

Bodhi Stand

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UPASIKA KUO LÜ COLE

Those who cultivated the Way must reverently observe the precepts. If you do not observe the precepts, you will be unable to realize the fruit of sagehood. If you wish to realize the fruit of sagehood, you must observe the precepts. Therefore, the precepts are extremely important.

*The Sramanera Vinaya--
Master Hua*

Kuo Lü, whose name means "Fruit of the Precepts," recalls:

"For most of my life, although seemingly happy, I was unhappy deep within. It has only been since meeting the Buddhadharma, taking refuge with the Triple Jewel, and holding the precepts, that I've found a direction that feels really right."

The VINAYA includes all the precept regulations, methods we use to keep watch over ourselves so that it is not necessary for anyone else to keep an eye on us.

*The Sramanera Vinaya--
Master Hua*

"There is a profound happiness that comes with holding the precepts and in having found a teaching that is truly worth believing, following, and living.

My mother drowned when I was eighteen, and this taught me the meaning of suffering and grief. I want to learn Chinese so that I can help with the translation of Sutras at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. I want to help end the suffering of all beings, and to realize the Bodhisattva ideal, whereby all beings will turn towards the good and attain the Buddha's enlightenment."

The Bodhisattva sets his will on the search for Bodhi. This is not without a cause, nor does it lack conditions. He brings out true faith in the Buddha; in the Dharma, and in the Sangha. From this faith comes a vast resolve.

*Avatamsaka Sutra
Worthy Leader Chapter*

"I grew up in Oregon. For about five years I had been going to see the spiritual teachers who came to lecture. I was looking for a teacher, but none of them seemed right enough for me to draw near. Then a friend told us, 'I've finally found him. He's in San Francisco!' He was very excited, and arranged for the Venerable Abbot to speak in Oregon. I was extremely lucky to finally meet the proper Dharma. The following summer, at the Buddha Root Farm, I took refuge, and a few months later, took the Buddhist precepts."

*With deep faith in the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas,
As well as faith in the path travelled by all Buddhas' disciples,
He believes too, in unsurpassed enlightenment,
Thus the Bodhisattva first produces the resolve.*

Avatamsaka Sutra

"Upon meeting the Venerable Abbot, my life has completely turned about. I'm greatly ashamed of all the past bad karma I've created, and vow never again to go down improper paths again. Instead, I shall cultivate the path of the Proper Dharma.

*As the earth is one,
Yet puts forth sprouts each according to the seed,
Without rejecting or favoring any of them,
So too, it is the same with the Buddha's filled of blessing.*

Avatamsaka Sutra

"The Bodhisattva's Ask For Clarification Chapter"

"A bouquet of blossoms was on the table, and my boy said we could watch them turn to fruit. I explained how, separated from the strength and roots of the tree, a branch could make no fruit. Having moved to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, I feel reunited with the tree. May all beings soon bear the Bodhi fruit.