

# **Bodhi Mirror** presents--

## **BHIKSHUNI HENG MING**

*WHAT IS THE PRESENT TIME? IT IS A TIME OF THE IMMINENT EXTINCTION OF LIVING BEINGS...SINCE WE HAVE BEEN BORN IN THIS AGE, WE MUST RESOLVE TO BE NEW AND GREAT PEOPLE.*

*-Water Mirror Reflecting Heaven  
-by Ven. Master Hua*

"Having been fortunate enough to encounter the Buddhadharma and to be able to leave the home-life, I have found the only way I know of that provides the possibility to actually fulfill a resolve to 'be new and great people,'" says Bhikshuni Heng Ming. "That's because life in the Sangha community is unique in that it provides each individual with the maximum opportunity for developing his or her human potential."

"The way we as Sangha members conduct ourselves is different from the conduct of any other human beings, to my knowledge. As members of the Sangha, we do not indulge in binding ourselves up by establishing conditions with other people based on emotional involvements. This means that although we relate in full harmony with one another, we do so by learning to conduct ourselves when alone as we would in the presence of a group and also to conduct ourselves when in a group with the same personal integrity we hold when alone. Thus, although we work together as a group for the greater part of each day, we are all in a sense working alone, for each person respects the rights of every other person and does not infringe upon another's space.

"How different this kind of relationship built on mutual respect is from the kind of relationship established by emotional desire and generated by selfishness. Those sorts of involvements can only lead to the continual making of new karmic bonds and to innumerable mistakes and offenses. As long as one is involved in making new karma, one cannot hope to begin to unravel all the old karma already accumulated. So the wheel keeps rolling and the karmic net gets incredibly complicated as the emotional bonds increase daily.

"What we in the Sangha learn to do is to decrease the old karmic habits and to refrain from creating new karma and offenses as much as possible. By living a life of renunciation, we disinvolve ourselves with materialistic pursuits, for we see through their empty promises of satisfaction. We learn that greed and desire only breed more greed and desire, for gross material and carnal desires cannot be satiated. By definition they thrive only on MORE, BETTER, DIFFERENT, NEW, EXOTIC.



A life of renunciation releases one from those pressures so that one has more time to study and practice the virtues of precepts, samadhi, and wisdom. One has the time and space in which to make one's mind clear.

*AS WE LOOK AROUND THE DHARMA REALM, WE SEE THAT COUNTRIES BATTLE EACH OTHER, FAMILIES CONTEND WITH EACH OTHER, INDIVIDUALS STRUGGLE AGAINST ONE ANOTHER, ON AND ON UNTIL GREAT WARS BETWEEN WORLD SYSTEMS ARISE. AN AUTHOR OF OLD PUT IT THIS WAY: "WAR RESULTS FROM QUARRELS OVER LAND AND CORPSES FILL THE FIELDS. WAR ARISES FROM CONFLICTS OVER CITIES AND CORPSES FILL THE STREETS. THE EARTH IS MADE TO EAT THE FLESH OF MEN. SUCH OFFENSES CANNOT BE EXPIATED BY DEATH."*

*-Water Mirror Reflecting Heaven  
-by Master Hua*

"Most people think they are all right. Many say to me, 'well at least I don't have any major problems!' But in my mind I can't help but think that we ALL have major problems. The plight of humankind has gone beyond the suffering of an isolated few.

"Just look at such factors as stress, tension, anxiety, and anger. These feelings of unrest are felt by members of all professions and in all walks of life. Where do they come from? From killing. But many people protest that they lead good lives, have upright families, and are law-abiding. However, most such law-abiding citizens consume vast quantities of meat in the course of their lives without batting an eye. And just because they are considered good people, they earn roles in society, business, and other professions where their opinions help set trends and influence cultural change.

"An example of the individual influencing many people is as follows: Mr. Jones is an upright citizen who manages a general merchandise store. A certain growing group of people decide that they want to hunt their own meat and need guns to do it. This opens a market and since Mr. Jones is also a meat-eater, he sees nothing wrong with stocking guns in his store. In order to sell his product, he advertises and influences many people to buy guns. Once guns and killing become household realities, people somehow become immune to the horror of taking life. Meanwhile, Mr. Jones continues to amass killing karma both by eating meat himself and by contributing to the conditions which lead others to kill with the guns he sells. Yet he does not understand where his feelings of stress, anxiety, contentiousness, and anger stem from. He looks for physical causes and ignores the moral ones. When his agitation grows into quarrels with his family, his neighbors, and his community members, then it is easy to see how confrontations between local, state, federal, and international governing bodies come into being. All we have to do is multiply Mr. Jones by several billion who fit more or less the same mold. If it isn't selling guns, it's propagating shows of T.V. and movie heroes who carry guns and kill each other, or it's raising cattle, pigs, chickens, or sheep for slaughter and consumption, or it's working in factories, laboratories, bases, or offices which specialize in the manufacture of and experimentation with weapons and instruments of war and fighting. The list of contributing causes we have created for ourselves is endless.

"And yet what we do comes back to us, recognizable or not, and the dark and dangerous state of the world today is no one's fault but our own.

*WHY SHOULDN'T WE THINK INSTEAD OF WASHING CLEAN THE BODY AND MIND; OF BRUSHING AWAY ACCUMULATED DIRT; OF DEVELOPING A SENSE OF SHAME; OF PAINFULLY CHANGING OUR FORMER WRONGS TO CREATE A NEW LIFE; OF BEING UNIQUE AND AWESOME PERSONS FULL OF GREAT POWER; OF DOING BENEFICIAL DEEDS FOR THE SAKE OF ALL LIVING BEINGS IN THE DHARMA REALM; OF TAKING THE CITIZENS OF ALL NATIONS AS BROTHERS AND CREATING VIRTUE. OF ESTABLISHING A MODEL FOR ALL UNDER HEAVEN. TO DO THIS IS TO REPRESENT HEAVEN IN TEACHING THE PEOPLE. IT IS FOR THE SAKE OF THE COUNTRY TEACHING THE PEOPLE TO BE LOYAL AND FILIAL.*

*-Water Mirror Reflecting Heaven  
-by Ven. Master Hua*

"Members of the Sangha are capable of accepting this responsibility and of teaching others how to stop the amassing of detrimental collective karma so that there may be some hope to redeem the world we have created.

"It is to this end that I, too, wish to work, by first admitting my own mistakes and faults and then by exchanging old bad habits for new healthy ones. Simultaneously I strive to teach young people to be filial to their parents, teachers, and elders; to teach them to be loyal to their country and responsible citizens of it; to teach them to uphold the Five Precepts of no killing, no stealing, no sexual misconduct, no false speech, and no

intoxicants (alcohol, cigarettes, drugs) so that they can bring about positive change from within. That is the only way it will be lasting and universally beneficial."

*RENEW YOURSELF DAY AFTER DAY; BECOME NEW AGAIN AND AGAIN.*

*-Water Mirror by Master Hua*

Bhikshuni Heng Ming is Assistant to the Principal of Instilling Virtue School. She is also Dean of the College of Fine Arts of Dharma Realm Buddhist University. Using innovative techniques, she teaches phonetics and math at the elementary level, Buddhist Studies in the high school, and contributes her artistic skills to the Buddhist Text Translation Society. A translator in her own right, she is working on the *Worthy Leader Chapter* of the *FLOWER ADORNMENT SUTRA* and recently joined the team of on-the-spot translators at CTTB.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. 8	Burning Lamp Buddha's Birthday
Oct. 17	First of the Lunar month
Oct. 31	Great Master Ch'ang Jen left the home-life/ Fifteenth of the Lunar month
Nov. 1	Ven. Abbot of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas left the home-life
Nov. 2	Great Master Ch'ang Chih's Enlightenment
Nov. 4	Kuan Shih Yin Bodhisattva left the home-life
Nov. 14	Medicine Master Buddha's Birthday
Nov. 15	First of the Lunar month
Nov. 19	Patriarch Bodhidharma's Birthday
Nov. 29	Fifteenth of the Lunar month