

佛學問答

Questions on Buddhism

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Q. The attainment of a Buddhist practitioner is sometimes good and sometimes bad. A common practitioner can not maintain his attainment always in its high altitude. Why the attainment of his after birth is determined by his one thought on his death?

A. The one thought on one's death will determine to what path one will be reborn. It will not determine the attainment after his rebirth.

Q. "Concentration of mind", "Continuing purified thought" and "Clear mind" are these terms express the same thing?

A. "Concentration of mind" expresses the state of a short interval. Continuing purified thought expresses the continuous state of mind. "Clear mind" expresses the mind resisting the light winds of interference.

Q. Humans and animals are viviparous. How about the birth of Devas, Asuras, demons and hell beings? Are Arhans and Bodhisattvas born by transformation?

A. The Devas and hell beings are born by transformation. The demons are born by viviparous and transformation. Human beings are commonly viviparous. But sometimes they are of other forms of birth and it is very rare. The Arhans and Bodhisattvas have no birth. But for saving the world they are sometimes born by transformation.

Q. I was told that one day practicing in this world is better than one hundred year practicing in the Pure Land. Is the reason for that like those practicing in a busy market for a short time to be much better than practicing in the deep mountains or other quiet places for a long time?

A. It is so. But the practice should be

earnest and benefitting to others. Because it is difficult to practice in a busy market therefore you get better attainment. And there are much more people to be saved in a busy market; you can save more and it will be better.

Q. There are many Buddhists who repeat the name of Amitabha everyday. When they are going to die, how will Buddha Amitabha know and receive them to the Pure Land?

A. Amitabha has inconceivable boundless supernatural powers like telephone exchange which can response to many subscribers at the same time as they want to call. Amitabha's numerous lights shine to the worlds in all directions. There are also numerous transformed Buddhas in the lights. There are Buddhas to be seen by every Buddhist like the moon with its image in numerous waters.

Q. What is the difference between the fact and the reason of repeating Amitabha?

A. The fact of repeating Amitabha is to believe in the Western Pure Land ten trillion worlds apart, in the Amitabha and in the paradise; and to repeat the name to expect to go. The reason of repeating Amitabha is to understand that the Mind is the Buddha, that the Pure Land is made by our mind and that the mind and the event are the same. But the best is to perform in these two respects and not to go to one extreme.

Q. I have heard that there are guardian Devas for one who has taken the five precepts. Are these Devas belong to the three fold division or beyond it?

A. It is stated in the Liting Sutra that those who keep the five precepts were guarded by good Devas sent by the God to obey the order of the Buddha. From this it will be Devas inside the three fold division.

佛學論文

TOPICS ON BUDDHISM

WHY I EMBRACED THE BUDDHIST FAITH

by

Rev. James E. Wagner

On a great many occasions in recent years I have been asked what it was that made me