

# 歸去來處—南臺灣大地震的啓示

## The Place Where We Go Back

### —An Insight from the Southern Taiwan Earthquake

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2016年二月六日（小年夜）凌晨三時五十七分，南台灣發生6.4級大地震，驚動全球。法界佛教總會在臺灣的兩座分支道場——台北法界佛教印經會以及高雄法界聖寺，均於二月八日啟建的梁皇寶懺法會即時增設傷亡者牌位，並領眾念佛迴向，祈禱亡者往生極樂、生者身心安穩。

《法華經》云：「三界無安，猶如火宅；眾苦充滿，甚可怖畏。」這場地震造成一百餘人死亡，五百多人受傷，是自1964年白河大地震後，台南地區造成死傷人數最多的慘劇。地震倖存者說：「能活著真好！」相信罹難者也在說話，也希望被拯救，只是凡夫聽不見他們求救的音聲，無力超拔他們。

只是活著的人，如何面對「能活著真好」這句話？在這五欲濁世中，活著的時候真的好嗎？上人說，九法界眾生皆顛倒——人法界看畜生法界是顛倒，阿修羅法界看人法界是顛倒，乃至佛看菩薩法界也是顛倒，只有佛得到究竟覺，沒有一切的顛倒。《地藏經》亦云：「南閻浮提眾生，舉止動念無不是罪，無不是業。」若不能認識身隨業感、已陷五濁的事實，那麼，活著的時候就不真那麼好了。

生命本無常，總在剎那中搖曳，隨時可能消失。世尊為半句偈頌寧捨生命，故能修道成佛，而我們就是不能認識自己仍處於顛倒中，故迷失不能自拔。如今惟有依止三寶，任運餘生用心修行，直至自性法身復活，那時才真是「活著真好」！

今以盡除自性中九法界的眾生性為行門，祈願法界一切眾生，共入毗盧性海。共勉之！

On February 6, 2016, the day before Chinese New Year's Eve, a 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck southern Taiwan at 3:57 am. This calamity shocked the entire world. The Dharma Realm Buddhist Books Distribution Society in Taipei and The Dharma Realm Sagely Monastery in Kaohsiung, the two branch monasteries of Dharma Realm Buddhist Association in Taiwan, both held the Emperor Liang Jeweled Repentance starting on February 8. They also set up memorial plaques for those killed and injured by the disaster. Dharma Masters led the assembly to recite the Buddha's name to pray for the deceased to be reborn in the Western Pureland and the survivors to stay healthy and have peace of mind.

It is said in the *Lotus Sutra* that “there is no peace in the three realms; they are like a burning house filled with many sufferings, and frightening indeed.” This earthquake claimed the lives of over 100 people and more than 500 were injured. This was the most devastating earthquake in Tainan since the White River earthquake of 1964. Those who survived said, “Being able to live is so great!” The dead are probably also speaking, asking to be saved except that we ordinary people cannot hear their cries for help, nor would we be able to rescue them.

How can those who live ever face the phrase “Being able to live is so great?” Is it really great to be able to live in this world of the five turbidities? Venerable Master Hua said that beings in the nine Dharma realms are all upside down--- humans see animals as being upside-down, asuras see humans as upside-down, even Buddhas see Bodhisattvas as being upside-down. Only Buddhas have achieved the ultimate enlightenment and are not upside-down. The *Earth Store Sutra* says, “Every single movement or stirring of thought on the part of beings of Jambudvīpa creates karma and offenses.” If we cannot recognize that we are pulled along by our karma and have fallen into the world of the five turbidities, then it is not truly great to be able to live.

Life is impermanent and flickers from moment to moment. It can vanish any time. The World Honored One was willing to sacrifice his life for half of a verse of Dharma. That's why he was successful in spiritual cultivation and realized Buddhahood. But we ordinary people cannot even recognize that we are still upside down, so we are lost and cannot become free. Now we must rely on the Triple Jewel and work hard on spiritual cultivation for the rest of our lives until the Dharma Body of our inherent nature is revived. Only then can we say that it's great to be able to live.

Today, let us practice the Dharma door of eradicating the nine Dharma realms of our inherent nature and pray that all beings in the Dharma Realm can enter the ocean of the Vairocana nature. Let's encourage each other to reach this goal. 。