

## 《六祖壇經》序文 Preface to The Sixth Patriarch's Platform Sutra

宣公上人開示於一九七七年

——摘自《華嚴經淺釋·十地品》二十六之六

An instructional talk by Venerable Master Hsuan Hua in 1977

—Excerpted from Venerable Master Hua's Commentaries on the *Ten Grounds Part 6 of Chapter 26 of the Avatamsaka Sutra*

一切的經典都是教人修行的一個法則，那麼這些法則，有佛說的，有菩薩說的，有祖師說的，也有阿羅漢說的，也有化人說的，也有天人說的；所以，這個經典是一樣的，但其中這義理是不同的。

在所有的佛經，都是從印度翻譯成中文，然後流通到每一個國家去。那麼從印度翻譯成中文，可是中國所有的佛經都是屬於翻譯本，只有《六祖壇經》是中國人所說出來的，而不是經由翻譯的。中國人，是誰說的呢？就是六祖大師他所說的。

六祖大師，本來是一位不認字的農人，以後因為聽《金剛經》這一句「應無所住而生其心」有所感悟，就前去到黃梅親近五祖弘忍大師。弘忍大師傳給他以心印心的妙法，向上一著。那麼六祖大師繼承心印法門，來接續佛祖的慧命，而說這部《六祖壇經》。

這一部經是祖師所說的，現在把它翻譯成英文本，這是佛的心印法門來永遠傳流到西方社會；也就是希望西方的人讀誦這一部經典，研究這一部經典，每一位都能成佛，每一位都能成菩薩，每一位都也都能作為祖師。

這是翻譯這一部經典最重要的一個目的。希望見著這一部經的，和聞到這一部經的人，都能皆共成佛道。希望這一部《六祖壇經》，流通到什麼地方，什麼地方就是正法住世，令一切的眾生都早成佛道。

這就是這部《六祖壇經》翻譯本的一點重要性，要是往詳細說，這一部經就是寶所，這一部經就是佛的真身，這一部經也就是眾生的慈悲父、慈悲母，這一部經能生出來無量無邊的佛，能生出來無量無邊的菩薩，能生出無量無邊的祖師。

那麼西方人，見著這一部經，都同成佛道，也早證菩提。簡單所說的，作為本經（六祖壇經）前邊的一個序文。❀

All of the sutras are guides to use in cultivating the Way. Some of these sutras were spoken by Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, and Patriarchs, while others were spoken by Arhats, transformed humans, and gods. Although they all serve the same purpose, the doctrines within them differ.

All the sutras were translated from Sanskrit into Chinese, and thereafter these sutras spread to other countries. Thus, all the Buddhist texts in China are translated works, with the exception of *The Sixth Patriarch's Platform Sutra*. It was spoken by a Chinese person. Who spoke it? Great Master the Sixth Patriarch.

The Sixth Patriarch was originally an illiterate peasant [woodcutter]; later, after he heard a phrase from the *Vajra Sutra* "[one should] have one's mind everywhere engaged, yet nowhere attached," he experienced an awakening. Thus, he went to Huangmei to draw near Fifth Patriarch Hongren. Great Master Hongren transmitted to him the wonderful Dharma by using 'the mind to seal the mind,' taking him a step into the beyond. The Sixth Patriarch inherited this 'mind-seal' Dharma; and continuing the wisdom-life lineage of the Buddhas, he proclaimed the *The Sixth Patriarch's Platform Sutra*.

This sutra was spoken by the Patriarch and now it is translated into English. This marks the mind-seal Dharma of Buddhas being transmitted in perpetuity to the West. It is hoped that Westerners will now read, recite, and study it, and all become Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, or Patriarchs.

This is the most important objective of this translation. May all who see and hear it quickly accomplish Buddhahood. It is hoped that wherever this Sutra is transmitted, the proper Dharma will be found, causing all living beings to quickly accomplish Buddhahood.

This is my simple explanation on the importance of translating *The Sixth Patriarch's Platform Sutra*. If I am to elaborate it in detail, then this Sutra is indeed a treasure trove. It is the true body of the Buddha; the compassionate father and mother of all living beings. It can give rise to limitless Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, and Patriarchs.

May all in the West who now read this Sutra quickly realize Bodhi and accomplish Buddhahood. May my simple words serve as the preface to this translation of the *Sixth Patriarch's Platform Sutra*. ❀

## 反思的鏡子： 法界佛教大學將舉辦2019年宣公 上人紀念論壇

法界佛教大學將於2019年5月23日舉辦宣公上人紀念論壇，每位參與者有15-20分鐘分享他們的會議論文，主題為各種文化傳承主要經典中所闡述的自我修養相關問題，比如：學習經典如何教導我們更美好地生活？什麼是「德」？這些經典是否提供了相應的方法可以用來發掘它所闡述的義理？這些經典是否在提示作為讀者的我們，在讀完這些經典後，在個人，社會和環境這三個層次上面我們會如何改變？

蘇格拉底認為，為了過上美好的生活，一個人必須積極反思自己的信仰和行為，這種反思從知道自己內心的動機和信念開始。蘇格拉底關於美好生活的想法在《大學》的核心段落中得到了回應。這本儒家經典將學習定義為終身的自我轉化。文中指出人類存在的三種層次——個人，社會和自然之間是息息相關的。所有成就最終根源於自身品德的修養。當我們穿越不同的古典文化時，我們會收到不約而同的邀請——將經典作為自我探究和轉化的鏡子。

法界佛教大學以此紀念論壇緬懷創辦人上宣下化老和尚（1918-1995）。上人生前非常強調學習經典的重要性——將經典用於指導個人修行，並運用其中所包含的智慧來改善社會。上人是一位目光遠大，具由遠見卓識的教育家，他鼓勵自己的弟子開辦小學，中學和大學。上人曾說，「教育沒有開始，也沒有結束。沒有一個地方不是學習的地方，沒有一個時候不是學習的時候。」

誠邀您參與宣化上人紀念論壇。並歡迎有興趣的與會者與宣公上人紀念論壇小組委員會聯繫：[www.drbu.edu/hhms](http://www.drbu.edu/hhms)

## Mirrors for Reflecting: DRBU to Host Upcoming 2019 Hsuan Hua Memorial Symposium

This year, on Thursday, May 23, 2019, Dharma Realm Buddhist University will host the 2019 Hsuan Hua Memorial Symposium. Various presenters will share seminar-style papers in presentations about 15 -20 minutes in length dedicated to the topic of self-cultivation in core texts across traditions, and investigate questions such as: What might the study of a text tell us about giving a good life? What is the relationship between the abstract and the applied? What is 'virtue'? Do these texts come embedded with their own tools for unlocking their meaning? Finally, do these texts subtly ask us as readers, how are we meant to be different through reading them: individually, socially, environmentally?

According to Socrates, living a good life calls for active reflection of one's beliefs and actions, beginning with knowing one's inner promptings and convictions. Socrates' notion of a good life is also in the central message of the Great Learning (Daxue), a Confucian text that defines learning as a lifelong activity of personal transformation. It proposes an interconnection among the three dimensions of human existence: the personal, the social, and the natural world. The root of all attainments ultimately rests upon cultivation of one's own character. As we travel through classical traditions, we encounter similar invitations to engage texts as mirrors for self-inquiry and transformation.

DRBU hosts the Symposium in honor of its founder, the Venerable Master Hsuan Hua (1918-1995). Master Hua emphasized the importance of grounding oneself in the study of primary texts – using them both for self-cultivation and to apply the insights they contain for the betterment of society. Encouraging his students to start schools at a primary, secondary, and university level, Master Hua was a visionary educator with a deep and far-reaching outlook on learning. He once said, "Education is without beginning or end. There is not a single location that is not a place of learning, and not a single moment that is not a time for learning."

All are welcome and warmly invited to attend the conference. For more details, please visit [www.drbu.edu/hhms](http://www.drbu.edu/hhms), for more information.