

News from the Dharma Realm

Lecture Series at the University of Hawaii

The Venerable Master Hsuan Hua was recently invited by the University of Hawaii to deliver a series of lectures on Buddhism and ethical issues. A fifteen-person delegation from Dharma Realm Buddhist University, including eight left-home people and seven lay disciples, participated in the week-long visit from July 20 to 26, 1989. The first lecture, entitled "Contribution of Ancient Wisdom to Modern Education," was given at the Center for Korean Studies at the University of Hawaii, Manoa campus, on July 21. The second lecture, "Changes in China within the Last Hundred Years," was delivered at Spalding Hall Auditorium. The third and last lecture was delivered at the University of Hawaii, Hilo campus, as part of the Sixth International Conference on Chinese Philosophy. The topic of the talk was "The Chinese vision of the Way and Its Virtue."

Additional chanting ceremonies, including bowing the Great Compassion Repentance, and meditation instruction were given at Tan Hwa Temple, headquarters of the Chinese Buddhist Association. The delegation also delivered informal lectures at Jade Buddha Temple and Syu Yun Temple. The events were well attended by local Sangha members, Buddhist devotees, the academic community, and members of the Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian communities.

During the stay at Oahu, the delegation made a visit to Senator Hiram Fong's Plantation and garden estate. In 1959 when Hawaii became the fiftieth state, Senator Fong became the first American of Asian descent to be elected to the U.S.Senate.

The Senator cordially invited the group to visit the 725 acres of lush tropical forest and natural scenery with landscaped gardens of exotic flowers and fruits. The following is an excerpt from the meeting between Senator Fong and the Venerable Master:

- Ven. Master: I have been long aware of your achievements and contribution to the Chinese-American people.
- Sen. Fong: You can't believe everything you read in the media.
- Ven. Master: On the other hand, you cannot completely disbelieve it. We have to find a happy medium between reality and the media-image.
- Sen. Fong: My parents came to Hawaii as laborers. My father arrived in this country when he was fifteen. He worked very hard at a sugar plantation. He had made \$1,000 and was prepared to go back to China, but he lost a good chunk of his money in a gambling game, and so he didn't make it back to China after all.
- Ven. Master: You are engaged in a different kind of gambling. The stakes are the welfare and service of humankind.
- Sen. Fong: Yes, I am quite aware of the need to instill traditional moral and ethical values in young people, to help maintain the social fibre. I feel very indebted to my parents' kindness for raising me. Since my father worked hard on a sugar plantation, I have dedicated this garden estate to his memory.

- Ven. Master: In this world, if people could abstain from fighting, greed, seeking for personal gratification, selfishness, striving for their own advantage, and lying, there would be no totalitarian governments. All wars would come to an end.



Dharma Realm Buddhist Association's 1989 Delegation to Taiwan "The Great Gwan Yin Dharma-Gathering for Protecting the Nation and Eradicating Disasters"

In October 1989, the Venerable Abbot Hua once again lead a delegation to Taiwan for the purpose of benefitting society and bringing peace to the world. Left-home members of the Delegation conducted a Gwan Yin Bodhisattva Recitation Session, entitled, "The Great Gwan Yin Dharma-gathering for Protecting the Nation and Eradicating Disasters".

The month-long session began at Dung Jing Sz (東淨寺 Eastern Purity Monastery) in Hualien, then went to Myau Fa Sz (妙法寺 Wondrous Dharma Monastery) in Tau Ywan, and ended at Bau Syieh Sz in Wu Gu.

Sometimes hundreds, sometimes thousands of faithful Buddhist disciples took part in the Dharma Assembly, the sound of their sincere recitation permeating the atmosphere. The Dharma Assembly also included other Buddhist activities, beneficial to both the living and the dead, such as ceremonies for receiving the Three Refuges, the Five Lay Precepts, and the Precepts for the Deceased, as well as a series of lectures on the Five Lay Precepts by left-home delegation members, and evening Instructional Talks by the Venerable Master Hua.

*Dharma Realm Buddhist University
Awards Honorary Ph.D.*



On the final day of the Gwan Yin Recitation Session held at Myau Fa Sz, lead by the Dharma Realm Buddhist

Association's Delegation to Taiwan, October 1989, the Abbot of that monastery, who was one of the hosts of the Dharma Assembly, was awarded an Honorary Ph.D. for his contributions to the field of education. Below are speeches delivered in honor of that occasion.

Presentation Address by Venerable Abbot Hua

All of you Good and Wise Advisors, we are now immersed in the Dharma's-ending Era; to meet the challenge of making the Buddhadharma grow strong and great, and to turn all living beings away from confusion and toward enlightenment, we must start with education.

In the past, in China, Buddhists ignored education, so that the roots of the religion failed to take hold, and when the winds of the times blew hard, Buddhism was unable to stand. Now Buddhism and education must unite and become one entity, so that Buddhism can grow great and flourish widely.

When the study of virtue and ethics is emphasized in education, then the crime and degeneracy that are the bane of any society will not prevail, and the world will naturally become peaceful and stable.

At this time in history, education has become bankrupt. Disciples of the Buddha must rise to the occasion and shoulder the responsibility of advancing education, so that young people can walk the right road. The job of remolding education is a heavy task, because the moral fibre of today's youth has reached an all-time low, so that salvaging the situation from disaster will require an heroic effort.

Although such is the case, now that we recognize where the problem lies, we simply need to "dispense the appropriate medicine for curing the illness"; that is to vigorously reform our educational policies and refuse to allow the quality of education in our schools to decline.

Today Dharma Realm Buddhist University is awarding an Honorary Doctorate to Dharma Master Ru Tyan, in the hope that he will work hard for Buddhism and the field of education and do a good job in both those areas of endeavor. He is an outstanding young person, with much to offer in establishing Buddhism and education. My hope is that he will build Way-places in every country—in each and every particle of dust. His personal vows include building Way-places, which is a major aspect of propagating Buddhism, and of education as well.

We hope that in the future, Buddhism and education will merge and become one, so that in every Buddhist Way-place, there will be disciples carrying out the work of teaching. And then education and Buddhism will be one and the same: the success of Buddhism will lie in the advancement of education; education's flourishing will mark the establishment of Buddhism. This is my hope for Dharma Master Ru Tyan.

Acceptance Speech

by Dharma Master Ru Tyan

Venerable Abbot, colleagues of Dharma Realm Buddhist University, and all of you Dharma Masters, Guests, and Good Advisors:

It is a deep honor to receive this Honorary Doctoral Degree from the Venerable Abbot Hsuan Hua and from Dharma Realm Buddhist University—a great honor indeed. It is my intention, now and in the future, as I have done in the past, to devote myself to the utmost, in cooperation with you all, towards the goal of furthering the aims of Buddhist education, "the morning drums and evening bells that inspire the hearts of men."

It is now the Age of the Dharma's demise, a time when the world morality and human character sink lower with each passing day. We witness people at every hand struggling for fame and profit; young people are increasingly involving themselves in violence and ingesting and selling drugs; equitable family relationships are disintegrating and collapsing, so that society is growing more and more unhealthy and moves further and further away from the Buddha's teaching.

"The work of educating" in this light becomes extremely important. And yet most schools now rely upon an educational system in which children are trained from elementary school through high school to digest information, and in which the vital lessons of moral behavior and of what it means to be a person who is able to relate to the world in an ethical way are completely overlooked.

And higher education is no different, with its emphasis on technological expertise, training students to gain wage-earning skills and to learn develop techniques for making themselves rich and famous. Where nowadays do we find universities that are seriously, vigorously implementing programs which educate students in moral responsibilities and train them to develop noble characters? Lacking such training, how can our children become the leaders that inspire healthy and unfragmented societies in the future?

Now we have the Dharma Realm Buddhist University, led by the Venerable Abbot Hsuan Hua, which right within a Western society so materially advanced, expounds the Proper Dharma with its Six Great Guidelines: no fighting, no greed, no seeking, no selfishness, no pursuing personal advantages, and no dishonesty. The University genuinely incorporates the compassionate humanitarian spirit of the Buddha. Its uniqueness emerges in the methods fosters for educating elementary, middle, and college students to strive for an elevation of human standards as the meaning and purpose of learning.

Henceforth, I promise to devote my entire strength to the advancement of these Guidelines, and to help Dharma Realm Buddhist University in training outstanding people of talent to bring about a brighter tomorrow for all humankind, and to realize the actual teachings of the Buddha.