

論語淺釋 (續)

The Analects of Confucius

(continued)

宣化上人講

楊維光、劉年聰 英譯

Lectures by the Venerable Master Hua

English translation by Yong Wei Kwong and Liew Yen Chong



有子曰信近於義言可復也
恭近於禮遠恥辱也
用不
失其親亦可宗也
曾子曰
乙亥之月進子孫孫遊國



DHARMA TALK DHARMA RAIN | 法語法雨

【里仁第四】

Chapter 4: Living in a Benevolent Neighborhood

還有《楞嚴經》，是那個要緊的地方，能背一句是一句。我這是要考你們背，背完了還要考；我現在不能這麼寬了，不能像以前那麼樣子。以前在美國，人都不懂佛法，那麼馬馬虎虎的，這可以將就；再想要新出家的，我一定不隨便收徒弟了，收一些個廢物！你們就都給我背完了，我還要考試考試，問一問要緊的地方。頭前我不說要得到博士，一定要背《楞嚴經》？你們有什麼意見？這是教你們隨時隨地要用功。

我告訴你們，我當初讀書的時候——我講點這個，賣賣我的廣告。我當初十五歲才讀書，好像舊曆三月初十上學，差不多這個樣子；八月十三起放假，天

What is important is *the Shurangama Sutra*. If you are able to recite one sentence from memory, that will count as one sentence. I want to test whether all of you have learned it by heart. Once you finish memorizing it, there will be further tests. Unlike before, I cannot be so lenient now. In the past, people in America did not know about the Buddhadharma and allowances could be made for their laziness. As for those who are thinking of leaving the home-life, I will definitely not accept simply anyone to be my disciple. I don't want to accept someone good-for-nothing! After all of you have learned the sutra completely by heart, I will test you further on the essential sections. Just now, didn't I say that anyone who wants to get a PhD must be able to recite *the Shurangama Sutra* from memory? What are your views on this? This is to teach all of you that you must work hard at all times, wherever you are.

Let me tell you about the time when I was a student. I will talk a little about this just to advertise myself. Back then, I started studying only when I was fifteen years old. My first day in school was on the tenth day of the third lunar month, or somewhere around there. The holidays started on the thirteenth day of the eighth lunar month. In summer, we had summer break. When I was a student, I would be

暑的時候放暑假。我讀書的時候，我不怕你們笑話，我是行住坐臥沒有一個時候不讀書的，沒有一個時候我不背書的。就是現在，我也是還是有這種習慣。所以我走路，你們誰也不可以和我講話的，我用我的功呢！我不像你們，那兒一邊走路，一邊打妄想，一邊想入非非；我是要背我能背的書，我沒有時間去像你們那樣子亂七八糟的！

除了讀書，還要品評他的品德；品德不好，誰也不行的。以後無論推選什麼，或者有什麼事情，都要經過大家的審核。我們以後每一年可以在我們全體裏頭，由大家推選——在中國的正月初一那天，這是一年的First(第一)；我們選出一個對六大宗旨實行得最真的，每一年選出一個。這一個，他若是繼續的好，我們就選他出來，在萬佛城裏頭就有機會做住持，有機會做方丈。我們選什麼，一定都是按照六大宗旨來給分數；不副合六大宗旨，你就怎麼樣子——就是總統到這兒來，我們也不選。我們是只認識六大宗旨，不認識旁的！

想創革命，正式的，一定開會——就還是要講這個「什麼是萬佛城第一」；這個我是附帶的，我現在在大會裏提出來。所講的，大家把它整頓整頓。看看誰講得對的，保留它；不對的，就不要它。我們用我們直心來看這一般的事，這是我們一個歷史性的創舉。

還有，這是我們過去的經驗；我們又要檢討檢討：我們現在應該怎麼樣做？我們將來的方針怎麼樣？我們大家都要把這個訂出來！我們有了一個現在所要做的事情，將來的目標要訂出來，按照這個去往前進行。不要忘了！這個目標也就等於我們所發的願一樣，不要發空願，發過去就什麼都忘了；發的願一定要天天要把它做去，最低限度，要在佛前再陳述它一遍。「古者言之不出」，那不是說很少講話，他也講話，就是他自己做不到他不說；他這意思，一定要真！

鬼是從心裏邊來的，不都是從外邊來的。你們幾個去年到大陸去，在萬佛城十多年，都是吃一餐；去到大陸，就想變了。你說這樣子，怎麼會有什麼感應？這麼樣搞！

☸待續

studying or memorizing my books at all times whether walking, standing, sitting or lying down, but I was not afraid of being made a laughing-stock. Even now, I still have this habit. For this reason, when I am walking, nobody is allowed to talk to me because I am working hard! Unlike all of you, I don't engage in false thoughts or indulge in fantasies as I walk. I want to memorize those texts that I am supposed to memorize; I don't have the time to fool around like all of you!

Apart from one's studies, there is also a need to assess one's moral character. Nobody is going to make it if his moral character is no good. From now on, whoever gets elected for whatever matter has to be examined and verified by everyone first. Every year henceforth, we can conduct an election on the first day of the first lunar month, which is the first day of the year. We will elect a person from the entire assembly who is most genuine in implementing the Six Guidelines. There will be one elected every year. If this person continues doing well, he will have the opportunity to be elected as the resident superintendent or abbot of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. Regardless of the post elected for, we must award marks according to the Six Guidelines. No matter who you are, even if you are the President, we will not elect you if you do not conform to the Six Guidelines. We will only recognize the Six Guidelines and nothing else!

In order to revolutionize the system, an official meeting must be convened to discuss this same issue: What is foremost about the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas? This was something that I mentioned in passing and I am now bringing it up again in the General Meeting. All of you are to consolidate everything that is said and go through the ideas. Retain those that make sense and discard those that don't. Let us approach this subject with a straightforward mind, for it is an historic initiative.

Moreover, we should examine our past experiences and ask ourselves: What should we do now? What is our guiding principle in the future? All of us must work this out! Once we have an idea of the tasks that require action, we should draw up a list of future goals as a basis for us to proceed. Do not forget this! These goals are equivalent to the vows that we make. Do not make empty vows, forgetting them completely after making them. The vows that you make must be carried out every day. At the very least, you have to repeat them once in front of the Buddhas. There is a saying: "The ancients do not talk casually". It does not mean that they seldom talk. They do, but they will not talk about things that they cannot accomplish. What it means is: One must be true!

Ghosts can be formed by your mind; they are not necessarily from outside. There were a few of you who went to mainland China last year. After staying at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas for more than ten years and eating only one meal a day, you thought of changing when you arrived on the mainland. In this way, how can you possibly elicit any responses, behaving in such a manner!?

☸To be continued