

# 唸經不如唸人快，講古不如論今時

## Reciting Sutras is Not as Useful as Reading into Ourselves, Speaking about the Past is Not as Useful as Speaking about the Present

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Spoken by Venerable Master Hsuan Hua on  
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怎麼叫「唸經不如唸人快」？我們唸經，唸來唸去都是經；我們應該要唸人，唸怎麼樣把這個人給做好了，這樣很快就會成佛。我們人就是一部真經，你會唸這部經，就諸惡不做，眾善奉行；不會唸，就諸惡要做。什麼是善事呢？利益人，那就是善事。你要是盡利益自己，那就是惡事。所以把自己唸好了，不久就會成佛了。

「講古不如論今時」，講古來的事情，誰也沒有看見，都已經過去了。好像五、六千年以前中國的三皇五帝、堯舜禹湯、文武周公，那時候都是聖人治世，揖讓天下，不像現在爭著得天下。可是你對現在人說，他說那是神話，沒有那麼回事。這是因為書讀得少，就枉自武斷。其實這些都是事實，因為時間相離太遠，就算事實他也不相信。所以我們就講講現在諸山長老、大德高僧的事，讓各位佛教徒效法。

Why do I say that “reciting sutras is not as useful as reading into ourselves”? We may get fixated on the sutra texts even if we recite them many times. Instead, we should focus on how to be a good person, how to be mindful of people. In this way, we will reach Buddhahood quickly. Each of us is a true “sutra”. If you know how to “recite” this “sutra”, you would not do any evil and would do all good. If you don’t know how to be mindful of this text, you would do all kinds of evil things. What are good deeds? Benefiting others is good. If you always pursue personal benefits, that is evil. So if you know how to recite your own “sutra”, you will become a Buddha soon.

“Speaking about the past is not as useful as speaking about the present.” We can speak about what happened in ancient history, but nobody today has ever witnessed them. For example, five or six thousand years ago, China was under the reign of great sages like the Three Sovereigns and the Five Emperors: Yao, Shun, Yu, Tang, Wen, Wu, and Zhou. These sages passed their thrones to worthy people, while today people fight for power. However, if you tell people about this today, they would say that this is a myth, because they don’t have much knowledge and so make arbitrary conclusions. These historical events did occur but long lost their validity due to the significant time lapse between the ancient periods and today. Therefore, I will tell you the stories of the virtuous elders that abide in mountains and eminent sanghas in modern times, so all Buddhists can follow their examples.