

## Can Catastrophes Be Averted?



A Japanese survivor of the earthquake and tsunami rides his bicycle through the leveled city of Minamisanriku, in northeastern Japan, March 15, 2011. (David Guttenfelder/Associated Press)  
2011年3月15日在日本東北部，被地震和海嘯夷為平地宮城縣南三陸町，倖存的一位日本人騎自行車正經過該城市。（大衛Guttenfelder/美聯社）

# 浩劫 能改變 嗎？

上人開示於1980年6月  
A Dharma talk by  
the Venerable Master  
in June 1980  
佛子 英譯  
Translated into English  
by Fo Zi

修道的人，首先不要自私。這不單是為了保護自己，也是為了要饒益全世界。我們要把自己放下，不是想：「我怎樣怎樣了不起？」而是要顧全大局。

胡大川先生的「幻想詩」裏，有幾句說得很好：

「浮沉道力未能堅，世網攬人只自憐。  
四海應無極樂國，九霄豈有寄愁天。」

「浮沉道力未能堅」，人在世界裏浮沉不定，做善功德，便向上昇；造惡業的，便往下降。這樣一浮一沉，生生世世在業海裏漂流，被世事的波濤所動搖，很不容易

Cultivators should not be selfish, nor should they act only to protect themselves. They should work to benefit the whole world, putting personal interests aside. Instead of being enthralled with their own achievements, they should consider the big picture.

Mr. Dachuan Hu's "Fantasy Poem" says it well:

Bobbing up and down,  
We lack a strong resolve for the Way.  
Caught up in worldly entanglements,  
We feel sorry for ourselves.

There is no paradise within the four seas;  
What place is there in the nine heavens  
To set our sorrows aside?

Bobbing up and down, we lack a strong resolve for the Way. People move up and down in the world; rising when they do good deeds of

立住，所以說「浮沉道力未能堅」。

「世網攬人只自憐」，世間法就好像一個大羅網，把所有人都網住了。愛名的便被名網所網，貪財的便被財網所纏，迷色的便被色網所縛。總而言之，被財、色、名、食、睡五欲之網，支配得顛顛倒倒，纏縛得透不過氣來。只自憐，一般不明白的人，雖然被網所網，還不知不覺；明白的人雖然知道，卻沒法脫離，只是徒增感歎而已。

「四海應無極樂國」，舉目四海，找不到一個安樂太平的地方。全世界人類都生活在恐懼之中，朝不保夕，到處都是難民。很多地方缺乏糧食、衣服；到處都有火山爆發、地震、水災；天災人禍，紛至沓來，這怎教人不怵目驚心呢？所以說「四海應無極樂國」。

「九霄豈有寄愁天」，九霄雲外，也沒有一個處所來積存這麼多憂愁，因為放不下這麼多！在這世上，有些人認為是很快樂，其實是水深火熱的樊籠。水深會把人淹死；火熱會把人燒死，有什麼值得留戀呢？

大家都知道華盛頓州的聖海倫火山爆發了，熔岩若堆起來，可以積疊成十二英哩那麼高，灰塵遍洒到四面八方。由此觀之，世上哪有安樂國呢？生在這個危險的多難之秋，各位應該趕快發菩提心，求無上道！

加州為什麼沒有火山爆發的災難？因為這裡信佛的人比較多，佛教的道場也較多，所以無形中使災難化為吉祥。在一九六八年，美國的天文學家、歷史學家、預言學家、科學家，都互相印證，認為那年三藩市必定會發生大地震，甚至整個三藩市會掉進太平洋！話雖如此，可是僥倖當年並沒有地震。隨後每一年都傳出地震的預言，但每一年都沒有大地震；可是最近地震恐怕真的快要降臨了。為了這個原因，法界佛教總會、萬佛聖城、金山聖寺、如來寺及法界佛教大學的四眾弟子，除了每天的早晚課之外，每逢週六都集體誦持〈楞嚴咒〉，藉以祈禱消災解厄，遇難呈祥，化地震於無形，使大的災難化小，小的災難化為烏有。

有人問：這種浩劫能夠改變嗎？當然可以改變！本來定業不可轉，但是三昧加持力，能消除無量罪業。

merit and virtue, and falling when they create unwholesome karma. In life after life, they drift and flounder in the sea of karma; being rocked by the weaves of worldly affairs, it is hard to stand firm.

Caught up in worldly entanglements, we feel sorry for ourselves. Worldly affairs are like a huge net that binds people. Fame-seekers are bound by the net of fame; money worshippers get caught in the net of wealth; and promiscuous individuals are trapped in the net of lust. In general, the net of the five desires—wealth, sex, fame, food, and sleep—confuses people and binds them so tightly that they can hardly breathe. Most people don't even know they are caught in the net; and those who do cannot escape, so they can only sigh in self-pity.

No paradise exists within the four seas. Look around: you won't find a peaceful place anywhere. All of humankind lives in fear dawn to dusk. Refugees are everywhere. In many places people lack adequate food and clothing. Volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, floods, and other natural and manmade disasters happen one after another. How could one not feel scared?

What place is there in the nine heavens to set our sorrows aside? There isn't any space within the nine heavens to store our cares and worries. Some people think the world is a happy place, but actually, we are in danger of being drowned or burned at any moment. Why should we be so attached to this world?

You have all heard of the eruption of Mount Saint Helens in Washington State. If the lava were piled up, it could reach as high as twelve miles. The ashes scattered everywhere. From this eruption we can see how unsafe the world is. Living in these dangerous times, we should quickly bring forth the Bodhi resolve and seek the supreme Way.

Why haven't there been any volcanic eruptions in California? One reason is that there are more Buddhists and more temples here. Disasters are imperceptibly transformed into auspiciousness. In 1968, astrologers, historians, prophets, and scientists in the United States all predicted that a major earthquake would occur in San Francisco that year. They said the earthquake would be so great that the entire city of San Francisco would fall into the Pacific Ocean. Fortunately, no earthquake occurred despite their predictions. Earthquake predictions have been made every year since then. However, the great one hasn't happened yet.

Recently, I have been worrying that the earthquake is really going to happen. That's why the fourfold assembly of the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, Gold Mountain Monastery, Tathagata Monastery, and Dharma Realm Buddhist University has gathered together to recite the Shurangama Mantra on Saturdays. With the power of the mantra we hope to avert the earthquake, dispel danger, transform big disasters into small ones, and make small ones disappear altogether.

Someone is asking, "Can catastrophes be averted?" Of course! Although it's said that fixed karma cannot be altered, with the power of *samadhi* even limitless offenses can be dispelled.