

佛學問答

Questions on Buddhism

解答者：李炳南居士

Answered by Mr. P. N. Li.

譯者：李恒鉞居士

Translated by Mr. H. Y. Li.

Q. Buddhists are very compassionate. If all the citizens are kind and merciful, what about the defence against the foreign invasion?

A. The disciples of Buddha are divided into monks and lay men. The monks preserve no properties which should be the object of robbing, or invading. If there is nothing worth invading, what is the use of defending? If the laymen who control the government carry out a compassionate policy, they should get the sympathy of their people and their country should be strong and wealthy. Then the foreign countries dare not to risk invasions. To say nothing about a defence, which is the protection upon many fellowmen, it is not against the kindness of Buddhism and on the other hand it is a kind of donation or offering which is the important discipline of Buddhism. But overdefending is not good even by the law.

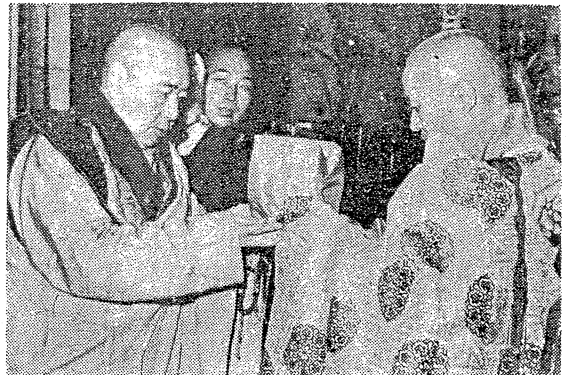
Q. It is the scientific era now. Can Buddha Dharma save our country and our people? The Dharma is invaluable but I don't believe that it is more effective than atomic bomb.

A. I don't understand what is your content of saving the country and your content of science. I answer by guessing your thought. Perhaps you mean our country and our people can only be saved by science and science is limited to Physics and atomic bomb. If so, the legislation, examination, law, supervision, education, medicine, agriculture, literature, art, accounting, etc. are all not physics and bomb. Then they are items which can't save our country beside Dharma. I have a question also upon your question. What is the meaning of the word "save"? You mean to save from death or to save from living? If you mean to save our people from death, I don't believe that the atomic bomb is more effective than the Dharma.

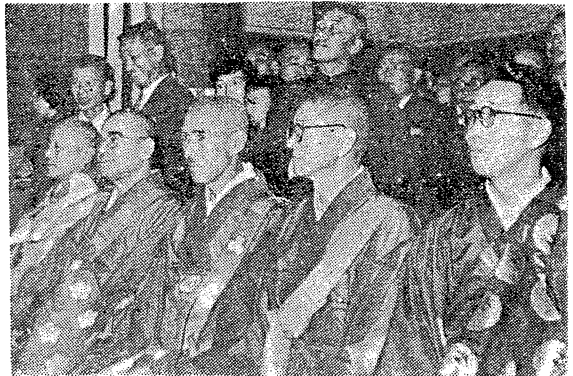
FREE CHINA WELLCAME THE COMING BACK OF THE HOLLY RELIC OF VEN HSUAN CHUANG



The grand greeting at the air port.



The transfer of the Holly Relic.



Five Japanese representative monks (The farther left is the party chief Ven. Kuramochi.)

The Reference Dept.

Chief Editor Mr. F. Chu.