

答問學佛

Questions on Buddhism

士居南炳李：者答解

Answered by Mr. P. N. Li

士居鉞恆李：者譯

Translated Mr. H. Y. Li

士博偉豪李：者正校

Edited by Dr. H. S. Levy

Q. It was said that the Ven. Shantao taught people to repeat the name of Amitabha and that was a method one hundred percent successful; while other methods were one or two percent successful. What are the other methods?

A. There are three methods of performance: the *Ching*, repeating the name of Amitabha, the *Chan*, meditating to get enlightenment and *Mi*, esoteric performance. The other methods are the *Chan* and *Mi*.

Q. One can be reborn to the pure land with Karmas brought with him. I think that before conversion the Karmas would be old; after conversion the Karmas would be new. Can all of them be brought to the pure land?

A. After conversion one should not perform bad Karmas. If you do them together with your Buddha repeating, the more powerful will cause the rebirth. If the result is a rebirth to the pure land, of course you would bring all your Karmas there.

Q. I often heard that, "It is difficult to beget human life, to hear the Buddha's Dharma and to be born in the central land. Where is the central land?"

A. The central land is the most civilized place of a certain territory.

Q. What are the twelve divisions of the Mahayana canon?

A. They are the *Sutra*, *Geya*, *Gatha*, *Nidana*, *Itivrttika*, *Jataka*, *Abbhuta-dharma* or *Abhidharma*, *Avadana*, *Upadesa*, *Udana*, *Vaipulya* and *Vyakarana*.

Q. What is Pratisa mkhyanirodha?

A. It is the Nirvana as a result of discrimination, the elimination of desire

by means of mind and will.

Q. If one repeats Amitabha constantly but on his dying, loses consciousness, and also no one helps him by repeating the Name to him, can he be reborn to the Pure Land?

A. there is no certainty, but, if he has enough good causes he should have good effects. Maybe he will meet extraordinary good chances.

Q. One can be reborn to the Pure Land if he repeats the Name ten times. Why does the Sutra of Amitabha say that one can not be reborn with a few good deeds?

A. „Ten times” means ten times every day you had better accumulate good deeds. „Ten times” is cited for the busiest men. If you have more time, better work more.

Q. Repeating Amitabha can cancel out sins, can stop disease and can bring about rebirth; why are there also Esoteric Sects?

A. Different Sects are for different Persons and the effect of the Name repeating should be the same as repeating Daranis of the Esoteric Sect.

版文英聞新教佛

Buddhist News in Free China

Translated by Mr. H. Y. Li

Edited by Dr. H. S. Levy

The Ven. Pintsung, Famous Taiwanese Maha Thera, Dies

Many Sariras Appeared after the Cremation to Prove His Good Achievements on Meditation

【Taipei】The Ven. Pintsung, the preceptor of the Fayuan Monastery of Hsinchu, was a learned and experienced Taiwanese Maha Thera. He died of heart trouble at the Hungfa Vihara of Taipei at the age of forty—eight. He lived the life of a Bhikshu for thirty—four years. He enclosed himself in study for three years and preached throughout Taiwan after he got out. After the cremation of his corpse there appeared many Sariras which proved that the Maha Thera has attained a high rank on his meditation so

that his good mind condition influenced his body condition and absorbed a lot of soluble minerals in his bone marrow. The relics were sent back to the Fayuan monastery of Hsinchu. Thousands of disciples met in the suburbs.

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The Sariras of The Late Ven. Chihchou Will Be Sent to Taiwan

[Hongkong] Many Sariras were found after the cremation of the late Ven. Chihchou, the famous Bhikshu of the Vinaya Sect. Four Sariras will be sent to Taiwan to be worshipped.

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The Work of Reprinting the Chinese Tripitaka Completed

The Supplementary Issues Will Be Reprinted

The Chinese Buddhist Cultural Association of Peitow has finished the work of reprinting the Chinese Tripitaka. They decided to reprint the supplementary issues and welcome subscribers. They will also reprint Buddhist pictures and photographs.

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The Temple of Tachiao at Keelung Has Been Completed. A Ritual Will be Held

[Keelung] The Temple of Tachiao at Keelung has been completed. It was built by the Ven. Lingyuan who came from Hongkong in 43 C.R. A ritual will be held for celebration.

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The Chihkuang Buddhist Library Opened

[Taichung] The Chihkuang Buddhist Library established by the Buddhists of Taichung has been opened and Dharma preaching given every night by learned Buddhists.

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Lingshan Buddhist College Established

[Taichung] The Ven. Techan and Ven. Techin established the Lingshan Buddhist College in the Lingshan Temple. There were twenty students of Bhikshunis. They invited Ven. Chanyuan to be the president and Ven. Hueihsing to be the dean.

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The BMCA Went to the Leprosy Hospital

[Taipei] The BMCA of Taipei led by the Ven. Hsinjan went to the Leprosy Hospital of Taliokeng for Dharma preaching. They had also donated NT\$ 1000 to sick persons.

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Young Buddhist Writers Enlisted

Mr. J. J. Wang and Mr. T. Y. Chan, young writers of Bodhedrum, enlisted to take military training for two years.

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The Ven. Yinshun and the Ven. Yanpei Will Preach Abroad

[Taipei] The Ven. Yinshun and the Ven. Yanpei will be invited to go to the Phillipines and Tailand respectively for preaching Mahayana Buddhism.

A Letter from Ven. Sumangalo Stating That He Is Very Busy and Will Come to Taiwan in December

[Penang] A Penang Bhikshu Ven. Sumangalo, American by birth, sent a letter to Mr. F. Chu, Editor Bodhedrum. We reprint it as follows:
Dear Mr. Chu,

Thank you for your cordial letter of the 19th May, which the Venerable Hui Cheng has just handed me. I am pleased that you and Dr. Levy find my writings to have at least some merit and I shall be glad to send other articles for publication. Herewith I enclose a copy of an article by my adopted (Siamese) son, who is now studying in the United States. He will eventually return here and be a priest. He put in two years at a meditation monastery in Siam and is an expert at the practice. If you wish to translate and use the article, please do so. Under separate cover, I shall send you some other articles. Unfortunately, some of the articles I wished to send are now being brought out in book form and the publisher has the copyright.

I am greatly honored that the Buddhists of Taiwan wish me to come for a series of lectures and I am ever so willing. The big difficulty is finding the time. I give you herewith a sketch of my activities in order that you may get some

idea of my commitments and how hard it is to break off in the middle of a programme.

1) A Sunday school for children from six to sixteen years old. 500 members each Sunday. I have just completed a 135 page book of systematic Sunday school lessons and they are now at the printers. A book of deeper studies is in the hands of a publisher in Singapore and will appear in a few months. A second series of Sunday school lessons must soon be compiled. I am also engaged in organizing Buddhist Sunday schools at various points in Malaya and Singapore and the average number of children in each of these schools is about 250.

2) Meditation groups. Here and at Kuala Lumpur (our capital city) and in Singapore. Average membership in each meditation group about 350 persons. Taught in any of four languages, i. e. Hokkien, Cantonese, Mandarin and English. I do the English instruction. I am also engaged in preparing a manual of meditation for publication at an early date.

3) Youth work. I organize and promote youth groups at various Buddhist temples all over this nation. By "Youth groups" I mean young people of ages 16 to 22. Such groups greatly strengthen Buddhism.

4) Training lay preachers. I give regular and systematic instruction to about 80 young men and women who are training to be lay preachers. They study not only the basic and elementary teachings but also such profound texts as the Diamond Sutra and other Prajnaparamita literature. Already I have seven young men and three young women who are experts at preaching. It is my hope that I may have at least fifty such preachers within another year.

5) I am chaplain and instructor at a Buddhist High school for girls here.

6) I am chaplain at Penang General Hospital.

7) I am preacher at two leper camps.

8) I lecture fairly regularly over the radio.

9) I preach twice a week in Penang and two and three times a week at other points.

10) The Penang Buddhist Association is erecting a primary school soon. We are waiting for the government's approval of the architectural plans. The cornerstone of this building will probably be laid in July of this year. We plan to enroll 900 pupils: I shall have to be instructor in Buddhism at this school until a suitable younger person can be trained. Our schools here are mostly conducted in the English language.

11) I expect that in September a young American (Rev. James Wagner of Honolulu) will come out here to assist me. After his arrival I shall be less burdened with duties. Moreover, as soon as a larger number of lay preachers can be trained, I shall have greater liberty of movement. It is thus quite possible that I might come to you in mid-December. I am invited to stop for a few lectures in Hongkong, but it is highly doubtful that the Hongkong groups could manage much financial aid in the matter of travel expenses.

12) It would be necessary for Taiwan to pay my expenses only **one way**. If I come to Taiwan, then I shall go on to Japan for a week and then to the Hawaiian Islands and the USA and back to Penang via Europe, preaching at many points, and keeping television and radio engagements. I have so much planned for Malaya that I can not stay away more than four months. This would make it ever so necessary for me to remain in Taiwan for no more than four or five weeks.

13) I have a fairly large collection of ancient Buddha images from Siam and elsewhere. Some are as much as 1200 years old. I plan to bring them with me. If I do this, then I must travel by ship and this mode of travel is slightly cheaper than air travel. I'd come to you from Singapore and, in all likelihood, leave Singapore about the end of September and go to Hongkong for a week or ten days. I have no knowledge of how frequently sailings are had between Taiwan and Hongkong. Can you please inform me?

In Thailand and elsewhere I worked in concert with U.S.I.S., particularly Dr.

Kurt F. Leidecker, who was for two years cultural affairs attaché at USIS in Bangkok and is now Prof. of Philosophy at Mary Washington College at Fredericksburg, Va., USA.

As for the travel expenses to Taiwan, they would be small indeed. My recollection is that passage from Singapore to Taiwan via Hongkong is not more than about US 200\$.

I must tell you that I am less than optimistic about the possibility of securing US aid to finance this lecture tour. I love my country, but that fact does not blind me to the fact America has a positive genius for going at the right thing the wrong way.

Thank you again for the encouraging things you say about my life, my work and my writings. One thing more.....If I come to you I shall be on Taiwan for the twenty-fifth anniversary of my ordination to the Mahayana priesthood.

I enclose a copy for the estimable Dr. Levy, of whose life and work I have long known and admiringly so. My respects and blessings to him and may his work prosper and his life be serene.

Yours In Amitabha Sumangalo

Copy to Dr. Levy.

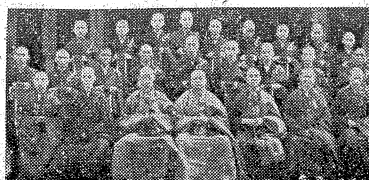
Article by my son.....for translation and publication, if desired. Not copyrighted.

Note: The Editor sent a letter to the Ven. Sumangalo asking him about travelling expenses.

法王座下又添孫

兩處新學僧兼受沙彌戒法

【臺北訊】中國佛教三藏學院院長，白聖老法師為欲令該院及圓覺寺佛學專修...



班剃髮出家之學僧，得以前一日由白聖老法師授受沙彌十戒。...

白聖老法師結夏安居

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舉行開學禮

【臺北訊】內湖圓覺寺住持正定法師，為紹隆佛法，培植僧材起見...

臺中美國華語學校

請道安法師蒞校講學

【臺中本報訊】此間美安法師蒞校作學術講演，道安法師蒞校作學術講演...

報名求學者已滿定額，一切設備亦均已完成，特定於四月十六日上午十一點舉行開學禮。...