

佛學問答

Questions on Buddhism

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Q. If I break the precepts intentionally and then never do it again, but do good things such as to print Sutras, to spread the Dharma and to make Buddha images, and turn these influence of the deeds for the repentance, can these cancel the sin?

A. If you do some thing wrong unintentionally, it is a mistake. If you do some thing wrong intentionally, it is a sin. Though the sin can be covered up by repentance and doing good deeds, yet when you conduct the sin intentionally, the sin cannot be covered up. If I tell you that the good deeds can cancel the sin, that is to say, I encourage you to break the precepts.

Q. If I break the precepts once intentionally and then keep them afterwards, by the will of Amitabha, can I go to the Pure Land of the West?

A. If you break the precepts and repent afterwards, you can go to the Pure Land by the will of Amitabha. But if you prepare to break the precepts, it will be difficult for you to go to the Pure Land. Since a true practitioner will not break the precepts and one who prepare to break the precepts will not practice eagerly. If you repeat the name of Amitabha without a true faith, how can you be reborn to the Pure Land?

Q. If I stop the electricity by reporting to the power company and the main connection is cut, afterwards when by emergency I connect the wire and use some electricity then cut off again. Is this thing against to the precept of stealing?

A. That is stealing. You never can do it.

Q. When salute the Buddha how shall I perform my thought?

A. During salutation you should think that you represent all the sentient beings saluting all the Buddhas, Dharmas and Sanghas.

Q. What is the maning of the wood fish and chime used during the chanting of Sutras?

A. These two kinds of musical instruments are used to drive away the sleepy

intention and also to beat the rhythm to get uniformity.

Q. The Pure Land Sect teaches one to perform the five precepts, ten good deeds, six Paramitas, four attitudes and repeat the name of Amitabha. Are these the steps of primary practicers and they are easier than those methods of other sects. Shall I get away with this easier sect and study those complicated and elaborate methods of other sects.

A. The five precepts, ten good deeds, six Paramitas and four attitudes are common to all sects. There are no easy sect and difficult one. Every sect has its own reference Sutra and its own method of practice. You can say that the Pure Land Sect is easy, because the ignorant old woman can do it. Or you may say that it is difficult, because the disciples and Bodhisattvas cannot tell its ultimateness. There is a proverb "Learn and you know you are deficient." You will know its difficulty when you become learned.

Q. After knowing the theory of impermanence one will be ordained to be a monk. Then one cannot perform the duties toward ones' country and home. Is one considered negative?

A. To be a monk is not negative. One will do the positive work of saving the sentient beings by propagating the Dharma to them.

Q. What are the five biggest sins?

A. They are slaying farther, slaying mother, slaying Arhan, hurting Buddha and destroying the Sangha.

佛教新聞

Buddhist News in Free China

Translated by Mr. H. Y. Li

Further News of the Chinese Buddhists in the Philippines

President Chiang Summoned them to Court

Taipei—Presidnet Chiang Summoned the Chinese Buddhists in the Philippines to Court. Mr. H.T.Shih the party leader, led six members (part of them came back Philippines) to salute the President, who asked them the impressions on the visit of the mother country and hoped them to give the compliments to the overseas when they come back.