



美國國父—

喬治·華盛頓

Father of His Country— George Washington

宣化上人講述於1988年2月12日
張煒 英譯

Lectured by Venerable Master Hsuan Hua on February 12, 1988
English Translation by Wei Zhang

美國開國元首，賢明領袖。生於一七三二年，少篤學，性忠誠。初為測量員。英法為爭奪加拿大殖民地而戰爭。華盛頓因功升為陸軍少校。英國壓迫殖民地人民。北美十三州人民，富有自由意志，獨立精神。以印花稅為導火線，對英宣戰，被推為總司令，歷七年而勝利。肇造美利堅合眾國，以立法、行政、司法三權分立，互相合作，保持平衡。

華盛頓功成身退，解甲歸田，自力更生。旋被選為第一屆總統，勵精圖治，創造民主、自由、平等。連任二次，三屆仍被選，毅然退休。於一七九九年十二月十四日卒。為紀念其功勳，國都命名為華盛頓，尊為國父，年年定期紀念。

George Washington was the founding president of America. He was a wise and capable leader. Born in 1732, he studied diligently in his youth and had a loyal and honest nature. He first worked as a surveyor before joining the war between Great Britain and France in colonizing Canada. Due to his successes in battles, he was promoted to the rank of Major. At that time, Britain imposed oppressive policies on the residents of their colonies. However, the people of the thirteen states in North America were imbued with the spirit of freedom and independence. The Stamp Act became the catalytic incendiary spark and war was declared against Britain with George Washington as the Commander-in-Chief. The war lasted for seven years before they eventually declared victory, and established the United States of America. The country is governed by three independent and cooperative branches, namely the legislative, the executive and the judiciary, as a check and balance mechanism to promote good governance and policies.

With his duties as Commander fulfilled, Washington retired and returned to his hometown and made his own living. However, shortly thereafter, he was elected as the first President. During his term in office, he worked hard for a good and efficient government, and established the democracy, liberty and equality for the people. He was re-elected as President for a second term. However, when nominated again for a third term, he firmly declined and retired. He passed away on December 14th in 1799. In memory of his contributions, Americans named the capital after him, hailed him as Father of the Country and every year commemorate his birthday.

現在講美國開國的創始者，這位偉人的名字叫華盛頓，所以現在全國到處有華盛頓街。華盛頓活著沒那麼多，死了變成這麼多，幸虧他不鬧鬼，否則人人都怕他。

華盛頓是位注重躬行實踐，以身作則的賢明領袖，一般老百姓們對他心悅誠服。雖然身為軍人，可是他不用軍人的勢力壓迫百姓，仍以德服人之方法來領導國家，令人民走向正路，使老百姓都安居樂業，有相當的工作、正常的收入。暖衣足食，才能睡著覺，若吃不飽、穿不暖，則睡覺也睡不著。令百姓衣食都安定，這是國家元首的治國方法。

當時英、法兩國爭奪加拿大，想拿它來作為殖民地，為利而戰，為利而爭。世界為何有戰爭？就是因為想爭奪利益。若大家能互相不爭，世界就能太平。不爭什麼？不爭利益。世界人類互相貪、互相爭、互相求、互相欺騙、自私自利、打妄語，這到底為了什麼？就為了一個「利」字。「利」字真是厲害——有利，就有害。為了爭利，令自己的人民受到很大的傷害，所謂「爭地以戰，殺人盈野；爭城以戰，殺人盈城。此所謂率土地而食人肉」，為了爭土地，互相吃人肉——這是變相的吃法。

英、法為爭加拿大這塊肥肉而戰，當時華盛頓參加軍隊，因為戰爭有功，故升為陸軍少校（營長）。英國用壓迫的手段想唯利是圖，便以印花稅為導火線引發戰爭；華盛頓便率眾而起，被大家擁護推舉為總司令對英宣戰，對抗英國不平等、不自由、不公平的壓力，戰爭經歷七年而勝利。

一般做總司令、大將軍的人，戰後一定還想得到名譽、權力及地位。可是這位華盛頓懂得做人的哲學，功成名遂，順天之道，便解甲歸田，自力更生，退休了。

Commentary:

Now we are talking about the founder of America. The name of this great man is George Washington. That is why there are Washington Streets or Washington Avenues all over the country. Of course when he was alive, there were not so many “Washingtons.” His name proliferated after his death. Fortunately he’s not actually here haunting us; otherwise everybody would be afraid of him.

Washington was a virtuous and intelligent leader who emphasized practicing what one preaches and led by example. In general, citizens have always sincerely and wholeheartedly admired him. Although he was a military man, he didn’t oppress people with the power of his army. His virtue won over the hearts of the people and he led the country and its citizens in the right direction so that all could have comfortable and stable livelihoods. A suitable job with a decent salary will enable people to have enough food and clothing and to sleep well. If they do not have enough food to eat or clothes to keep them warm, they will not “sleep tight.” The best way for a national leader to govern his country is to provide the citizens with basic security and the comforts of food, clothing, and shelter.

At that time Britain and France were both competing to colonize Canada. It was a war of self-interest, fought for self-benefit. Why are there wars in the world? It is because of conflicts of self-interests. If everybody would not fight against each other, the world would be at peace. What should we not fight for? We shouldn’t fight for personal interests. But the human race is greedy. They like fighting with one another, seeking advantages, cheating, being selfish, benefiting themselves and lying to each other. Ultimately, what is it for? It is for the “self-interest.” This drive is very powerful. Whenever there is “self-interest,” there is harm. Fighting for self-interest brings great suffering to one’s countrymen. Hence, Mencius said, “In the name of fighting for land, human flesh is devoured. When territorial disputes lead to fighting, the bodies of slaughtered men fill the fields; when the struggle for a city leads to fighting, many corpses fill the city.” Thus these warzone places metaphorically “devour” human flesh.

When Britain and France fought over the “fat piece of meat” called Canada, Washington was with the British army. He was promoted to the rank of Major because of his successes in battles. After the war, Britain tried to oppress the people for its own self-interest and unilaterally introduced the Stamp Act, which was the spark that ignited the war with the Americans. Washington led the Americans in the fight and was elected Commander-in-Chief. They declared war against Britain over its oppressive inequality, lack of freedom, and injustice. The war ended in victory after seven years.

Most chief commanders or generals will bask in the glory of the prestige, power, and position that comes after a victory. However, Washington understood the underlying principle of how to be an upright person, so after the glorious success of his commission, he followed the principle of Heaven, and retired and retreated to his farm to support himself.