

## 佛學問答

## Questions on Buddhism

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Q. The Buddhists said that they are compassionate and that they want to save all the beings. Please tell me how many charitable works and public welfare were done by Buddhists? I saw only that the monks asked others to help them. (P. 23)

A. To give alms to the monks has important and complicated meanings. To make the things simple, you saw that the monks got help and money from others. But didn't you see how many laymen who got the help and money from others with proper and improper means?

Charitable works and public welfare are very necessary. But we Buddhists are not very well financed so that we cannot express ourselves very well. We feel sorry about that.

Q. The military force is the supermost in the modern countries. For the Buddhists, they strike the wooden fishes and bells all day long. Can they save the country? I think that to beat the bells and wooden fishes will not save the country. (P. 24)

A. I confess that the military force is very important. But I think that the revival of the country needs also the world saving spirit of mahayanist Buddhism to stimulate the spiritual forces of the soldiers and to unite the people under one big purpose. If you didn't read the history, you didn't know that there were many events for the Buddhists to help the country to perform in valuable deeds.

The Buddhists work are not only to beat the bells and wooden fishes. Please tell me that the students and other religious men are also singing songs; would those be the only things for students and religious men

to do?

Q. I think that the saying to bring the Karma to be reborn to the Pure Land is not conform to the law of cause and effect. If the evil man can be reborn to the Pure Land by repeat the name of Amitabha, who will be foolish enough to perform the good deeds? (P. 25)

A. The effects of all the good and bad deeds are all called Karmas. When you perform some deeds you sow seeds in the Alaya Vinana (the sub-conscious mind.) When the seeds meet good circumstances, they will grow into plants and bear fruits. That is the cause of reincarnation. The Buddha Dharma teaches to cancel the seeds or to stop the sufferings. When all the sufferings are stopped, you get into the goal of Neryana. As for the Pure Land method you must stop the karmas first and then repeat the name of Amitabha and put it into the Alaya Vinana. The seeds of bad karma will be buried forever for lack of good circumstances and the good karma of the name of Buddha will cumulate day by day. Then the good karma will bear fruit first to be reborn to the Pure Land together with the buried bad seeds. When you bring the karma to the Pure Land you must also do according to the Buddha Dharma to stop all the basic Karma and purify the mind. What you have said about that inspite to do evil deeds the Buddha name will bring you to the Pure Land is not the proper understanding of the teachings of the Pure Land Sect.

Q. Even a bad man who will repeat the name of Amitabha for ten time before his death will be reborn to the Pure Land. Then we need not to learn the Buddha Dharma or try to repeat the Name every day, we only do evil deeds and wait for the death moment and then we repeat the Name ten times and that will be enough. Is that right? (P. 26)

A. Repeating ten times is only for the very good and patient men. If otherwise the pain of death will forbid to reflect on the Name. Also the Repeating ten times should be done very sincerely and concentrately. The common men will troubled and confused by the pain, how can they do according to the repeating method? The daily practice is a necessity.