

佛學問答

Questions on Buddhism

解答者：李南南居士

Answered by Mr. P. N. Li

譯者：李恆鏡居士

Translated by Mr. H. Y. Li



Q. Can a Buddha Repeating Buddhist Reincarnate in the Pure Land if she dies on the disease during parturition? (P. 9)

A. If she has the right thought clearly in her mind, of course she will be reborn in the Pure Land. I guess that your question is that she is too dirty for the Buddha to welcome her. To consider the truth, even common people is also very dirty. You just think of the excreta and you will get the proof. The only difference is that the dirtiness of the woman during parturition is more evident. The welcome of the Buddha depends on the mind. It is like that the image of the moon will appear if the water in the pond is clear. If you consider the body, it is the combination of thirty-six dirty constituents. When we salute the Buddha, even with bath and fragrant, we are clean in our mind, not in our body.

Q. I cannot cancel my bad Karma when I commit a crime. But if I repent and return the loot to the possessor after stealing, can I cancel the karma? (P. 10)

A. To cancel a crime is not the power of the God. The law of cause and effect is in your mind. To steal for self enjoyment has four steps of consequences. They are parrent consequence, dependent consequence, following consequence and improving consequence. If you steal and then repent and return the loot to the possessor, there will be parrent consequence only and no other three consequences. That is like to sew a seed of bean on the ground and lack water, sun light and warmth. It will not grow and will decay by and by. But it cannot be canceled out at

once;

Q. The earthworm has one life. If it is cut by a farmer, it separates into two or more parts and every part will live into one worm afterwards. The Sutra said that every sentient beings has Buddha nature. Then inside a earth worm is there one Buddha nature or are there many Buddha natures? (P. 21)

A. The earth worm is a ringed worm with male and female organs in the same body. Every part of its body has the ability of reproducing a new life. Living creatures are born and died every minute. The spirits wander here and there. They join to a new body according to Karmas. Since every part of a earthworm has the power of producing a new life, when they are divided, every part will get a spirit to join to make a new worm.

Q. The Buddhists say that they are not superstitious but they salute and burn incense to the idols. Are there souls inside idols? If there are, who give them their souls? If none, is it not superstition to adorn on the soulless idols? (P. 22)

A. The Buddhists do every thing according to the truth which was gotten by wisdom and practice and not by the gift of the God. They got the truth just as they know that two plus three equals to five. The wisemen know the truth but the stupid men know not. The old Chinese proverb said that if you don't study that course, you don't know about it. That is to say: if you don't learn Buddhism you can't understand the truth and don't believe in it even you are told by others what is the truth. I insure you one thing that Buddhism is absolutely non-superstitious and very reasonable. Buddhists have their reason to revere the idol which is the representative of their object of religion. Do not the Catholics revere the image of Maria, the protestants revere the image of cross, the Chinese revere the image of their ancestors and the people revere their national colors? Do all those revered things have souls? Who gives you the soul? Everyone has his own subjective view. You got your subjective view and prejudice inside your mind and cannot see things as they really are.