

巴黎佛友來鴻

A Letter from a Dharma Friend in Paris

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2015年11月14日星期六的早上，我剛起牀，準備去上班。這時，美國的親戚給我打電話，我的阿姨問：「你知不知道發生了什麼事？」一開始，我搞不清楚是怎麼一回事。她告訴我巴黎遭受恐怖攻擊。一百三十餘人遇害，三百多人重傷。

事件發生於星期五2015年11月13日晚上，巴黎市區和郊區，於幾個不同的地方，包括巴黎郊區聖丹尼的足球場都發生爆炸，還有巴黎街上咖啡吧的露台，全被子彈掃射，但以巴塔克蘭劇院死傷最多，殺戮持續了兩個半小時才等到救援。

聽到了這個消息我馬上就打開iPad看新聞，又收到佛友的電郵問候。因為時間不多，我急著上班，所以很快就出門了。一路上很安靜，黑豹反恐特警隊大批出動，沒有人講話。大概大家都知道發生了什麼事吧，看街上的人，可以感覺到他們的恐懼。

在巴塔克蘭劇院，現場一位警察說：「裏面很髒，好像屠場一樣!!!」受害那些人是一個一個被槍擊致死，就好像行刑似的。宣公上人開示時，經常引用宋朝願雲禪師的偈頌說：

千百年來碗裏羹，冤深似海恨難平，
欲知世上刀兵劫，試聽屠門夜半聲。

On Saturday morning, November 14, 2015, I woke up and was getting ready to go to work. Suddenly, my relative from America called. My aunt said, "Do you know what happened?" I was confused at first until she told me that there were terrorist attacks in Paris. Approximately, one hundred and thirty people died and around 300 people were seriously injured.

Those incidents happened on Friday night, November 13, 2015, in downtown Paris and the nearby suburban areas. There was an explosion at the soccer field in Saint Denis on the outskirts of Paris and bullets were fired at the terraces of street cafes. But the main attacks were in the Bataclan Theater. The assault lasted for two and a half hours until the rescue team came.

When I got this information, I immediately turned on my iPad for the news. I also received e-mail greetings from my Buddhist friends. I didn't have much time to read everything because I was rushing to work, so I hurried out the door. Along the way, it was very quiet. There were many RAID members on the streets, but no one talked. Looking at the people around, I could sense their fear.

At the Bataclan Theater, a policeman said it was very dirty inside, like an abattoir! Those victims were shot to death one by one like an execution. This reminded me of a verse from Sung Dynasty Chan Master Yuan Yun that the Venerable Master Hsuan Hua often cited:

*For hundreds of thousands of years, the stew in the pot,
Has boiled up extreme resentments.*

*If you want to know why there are calamities and wars in the world,
Just listen to the sounds from a slaughterhouse at midnight.*

殺業會造成種種災難禍患，這次的恐攻只是其中的一個例子。所以我們佛教徒要吃素，不要吃肉，不要殺生，不要跟眾生結下那麼多殺業。否則等到果報來的時候，後果真是難以意料的。

我弟弟一個同事的朋友，在巴塔克蘭劇院被劫持做人質，到最後不幸喪命，跟現場其他遇害的人有著同樣的共業。另外一個人質被劫持兩個多小時，事後據他說：襲擊者沒有傷害他，只叫他和一些人質跟著他們而已。但他看見那些襲擊者對現場其他民眾是連受傷的人都不肯放過，必定要趕盡殺絕！等到差不多全部人被殺害之後，他心想：這次應該輪到我自己了！

很奇怪的是，到最後襲擊者竟然叫剩下的人質退開，因為他們身上有炸藥帶，竟然沒有要同歸於盡。從開始到結束，他沒有受到任何傷害，真是死裏逃生！實在令人感慨：往昔造同樣的業，因緣成熟時，就聚集一起受相同的果報。但別業不同的人，雖然身處險境，也能安然無恙地脫險。無論共業或別業，這樣冤冤相報，究竟何時才能停止？

很多人非常恐懼徬徨，這次的恐怖攻擊間接地也影響到我和我的親人、朋友、認識的人，因為隨時都可能發生在任何人身上。我自己也怕，誰不怕？但是我一直都念觀世音菩薩，什麼事我都念觀世音菩薩，那讓我覺得有一種力量，一種精神支柱。我們能夠碰到佛法，真是很幸運！尤其在這個末法時代，遇到正法，可以學習佛法的人，都不知道有沒有萬分之一？

發生此事後，令我更加覺得人生無常，生命真的很脆弱，得人身也很寶貴。就像這些人，他們只是去聽音樂，喝飲料，跟朋友聊天；有些是和家人一起吃飯，有些只是路過，誰會料到突然就遇害身亡了！

世界越來越壞，就算不遭受災難等等而死，我們的身體隨著時間亦會慢慢衰亡，最終亦逃不過生死，死後又要再墮輪迴，能否保持這個人身呢？也不一定，所以是很危險的。正所謂：「三界不安，猶如火宅。」

所以我們要珍惜生命，不要把光陰空過，把握時光修行，念佛，念觀世音菩薩，建立信願行這三資糧，我們心念佛時就向西方極樂世界跑，臨命終時得到佛菩薩來接引，往生阿彌陀佛的西方極樂世界。阿彌陀佛！❀

Killing karma will bring about various calamities and disasters. The Paris terrorist attacks are some examples. This is the reason that Buddhists want to be vegetarians and not kill, because they can limit the negative (killing) karma between them and other beings. Otherwise, when the karmic retribution comes, it is hard to expect the outcome.

My brother had a friend who was held as a hostage at the Bataclan Theater, and she unfortunately did die. Like all the other victims there, they had the same karma. There was another hostage, who was held for over two hours. From what he said, the attackers did not hurt him, but told him and other hostages to follow them, and to watch the terrorists kill everyone, including injured people. When almost all the people were killed, he thought to himself, "It should be my turn now."

Oddly enough, the terrorists told the rest of the hostages to back up, because they had explosives, they didn't want to have everyone die together! From beginning to the end he didn't get hurt at all, they survived! Those who have collective karma will receive the same harm, a shared retribution. However, people have their respective individual karma, so even if they are in a dangerous situation, they can escape unharmed. No matter what kind of karma it is, if people continue to kill and take revenge, when will there be an end?

Many people are scared and horrified. This terrorist event had an impact on my family, friends, my acquaintances and me indirectly, because anything can happen to anyone. I am scared myself! Who isn't? But no matter what happens, I would always recite the name of Guan Yin Bodhisattva, since He gives me some source of power and moral support. We are very lucky that we understand Buddhism, especially in this degenerate era.

After this event, I understood how fragile life is and how precious it is to become a human. Many of the victims were going to concerts, getting drinks, chatting with friends or eating with their families. Who knew they would just die?

Even if we don't die from natural disasters, our body will gradually weaken over time; we can never escape the cycle of birth and death. When we die, we will get reborn again and it is uncertain whether we can maintain a human form. Therefore our situation is very risky. As the saying goes, "The Three Realms are restless like a house on fire."

We need to cherish our life; don't just waste it and let time pass in vain. Use your time productively and recite Guan Yin Bodhisattva's name. When we are reciting the Buddha's name in our minds, we are closer to Amithaba Buddha. He will come when we die and bring us to the Pure Land. Amitabha!❀