



美國國父——

# 喬治·華盛頓 (續)

## Father of His Country—George Washington (continued)

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

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老百姓因為他的品節清高，什麼也不要，不貪、不爭、不求，不為自己而戰，為討一個公道，令世人得到公平待遇，便擁護選他為第一屆總統，建立美利堅合眾國。因為他勵精圖治，創立民主、自由、平等，故又連選任第二屆總統。

我相信那時候的選舉是自由投票選舉，絕對不會像現在參選一個市長要用上幾千萬。買一個市長要花費幾千萬，那麼選舉一個總統不知要用多少錢？那時候的選舉如果需要這麼多錢，我相信華盛頓沒有這個財力來選舉總統。雖然兩百年前我不在場，我深信當時的選舉不是今天的選舉，不牽涉任何人事問題，是最公平及光明磊落的。

華盛頓在被推選為第三屆總統時，毅然退休。於1799年12月14日撒手塵寰。美國人為紀念其功勳，國都名為「華盛頓」，尊他為國父，每年定期紀念他。

贊曰：

世風日下 人心不古  
天降偉人 開疆展土  
創建自由 謀求幸福  
民安物阜 資源充足

All his countrymen found him to be a noble and an upright person who wanted nothing for himself, and so they elected him as their first President. He founded the United States of America and worked painstakingly to form a well-ordered society based on democracy, liberty, and equality for all, and was subsequently re-elected as President for a second term.

I believe, at that time the election was done by voting freely and openly. This is unlike people nowadays who use tens of millions of dollars to be elected as mayor. If buying a mayor's position requires so much money, how much would it take to be elected as President? If it had required that much money to participate in the election, I believe Washington would not have had enough wealth to become a candidate for President. Although I wasn't there two hundred years ago, I seriously believe that the election that took place then was the fairest and most transparent, and it would not have involved the problems of political influence that plague elections today.

Although he was nominated for a third term, George Washington resolutely retired after his second term of office. He passed away on December 14th in 1799. In memory of his contributions, Americans named the capital of the country after him, hailed him as the Father of the Country, and commemorated his birthday.

*A Verse in Praise Says:*

The morality of society is deteriorating.  
People are no longer like those of yore.  
Heaven sent a great man to the world,  
who founded the country and expanded its frontiers.

「世風日下」：社會的風氣越來越壞，「人心不古」：現在的人唯以虛偽欺詐為能事，不及古人的純樸及淳厚。

「天降偉人，開疆展土」：上天想把世界改變好，故降下一個偉人，賢而有德的領袖，創立美國。

「創建自由」：他為老百姓創建平等自由，「謀求幸福」。

「民安物阜」：人民安居樂業，物質豐富，「資源充足」。

又說偈曰：

應運而生華盛頓 提倡共和美利堅  
正義征服英國隊 公平戰勝納稅錢  
勳業彪炳隱身退 德感百姓又當權  
司法立律行仁政 選舉制度億萬年

「應運而生華盛頓，提倡共和美利堅」：華盛頓開創美利堅共和國是應運而生；天到時候應該生出這樣的人才。

「正義征服英國隊」：他主張正義，打敗壓迫的英軍。

「公平戰勝納稅錢」：他戰勝，因為他主張公平，不應向百姓納重稅。

「勳業彪炳隱身退」：他做總司令打敗英軍，功成名退，不想再戀棧當總司令、念念不捨。

「德感百姓又當權」：他的德行感化老百姓，再度推選他為總統。

「司法立律行仁政」：美國開國，政府以立法、行政、司法三權分立，互相做榜樣，互相合作，行好的政策，保持平衡。

「選舉制度億萬年」：不花錢的選舉才是真正的選舉，花錢買票的是假的選舉。這種公平正直的選舉制度會流傳很遠。✻

Establishing the spirit of liberty,  
working hard for the well-being of all.  
Thus, people live a secure and prosperous life,  
and resources of the nation abound.

*Commentary:*

**The morality of society is deteriorating. People are no longer like those of yore.** The morality of society is deteriorating. Nowadays, it is the norm for people to cheat and deceive shamelessly. People in general lack the qualities of simplicity and honesty that people in earlier times possessed.

**Heaven sent a great man to the world, who founded the country and expanded its frontiers.** Heaven wanted to change this world for the better, so it sent a great man, a worthy and virtuous leader, to found the United States of America.

**Establishing the spirit of liberty, working hard for the well-being of all.** He established equality and freedom for his countrymen and worked for their happiness.

**Thus, people live a secure and prosperous life, and resources of the nation abound.** People lived peacefully with abundant goods and provisions.

*Another verse says:*

In accordance with destiny Washington was born,  
he proclaimed the Republic of the United States of America.  
In the name of justice, he vanquished the British army.  
Winning the war for fair taxation.  
He retired at the peak of success.  
His virtue influenced his countrymen to re-elect him.  
A benevolent administration based on checks and balances.  
And a proper election system would endure for ages.

*Commentary:*

**In accordance with destiny Washington was born, he proclaimed the Republic of the United States of America.** It was destined that Washington be born to develop the Republic of America. When it was the right time, Heaven brought forth a man of talent.

**In the name of justice, he vanquished the British army.** He advocated righteousness and defeated the oppressive British army.

**Winning the war for fair taxation.** He won because he advocated fairness and disagreed with the heavy taxation that was imposed on his fellow citizens.

**He retired at the peak of success.** He led the army as the Chief Commander and defeated the British, yet he retired with honor. He was not attached to the fame of being the Chief Commander.

**His virtue influenced his countrymen to re-elect him.** He was re-elected as President.

**A benevolent administration based on checks and balances.** The United States is governed by three independent and cooperative branches: the legislative, the executive and the judiciary. They check and balance each other, and learn from each other's example of good governance, as well as set a good example themselves.

**And a proper election system would endure for ages.** An election that does not require spending is a true election. If one has to spend money to buy votes, it is a fake election. A fair and honest election system would last for a long time. ✻