

The Dharma Realm Buddhist University (DRBU) offered a “Seminar on the Path to Liberation” from March 31 to April 9, 2009. Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi, an American Theravada Buddhist monk, was invited to give this 16-hour seminar over the course of two weeks. He explained three discourses of the Buddha from the *Majjhima Nikaya* (*Middle Length Discourses of the Buddha*), which present the Buddhist path to liberation from three different angles. The first, *Majjhima Nikaya* no. 27, presents the classic comprehensive overview of the path. The second, *Majjhima Nikaya* no. 2, shows the path to be a systematic way to the extinction of the *asavas*, the “taints” or “outflows.” And the third, *Majjhima Nikaya* no. 7, presents the path as a way of eliminating the corruptions of the mind.



「早期佛教的解脫之道」 專題講座

——法界佛教大學特邀菩提比丘主講

Seminar on the Path to Liberation:

Dharma Realm Buddhist University Invites Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi to Give Seminar

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Bhikkhu Bodhi was born in New York. He left the home-life in 1967 when he was still a graduate student. He went to Sri Lanka in 1972 and ordained as a Buddhist monk. He stayed there for 30 years and came back to the U.S. in 2002. He is well known for his explanation of Theravada Buddhism as well as his publications such as *The Middle-Length Discourses of the Buddha--A Translation of the Majjhima Nikaya* and *The Connected Discourses of the Buddha--A New Translation of the Samyutta Nikaya*. In 2000, at the United Nations' first official Vesak celebration, Bodhi gave the keynote address.

There were about 100 participants in this seminar. Many of them were from San Francisco Bay Area or even as far as Sacramento. There were about a dozen from Abhayagari Monastery, a Buddhist monastery of the Theravada tradition near the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas.

June Niese from Santa Rosa, California said that in 16 hours, she learned more than in three years of reading Theravada sutras. Niese pointed out that Bhikkhu Bodhi not only explained the sutra texts but also explained the prefixes and roots of Pali words which helped the audience understand a whole level of different meanings. He elaborated on mental qualities and various states of spiritual practices which went deeper than many scholars of Theravada tradition because of his ample personal experiences. He was willing to talk publicly to people, which many forest practitioners are reluctant to do. He not only sits in meditation

法界佛教大學於3月31日至4月9日開設「早期佛教的解脫之道」講座課程，邀請南傳美籍法師菩提比丘主講。兩週合計十六個小時的課程中，講解了南傳「中部」（北傳大藏經中的《中阿含》）當中的三部經典：第27部經《象跡喻小經》，介紹早期佛教中，漸次修行解脫之道的概論；南傳中部第2部經《漏盡經》，說明有系統地斷除一切漏之道；南傳中部第7部經《布喻經》，講解清淨自心的方法。

出生於紐約的菩提比丘在1967年在美國攻讀研究所時即出家，1972年赴斯里蘭卡再度剃度並受戒，長期修行約30年，2002年才回到美國。他以講解南傳佛法並將巴利文經典「中部」《中阿含》和「相應部」《雜阿含》等譯成英文出書而素負盛名。聯合國在2000年第一次正式慶祝衛塞節（浴佛節）時，他應邀擔任主講人。

這次在法界佛教大學的講座，約有一百名聽眾。有不少人是從舊金山灣區，甚至加州首府沙加緬度地區遠道而來聽課。萬



himself but also helps ordinary people learning Buddhism, so in her opinion this seminar was “wonderful”.

Mr. Ki Nam Wai from Hillsborough in the San Francisco Bay Area has studied Pali and Theravada sutras for years. He said, “This seminar is the best and most beneficial [teaching I have had] in many years. Bhikkhu Bodhi’s answers to the audience’s questions are accurate and detailed. I want to ask you (DRBU) to extend my great gratitude to him.”

Venerable Master Hua, founder of DRBU, actively promoted dialogue between major religions and strongly advocated for unity among the Mahayana and Theravada traditions of Buddhism. As a result, Dharma Realm Buddhist Association has often invited the involvement of Theravada Sangha, for example, in holding a Theravada meditation retreat at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. This seminar given by Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi continues the spirit of Venerable Master Hua’s promotion of unity between Mahayana and Theravada traditions.

佛聖城附近的南傳道場無畏寺也有十餘人前來聽講。

來自聖塔羅莎的妮茲說，她研讀南傳佛教經典已有三年多，但是這次16個小時的講座，讓她學到的比

過去三年讀經的收獲還多。妮茲指出，菩提比丘不但講解經文字義，也從巴利文的字首字根深入介紹不同的涵義。比起一般南傳學者，菩提比丘能夠將修持過程中的心念與各種境界講得更深入貼切，因為他自己有豐富經驗。而跟許多住山的老修行相較，菩提比丘不僅自己禪坐，也願意對大眾講法，幫助一般人學習佛法，她以「太棒了！」來形容聽課的感受。

住在舊金山灣區希爾斯堡市的韋基南研習巴利文以及南傳經典多年，他說，「這次的講座是我多年來所遇見最優秀，也最受益的。菩提比丘對聽眾提問的答覆不但正確，並且詳盡。因此請你們（主辦講座的法界大學）代我向菩提比丘謹致我心中對他萬分的感謝。」

法界佛教大學創辦人宣公上人住世時，極力提倡各大宗教互相交流，佛教南傳北傳更該團結。因此，法界佛教總會曾經多次邀請南傳僧團舉辦活動，例如在萬佛聖城舉行南傳禪七等。這次法界佛教大學邀請菩提比丘講課，正是延續宣公上人團結南傳北傳的精神。

