

# 念佛要重德行

## Mindfulness of the Buddha Requires Virtuous Conduct

宣化上人講 A TALK BY VENERABLE MASTER HUA

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現在是世風日下，道德淪亡的時候，佛教裏頭的人應該移風移俗，要把臭習氣都改了它，否則你講的再好，沒有人相信；就是有人相信，那也是無知的人相信；有知識的人一看，就看出馬腳來了。不要在佛教裏，「老虎戴念珠，假充善人。」做些虛偽的事；當然，你如果是老虎，真改過修行，帶上念珠念佛，不咬人，也可以成佛的，蓮池大師就有個老虎徒弟。

以前有一個修行的人，他念南無阿彌陀佛，但是他很貪心的，貪什麼呢？就貪銀子、金子，他積蓄了一些金子、銀子。聽說極樂世界是黃金為地，金子非常之多，他想：「那兒黃金為地，我要生到極樂世界，一定要去掘金！」有一天他念佛，看見阿彌陀佛來了。阿彌陀佛對他說：「你今天應該往生極樂世界了，這個金子、銀子可以一起都帶著去。」他大約有四、五百兩銀子，就都放在蓮華上，他自己還來不及坐到這個蓮華上，蓮華就沒有了，阿彌陀佛把他的銀子、金子給拿走了。他說：「哦！阿彌陀佛也是歡喜錢的，也歡喜金子、銀子，他看見我的錢就把它拿走了。」

他在一個家庭裏住著，這戶人家供養他。正在這個時候，這家的驢子，生了一隻小驢，小驢一出生來就死了！這戶人家

During this time and age of decaying morality and ethics, those of us within Buddhism must transform the social atmosphere and renovate the traditions so as to completely change all of our putrefying habits. If you don't do that, then no matter what great things you advocate, no one will believe you; even if there are people who believe you, these are the ignorant people because those with learning will be able to recognize the falsehood immediately. Don't be like the "tiger that wears the recitation beads, feigning to be a good person," doing all sorts of pretentious things. Of course, if you are a real tiger and truly reformed yourself to cultivate, and then you wear the recitation beads and recite the Buddha's name, and you don't bite people, you can also become a Buddha. The Great Dharma Master Lian Chi (Lotus Pool) had a tiger disciple.

A long time ago, there was a cultivator who practiced reciting "Namo Amitabha Buddha." But he was greedy. What was he greedy for? He was very greedy for silver and gold; he also had an accumulation of some gold and silver. When he heard that the ground of the Land of Ultimate Bliss is made of gold and that there is a lot of gold there, he thought, "Since the ground is paved with gold, I want to be reborn in the Land of Ultimate Bliss. I must go there to dig for gold!" One day as he was reciting the Buddha's name, he saw Amitabha Buddha appearing before him. Amitabha Buddha said to him, "You should be reborn in the Land of Ultimate Bliss today. You can bring all the gold and silver with you." He had approximately 400 to 500 ounces of silver and gold pieces, and he placed them on top of the lotus flower. But before he could sit on top of the lotus flower, the lotus flower vanished. Amitabha Buddha took all his silver and gold pieces and disappeared with them. So he said, "Wow! Amitabha Buddha loves money too; he also likes gold and silver. He saw my money and took it."

At the time, he was living with a family; this family was supporting him. Precisely at that time, the family's donkey gave birth to a baby donkey,

看這個小驢肚裏很重，剖開一看，老修行的銀子、金子都在小驢的肚裏。這個老修行說：「我的貪心好重呀！幸虧這回我沒去，如果去了，不就做驢子了？原來這個阿彌陀佛來接我，不是真正的境界。」是不是真有阿彌陀佛呢？阿彌陀佛是有的。但是，人邪知邪見就會召感魔境，那個魔也會現出和阿彌陀佛一樣的相。極樂世界雖然說是黃金為地，我們知見一定要正，切記不要生貪心，不要貪財。他就因為有一念掘金，幾幾乎變成驢，我們由此都應該發一個覺悟心，不能存自私自利的心。

時時刻刻存助人的思想，令人能走到正路，這就是栽培你的德行的一個基礎。要是自私自利，做善事也為自己名譽、地位，這無形中就有惡，也有惡因在裏頭；那你所得到的都不會久遠，因地不真，果遭迂曲。總而言之，要有德行、有道德；要是沒有道德，你就是念佛，有時候也會有魔障的。

我在香港大嶼山慈興寺，遇到有一個比丘打般舟七。什麼叫般舟七呢？在一個房裏不坐不臥，走九十天，這叫常行三昧，又叫佛力三昧。他就修這個佛力三昧，他念佛念佛，愈念愈大聲，愈念愈大聲「南無阿彌陀佛、南無阿彌陀佛……」我聽他這樣子念，知道他有境界了，就去看看他。

他跑得很快，在那個房裏一邊跑一邊念佛。是怎麼回事？原來這個比丘前生是個牛，他因為給廟上作工、耕田，今生就投生做人，又做和尚；做和尚，但是牛性還不改，總是脾氣很大。他為什麼這麼跑呢？就因為看見阿彌陀佛來了，他在追著阿彌陀佛。其實，他著了魔境界，並不是阿彌陀佛來了，是海裏一條水牛來了。因為他念阿彌陀佛相，這個水怪就變成阿彌陀佛來誘惑他，所以就以為是阿彌陀佛出現了，他就追著阿彌陀佛跑。等我到那兒之後，我用一種法，破了這個魔的境界，他才從境界裏逃出來了。

but this baby donkey died soon after birth! This family saw that the baby donkey's stomach was very heavy, so they opened the stomach: the old cultivator's silver and gold pieces were all inside the baby donkey's stomach. So this old cultivator said, "My greed is extremely great! Fortunately, I didn't go this time; if I had gone, I would have become a donkey! That Amitabha Buddha who came to take me wasn't a real Buddha." Is there a true Amitabha Buddha? Yes, there is. But one who has wrong knowledge and views will attract demonic states, and that demon will take on the appearance of Amitabha Buddha. Although the ground of the Land of Ultimate Bliss is made of gold, we must have proper knowledge and views and remember not to be greedy, not to crave money. Because he had a thought of digging for gold, he almost became a donkey. Hence, we must always maintain a mind of awakening and shame, and not be selfish and pursue personal benefits.

If you can constantly and at all moments wish to help others walk the proper path, this is a way of nurturing and cultivating the foundation of your virtuous conduct. If you are selfish and pursuing personal advantages, so that you do charitable deeds only for the sake of your own fame and social status, then invisibly there will be evil causes within the deeds. Then, whatever you attain will not last long, will not be true and real, and will be twisted and warped. In sum, one must act virtuously and be ethical and moral. If you lack ethics and morality, then even if you are mindful of the Buddha, sometimes you will still encounter demonic obstacles.

When I was at Cixing Monastery on Lanto Island in Hong Kong, I met a Bhikshu who was practicing a session on reciting the Buddha's name standing up. For 90 days, he walked around a room without sitting down or sleeping. This is called Constantly Walking *Samadhi* or Buddha Strength *Samadhi*. He was cultivating this Buddha Strength *Samadhi*. One day, his voice gradually became louder and louder as he recited "Namo Amitabha Buddha, Namo Amitabha Buddha..." When I heard him reciting like this, I knew that he was experiencing some mental states, so I went to check up on him.

He was running very fast inside the room as he was reciting the Buddha's name. What was happening? This Bhikshu in his previous life had been an ox who plowed the rice fields for the temple, so in this lifetime, he was reborn as a human being and became a Bhikshu. But as a Bhikshu, he hadn't changed his ox characteristics and still had a huge temper. Why was he running like that? He saw Amitabha Buddha appearing before him, so he was chasing Amitabha Buddha. What was really going on? He had entered a demonic state; it wasn't Amitabha Buddha who came to him but a water buffalo. Since he was reciting the Buddha's name, this water demon transformed into Amitabha Buddha to beguile him, making him believe that Amitabha Buddha had appeared, so he was running in the room chasing after Amitabha Buddha. When I got there, I used a skill to break through his demonic state, so he was able to escape from the state.