

法界的孩子——法總推廣教育面面觀

Children of the Dharma Realm — Multiple Aspects of DRBA's Promotion of Education



編輯部彙編 By the Editorial Staff

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兒童是國家未來的主人翁。三至十二歲是兒童的黃金學習階段，記憶力最好。這時作為父母的，宜把握時機，為孩子找一個清淨的學習環境，重視他們的身心健康，給孩子一段無悔的人生。宣公上人住世時，經常強調「近朱者赤，近墨者黑」，我們為下一代提供的學習環境，將深深影響他們的人格發展。

法界佛教總會的創辦人——宣化上人——畢生提倡教育，上人這一生的第一所義務學校，在他十八歲時就開辦了。上人負責一切的教學工作，為鄰近農村的兒童提供讀書受教育的機會。他曾經指出，辦好教育，我們就能影響將來，幫助這個世界變得更美好。因此在本會總部——美國加州萬佛聖城，我們有獨立招生的育良小學和培德中學，三十年來培育無數的優秀學子；而學校所追求的卓越學術成績，正是奠基在「育良」和「培德」這兩大基礎

☞ Continued from cover inner

Children are the future leaders and citizens of the nation. The time from age 3 to age 12 is the golden period of learning for children because their memories are at their keenest. Parents should make use of this window of opportunity and find a pure learning environment for their children, attending to their mental and physical health so that they will live a life free from regrets. When the Venerable Master Hua was alive, he frequently stressed that "one who is around rouge becomes red; one who is around ink turns black." The educational environment we provide for the next generation profoundly impacts the development of their character.

The Ven. Master Hua, the founder of DRBA, advocated education for his entire life. He established the first free school when he was only 18. He did all the teaching and provided opportunities for the children in the nearby farming villages to receive education. He said, "Through education, we can influence the future and help this world to become a better place." Hence, the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, DRBA's headquarters located in California, has set up Instilling Goodness Elementary School and Developing Virtue Secondary School. In the past thirty years, both schools have nurtured many outstanding students. The students' excellent academic performance is built upon a foundation of instilling goodness and developing virtue. The schools wish to nourish upright virtuous youths with integrity and character so they can develop a more wonderful world.

上，希望培養出純正有品德的年輕人，來創造一個更美好的世界。

在法界佛教總會的所有分支道場裏，修行與教育，這二者之間的關係始終密不可分。因此分支道場多有在週末或週日開辦讀經班、佛學班，由法師和居士義務教學，他們將自己獻身於「教育救世」的弘願中，無形之中也給孩子樹立高尚清廉的身教典範。

我們能給孩子什麼？

比丘尼近威

（2006-2008 法界兒童讀經班負責法師）

廖親達 英譯

我雖然接受正規的國民教育，卻未曾真正深入學過四書五經等儒家經典，一直感到遺憾。因為不忍見到這遺憾發生在下一代孩子身上，所以極力推廣讀經教育，藉以培養他們的文化素養和正確的道德觀念。

法界的孩子真幸福，從小就可以讀四書五經；但依目前一般推廣讀經教育者的理念，認為只須讀經、背經，不須解釋；可是我們發現讀經的孩子，大多有一個共同問題——驕傲。國民教育已經廢除「公民與道德」這一科目，我們明顯地看出，古代和現代的孩子氣質迥然不同——無禮、傲慢、自私等等；對撫育自己的父母，以頂嘴來回報，看了真令人痛心。

「教育」是上人的三大弘願之一！上人說：「我要以孝、悌、忠、信、禮、義、廉、恥這八德來周遊列國，用這帖靈丹，來救全世界和全人類青年人的靈魂、生命、本性。」秉承上人之志，法界兒童讀經班，融入佛教故事、《弟子規》、《常禮舉要》等等道德教育課程，加強孩子們的生活常規，適時調整他們不正當的心態及舉動，也配合善行、反省日記，以彌補學校教育的缺失。

從此，法界的孩子在每晚睡前，會認真地反省檢討——今天做什麼好事、壞事？有沒有孝順父母？有沒有口說好話？——認真記錄下來。不會寫字的幼兒班的孩子，便以圖畫表達，媽媽在旁用文字註

In all the branch monasteries of DRBA, the relationship between cultivation and education is so close as to be inseparable. Therefore, there are classes in memorization of Chinese Classics and Buddhist Studies Classes. All the teachers working there are volunteers. They have been dedicating themselves in the vast vow of "saving the world through education." Unknowingly, they have also become lofty, honest, and upright models for students.

What Can We Give to the Children?

By Bhikshuni Jin Wei

(Coordinator of the Class for Reciting Classics at DRBBDS 2006-2008)

Translated into English by Alfie Lew

Although I had received a formal education in Taiwan, I never had the opportunity to study the Four Books and the Five Classics of Confucianism in depth. I have always regretted that. I do not want the same regret to fall upon children of the next generation; therefore, I exuberantly promote the reading of classics, so as to foster their cultural refinement and morality.

Children who attend the Saturday school at Dharma Realm Buddhist Books Distribution Society (DRBBDS) [in Taipei, Taiwan] are fortunate and blessed to be able to read and memorize these classics at a young age. But according to the idea of most educators who promote the reading of classics, children should only read and memorize but need not understand what they are reading. However, we have found that most of these children share a common problem of arrogance. The National Education Academy in Taiwan eliminated a subject in the schools called Citizenship and Morality. As such, it is quite apparent that the character and temperament of children nowadays is completely different from those long ago. Children nowadays are rude, arrogant, selfish, etc. They talk back to the parents who have raised them. It is really sad and painful to see.

Education is one of the Master's three great legacies. He said, "I want to cause filial respect, brotherhood, loyalty, trustworthiness, propriety, righteousness, incorruptibility, and a sense of shame—the Confucian Eight Virtues—to spread around the world, and I want to use this panacea to rescue the soul, life and true nature of young people of the world." To adhere to the Master's legacy, the classes for the reading of classics in our school incorporates Buddhist stories, Standards for Students, the Common Practices of Propriety, and various other moral education classes to enhance children's discipline and to adjust their improper attitudes and behavior. Students are also guided in practicing virtuous deeds and writing reflections in a daily journal to compensate for what the modern school education lacks.

In this process, children at DRBBDS seriously reflect on their behavior every night before they go to bed: Have I done good things or bad things today? Have I practiced filial piety towards my parents? Have I said anything good? All of these are recorded with sincerity by the students. Kindergarten children who do not know how to write can draw pictures to express themselves, and their mothers make comments

解，增進親子間的溝通。孩子們的媽媽反應非常熱烈，許多家長告訴我，孩子透過每天行善及反省，進步很快。

在批閱日記的過程中，我們會將孩子們的善行記錄下來，在課堂上表揚及鼓勵。同學們相互之間的影響力是很大的，這週表揚某位小朋友的善行，下一週批閱日記時便會發現，其他小朋友也會跟著學習。如果看見孩子在反省日記中有一些特別的情況，我們也會找家長私下談談，該如何幫助孩子，所以光讀經是絕對不夠的，必須要教導孩子做人處事的道理。

孩子很純潔，像張白紙，身為家長及教師的我們，想要在這白紙上畫下什麼呢？尤其孩子十二歲以前是「黃金時期」，學習能力、記憶力超強，我們務必要把握這段時間，培養孩子閱讀的習慣，給他們最好的、最有意義的東西——多讀《弟子規》、四書五經、佛經等聖賢的智慧語言；常讓他們聽佛曲、〈大悲咒〉或交響樂等柔和的聲音，而非一天到晚給他們看電視、玩電腦、打電動……。

從小給孩子吃全素，是培養慈悲心及利益眾生心的最好方式。有些家長或許會擔心素食營養不夠，但現在醫學研究報告，明白指出吃素的好處，且肉類中所含的營養，在蔬果及豆類中都是可以獲得的。其實素食最重要的利益，是能讓人內心保持清淨與安寧。

雖說十二歲以前是黃金時期，但十二歲以後的孩子，我們也未曾放棄，法界還有少年班，是兒童班直升上去，帶領少年班的法師及老師相當用心，安排種種適合他們的課程，有動、有靜，讓少年班的孩子們在繁忙的課業之餘，也能夠輕鬆快樂地學習。

最後真誠地盼望各位父母及師長，靜下來思惟，想要給孩子什麼？高分？才藝？還是優沃的物質條件？一個人如果沒有正確的人生目標，缺乏調適內心的能力，那麼肯定終身鬱鬱寡歡，甚至誤入歧途，貽害社會。

讓我們一起為下一代的教育而努力，培育出更多品德高尚的卓越青年！

next to the pictures. This also enhances communication between parents and children. We have received overwhelming responses from the parents; many have told me that their children have improved quickly through practicing virtuous deeds and writing in their reflection journals.

When we grade the children's reflection journals, we make notes about their good deeds, and then praise and encourage them in the classroom. The influence among students is powerful. We have found that by recognizing and praising certain children's good deeds during the week, the following week the other children emulate what they had learned as well. If we find any unusual situations in a child's reflection journal, we will discuss it with his or her parents privately in order to find a way to help. Therefore, it is absolutely not enough to teach children to only read the classics; we should teach them how to be a good person and to deal with worldly matters.

Children are pure, like a sheet of white paper. As parents and teachers, what do we want to paint on this paper? Particularly, the first 12 years of a child's life is the "golden period." Their learning ability and memory are superb. We must seize the time to teach these children to develop good reading habits, and provide them with the best and the most meaningful activities, such as reading the Standards for Students, the Four Books and Five Classics, sutras and sages' words of wisdom; listening to Buddhist music and songs, the Great Compassion Mantra or harmonious music such as classical symphonies. We should not allow them to watch TV all day and to play computer and video games.

The best way to help children to cultivate compassion and benefit all living beings is to put them on a vegetarian diet at an early age. Some parents may worry that a vegetarian diet lacks nutrition; however, current medical research has clearly pointed out the advantages of being vegetarian. One can find the same amount of nutrition that meat has in fruits, vegetables and beans as well. In fact, the most important benefit of a vegetarian diet is to help people to maintain tranquility and a peaceful mind.

Although the first twelve years are said to be the golden period, we cannot neglect children who are older than twelve. The DRBBDS also has a middle school for students who have graduated from elementary school. The Dharma Masters and teachers are very attentive and dedicated, always arranging a variety of activities that suit the needs of those who are active and those who are more still. These extracurricular activities enable the youth to learn in a more relaxed and joyful environment away from their regular packed class schedule.

Finally, I sincerely hope that every parent and teacher will take time to contemplate what they want to give to their children — High scores? Skills? Or a rich and materialistic life? If one does not have a righteous goal in one's life and lacks the ability to balance the mind, one surely will be lonely and unhappy throughout life and may even stray onto the wrong path and bring harm to society.

Let's work hard for the education of the youth in the next generation to nurture them so they will develop outstanding character.

法
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教育的重要

侯昌宏 文 / 譯

(四歲起就讀於金輪寺育良中文學校)

古人所謂「十年樹木，百年樹人」，可見教育是百年大計。要知道幫助世界和平，先要從教育著手。宣公上人曾經說過：「教育是最好的國防。」宣公上人跟我們這樣講是因為如果一個人被教導好，我們的世界就會多一個好人；如果每個人在我們國家裡都被教導好，那我們就不用監獄，不會有吵架、戰爭和許多亂七八糟的事情發生，我們就會有個安定的國家。

出去外面看一看現代的小孩子都在做什麼？他們很小就開始吸煙、吸毒，和跟著壞孩子一起玩來玩去，一點都沒有心來讀書或是孝順父母。我以前有一些朋友常常跟父母吵架，每天會跑來一直跟我說想要殺死父母。我來了聖城讀書學到很多，最大部分是孝順父母。所以我回家的時候，我的親戚朋友會問我：「你到聖城學到了什麼東西？」我就會跟他們分享學到的道德和做人的根本，勸他們也能一起來培福，好好地做人。

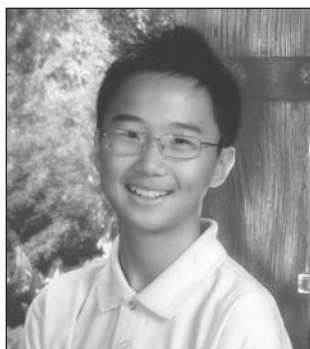
現在想起這些事來，讓我越來越覺得我們的社會已經變得很糟糕。為什麼呢？這是因為我們的教育太差了！我覺得以前我的老師是為了錢才來教我們，態度不對，令我們學的科目都學得不好。現在的老師很少會教我們道德和做人的基礎，所以在我們的社會上才會有那麼多的流氓。

只有一個辦法能救我們的世界，就是跟著孔子所說的道理去做。他說要先把自己變成個有道德的人，再去管理家庭；當家庭顧好的時候，再去幫助國家；幫好國家，再去平天下。如果我們好好地學上人所提倡的八德，學好孔子所教我們的道理，把孩子送到好的學校，給他們好的教育，我們就能真正的平天下，如此則能培育出國家未來的棟樑。

The Importance of Education

Written and translated by Anthony Hou

(A student of Instilling Goodness Chinese School of Gold Wheel Monastery since age four)



The old and wise would say, "It takes ten years for a tree to grow fully, but a hundred years for a person to mature," thus making it clear that education is of great importance. We must acknowledge that to create peace in this world, one must first start from education. The Venerable Master Hua once said, "Education is a nation's best defense." He told us this because if a person received a good, wholesome education, then he would be an addition to the

minority of good people in this chaotic world. If everyone in our country received a good education, we wouldn't even need prisons, we wouldn't argue about everything and cause meaningless fights, and we wouldn't have useless but costly wars against one another, because there wouldn't be a single negative thought in our heads. This would be a world infused with peace, harmony, and equality.

Go outside and take a look at what children are doing nowadays. At a very young age, children are already taking drugs, smoking, and hanging out and doing unjust things with bad kids, never even pausing to think about their education or their loving parents who have to panic and worry every time something bad happens to them. I had some friends who would fight and quarrel with their parents, and come to me every day to tell me how much they hated and wanted to kill their parents. But after coming to this school, I learned a lot, especially to respect and to be filial to my parents. When I go back home during our breaks, my relatives, who had never heard of or seen a school like Developing Virtue Boys' School, would curiously ask me, "What did you learn at this school?" I would share with them all the lessons I've had on virtue and the foundation for being a person, also hoping to encourage them to cultivate their blessings and be just and proper people.

Thinking about these things makes me ponder and realize how disastrous our society really is. Why is our once peaceful world in this horrendous state? Well, this all gets down to our education. The education in this society is horrible! Because of our economic situation, I think my previous [public school] teachers taught us just for the money, and because of that, their attitudes were different. They didn't care much about teaching and made it hard for their students to grasp the things that were being taught. Very few teachers even have the thought of teaching their students about virtues or ethical values, which is why our society is so corrupt.

There is only one solution to this problem, and it is to follow and do as Confucius once said. We must first correct ourselves and change our attitudes, then think of helping our families. After creating good bonds and unifying our families, then we should try to make peace throughout our country. When our nation is governed properly and everything's under

播撒善根種子

張鈺釗

(金輪寺育良中文學校家長/義務老師)

侯昌宏是我的大兒子，今年十四歲，目前就讀於萬佛聖城培德中學九年級。自從1985年我來到聖城，皈依上人後，就深受上人的教育理念所感動。因此在昌宏四歲時，我便帶他來到金輪寺中文學校就讀，直到十三歲。多年來，他在法師們的諄諄教誨下，學習了讀經、背誦上人開示、打坐……等佛學課程。無形中，幼小的心靈受到了潛移默化。非常感謝上人的慈悲教化，有這麼莊嚴清淨的道場，來培育幼苗。所以幾乎每一年的暑假，我們都會帶昌宏及志達兩兄弟參加聖城的夏令營。

去年秋天，昌宏經過再三的思考及父母親的鼓勵，終於決定到聖城的培德中學就讀。因為他認為培德中學遠離塵囂，生活單純，是適合他學習的好場所。除了一般學科外，還有中文必修課，有時參加晚課，之後留在大殿，一邊聽經一邊做功課。

聖城的人事物都是昌宏學習的好教材。短短幾個月當中，我覺得他有極大的轉變。培德中學有他在外面學不到的東西，以前帶他去逛街時，他會買他想要的東西；但現在不同了，雖然很想要，可是他會說他不需要。他已深切體會到在聖城大家是多麼節省惜福啊！這就是一個最好的身教。又有一天，一位學長的母親突然往生，他在電話中告訴我說：「法師教導我們，『孝順父母要趁早！』」眼看孩子變為更加的成熟懂事，身為母親的我深感欣慰。

上人曾說「那裡有道場，那裡就有學校。」在各道場的中文學校就像是種子學校，種子學校的義務老師就是在播撒善根種子，幫助孩子們往下扎根。若能讓孩子們在道場成長，培養善根，增長智慧，才不為社會洪流所淹沒。進而影響周遭同學，改變他們的思想及行為，形成一股清流，社會自然更為美好。雖然上人圓寂十多年，但四眾弟子仍秉承他老人家辦教育的理念，繼續推廣教育，培育下一代。

control, then we can save and bring harmony to our world. If we all learn and put into practice all of Venerable Master Hua's eight virtues, follow Confucius's instructions, and give our children the right education, then we can truly bring peace to our world.

Sowing Seeds of Good Human Roots

Written and translated by Jennifer Chang

(Parent and Volunteer Teacher of Instilling Goodness Chinese School at Gold Wheel Monastery)

My oldest son, Anthony Hou, is 14 years old and currently a ninth grade student in Developing Virtue Secondary School. In 1985, I took refuge with the Venerable Master Hua and was so moved by his philosophy of education that I sent Anthony to the Chinese School of Gold Wheel Monastery from the time he was four years old until he was 13. From the serious teaching of the Dharma Masters, reciting classics, memorizing Venerable Master's Dharma talks, meditation, etc., his young mind has been gradually molded. We really appreciate the kindness of our Venerable Master for providing us with such a wonderful monastery for nourishing young people. Therefore, almost every summer, we arranged Anthony and his young brother, George, to attend the Summer Camp at CTTB.

After thorough consideration and with his parents' encouragement, last fall Anthony finally decided to transfer to Developing Virtue Secondary School in the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. He believed that the school, which is away from the city and has a simple lifestyle, is a good environment for him to study. Besides the general curriculum, he studies Chinese. Sometimes, he attends the evening session or even continues to stay in the Buddha Hall, doing his homework while listening to the sutra lecture.

The people and events at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas became his good learning materials. Within just a few months, I felt that he had undergone some big change. He had learned many things which he could not have learned elsewhere. He used to buy things that he liked, but not anymore. He now would say that he really likes something, but doesn't need it. He has learned how frugal the people are in the City. This is one of the best teachings by example. One day, the mother of an alumnus from his high school passed away all of a sudden. In a conversation over the phone, he said to me, "The Dharma Master taught us, 'Take the opportunity to be filial to your parents before it is too late.'" Seeing my child become more mature, I feel very pleased.

The Venerable Master Hua said, "Wherever there is a monastery, there is a school." The Chinese school in each branch monastery is a "seed school." The volunteer teachers in those seed schools are sowing the seeds of good roots, helping students to send down deep roots. Allowing our children to grow up in our branch monasteries, nourishing their good human roots, and developing their wisdom will prevent them from drowning in the mighty torrents of modern society. Moreover, these students will influence their classmates and friends in behavior and thought that makes the world a better place. Although the Master entered nirvana fifteen years ago, his four assemblies of disciples still carry on his vision and promote education to nurture the next generation.