

答問學佛

Questions on Buddhism

士居南炳李：者答解

Answered by Mr. P. N. Li

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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*, *Itivrttaka*, *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