

On my pilgrimage to temples in Nepal, I saw an old man selling "wooden snakes" to tourists.

My urge to own a "wooden snake" was aroused by a casual glance at it. After some bargaining, I bought a "wooden snake" for 150 Rupees.

Why is the "wooden snake" so interesting?

A snake figurine carved out of a straight wooden pole is not able to move. To make it moveable, one has to cut the pole (representing the body of the snake) into small round pieces and string them together, leaving a small gap between adjacent pieces. Because of these spaces, as you lift the body of the snake, it will move from side to side.

Since then, the snake has been kept in my office. Whenever there are people seeking my advice as they are caught in situations and unable to find a way out, I would show them the wooden snake, and tell them, "What you need is some space."

In reality, our mind has an infinite amount of space. But it is often filled with our afflictions and all kinds of thoughts. This is the root of our sufferings.

~_~ **~_~**

I Couldn't Save It

Life is by nature fragile, it is only that many of us fail to appreciate that.

A youth drove along a highway. Suddenly, a cat ran across the road.

He immediately stepped on the brakes. This caused the car behind to ram into the rear of his car. The cat was also killed by his car.

After compensating the owner of the car behind for his damages, the youth still felt guilty because he "killed" the cat.

I told him, "Instead, you should think: 'I couldn't save the cat'."

I looked at him and continued, "Offer the cat some prayers. Pray that it will rest peacefully."



Life is by nature fragile, it is only that many of us fail to appreciate that.



最上乘论(一)

作者 • 五祖弘忍大师

讲授 • 释法梁

整理 ● 张桂婵



《最上乘论》作者五祖弘忍(601~674)俗姓周,蕲[qí]州(湖北蕲春) 黄梅人。在接过四祖道信的衣钵之后,定 居黄梅双峰山之凭茂山。凭茂山因为在东 边,又称东山,弘忍大师因而也被时人称 为东山法师,所传的禅法则称为'东山法 门'。依《历代法宝记》的记载,弘忍大 师七岁就跟随着四祖道信,十三岁现出家 相,三十年间不离道信大师左右。

《最上乘论》强调"守本真心",即守住本来具足的清净真心,它是涅盘之根本、入道之要门、十二部经之宗、三世诸佛之祖。若能自识本心,念念磨炼,莫住著,就像见到"自佛性"一样。

弘忍大师不鼓励多学知见,但是要求于行、住、坐、卧时都能不失本心,保持正念,而且要求的层次相当高,如果以"三山"作为对正念的要求,那么大师就是要你站在"见山还是山"的角度来强化自己。

见山是山是拉回眼前,保持觉性不动 念的状态。

见山非山是正知,知道万法都离不开 无常、因缘、空。 见山还是山就是回归眼前,保持正念 (觉性),看透世间是无常、因缘、空之 后,放下而不再执着。

四念处和《最上乘论》中所说的觉性 是一样的,四念处有粗有细,系统完整, 而禅宗的起步则是直接从觉性下手,"明 心见性"和"以心传心",都是在见山还 是山的层次中谈觉性。

本论的整理编写,直接并列白话翻译 和解析,原文则放在注释里。

依文解义分析如下:

01(白话)¹凡夫要修行成就佛果,一定要修心。修心以正知见为根本,否则守护不了清净的本心。希望善知识在书写时要用心,不可有遗漏及错误,否则恐怕会误了后人。

(解析)凡夫要修行成就佛果,一定要修心。修心以正知见为根本,否则守护不了清净的本心。希望善知识在书写时要用心,不可有遗漏或错误,以免贻误后人。

02(白话)²修道人对本体的最根本的知见,就是要认识身心本来清净不生不灭,无有分别。此圆满之清净心就是本师,念此本师比念十方诸佛更为殊胜。



(解析)《最上乘论》说本师就在你心里, "三山佛者觉也",其中一个最方便的修行法门就是念佛。念佛方法有三种:持名念佛(发出声音,动念,口业),默念佛(动念,意业),实相念佛(不动念,不造作,只保持知道)。念佛的时候,要求念者必须在清楚的状态下念佛号,借助佛号使你的心专注,产生定力,保持觉性,比念十方诸佛更能帮助你崇敬佛。

03(白话)³问:怎么知道自心本来清净?

答:《十地经》说: "众生身中本来就有金刚佛性,他犹如太阳之光明圆满,广大无边,只因为似黑云般的五阴把他覆盖,让他变成好像瓶内的灯光不能散发出光辉。"譬如满天云雾使天阴暗,不是太阳烂了而不会发光,而是被云雾所覆盖。一切众生的清净之心也是如此,只因为攀缘妄念、烦恼、诸见之黑云所覆盖而不显现。只要能坚定守住本心,不打妄想,涅盘之法自然就会显现。从这里也可知道自心本来就是清净的。

(解析)问:怎么知道自心本来清净?

《十地经》说:我们的觉性本来具足如太阳的光明,只是被烦恼和妄念所遮盖,一切众生的清净心也是如此,因为攀

缘妄念和烦恼诸见,而不能显现;所谓修 行,就是使佛性显现出来。所有的杂念都 是妄念, 烦恼就是贪、嗔、痴、慢, 诸见 就是不正见。不怕念起,只怕觉迟,要做 到没有念是不容易的,但可以尽量做到当 念起时,不去执着它,保持觉性,就静静 的看着它的生起和消失。我们的信心建立 在觉性上,觉性即是观照般若。我们动的 念越多,会感觉到心越不清净,不过,当 你知道妄念与觉性是分开的,就可以从妄 念中抽离,无论有念或没有念,都是清净 的。很多时候,我们习惯攀缘而不自知, 若是知道,便可以通过思考,再做出选 择,这样就可以把攀缘度降到最低。一发 现心往外,就立刻拉回来,养成不攀缘的 习惯。(待续)

原文

- 1 凡趣圣道悟解真宗,修心要论,若其不护净者,一切 行无由取见。愿善知识如有写者,用心无令脱错,恐 误后人。
- 2 夫修道之本体须识,当身心本来清净不生不灭无有分别。自性圆满清净之心,此是本师,乃胜念十方诸佛。
- 3 问曰:何知自心本来清净? 答曰:《十地经》云: "众生身中有金刚佛性。犹如日轮体明圆满广大无边。只为五阴黑云之所覆。如瓶内灯光不能照辉。"譬如世间云雾八方俱起天下阴闇。日岂烂也。何故无光。光元不坏。只为云雾所覆。一切众生清净之心亦复如是。只为攀缘妄念烦恼诸见黑云所覆。但能凝然守心。妄念不生。涅盘法自然显现。故知自心本来清净。

佛说八大人觉经(四)

讲授 ● 释法梁 整理 ● 林容祯

我们要常常提醒自己这身心是假的无有实质的, 既然如此,就要好好照顾它,以减少痛苦, 用它去做有意义的事,去修福报积累智慧。



经典说, 佛法在世间不离世间觉, 钻研佛法的意义, 包括帮助人们看清楚无常。

一般上的情况,当无常之事发生在别人身上时,人们可以保持理性客观对待,连生老病死的意外事,也能视如平常事那样泰然处之;但是如果与己有关时,人们却容易方寸大乱,掉进情绪中,无法自拔。为什么差别这么大?问题就是不能接受、不甘愿,这就导致痛苦。但无常事的发生有时也是难以避免的,那怎么办呢?只好想办法减轻痛苦,比如拉回来,接受事实,那就只是身苦而心不苦。

面对痛苦时,要有智慧认识无常,自己就能得到解脱的办法。无常永远存在于世间,所以不要执着于把无常消灭。

从智慧的角度来看,当问题发生时,就让问题停在发生时,避免把问题复杂化,因为那只能使问题随着自己的习气不停打滚,反而让自己堕入六道轮回,更加痛苦!

正念产生正知,只有活在觉的状态中,看清楚真相,知道如何不让痛苦延续,但我们往往缺乏这种智慧。

我们会痛苦是因为抓住无常不放,所以要反过来做,看到无常出现就面对它, 养成一种不抓的习惯,这是需要时间来累 积的智慧;要明白欠缺智慧就会心慌及没有信心。智慧可以让我们感觉抓与放会产生两种不同的心境:抓的时候如同六道轮回,放下则是解脱。

要把解脱的心境保持到死的时候,那就是彻底解脱了。

佛教所讲的"下苦功",不是劳力的苦,而是每天往内看,无时无刻一直拉回来的刻苦耐力。

当别人犯错,你却遭了池鱼之殃,你要拉回来看自己,苦不苦?这苦又有谁知?没有;这时能解救你的只有"密法",也就是你要说服自己;接受事实!

在生活中你所完成的一切事物都要靠自己,不管人家骂你或称赞你,不论对错是非,你都须拉回来,靠自己解决,这也是最难的。

要拉回来,并且要养成习惯,习惯了就感觉不到烦恼,但是必须警惕自己不要变成狂妄,因此要懂得自我调整心态,这也就是俗语说的"戒慎恐惧"。

事实上修行没什么了不起,不就是努力做到拉回来往内审视自己吗?那才是最实在的修养。无论发生任何事情,你都能够拉回来,并尽早养成习惯,就有能力面对一切,包括面对死亡。

我们居住的地球有其脆弱的一面,如 水灾、火灾、地震等,时有发生,都是无 常变化,我们都要有心理准备。

至于要准备到什么程度就因人而异, 以我个人来讲,每当出国时,我随身就是 背着一个僧袋,装着衣服和重要的文件。 因为我随时准备着,当所住的酒店发生意 外,我仍然可以回国。我已养成这种自我 提醒的习惯。

这世间常常会发生一些我们意想不到 的事情,你一定要做好准备,以免措手不 及。

四大苦空,五阴无我。一般上我们都 认为空就是空空的,什么都没有,事实并 非如此。空的真正意思就是假的,不真实 的。

无常的本质就是空。空是因缘所生 法,是无有实质的。

我们的身体是由地(物质)、水(液体)、火(温度)、风(空气)四大元素所组成,各个器官都可分割。四念处经或小乘的禅观法,都要我们看着身体的每个部位,再一一的细分出来,并认清这个"我"是地水火风的假合,所以它是无常相、因缘相,其本质是空性。

为何说四大苦?何谓苦?主要是指 无常性和逼迫性,导致我们身不由己,所 以是苦。人从出生到发育后就一直在衰退 中,这是无法改变的事实。

或许你会辨说现今有器官移植,但是 试想为何要转换器官呢?不就是因为老化 了、功能衰退了,非换不可吗?这就是一 种苦。据此来看,说它的本质是空,一点 儿没错。 接着谈五阴无我。"五阴"是早期的翻译,后期改译为"五蕴",是指色(身体)受(感受)想(念)行(情绪)识(觉性),也就是身心的假合,也就是"无我"。

五蕴与四大(地、水、火、风)都是讲身心是假的、不真实的,所以不要执着于"我"。

"我"指的是一个本体,很微细的一个点。我们要接受这身体会老病死,身体是无我的。可是,我们还得执着精神状态的"有",换言之,承认身无我,"心"却是存在的!

外道只知道身无我,但不知道心无 我。佛教的观点是要进入解脱一定要进入 心无我,清楚知道精神与身体都是因缘和 合之假有,两者之间也能抽离,这是一个 很重要的心理建设。

比如,你坐着心里想东想西但身体不动,就类似两个东西,心想是心想、身体是身体。较简单的比喻,当你静坐久了会感觉到脚麻痹,或类似打了麻痹针,人是清醒的但身体不会动,它只剩下了一种精神的状态,这相似于"无我"的经验。

所谓无我的状态就是精神无法控制身 体的行动。

一般上我们都能随心所欲的控制自己的行动,若有一天无法做到这点的话,会有何感觉?没关系,因为迟早会如此。这是给你的心理建设,它的作用就是无我的训练,与死亡挂钩,具有能力面对死亡。

所以我们要常常提醒自己这身心是假的无有实质的,既然如此,就要好好照顾它,以减少痛苦,用它去做有意义的事,去修福报积累智慧。(待续)



修行离不开能缘的心和所缘的境,青原惟信禅师 "三山"中的山和水是从所缘的境契人;若从能缘的心契人, 则山和水只是觉性的譬喻。

青原惟信禅师参禅30年后说,未参禅时"见山是山见水是水";参禅后在善知识的指引下寻得契入口, "见山不是山见水不是水";30年后的今天终于找到得以休息之处,依然"见山只是山见水只是水"。

山和水在这里有三层意思,狭义是 指眼所见的山和水,广义是指眼所见的一 切色尘,更广义则是指色、声、香、味、 触、法六尘。

"见山是山见水是水"说的是未契人觉性的修行人,此时进入他眼帘的山和水就只是一般人眼中的山和水,故说"见山是山见水是水",是处在带有执着的心境。

"见山不是山见水不是水"说的是契人觉性后的禅修者,通过刻意保持觉性,能对所见到的山和水产生距离感,不同于之前见到山和水时的感觉;依此距离感可渐渐淡化对山和水的执着,故说"见山不是山见水不是水"。为了巩固此觉受,禅修者可动念思维山和水如梦、幻、泡、影、露、电。

"见山只是山见水只是水"说的是契入觉性30年后的禅修者,对觉性的保持已由刻意趋向自然,山和水还是原来的山和水,只是这时已不再对山和水有任何的执着,再也无须凭借动念那样的造作来把山和水视如梦、幻、泡、影、露、电,只对山和水清清楚楚,习惯性的安住于觉性。

修行离不开能缘的心和所缘的境,青原惟信禅师"三山"中的山和水是从所缘的境契人,若从能缘的心契入,则可以如此思考:禅门以顿入觉性为修行的起点,因此山和水只是觉性的譬喻。

此时,"见山是山见水是水"说的是一个刚发现觉性的修行人,觉性基本上还是和执着心相应,仍然还是一个道地的凡夫的心境。"见山不是山见水不是水"说的是立足于觉性之余,通过面对外在所施与的压力,例如靠棒喝或言语上的逼迫,除掉执着心。"见山只是山见水只是水"说的是去除掉执着心后,安住在觉性的状态,南泉普愿禅师称之为平常心是道。

我看到妒忌

文●释法谦

学员有事烦心,预约了我。一见面就 感受到她的愤愤不平。

她很清楚看到妒忌心生起,陷在里面 打滚。怒火难抑制呀!为什么苦干了那么 多那么久,最后却被空降的新人拿走所有 的好处! 新人的到来可能影响旧人,甚至破坏我们的习惯和舒适,但我们得接受变化和寻求突破。无论是旧人或新人,都有有形的资产或无形的智慧和经验,都在为组织增值。彼此能融合,组织就能蒸蒸日上,我们个人的生命也添光彩。



这在很多公司里,都是常常发生的事,该怎么办?

首先,拉回眼前是最必要的。头脑保持冷静,看问题就会清清楚楚;要知道妒忌心一生起,会带来身心的不愉悦。对事情的反应因人而异,她明显就是忿懑和委屈。

几个选项盘旋在脑海里。

一、最省力,但是好像难做到。其 实说来也不难,完全取决于我们是否养成 习惯,懂得拉回本具的觉性。觉性这无价 的珍宝任谁也拿不走。安住在觉性,不多 想,也不需要做什么,只是静静地看着妒 忌心生起,看着妒忌心消灭,就能深刻体 会到妒忌心的无常变化,没有实质,也即 是空性。过后,你还可能笑一笑,庆幸自 己没有被妒忌心带坏了。

二、放下骄慢的心,去欣赏新人的优点和强处,因为他可能让组织更有活力。

三、放下委屈。最怕旧人变成既得利益者,自认没有功劳也有苦劳,害怕利益被分薄,这反而受困其中。从表面看到新人抢了我们的荣耀和好处,但是经过深刻的反省,不难发现其实是本身贪求他人的肯定和迷恋自己的付出和贡献。要学会不执着、放舍,做自己该做的,完成之后也就自在了。

除此之外,我们还有其他选项,只要是不与烦恼心相应的就是好方法,比如"各人自扫门前雪"也有积极的一面,如果从这一面好好发挥,至少可以避免麻烦别人伸出援手。因为大家都作好本分事。

当集体打造的是尊重、感恩、不计较 个人的氛围,新人在潜移默化中也会跟集 体看齐。

从另一个侧面看,如果我是那位到哪 里都让人妒忌的新人,是否也需要自我反 思,为何总是如此?

Starting From The Dining Table



I was seventeen, studying in my first year at Junior College. I had become interested in Buddhism after chancing upon a Buddhist book two years earlier. Knowing no Venerables and Buddhist friends in those days, my only way of learning more about the Dharma was to go to the National Library to borrow books about Buddhism to read. It was this particular book in Chinese with a chapter titled "Starting from the Dining Table" that caught my interest. "What could be related to Buddhism that starts from the dining table?" I pondered.

As I started to read the chapter, the answer became clear – Compassion. Yes, Compassion can start from the dining table. It was about vegetarianism. It explained how we can cultivate Compassion by not eating the flesh of sentient beings. By the time I finished reading the chapter, I had made my decision: From now on, I am going to be a vegetarian.

Now, this was in the 1980s when vegetarianism was quite unheard of. Imagine the shock of all the members of my large, extended family (we were all living together), especially my mother who was the cook of the family, when I announced my decision. "No worries, Mum. In future, I will have all my meals in my school

canteen," I assured her. So, I started by approaching the stallholder at the canteen of my Junior College and asking, "Auntie, can I have wanton noodles without wanton? Just noodles and vegetables?" You can imagine the surprised look on her face! Slowly, my mother got used to the idea of me being a vegetarian and out of motherly love, during off school days, she started to prepare healthy vegetarian dishes for me. Subsequently, she also became a vegetarian!

Above is a personal account of how I became a vegetarian overnight in my teens. I often remark that it puzzles me as to why it is not so easy for people in general to become vegetarians, including practising Buddhists. As a teenager, it just took me that few minutes to decide! It has been more than thirty years and I would say, that was one of the best life-changing decisions I have ever made.

A "by-product" of being a vegetarian for me is better health. I recently went for my routine health screening and the doctor remarked, "Your results are generally good and from your current and past medical records, I don't think you will suffer from a heart attack even for another ten years!" I will credit my favourable health screening



results to my healthy vegetarian diet, and not to my genes, since I have a family history of heart disease, diabetes and cancer.

Thus, I have been practising Compassion by being a vegetarian and by learning the Dharma. I would say I am now a more compassionate person after all these years of practice. I believe it is this quality that has led me to become a counsellor and thereafter, a Buddhist nun. It really pains me to see any being suffer, including even a small insect. My aspiration has always been to do my utmost to relieve the sufferings of all sentient beings.

As I am penning this article, the global outbreak of COVID-19 weighs heavily on my heart. It has thus far infected 721,412 people in 199 countries and killed 33,956 people globally. I am reminded of the SARS outbreak in 2003 which killed 774 people worldwide, including 33 people from Singapore. All these viruses originated in animals. The United Nations found that the majority of new human diseases originated in animals and that many of those were directly linked to animals used for food.

Hopefully all these global outbreaks will serve as a wake-up call for Mankind. We must be reminded of our vulnerability. We may be the most intelligent beings on this

planet, but that does not mean that we have the right to trample on the lives of other animals.

Some years back, one of my Venerable Teachers in Taiwan contracted H1N1 or swine-origin influenza A virus and ended up in the Intensive Care Unit, almost losing his life. He was totally humbled by the whole experience. He often half-jokingly says, "Until today, I still don't know how that little thing (referring to the virus) that almost killed me, looks like!"

Until the day we humans truly practise Compassion towards all beings, including animals, I do not know what is the price we are going to continue to pay.

Are you ready to start your practice of Compassion from the dining table?

我很大

文●释持果



"我要坐这里,比较凉快。"见过这样的人吧?不管别人已经把东西放在那里,硬是移掉,自己坐下去,好像一个霸主,别人都得顺他,不顺的话,他就生气,完全不容别人反驳。这种人最好有人劝他去学佛,佛可以帮助他改掉这种霸道习气,学会审视自己的行为,反省自己为什么要强求别人迁就他。鸟巢禅师说道:"三岁儿童虽懂得,八十老翁行不得。"一个人的成熟度不能用年龄来衡量,习惯于安逸生活的人,好像永远长不大。

人所以成为凡夫,因为执着自我,以我为中心,所以总是旁若无人。一个人自我意识太强,当然缺乏集体意识,更不可能有奉献精神,这样的人会有人喜欢接近他吗?恐怕迟早成为"孤家寡人"后,伴随他的只有寂寞、烦恼、痛苦,都是来自我执。闽南俗语"输人不输阵",这个"阵"字,至少说明了如果想"不输",就要能够成阵,成阵才能展现气势,孤寡一个人能够成阵吗?所以不好再旁若无人了!记住《成唯识论述记》卷1¹的格言:"烦恼障品类众多。我执为根生诸烦恼。若不执我无烦恼故。"

贪爱与嗔恨就像铜板一体两面,当你的贪欲越强烈,而生活上又达不到你所期待的水平,你的嗔恨也越强烈。根境识的因缘有触受想行,因为无明与贪爱就有喜欢不喜欢。《杂阿含经》卷11²说;"世尊告诸比丘:于此六根不调伏、不关闭、不守护、不执持、不修习,于未来世必受苦报。"

守护六根不叫它放逸,遇境时不染着。如何守护六根,而不成为境界的奴隶?《杂阿含经》卷13³说:"世尊告诸比丘:'有六常行。云何为六?若比丘眼见色,不苦、不乐,正念正智舍心住。耳声、鼻香、舌味、身触、意识法,不苦、不乐,舍心住正念正智,是名比丘六常行。'"

对于修行者怎样"善守护根门"呢?《杂阿含经》卷9⁴说:"多闻圣弟子眼见色已,于可念色不起缘着,不可念色不起嗔恚;常摄其心住身念处,无量心解脱、慧解脱如实知,于彼所起恶不善法寂灭无馀,于心解脱、慧解脱而得满足;解脱满足已,身触恶行悉得休息,心得正念,是名初门善调伏守护修习。如眼及色,耳名初门善调伏守护修习。如眼及色,耳中人。"佛陀教导众比丘:"应当守护根门,善摄其心住身念住",因为心安住四念处,保持一个不动的心,防止六贼侵略。

在日常生活中,每天六根处六尘境界时,都会起心动念,随顺它喜欢和不喜欢,就会增长我执与无明。如果我们清楚觉知根境识三者和合,都是因缘所生的,虚妄不实,是无常,就不会受外境的束缚。一个人修习到这个境界,性格必然端正,哪里还会唯我独尊?霸道的丑态尽失!

- 1 CBETA 2019.Q3, T43, p. 235a15-16
- 2 CBETA 2019.Q3, T02, p. 76a21-23
- 3 CBETA 2019.Q3, T02, p. 93a23-27
- 4 CBETA 2019.Q3, T02, p. 64a29-b7

免做相的奴婢

文●谢淑琚

"凡所有相,皆是虚妄",这是《金刚经》里的名句,我刚接触佛教时就常听到,这让我很困惑,误以为"虚妄"就是"假的、自己幻想出来"的意思。心里想: "难道站在面前的法师也是我自己幻想出来的?难道佛陀也是幻想出来的吗?整个世界都是假的吗?"

后来上课了,开始对《金刚经》有 比较深的了解,也上网听取其他法师的讲解,对比思考。原来虚妄的意思很深,是 指一切相都是无常、缘起、空性的,而不 是假的、自己幻想出来的。

《金刚经》也提到四相。要放下对四相的执着谈何容易啊!那非得高境界的觉悟者办不到啊!凡夫的我实在无法想象两千多年前的佛陀怎么能把实相看得这么透彻,真是不得不赞叹佛陀的智慧。每天早上一醒来,人就是一个相的奴婢,种分别心和执着就忙碌开了!对于美丑、老幼、贫富、喜恶等等概念都根深蒂固印东始。这个这个方面,还是会常的给密的会从口中吐露出来。我看见自己的白发还是会有点失落,碰到喜欢的人还是会生欢喜心,遇到不顺心的事还是会皱着眉头,看到蟑螂时还是会惊心胆跳。我们也有太多太多的观念都是从过去各种分别心累积而成的。

甚至,我自己也曾经抓取佛教徒外在的相,觉得佛教徒就应该有一定的穿着、言行举止;也下意识的认为有修行的佛教徒只要把经典背熟就可以了。现在了解学

佛应该从内心修持,自己观察世间和身心的无常,观察本身的举止动念是否还是和 烦恼贪嗔痴相应。

家里摆的佛像其实并不需要我们礼 拜、献花、点灯,重要的是看到佛像时, 就提醒自己要想到佛陀的智慧和教导,反 观自己的内心世界。

有一位法师曾经说过, "修行和不修 行的分别在于觉与不觉;可以后知后觉, 但不可以不知不觉。修行的道路很长,先 学者先知,但是不要停下来;后知者要加 紧赶上去。"虽然现在无法时时刻刻看到 自己的执着和贪嗔痴,或者即使看到了还 是拉不回来,我还是要为自己加油打气。

最近读了舍利佛回复佛陀的一段话: "我闻世尊说法,知一法即断一法,知一法即断一法。" 知一法即证一法,知一法即修习一法。" 是的,学佛是需要一步一步来的,能学多少就做多少,能做多少就能受益多少。在菩提道路上,先把基础一点一滴打好,把佛陀的教诲听懂思考,再运用在日常生活上。希望日月累积下来,自己可以免做相的奴婢。





年关在即那时候,整理书柜时顺手翻 开几年前的修持本,有一页写着每周的点 点滴滴:

"得失之心虽是一念间,快乐或悲伤也随至。借口、掩盖的念头让自己好过一点?师父的慈语:重视应变的情绪,适应生活中的变化无常,体念自己的心情,不要自我冲突。"

自此偶尔也写写日常生活感悟,修持本于是包含了期待、希望、提议、改变和 反省的心态。

1、太太唠叨孩子们的不是,看我不动声色,忍不住说: "怎么学佛变木头了!"以为不要回应,怒气会平息,反而须要吱唔以对。

感性理性的拿捏不准?是不懂得察言 观色!

2、抓一把葡萄干放入口里,还没嚼 完再放入一把,囫囵吞枣显得格外急性 子,倒像是机器化处理?

试着一颗嚼完后才放入另一颗,放慢 节奏,思维模式也随着改变。

放慢,看到心中烦恼也较清楚。

3、如何面对从未做过的事情?记得 第一次请师说法,心里忐忑不安,念诵时 感觉发出抖音,及时拉回,专注现状。

害怕不是常有的心理状态, "知道" 恐惧拉回眼前,心念更分明,正好尝试克 服面对问题。

4、走进小贩中心是回家的捷径,看到豆花水摊还在经营,停下脚步,叫了碗豆浆吃,感觉不是那么喜爱。

一时馋嘴是勾起孩时回忆,不是为了 填饱肚子。

5、一如往常,休息日到咖啡店吃早餐,翻开报章,忽听摊位员工们交谈中参杂三字经来加强语气,人耳后生起嗔心,但随之消失。为什么会有这么强烈的反应?平时遇到却能不以为然。

想静下来看报纸的心情受到干扰,因 而显得不耐烦?

6、周末与友人一起去小吃店,一进 入就看到贴在墙上的特价食物海报,价格 便宜25巴仙,友人付钱后等待食物上桌, 才发现收费还是原价。

为什么不是折扣价?再往引人注目的 特价海报看个清楚,原来上面有一小张不 耀眼的字条写着"weekday only"。

贪小便宜会长出盲点,只顾高兴,其 他都忽略了!

7、据说从前有一个部落,每一个出生的宝宝都从60岁算起,每年递减一岁直至零岁,才又从一开始。

让最后的路程写下另一页新篇章?

如果数字会让人易老,颠倒一下会让 人重活?

8、停车场出闸无法感应,把现金卡放入收费缝,闸杆上升了,可是卡没出来,按了通话机,指示我把车倒退一下, 卡就出来了。

在日常生活中卡住了,退一步也能看 清楚事物。

与人相处

文●林果静

最近绵雨连连,懒得出门,我就在家前面的走廊上整理花圃,发现那盆金钱树,两年前曾生病,叶子生了许多黑点,我便把病枝剪掉,没想到如今竟然愈合,一支支长出绿油油的健康叶子,我欣喜异常!仔细观察下,我又发现其中一支枝干被前面的分枝挡住,没参与交锋,而是转向右边,斜长而出,叶子更加青翠,独自摇曳生姿。这情景使我想起《史记》的一则故事。

《廉颇蔺相如列传》讲述蔺相如因 渑池之会拜为上卿,廉颇想到自己身为赵 国将军,战绩辉煌,却位居出身卑微的蔺 相如之下,气愤不已。蔺相如得知此事, 出门时只要在远处望见廉颇,就马上改道 避开他。蔺相如的门客以为他胆小怕事, 替他抱不平;蔺相如解释道:强秦之所以 不敢攻打赵国,正是因为他们文武二臣都 在,有所忌惮,他避开廉颇将军,完全是 因为国家大事比个人恩怨重要。廉颇闻知 此事后,非常敬佩蔺相如的宽宏大量,愧 叹不如,立即袒胸露背,并背负一捆荆棘 至蔺相如门前谢罪,蔺相如也接受了他的 道歉,两人握手言欢。这便是著名的"负 荆请罪"的典故。

人类的大度智慧,并不少见,想不 到植物也能"与世无争",人见了岂能不 动容! 人与人之间的相处, 无论是上司对 下属,或者下属对上司,在言谈时,都要 顾及对方的感受,否则关系一闹疆,可能 难以补救,结局如果是"小不忍而乱大 谋",那就乖乖不得了!要知道成人不像 小孩子, 今天吵架, 明日又和好。蔺相如 和廉颇都是宽宏大量的人, 他们都肯让一 步,彼此都拥有一片蓝天。所以我们的言 行应该谨慎,否则一句无心的话,传到有 意者的耳里,就可能招来无谓的麻烦,自 讨苦吃。几十年的好朋友因为一句口舌而 断绝友情, 多么不值得。君子之交, 真诚 相待, 言谈谦和, 不让对方有丝毫不适之 感,处处结善缘,左右逢源,受人敬重, 何乐不为?

9、太太打电话说:丢失身份证,明 明放在钱包里,怎么找都找不到!"再找 找看吧!"我这么回应。

太太急了:"钱包有多大,没有就是 没有啦!"

接下来回想她最后一次用身份证是什么时候?会丢失在哪里?如果真的丢失了,该怎么做?最后决定回家仔细看看钱包。

小钱包有10个小口袋,不常放物件的 小口袋边缘遮住了里面的身份证,不易发 现,看到边缘的质料就以为是空的,其实身份证原封不动。

一个念头接着一个念头,走了那么多 冤枉路,还是回到原点。

卡住了,肯想就通,记下来吧……。 回头重温这些生活碎片,倒也不是全无新的领悟,所以选了9则汇集成篇,自我勉励,希望不会辜负师父们的教诲。

幼儿园里可怕一幕

文●黄柳枝

那天早上,我如常带了三岁的小孙子上幼儿园。园里椅子排成一排,孩子们根据签到的时间顺序从里面坐起,老师按例做了身体检查,如体温、手足口症征象,加上手掌消毒之类,然后才带孩一进不子道常有一般上,八点左右较忙碌,通常有一位。那大声位是班族家长带了一个约五六岁的女孩,对着她另一个约五六岁的女孩,对着她另一个约五六岁的女孩,对着她另一个约五六岁的女孩,对着她另一个约五六岁的女孩,不是先下车先跑进学校吗?怎么坐在后下车先跑进学校吗?怎么坐在后下车先跑进学校明?怎么坐在后下车,我告诉你我赶时间去公司开会,你知识这个人。

Tracy一脸愁容,她也大声喊: "妈咪!他们比我早到,我没有让他们!"说完,泪汪汪地哭了!两岁的妹妹Amy,也跟着哭了!老师放下工作,抱着Tracy说: "李太太,Tracy没有说错。"李太太凶巴巴地看着老师,这时幼儿园的负责人赶紧跑过来,抱着Amy说: "李太太,今早有两位老师请病假,如果您赶时间就把孩子交给我吧。"李太太"哼"的一声走了!

从"天下父母心"的角度来评论,为 人父母者应该一切都是为了孩子,为他们 的健康、成长和教育,良苦用心才对呀, 那位妈妈怎么用这样恶劣的态度来教育孩 子呢?这一幕警惕我不能犯同样的错误!

从修行的角度来猜测,这位妈妈的鲁莽言行应该是面对生活压力,处理情绪的能力便有所欠缺。幸好我学佛,明白六根接触六尘,遇到不愉快的事情,如果定力不足,就控制不住执着心理,而产生贪嗔痴慢疑等等情绪,例如她看到Tracy坐在后

面而起嗔心,对内法尘也产生激烈感受; 又因为赶时间而面对逼迫的苦受,加上她 主观认为别的孩子抢了女儿的座位,觉得 Tracy太笨……,于是怒不可遏,情绪也就 失控了!

应当如何才能有效地自我控制,心不 随境转呢?《金刚经》说:"应无所住而 生其心",就是首先要能够看到六尘的出 现,要立刻把平时训练过的定力抬出来, 稳住情绪,不对六尘产生执着,这可以消 除"我"执,而显露出本来清净、不动摇 的平等心。仍以刚才的那一幕继续谈,如 果能应用我们的学习所得, 当她看到Tracy 坐在后面时,就能够及时拉回来而不让心 停留在任何一个念头上,也就不会掉入那 火爆境地里,即使面对逼迫的苦受,也不 会起嗔心和分别心,就算升起也能瞬息警 觉,心就不会随境转而失控;而且清楚自 己没时间等老师做例常检查, 马上通知老 师,并交代两个女儿要听话才离开。如此 处理岂不是可以避免那一幕尴尬的场面?

总而言之,我们要做到师父教导的"止"和"观"。修"止"生定,修"观"生慧。"止"是正念。行住坐卧时要养成拉回眼前的习惯,通过身受心法四念处,时时刻刻训练自己保持在觉性了知的状态,心就会比较平稳与精细。"观"是正知,是经常思维,观察万法皆是因缘所生,没有实质,就能淡化对一切相的执着。

经过"止"和"观"的训练,在六根接触六尘时,心就能降低被干扰的程度,情绪就不会轻易掉人翻滚的状况里而起烦恼。如此明智地处理事情,有助于我们应当怎样说怎样做才是恰到好处,既可以避免殃及无辜,更不会伤害幼小的心灵!

文●心珠

"等"这个字,拆开来看: 竹下有间 寺院;闭起眼睛想象,那是何等的清幽! 可是在现实生活中, "等"却往往是让人心烦气躁,无所适从。

从小我们就等着快点长大,长大后 又等着渐渐老去,最后就等着何时入土为 安,人的一生不就等着这么一天吗?

"等一下"这句话,不论男女老幼在 生活中不知都说过多少次,而且这一等, 说不准能化险为夷,也可能生死两别,因 为世事无常,幸与不幸就在那一等发生。

这等字,有时人需要,有时人想要。 需要就必须等,不由得你喜欢不喜欢,就 如人要长大必须一天一天的等才能实现; 想要呢?等没有一定的把握,就算等不到 也要等。

等的结果其实往往并不重要,情绪 随之起伏的是等的过程。如果不思上进、 终日无所事事得过且过,只等着天上何时 会掉下大馅饼,这一种人结果如何无须多 谈;另一种人在等的过程中孜孜不息,努 力精进从不懈怠,等到那一天水到渠成, 自然有所成就。 常常听到周遭的朋友说:等我退休了 我才……

殊不知等到真正老了的时候想要做的 事却因年老力衰,心有余而力不足,只好 无语问苍天。后悔也来不及了!

修行也是如此,如果不乘年轻时多花 些时间修习佛法,从生活中体验佛法的真 髓,把佛理运用在日常的生活中,少走些 冤枉路。

所谓佛法即活法,要过怎样的生活、 要如何改善环境、要如何舍弃烦恼都必须 有佛法的的帮助才能认清真相。

世人往往为了"等"那一天的到来而 放弃应有的努力与坚持,得过且过。可叹 时间不留人,白白蹉跎岁月。呜呼哀哉!

能把握日常生活的每个刹那,便是永恒。有很多状态是强求不来的,它需要时间的等待,善用等待心,看到的将不止是结果,而是过程中无限风光。

别等了, 还是行动吧! 还等什么呢?





下班时分,熙熙攘攘的人群把整个地铁站挤到水泄不通。隔邻的购物商场也似磁铁般把买客吸引了来,满足了普罗大众的需求,也温饱了各色的店家。商场外兜售纸巾的大婶大叔也屡见不鲜,偶尔会穿插街头艺人的表演。

每次经过这一带,都会看到一个老人家,微胖的身材,总是穿着短裤,膝盖贴着膏药布,站在商场外,以华语卖力呼唤大家帮忙,间中参杂着其他语言叫卖纸巾,但是有谁会留意这样一个不起眼的小人物?

一把年纪了,还要这么辛苦讨生活, 脚痛也得长久站着工作,有时看他实在痛得忍不住了,拿出小凳子坐下来喘口气; 往地铁方向望去,人群都匆忙来往商场奔走,两眼充满了失落感!除了他之外,还有一位视障人士在旁边卖唱,俩人有时会说些话,怨叹自身命不好,多多少少吐露了世间的冷峻苦涩,听到的人不免替他们感到心酸!

记得有一天,也是下班后,想去买家人爱吃的面包,远远就看到纸巾老伯在招生意,口里依然嘟哝着"请帮帮忙。"刚好纸巾用完了,就掏出两块钱跟他买了一包,他连声以闽南语说:"感谢,好人救我,好人有好报!"第一次被称为好人,而且好到如同救了他似的,感觉好奇怪,区区两块钱而已,竟然得到他这么殷切的祝福,我的好报真的瞬间得到。

从此以后,经过地铁站,只要有纸巾老伯在,我都会花两块钱买一包,他也一贯的叫我好人,但我知道只要有人光顾,他都一律叫好人,把我们当作救世主一般,好一个好人救我!我想,只要多一些人买一包,当天的生活费应该就有着落吧?曾听说有不法之徒利用老弱病残为他们售卖纸巾、锁匙圈等物品,所得却大多进入他们自己的口袋,这事应该不假,当然是可恶行为。

同情心虽然不是人人都有,但是好人好事应该天天都在不同地点上演。"好人有好报"在华人看来是天公地道的,反之,干坏事的坏人应该天诛地灭,我不会置疑这些品格观念;何况一个不足挂齿的小数目也能帮助一个人,何乐而不为呢?救人的定义非常广,我们可以透过身体、钱财,甚至心理救人,此外当然还有好多途径。我想继续做个好人,看到别人有需要时,就扶他一把,让他感到处处有温情,这才能显示一个健全社会的骨髓。

失智者的独白

文●阿玛

我是谁?镜子里的那个人看起来很面善,可是总想不起他是谁。

自从退休后,日子就在终日无所事事、悠哉闲哉中度过。偶尔到购物中心走走,吹吹冷气,看看橱窗里的摆设。可是那一天怎么走了那么久还找不到出口?只好请问他人,最终觅得出口。可是平时搭巴士回家只要十分钟,为什么今天过了半个钟头还没看见要下车的车站?巴士驶进了总站,全车的人都得下车,我该怎么办?

在总站内走来走去,我也不知道怎么办。幸好有位先生问我要去哪里,我告诉他我家地址,他带我到马路边等德士,让德士司机安全的把我送回家。

我不敢把今天发生的事告诉家人,不 过事情的发展越来越糟糕。明明刚吃完饭 却好像没有吃,于是一直追问几点吃饭, 家人不耐烦我的罗唆不再回答我,就在一 块纸板上写上时间让我自己看。而后每当 我问起这件事,连仅三岁的孙子也会拿起 那块纸板给我看。

日子一天天过去,我也不知道今天是

星期几,有时到组屋楼下看见似曾相识的 朋友,就问他你是谁?叫什么名字?住在哪里?但往往换回来的是一句:神经病。

每一天我只知道白天和黑夜,只知道 没有吃饭,家人对我来说即熟悉又陌生, 往往把女儿当成了儿子。

我不再看电视节目,总觉得一个大箱子里怎么能够装进那么多人,吵吵闹闹的,有时控制不了自己的情绪,大声喊大声叫才觉得舒服。甚至连大小便也无法控制,常常满地屎尿,弄的满屋臭气冲天,家人的埋怨与气恼,我感到非常抱歉,但是我也无能为力,我向谁去诉说?有谁能体谅?我只有默默地忍受。幸好现在有纸尿裤可以救急,帮我解决了问题。

家人没有把我送进养老院,还带我到 处寻医,医生说我大脑破了一个大洞,是 没有办法医治了,只能用药物延缓病情。

情况非常非常非常不妙,最近甚至连 话也说不出,只能以嘶吼的声音来表达自 己的挣扎和所有的苦痛。

呵.....



等痛了再学吗?

文●彭祥庭

每个人,每种动物,一出生就会自动 学习,理由很简单,就是为了吃,或者说 为了生存。

除了吃,万物之灵的人类还会要求更高更多,保健、工作、娱乐、成家立业、结人缘等等,总而言之,追求愉快人生,图个生活方便。要求满足了,开始强调。多的享受,衣装、门面、物质、权力,如质、心理的,林林总总,都要。在这大人类已过度重视物质与肉体的享受了;努力学习的、追求的都是看得到的眼前事物;至于将来的、来生来世的事物却往往无视无知,也就不管不等,简单的例子就是健康问题;历史上的案中,然而外人类的愚蠢行为所造成的不平,简单的例子就是健康问题;历史上的案本事件;然而不有许许多多的人们充耳不闻,视若无睹;就说抽烟喝酒,众人皆知不好,然而依然故我。

如果我们多关心时事,或者收看电影和电视节目,就可以看到不知多少人受到"血"的教训后,仍然不会觉悟,不会改变。世上除了万恶不作的少数人,一般人心地还是不错的,为何连他们也会如此呢?这就叫做"无明"吧?

为了人们的需要, 商家会推销货品, 譬如打广告介绍药物和保健品, 生病的人们看了, 自然就会买。销售员要学会辨识不同的人群有不同的需要, 要学会抓住人们的不同心理, 例如很多人都有病痛伤痛, 药物必然有市场, 你就可以选择去卖药, 或上大学读医科。

我参观过医院和安老院,见过不少病人、医生和护士,看过病人、老人和医护人员话语不通的场面,很感慨,常问自己:我该学习如何保持健康吧?我该学好一技之长防老吧?我该学会搞好人际关系吧?答案都是肯定的,也都开始学习了,但是还不够努力,能力还不够用。

孔子说:生而知之者上也;学而知之 者次也;困而学之又其次也;困而不学, 民斯为下矣。

孔子也就是告诉我们: 痛了再学已经 迟了, 痛了还不学, 就是沉迷不悟者, 无 可救药了。

马上到学佛院修行吧!



佛说一钵水有八万四千种微生物在里面,小到肉眼看不到,一旦寄生在人类和动物的身体里,而且又是那种带有剧毒的家伙,它可以等待你的免疫力弱时,变成无形的杀手。换个说法,小如星星之火可以燎原,可以烧掉森林!

佛在教导我们:不要把小东西定义为 弱者,而加以轻视。

大自然是空性的,容纳万物,给予 我们富饶广阔的土地生存。原始以来,人 类、动植物、微生物都在大自然里生活, 互相依赖。人类从不断的演变中形成,能 够思考,能够借用科技改变大自然的规 律,大兴土木导致生态失去平衡:气候变 暖导致海平面上升、粮食短缺、野生动物 濒临绝种,劫数数之不尽。这是人类企图 主宰大自然的结果!

早在2003年,SARS瘟疫已证实是由 蝙蝠身上的病毒酿成,当时人类也是一片 恐慌,忘了吗?人类是善忘的,没有从惨 祸中吸取教训,继续捕杀野味当药膳,这 次肆虐全球的瘟疫原生物毒菌已变得更顽 强,所造成的破坏几乎没有一个国家能幸 免,到本刊截稿时,染病者已经超过520 万,死亡的人数也达30多万;没人敢说灾 害伊于胡底!

本来一年复始,万象更新,然而今年的春节却迎来COVID-19冠状病毒,几乎 所有人类已经无法照常生活! 小小的微生物把整个地球村搞得天翻 地覆,水深火热,就像复仇者联盟向人类 宣战,难道整个世界已经濒临毁灭?

新加坡也受到疫情波及!我们也跟许 多国家一样闹口罩荒,但是竟然还有无良 的商家居奇提高卖价卖假货,发国难财!

政府为了帮助人民度过难关,每个家庭分配四个口罩,并施行多项纾困措施。 但是当政府把疫情的警戒线从黄色提高到 橙色时,不少市民惊慌失措,涌到超市抢 购米粮等日常用品!新加坡人啊,不该如 此"怕输"!

我国政府吸取2003 SARS的疫情经验, 应对这次的冠状病毒,步步追踪,力求尽 快找到病源头,隔离病毒,有效减少了社 区传染。后来疫情突变恶化,成千上万客 工染病,只好请读者追踪其他媒体的报 导。

要感激前线的医疗团队抗疫,不负 使命。我们身为国民的一份子,也要自觉 自爱,注意个人卫生,勤洗手,口罩让给 更需要的人。相争不足取,共享有余才能 显示人间真情。面对疫情,要能够临危不 乱。

希望疫情早结束,经济快速复苏,雨 后的彩虹早曰出现。

末了,我要呼吁:人类啊,不要沦为 病毒的宿主,要敬畏大自然!

鼓声依旧

文●曹素斌



《杂阿含经》有个故事,说佛陀在鹿野苑向众比丘讲述"阿能诃鼓"的故事。

以前有一个叫陀舍罗诃的人,他有一面鼓,叫作阿能诃鼓,声音非常好听, 又非常响亮,能传到40里之外。可是时间 久了,鼓就破旧了,鼓手裁剪牛皮加以修 补,声音却不像以前那么好听了,也没有 那么响亮了。

年复一年,阿能诃鼓又破损了,又用新的牛皮补了。又过了很久,鼓的很多部件都再换新了。就这样,阿能诃鼓补了又补,换了又换,就是名字依旧,但是它还是当初的阿能诃鼓吗?

这是一个必须回答的问题,这个鼓已 经和当初的阿能诃鼓不一样了!当初为什 么要造这面鼓呢?如果修补后的阿能诃鼓 还一样满足人们的需要,还一样发挥鼓的 作用,就应该继续传承下去。

这使我联想到所有佛教典籍。

佛教典籍都是佛的后来人编纂出来的,很多在前面加了"如是我闻"四个

字,意思是从佛祖那里听来的。几千年过去了,一代又一代的僧人无间断的用各自时代的语言诠释典籍。阿能诃鼓不也如此吗?不同人修补了,声音和以前不大一样了,擂鼓人的节奏也不同了,一捶捶撼动信众的心。听到鼓声想起典籍,要牢记内容,听佛陀的话,慈善为人,即使同时代人的解读也不尽相同,但是二者的宗旨一样,没有变啊!

就如观世音菩萨,为什么又有信众尊称观自在呢?尽管各有各的解释,但是都皈依同一个信念情:慈悲为怀!

再看看观音菩萨的佛像,不同年代各有特点,但是不管佛像如何演变,只要看到慈目低垂的尊容,千千万万的信众都知道:观世音救苦救难!所以就算你身陷苦海,只要心中祈求观世音,你会处变不惊,安然等待戒舟慈棹渡到彼岸!

在如今信息发达的时代,不一定每个人都能准确讲解佛教典籍,但是每一个修佛人应该都做得到依义不依语,好好做人!

不过一碗饭

文●徐彤

一位师兄转发了一篇奥妙文章给我, 内容大意是说两个同事在工作中遇到了困难,一起去寺庙里请教老和尚指点迷津, 老人家闭着眼睛说出五个字"不过一碗饭"。结果这两个人一个辞职换了职业闯荡,另一个留在原位继续打拼,后来各自在职场上创出了一片天地。数年后相遇, 谈及自己的成果,都说多亏听了老和尚的话。

看完了这篇文章,我嘴上不说,心 里却在想,这老和尚说得可真轻松,可是 人的一生忙忙碌碌地工作的确好像为了一 碗饭,这世上有谁能不吃这碗饭呢?如果 能努力将这碗饭吃得更香有什么不好呢? 再者,俗话都说"天下没有白得的午餐", 在这碗饭上多下一点功夫,尝到俱全的色 香味,又有什么不对呢?以"不过一碗 饭"的态度去工作是不是太消极了呢?

《心经》对我的触动之大超乎自己的想象,虽然经文短得不能再短。我心里触动些什么,讲不出来,只记得一日下午偶然路过海印,忽然想上楼看看师父,就径自推开大门。大楼里没有看到一个人,办公室里虽亮着灯,但就是没有看见人。走到师父的办公室门前,里面却黑灯瞎火,空无一人。回过头来,大厅空空荡荡,静静悄悄,一切都那么空寂。此刻,我忽

然像触电一样,明白了答案。意境有如读 《心经》!

佛教的核心目的是让修学者建立出世 而离苦的思想,其方法是通过日常生活, 仔细品尝种种人生滋味,体会生命的苦、 无常、因缘的实质,从而感悟自我的虚假 与不实,于是进一步修炼,炼到不再执著 自我,最终达到离苦的目的。

我在海印的学习已经有好几年时间 了,自己口口声声说要成佛,但到今日依 然没有明白学佛的目的是什么,我的内心 里面究竟还藏着一个多么大的自我啊!我 终于恍然大悟,老和尚说的太对了!人生 忙忙碌碌为的只"不过一碗饭",但其要 点不是有得吃就算了,而是不论吃什么样 的饭,都要专心在此过程中仔细品味,但 不是品味那碗饭!

我们工作,得到了"一碗饭",那 是指过活资粮,而不是生活目的,所以老 和尚说"不过"。我们的人生内容不仅仅 是吃饭又吃饭,更要专注饭前饭后的行、 住、坐、卧,时时刻刻的,去观察、去体 会人生,直到生命的尽头。人生路上风

> 景无限,如果不专注观察,就会错过 很多有价值的东西;如果不专注体 会就会稀里糊涂地混日子。只有专 注于生命的每一时刻,才会不枉此 生!



修心感悟

文●英梅

圣人、好人、坏人

圣人、好人、坏人的定义是什么?要详细说明,必定长篇大论。我给个简单的说法:差别在自私程度。

是人就有欲望,就难免会有私心,无 可厚非。以自私程度来分别,容易明了。

坏人:私利心极重,一切以自我为中心,为了自己的利益不在平损人利己。

有些"一般人":自私,但不害人。 他们不会为了自身利益而刻意去损人利己,他们不是坏人,但也不能称为好人, 因为遇到切身利益时,不会兼顾他人。

好人:自私心极小,尽量帮助他人,但不会完全不顾自己。利益冲突时,可以牺牲自己的利益;有好处时会和他人分享。

圣人:没有私心,能为大众而牺牲自己,举个例子:且不说佛祖菩萨,单说修 女特蕾莎,她一生离乡背井照顾别国的贫 困人民,是一位真正的圣人。

坏人缺德积怨,很快就会有恶报。

那些一般人日渐消耗前世的福报,恶 运迟早可能降临。

好人积福积德, 今生来世都会有好运。

那么,何谓佛?何人可成佛?

不只不自私,还处处帮助他人。努力 修行学佛,能自度又能度人的人,就可能 成佛。

我能成佛吗?这是个极大疑问,但我 会尽力先做个好人。

爱与恨

世间是充满爱的。

从万物的赐予足以证明。

相生相融的,或相生相克的,各得其所。

"恨"纯粹是人心里的产物。

总是带着恨过活的人,难免带着恨死 去。

我们或许做不到大爱博爱,爱不了天 下人或大多数人。

但我们绝对可以做到心中无恨。

各个宗教,最高者为佛、神、道。

每个人都可成为佛,成为菩萨,都可得道。

如何成佛,成菩萨,何谓得道?我还 不懂。

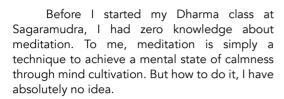
佛、神,在哪里,还有多远,我也不 能肯定。

但我深信,只要能放下,心中无恨, 也就接近神佛一步。



Benefits of Meditation

By Sam Phay



Meditation is one of the modules in our Fundamental Dharma Course. We started with paying attention to our breath as we breathe in and out. From counting breath, we move on to mindful awareness and reducing our wandering thoughts.

As we progressed further, our Teachers shared with us the importance of samma-sati & sampajanna. Constant practising of satisampajanna help us to develop panna which is key to achieving liberation.

To assist us in developing panna, we are constantly reminded by our Teachers to practise "Mindfulness without any Attachment", almost like a mantra.

panna Beside achieving through meditation lauded by our Teachers, I would like to share the side benefits of meditation.

Initially, I meditate only once a week as part of the curriculum. But when I do it more regularly and over a longer sitting duration, I start to see other benefits which have contributed tremendously to my well-being.

Calming The Mind. Seriously, I can't think of any practice that could calm the mind like meditation does. Before my meditation days, I am easily affected by problems and had tendency to amplify them and made myself miserable by constantly thinking about it, even in the middle of my sleep.

With guidance from our Teachers, we soon realised that thoughts are just phenomena that arises due to causes and conditions and fades away by the same concept.

There is no room for attachment, letting go is the way to go. Just heard over the radio which I think is worth sharing: letting go is like having to remove a bad tooth. It is painful initially but the right thing to do.

When a problem crops up, stop for a moment, take a deep breath, analyse the causes



and conditions and move on. Life is so much easier this way.

Good Posture. During meditation class, our Shifu is very strict on maintaining good posture. With good posture, we can always sit for a longer period. With regular sittings, it becomes natural for us to maintain good posture in our daily activities. A good posture protects the muscles in our back and thus reduce the chances of having backache. Studies have also shown that good posture increases the hormones that make us happy. A good example is Mingyur Rinpoche, the world happiest monk.

Deep Breathing. It is typical for us to take short and shallow breath. Meditation provides the opportunity for us to take long deep breath. Deep breathing is a mindful practice that provides numerous health benefits beyond the standard respiration required to live. It helps to increase the lungs' capacity and elasticity, thus keeping our lungs healthy. Deep breathing also leads to a slower heartbeat which helps to reduce stress, blood pressure and calm our mind.

Anti-Aging. The Shamatha Project, led by Dr. Clifford Saron at the UC-Davis Center for Mind & Brain, has shown that intensive meditation can lead to increases in telomerase.

Telomerase are enzymes that repairs the telomeres of the chromosomes so that they do not become progressively shorter when the cells divide. Shortening of the telomeres leads to aging and death.

Clifford Saron, said, "We have found that meditation promotes positive psychological changes and that meditators showing the greatest improvement on various psychological measures had the highest levels of telomerase which has the potential to promote longevity in those cells."

Last but not least, I would like to share a very powerful quote from Venerable Master Sheng Yen on meditation.

"It is not difficult for training in Chan Meditation to transform an ordinary person into a great one, and make the ungifted brilliant, the frail robust, the brilliant and robust even more

Happy Meditating and Reap The Benefits!



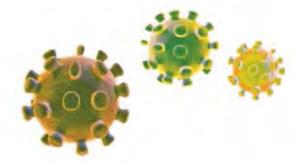






Coronavirus

By Ying Yi



The corona virus has hit Singapore. The government just announced the condition to be DORSCON Orange. That night, the supermarkets were packed with people hoarding rice, instant noodles, toilet paper, oil, etc. People wait in line for hours and some shelves were cleared completely.

It is common knowledge that panic-buying of essentials worsens the situation at an exponential rate. Once people start buying more than they need, the number of essentials available to everyone will fall and many people may end up unable to buy any even if there is enough in the country. This leads to more fear, panic-buying, lack of essentials. It is a deadly cycle.

So, what should we do?

Buying only what you need and not panic-buying is what we should do for the greater good of everyone around us. It ensures that there is enough to go around. It is the logical choice.

However, in the event that there is not enough to go around and you do not have enough essentials for your family, will you have been irresponsible for not taking care of their welfare if you have not bought more and hoarded?

The fear of not having enough for oneself, for the family or just the fear of losing out is what caused many people to start panic-buying. It is the choice made by fear and self-preservation.

Some people were in a dilemma about whether to panic-buy. Not panic-buying may ensure that there will be enough to go around, but there is no guarantee for that, especially with others doing it. If one does not panic-buy, there may not be enough for them to buy next time. Panic-buying guarantees that a person will have enough for some time, though it may cause others to not have enough.

In a way, this is a choice between risking your personal and family well-being over the greater good (but with no guarantee of making a significant impact).

As Buddhists, we learn about mindfulness and non-attachment (党性+不执着). For any decision we make, we must be mindful and consider the various implications of our actions and decisions (i.e. when practicing giving, we should consider whether it truly benefits the beneficiaries and not just give for the sake of giving). The above situation is a good opportunity for us to practice what we have learnt.

Making either choice may result in suffering. If you choose hoarding to ensure enough essentials for your family, you may feel guilty for being selfish and contributing to make the problem bigger; if you choose to not hoard, you may feel fearful that your family may not have enough.

I believe when facing the above choices, we must practice mindfulness and non-attachment. We can practice mindfulness by considering the various implications or causality (因缘), looking inward and knowing clearly the emotions (i.e. fear or compassion) and considerations driving either choice before making a clear choice on what to do. We can practice non-attachment by fully accepting the impact or potential impact of our choices, taking responsibility of it (担当), and letting go of our attachment to it (no matter which choice we make).

Only by practicing what we have learnt in our everyday lives can we move towards enlightenment. Whether we feel guilty (suffering) if we hoard, or feel fearful (suffering) if we don't, are we moving any closer towards enlightenment?

You Cannot Give What You Do Not Have

By Lee Swee Kee

Incident:

Once, at a heartland food centre, upon returning from the stall with my food, I was shockingly welcomed to uncollected soiled bowls, plates coupled with unwanted food wrappers on my 'choped' table. The food centre was not crowded, but few tables were spared from the clutter of leftover food, soiled crockery and utensils.

Mental formation:

I flared up because this completely ignorant man was obliviously blind to my placement of a bag on the stool, a bottle of water on the table to mark and secure space for lunch with a friend. Was swearing in my mind: 'stupid chap, must I reserve the table with packets of tissue paper for him to know??!!'

He chose to ignore and disregard my bag sitting on the stool.

Reaction:

With 'fuming hot' exhalation from my nostrils, rising steam from my bowl of hot soup, I spoke harshly to him to clear the mess deposited by him. Simultaneously, while giving him commands, I cleared the mess at my side while the other hand was gingerly supporting my tray of food resting partially on the table. To my utter dismay, he remained frozen in his seat while I continued restoring space by stacking all the soiled crockery and utensils by placing them aside, except for a tray with soiled bowls. One half of this tray was lying on my friend's table space, the other half on his side.

My friend returned with her food. She noted in silence the cluttered table top and my fiery eyes. She gently laid her food and took her seat. Intently for the man's ears, I spoke aloud to my friend to take care not to elbow against the tray which was still partially at her side as the man refused to clear it. Should the tray be shaken unintentionally, my concern was that leftover food and soup from the bowls would spill and splatter. Still agitated with the inconsiderate man, I related to my friend how passively he sat watching me cleared the mess with one hand and held my food on the other. The man changed his seat upon spotting one clean table, where thereafter, his companion returned with their food.

Reflection 1:

1) Why didn't I react amicably?

I should have reacted with humour by asking smilingly in Singlish: Aiyo!! Why like that? No more space to put my food already. Brother, can don't mind help help??

2) Why was I uptight and worked up? I reflected beyond the outer layer of my uptight mind. Regretfully, yet grateful to be able to realize that beneath it, was a layer of unhappiness sowed with a close friend prior to the incident. Unknowingly, I harboured this discontent and showered it onto this unrelated man who crossed my path. From this incident, I had the opportunity to experience the sheer inability of a disturbed or unhappy mind to respond and react with patience, forbearance, last of all, humour. 'You cannot give what you do not have' was felt and experienced by me. It's no longer a statement that was superficially understood.

Reflection 2:

On the other hand, when we receive harsh, hurtful words, do be mindful to react with empathy and be forgiving. The person is crying out loud for help to uncover hidden unhappiness and misgivings within him/her.

Looking within:

'The Impermanence (annica) in all things' which we frequently hear is only understood superficially by many of us. Notably myself, at most times, am still unable to apply this wisdom in my daily interaction with people. Thus, the next best thing for me is to look within for hidden unhappiness. Conflicts with the 'human' kind may be inevitable, yet useful. Conflicts, disagreements and all are the stepping stones for us to examine whether loving kindness (metta), compassion (karuna), empathetic joy (mudita), and equanimity (upekkha) are within us.







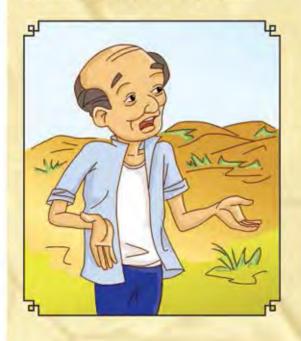


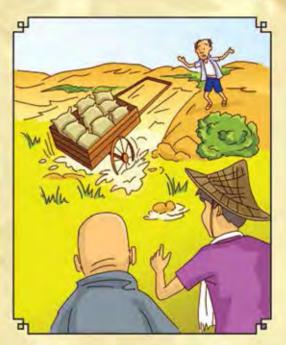
没有东西 NOTHINGNESS

(摘自佛光丛书8704慈庄法师导编著《佛教故事大全》下册) (Extracted from Fo Guang Publication 8704, compiled by Ven Ci Zhuang "Buddhist Stories Collections," Vol 2)

有两个人在路上走着,忽然看见一辆满载芝麻的人力车陷入泥沟里。车夫向他们求救:"请帮我在后面推推,我一个人拉不出车来。"

Two men were walking along a road. Suddenly, they saw a cart loaded full of sesame seeds plunging into a muddy ditch. The cart puller sought their help, "Can you please help me to push the cart from behind. I can't pull it out alone."





两人回答: "你给我们什么酬劳 呢?"

Both replied, "How will you reward us?"

"我一个拉车人,没有钱,我会 很感激你们!"

"I am a cart puller with no money, but I will be very grateful to you." 两个人就帮助他把车子拉出 来,但他们坚持要报酬。

Both men helped the cart puller to push out the cart, but they insisted on getting some rewards.

车夫说:"我已经说我没有 钱!"

The cart puller said, "I have already said that I do not have any money."

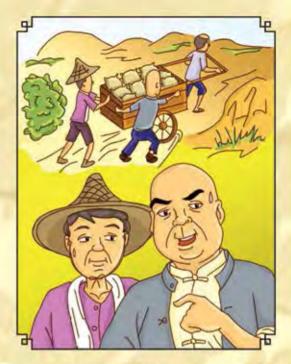
两人中的一个说道:"你至少要 给一样东西呀!"

One of the men replied, "Well, at least you should give us something!"

车夫感到为难:"我没有东西呀!"。这时候,另一个路人微笑着对他的朋友说:"我们走罢,他已经给我们'没有东西'了!"

Feeling troubled, the cart puller said, "But I have nothing!"
At this time, the other man smiled at his friend and said, "Let's go. He has already given us 'nothing!"





从这个故事,我们应该领会到"空无"的境界,"有东西"的另一面就是"没有东西",学佛人接受"空"的信念,就不该排斥"无"的境界。如果能由这个角度看待一无所有的穷人,我们的德相就很崇高了!

From this story, we should be able to understand the state of emptiness. The opposite of somethingness is nothingness. A Dharma practitioner who accepts the view of emptiness will not reject the state of nothingness. If we can perceive a poor person who has nothing from this angle, our qualities will be noble!

新春法会花絮

图 • 影音部







▲ 普佛上供。



▲ 传供。



▲ ► 信众都怀着喜悦的 心情供养法师。



▲▶ 舞狮舞龙庆新春。







香料奶茶 Chai Latte

指导●黄其铫

[食材]A

水 1公升、黑茶 20克 将所有材料混合加温至100C度,煮 15分钟。

[食材] B

小豆蔻 50克 、肉桂 50克 黑胡椒 25克、丁香 25克 将所有材料混合搅碎约1分钟成细 粉,取出10克备用,其余收藏在雪 柜。

[食材] C

生姜 10克、豆奶粉 100克椰枣(去籽)4颗将A,B(10克)和C混合加温至80C度,搅碎1分钟至细滑,即可上桌。

[功用]

此香料茶含多种温性香料,可以每 天喝,能预防呼吸道感染。

[Ingredients] A

Water 1L, Black tea 20g Heat the above mixture to 100°C, cook for 15min.

[Ingredients] B

Cardamom powder 50g, Cinnamon powder 50g, Black pepper powder 25g, Cloves powder 25g
Blend the above mixture until fine for 1 min, set aside 10g to use, the remainder can be kept in fridge.

[Ingredients] C

Fresh ginger 10g, Soy milk powder 100g, Medjool dates (pitted) 4pcs Heat A, B (10g), C to 80°C and blend 2min; serve warm.

[Benefits]

This Chai Masala which contains a lot of warming spices, can be taken daily as a way to prevent respiratory system infections.

般若信箱

答复 ● 释法源 翻译 ● Kim Ong

问:如何从佛教三藏十二部八万四千 法门里,选择适合现代人的修行 法门?

答:释迦牟尼佛教导的一切修行法门都离不开戒、定、慧三无漏学。从2500多年前释迦牟尼佛的生活时代一直到现代,世界各地的禅修道场都依循佛的教导来修持,信众能够选择在适当的时间和环境里,随时随地运用四念处或其他修行的方法下功夫,让身心获得无尽的安乐。

一般上,我们在日常生活中通过戒律 来约束自己的身、口、意行为,并且时常 拉回眼前来观察自己的起心动念,修持禅 定和智慧。

每天都尽力保持正念,培养观察自己的身心的习惯,守护六根(眼、耳、鼻、舌、身、意)来面对外境的六尘(色、声、香、味、触、法),训练我们不容易被人、事、物造成的情绪影响。

《六祖坛经》说:外离相为禅,内不 乱为定。《永嘉证道歌》说:行亦禅,坐 亦禅,语默动静体安然。

释迦牟尼佛的教导是要引导信众发现自己本具的"如来清净佛性",从中认识心的本源是"无常、因缘、无我"。应该放舍一切梦想,避免神魂受颠倒,也就是拉回眼前,回归到"如来清净佛性"。时常往内心观察,不断清除杂念,借以提升般若智慧,超越一切善恶、是非、对错、等等的对立,烦恼可以离开矣!

通过戒、定、慧三无漏学的禅修, 我们的心能够磨砺得像明亮的镜子,观察



力因而敏锐异常,能看清一切人、事、物的本质,明白烦恼就是"无常、因缘、无我",从而进入解脱的境界。

Q: How do we know which
Dharma method from the
84,000 Buddha discourses in
the Three Baskets (Tripitaka)
of the twelve scriptural
divisions is most suitable for
modern people to practise?

A: All the Dharma taught by the Buddha are inseparable from the threefold training of ethical discipline, meditative concentration and wisdom that leads to liberation from cyclic existence.

Since the Buddha's time, 2500 years ago till now, all the Dharma centres worldwide have followed the teachings of the Buddha to engage in training, and lay disciples can choose either to work on the four foundation of mindfulness or the other Dharma methods at their chosen time and environment for the achievement of peace of their body and mind.

Generally, we tame our body, speech and mind by upholding the precepts in our daily life, as well as bringing our mind back to the present moment to watch our mind state, practise meditative concentration and wisdom.

Everyday we should try our ultmost ability to maintain right mindfulness, cultivate the habit of watching our body and mind, guard our six sense faculties (eyes, ears, nose, tongue, body, mind) against the six external defiling sense objects (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch and mental objects) and train ourselves so that our emotional well-being will not be easily affected by people, circumstances and things.

The Platform Sutra states: 'Externally to be free from the grasping of form is meditation; internally to be free from distraction is meditative concentration.'

Yong Jia's Song of Attaining Enlightenment states: 'Walking is meditation, sitting is meditation; whether it is speaking or not speaking, moving or not moving, all abide and rest in the state of calmness'

The teachings of Buddha Shakyamuni is to guide sentient beings to discover their own innate "buddha nature" or "Tathagatagarbha", and get to understand the origin of the mind is "impermanent, conditioned and non-self." There is a need to let go of all dream-like thoughts, preventing one's mind from sinking into delusion; that is, to bring the mind back to the present moment, returning to "buddha nature".

Always turn the mind inwards to watch the mind, and constantly dispel

all distracting thoughts. Through this, strengthen your wisdom (prajna), transcend all conceptual notions of dualism, such as good and evil, right and wrong, and thus, be rid of mental afflictions.

Through the threefold training of moral discipline, single-pointed concentration and wisdom for the purpose of liberation, we can polish our mind to mirror-like clarity, and thus, our mental discernment can be sharpened to see the actual nature of all matters of people, circumstances and things, and understand that all mental afflictions are "impermanent, conditioned and non-self," thus, entering into the state of liberation.



《目前》 征稿启事

欢迎社会各方僧俗大德、学佛者 针对特定主题,踊跃投稿,分享学佛 修心体验与心得,以便增加读者对佛 法的认识。

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依了义经不依不了义: 01/11/2020

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The gift of Dharma excels all gifts —

Dhammapada verse 354

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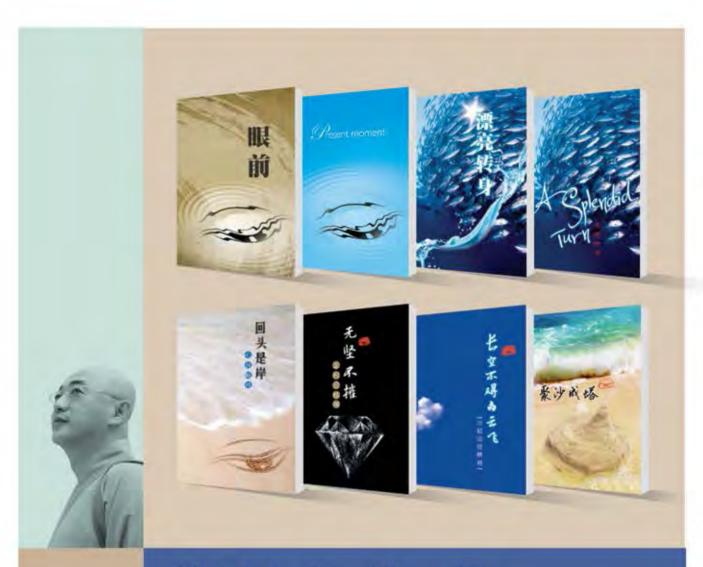
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