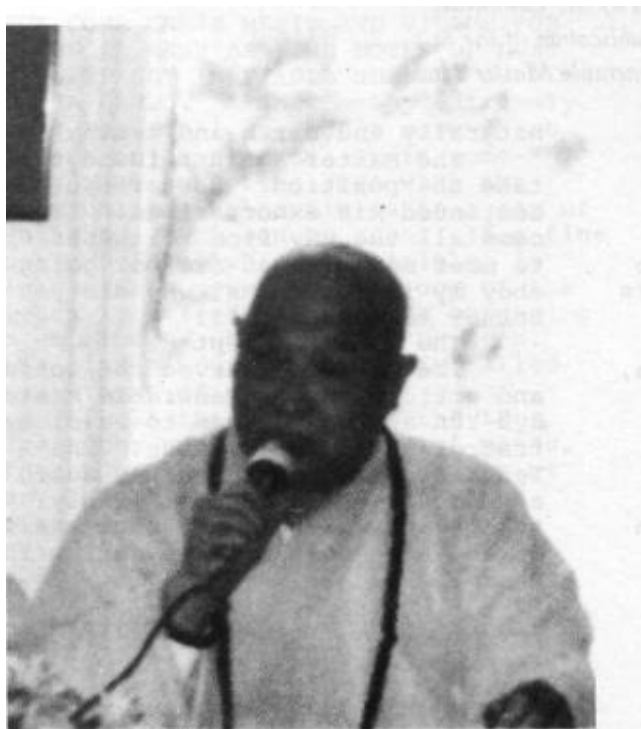


The Bodhi Mirror



Elder Dharma Master Wu Ming

Dharma Master Wu Ming ("Enlightened Clarity") is the current President of the Chinese Buddhist Association of the Republic of China, Taiwan. Abbot of Hai Ming Monastery in Taipei, as well as Abbot of a branch temple in Los Angeles, Dharma Master Wu Ming also serves on various school boards and Buddhist Councils. He travels an international circuit in his efforts to propagate the Dharma. The Dharma Master is also vice-president of the World Interfaith Friendship Association, whose members are representatives of Christianity, Catholicism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Islam. The approach of this organization is eclectic. Dharma Master Wu Ming comments, "In a fast-changing world, we cannot afford to remain aloof and alienate ourselves from other religions. Basically, the purpose of all religions is to teach people to strive for the highest good. But because the potentials of living beings are different, there naturally follows the development of different religions. We should always keep in mind the common goals of all faiths, instead of dwelling on the superficial differences and indulging in rivalry and contention. That would not contribute to world peace. In these times beset by trouble and war, religion is the pivotal force that can bring about world peace—how much more is that force strengthened if all religions can share a unity of purpose!"

One way to foster mutual exchange among religions, also a wider understanding among the various sects within Buddhism, is through education. The Dharma Master, as Senior Vice President of the World Buddhist Sangha Council, has been actively involved in preparing the establishment of a World Buddhist University, under the auspices of the World Buddhist Sangha Council. He sees the job of training young Sangha members to propagate Buddhism world-wide as a most important one.

On the expansion of Buddhism in the West, Dharma Master Wu Ming has the following views: "What makes Buddhism great is its all-encompassing and tolerant attitude. It operates on the assumption that people from all over the world are different, and yet underlying those superficial differences is a basic

oneness in our nature. We must open our minds and listen carefully to the problems of Buddhists of each country, and act as spiritual and moral guides for them. Only by being receptive--instead of critical--of people's differences can we help them arrive at realistic solutions to their problems."

Dharma Master Wu Ming was a guest at the World Religions Conference held at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas in August, 1987.