

佛學問答

Questions on Buddhism

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Q. I remember that a few years ago, a newspaper insulted the Moslem. The Moslems gathered together, ruined the printing press and appealed to the law court. By this action, no one dares to insult Moslem afterwards, Why Buddhists don't do this? (P. 45)

A. Buddhism encourages loving kindness and forbearance. Those who insult Buddhism will themselves conduct a sin which will cause them to be reborn to the hell for the reason of blocking others from a good way leading to deliverance. We have pity on such kind of men. We regret for inability to save them, why shall we again hurt them?

Q. To save your religion, why not try some spirit of fighting? (P. 45)

A. Buddhists never had bloodshed like the Crusades. In China, Buddhism was compelled by the Taoists and Confucians. The Buddhists even had no bad words toward them, to say nothing about fighting or other crude actions. This is the inherent pitifulness and greatness of Buddhism.

Q. The Venerable Taihsue said in his Elementary Buddhism: "Everything come from causes, even the Alaya Vinana (sub-conscious mind) comes from causes; therefore causes are everything." Is Alaya made by causes? (P. 67)

A. Alaya Vinana is Tathata (suchness, thatness or the reality) It contains one part of purity and another part of impurity. Its property is reality and has no rise and fall, but its appearance has rise and fall by reason of its purity and impurity and is called Karma Vinana (deed mind or influence mind). By appearance it contains impurities and is called Alaya which is formed by causes.

Q. I heard very often that all events are emptiness and that in Physics there is law of conservation of mass and energy. Are these principles contrary to each other? please explain. (P. 74)

A. The sentence, "All events are emptiness" means that all events are made from causes and have no absoluteness themselves. Everything come from conditions and are variable. They cannot vanish or come into existence and can only be everchanging. The mass and energy by Physicists are also caused and conditioned variables that should not be absoluteness.

Q. When Sakya Buddha first preached to his disciples, he explained the Four Truths of the Pain, the Cause of pain, the Deliverance and the Way to Deliverance. Until his Nervana (decease) he still sermonize upon the Four Truths. Why he laid so much importance upon them? (P. 74)

A. The Four Noble Truths are the two fold cause and effect on earthen events and deliverance. Every kind of Dharma (teachings for deliverance) teaches all the sentient beings work themselves from dullness to enlightenment and it is the same as the Four Noble Truths.

Q. Some Pure Land Buddhists abstained from killing and ate vegetables but they ate eggs. When eating eggs there are no blood and tears, maybe it will not hurt the pity mind. But anyhow there is life inside the egg. How shall I do? (P. 78)

A. If the eggs are laid without a cock, there are no lives inside and they can be eaten by Buddhists.

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佛教新聞

Buddhist News in Free China

Translated by Mr. H. Y. Li

The Ten Great Mews of Last Year.

1. The great Buddha Jayanti (the 2500th celebration after Buddha's decease) was held vigorously at all places.

2. Bodhedrum held a photo contest for the commemoration of the Buddha Jayanti. The first prize, Bodhi Cup, was won by the Venerable Kuangchih, president of the Buddhist association of Penghu.

3. Budhedrum held a round the island