

法幢處處——寄語在家菩薩戒戒子

Dharma Banners Everywhere - A Few Words for Lay Bodhisattva Preceptees

比丘尼恆茂 2007年7月7日 文

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首先恭喜93位戒子，在成佛大道更邁進一步。要不是往昔具足殊勝的善根福德因緣，就不會在善法的階梯上循序而進——從受三皈、五戒、八戒，乃至今日的在家菩薩戒，所謂「眾生受佛戒，即入諸佛位」。但是受戒圓滿不是大事已畢，而是意謂另一里程——發大菩提心，行菩薩道，作廣大饒益有情事業的開始。

如何行持菩薩道？

常讀誦大乘經典，尤其在《華嚴經》中，菩薩所修難捨能捨、難忍能忍、難行能行的菩薩道，及如何用此不堅固身易堅固身，如何用不堅固財易堅固財，……等等，可以讓我們很清楚的知道，菩薩是如何作廣大饒益眾生的事，常常親近薰習，見賢思齊，和菩薩作同窗道友，不知不覺中，將來自己就真的是菩薩一員。

發孝順心、恭敬心把戒持好。在我們八識田裏，善種子只有十一個，而惡種子有廿六個，我們要多培植善種子，才不會遇到惡緣、惡知識就跟著跑了。戒就是善種子，尤其菩薩戒法，它是盡虛空、遍法界的。所以要善用菩薩戒法來莊嚴自身，讓自身就是一座道場。

其他如持〈楞嚴咒〉，以清淨心城；念

First and foremost, congratulations to the 93 preceptees for taking another step forward in your cultivation toward Buddhahood. Without good roots, blessings, and affinities, one could not advance up the wholesome Dharma ladder, taking refuge, then successively taking the five precepts, the eight precepts, up to the Bodhisattva precepts today - "When one takes precepts, then one can become a Buddha." However, taking precepts is not the same as perfecting them; it just gives us another milestone to aim for: to make the Bodhi resolve to practice the Bodhisattva path of vastly benefiting sentient beings.

How does one travel the Bodhisattva Path?

Read Mahayana Sutras often, especially the *Avatamsaka Sutra*, which explains how a Bodhisattva gives what is difficult to give, endures what is difficult to endure, practices what is difficult to practice, and how to exchange an impermanent body for a lasting one, how to exchange impermanent wealth for lasting wealth, etc. The sutra gives us a clear understanding of how a Bodhisattva performs expansive great deeds to benefit all beings, how one draws near sages and Bodhisattvas, thereby unconsciously learning to be like them.

Establishing a filial and respectful heart helps one to uphold the precepts well. In our eighth consciousness, there are only eleven wholesome seeds compared to twenty-six unwholesome seeds. We must increase the amount of wholesome seeds in order to avoid being led astray by unwholesome conditions or friends. Precepts, especially Bodhisattva precepts, are wholesome seeds, for they fill space and pervade the Dharma realm. If we adorn ourselves with the Bodhisattva precepts, then, we will be like Bodhimandas.



佛求生極樂，以滿菩提願，來廣度眾生；否則以博地凡夫之身，忍力不夠，很容易墮落的。

道場不只是指有形有相的寺廟，如《維摩詰所說經》云：「持戒是道場，……精進是道場，……忍辱是道場，……慈是道場，……悲是道場，……喜是道場，……捨是道場，……」，以勇猛精進心常作利益眾生事，躬行實踐戒法讓自己本身就是一座可以行法之處，能夠普遍令無量無邊眾生發起歡喜心，發大菩提心。

當年，有人問上人，為什麼要建立那麼多道場？上人說：「法幢處處」。你是道場，他是道場，我也是道場，至少就有93座道場在世界各處放光，彼此光光相照，這就是法幢處處。現在殺氣、戾氣瀰漫全世界，眾生很苦，「不忍聖教衰，不忍眾生苦，緣於大悲心，敢不力修持」，願與菩薩戒子們共勉之！

We should also include other practices, such as **upholding the Shurangama Mantra** to purify the mind **and reciting the Buddha's name** to seek rebirth in the Pure Land and fulfill our Bodhi vows of saving living beings; otherwise our stamina as ordinary people would be inadequate and we could easily regress and fall.

A Bodhimanda (site of practice) does not only refer to a physical temple. The *Vimalakirti Sutra* says, “Upholding the precepts is the Bodhimanda... vigor is the Bodhimanda... patience is the Bodhimanda... kindness is the Bodhimanda... compassion is the Bodhimanda... joy is the Bodhimanda... giving is the Bodhimanda...” Constantly doing beneficial things for living beings with courage and vigor and putting the precepts in practice, you will turn yourself a Bodhimanda of Dharma. You will bring joy to limitless beings and inspire them to generate the great resolve for Bodhi.

Someone asked the Venerable Master, “Why do you create so many Bodhimandas?” The Venerable Master replied, “Bodhimandas are everywhere.” You are a Bodhimanda; he/she is a Bodhimanda; there are at least 93 Bodhimandas illuminating different parts of the world. They shine upon one another and are everywhere. Currently, the energy of murder and violence overwhelms the world and beings suffer greatly. “Based on the heart of great compassion, how can we not cultivate with vigor when we see the holy teaching declining and living beings suffering?” Let us encourage each other in our endeavors!

We Need Your Hands! 誠徵好幫手！

The Organic Farm at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) is in need of dedicated volunteers to help us this summer with harvesting, planting, and compost collection. No experience is necessary, only a commitment to practicing Buddhism and your willingness to contribute to organic sustainable farming for the health and welfare of all living beings.

There are weekend as well as extended stay volunteer opportunities available. If you are interested in volunteering on the Organic Farm and practicing Buddhism in a monastic setting, please call us at (707) 462-0939 or visit www.drjavolunteers.org and fill out the online application. Thank you!

萬佛聖城善根農場今夏需要義工幫忙收成、耕種和收堆肥。無須經驗，願意修行與到有機農場來利益一切眾生之健康和幸福即可。

您也可做周末或持續的義工。歡迎有意願者來電(707) 462-0939
或上網址 www.drjavolunteers.org 填申請表。謝謝！