

佛學問答 Questions on Buddhism

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Q. All sentient beings have spiritual natures. There is a spiritual nature in the big elephant and also one in a small germ what is the size of the spiritual nature? (P. 80)

A. The nature prevails in all times and directions without a size, It expresses in its form as cleaver and stupid in spite of the size of the body, The body of

the elephant is bigger than that of the monkey but the nature of the former is more stupid than the latter.

Q. The Outline of Buddhism said, "Chan (Dyana) belongs to the Pure Land; Pure Land belongs to the Chan." Does the Pure Land Sect belong to the Chan Sect? (P. 81)

A. That two clauses form a pair. They express that the Chan and the Pure Land are conjugate to each other. You cannot emphasize any one clause.

Q. What is the difference of the Dyana and the concentration of the mind? (P. 82)

A. You can concentrate your mind on any thing whether good or bad but the Dyana is meditation which means to put down all thoughts, to stop thinking good and evil and to maintain a calm and conscious mind.

Q. What is the view point of Buddhism toward the life? (P. 85)

A. The view point is the conception of one person. Buddhism speaks the truth and put the importance on reality, therefore we cannot use the word view point. Buddhists aware that the human mind is dull and deluted and therefore the action is wrong with bad Karmas. Consequently the result is painful. The Buddha has pity on the mankind and tell them the truth and reality to save them from pain and cause them happy.

The method is to discover the wisdom of the mind, to get enlightenment, to avoid evil, to do good, to throw off all pains and to regain freedom of the mind.

Q. How to explain the universe? (P. 86)

A. Buddhists view the universe as boundless not as common men viewing only this world like viewing the heaven inside a well. The boundless universe is an ever-changing conditioned combination caused by our subconscious mind.

Q. Why monks eat vegetables and live single? (P. 86)

A. The Buddha teaches compassion and equality and forbid to take other's blood and tear for self enjoyment. Therefore to take life is forbidden. Wife and children cause one much time and energy, the monks render their life for the service of mankind, they must concentrate their energy for Buddhism like soldiers who cannot bring their wives in the battle field, Furthermore to become Buddha one must suppress one's sexual desire.

Q. The Pure Land follower repeats the name of Amitabha to expect to be reborn to the Pure Land but the Prajna (Diamond Sutra) follower declares that if using forms, sounds you cannot see the tathagatha Buddha. It opposes to the Pure Land principle, What is the reason? (P. 93)

A. There is a sect there is a way as there is a lock there is a key. The beginning is different and the result is the same. The difference is only in the starting point. For example, if the people in the four extremes want to go to the center, you will tell the northern people to go to the south, the southern ones to go to the north, etc. The directions of the route are quite different but they of course will reach the same point. If they all go in one direction, the majority will not reach their purpose.

Q. "All the seeds are stored in the Alaya Vinana. In where is the Alaya Vinana stored? (P. 94)

A. All the water of the rivers are stored in the ocean. In where is the water of the ocean stored?

Q. In the five precepts the true speech is the most difficult. What shall I do if I unintentionally break that precept? (P.96)

A. You should regret before your teacher or the Buddha Image and promise not to do it again afterwards.