

world wars and the destruction of civilization. If we do not spread Buddhism all over the world then we can expect only war and bloodshed and cruelty and the ruin of the world. Soon the Buddhists of the world will be celebrating the Buddhajoyanti the 2500 th anniversary of Buddhist In India, Ceylon, China, Japan, Siam, Burma, Cambodia and Laos and wherever there are Buddhists. there will be special honors paid to Lord Buddha on this occasion. It is right and proper that such honors should be paid. But the best way we can honor Lord Buddha is by giving His teaching to all people everywhere. Hundred of years ago when Buddhism come to China it reached a very high stage of development and then China give Buddhism to Korea and Japan. The writings of the great Chinese Buddhist philosophers have spread to the Western world and have influenced western thought very greatly. We see that Chinese civilization has influenced the cultures of all the countries of eastern Asia and to a large extent. the entire world has accepted portions of Chinese thought and culture. The best gift to the world that Chinese Buddhists can mak is the gift of Lord Buddha's teaching. Now that the world is in danger of another world war. Our only hope for peace is to know and to practice Lord Buddha's way of life. The Christians and Muslims send Missionaries to all parts of the world but Buddhists of the morden world seldom do this. The Lord Buddha told us to tell all people about his message. I am trying to do this, and I have preached Buddhism all over Europe and the Americas for many years. I exchange many letters with students of Buddhism all over the world. Soon I expect to go to Australia. Please remember that Lord Buddha told us that: The gift of truth is the best of all gifts. We wish to give the truth of the Buddhist religion to the people of Australia and the Philippine Island and in Indonesia we respectfully ask you to help us and we assure you that your good actions will bring good results to you we thank you for the honor you have done us in asking us to come to lecture to you and we wish for you all good thing in life May you be happy.

佛學問答

Questions on Buddhism

解答者:李炳南居士

Answered by Mr. P. N. Li

譯者:李恆鉞居士

Translated by Mr. H. Y. Li

Q. During a great war the people of the opposing countries pray for their own victories. Of whom will Buddhas satisfy the offers? (P.43)

A. Buddhas are pitiful and equal minded. They do not hate anyone and help others to conquer him. Perhaps they have pity on the weak and invaded to answer the pray by super power protections.

Q. Mahayanists should donate their wealths to erect temples, hospitals and schools to save the human beings. How to realize the Mahayanist doctrine if one is poor and lack of power? (P.43)

A. To benefit the human beings is to let them to quit from bitter life and to get a happy one. A being has two lives: one is the physical life and another is the wisdom one. To help the poor and to release the unfortunate are benefitting the physical lives. To teach to turn to the good and to advice to believe in Buddhism are benefitting the wisdom lives. If you determine to do this, it is very easy to do when you are rich and you can also do it by action and speech when you have not much money. Even if your speech has not much effect, you must develop your will power to the ultimate. These are all Mahayanist disciplines.

Q. Is it also greed for one to desire to be reborn to the west pure land by repeating the name of Amitaba? (P.45)

A. It is a good will and not a bad greed because one want to be reborn to the west to purify one's mind and to be reborn back again to save all others.

Q. Is praying to Bodhisatva Avaloketesvara (Kuan yin) for releasing from pain and misery considered to be greed? (P.45)

A. On the stand point of unenlightened idea, it is not greed if you pray for release. On the stand point of categories of reality, it is greed if you hanker after the physical body.

