

事欲求精

Master What You Pursue

摘自宣公上人《華嚴經疏玄談淺釋》

杜親誠 英譯

An Excerpt from Venerable Master Hsuan Hua's Commentary
on the *National Master Ching Liang's Prologue to the Avatamsaka Sutra*
English translation by Cindy Wang

世界上的事情，無論學什麼，要想把它學得精通了，都要用一番功夫才能明白。我們學佛法也是一樣的；不是說我看了幾本書，聽了幾次講經說法，我就明白佛法了。這必須要有一個時間，有一個地點，還有一個講法的，然後才能有所成就。所以在幾十年以前，我說過這麼幾句話：

事欲求精，須用苦功；
功夫既到，默識心通。

「事欲求精」：「事」就是一切事；這個事，就包括—you讀書就是讀書的事，你做工就是做工的事，你研究佛法就是佛法的事；不論你做什麼，這就是什麼事。你想把你所做的事精通了，「須用苦功」：你應該用一點功夫。這種功夫不是很容易的，要有一種忍苦的精神，你這功夫才會成就。「功夫既到」：你這苦功既到了，到這種程度了，「默識心通」：你默默中就認識了，你心也就通達了。所以學習佛法，雖然有的人已有五、六年的功夫；可是看起這個經文來，有的地方還是不懂。為什麼？就因為功夫還沒有到；功夫到了，就默識心通了。❀

Whatever you want to learn in this world, you are required to apply effort in order to gain skill. Studying Buddhism is no different. It takes more than just reading a few Dharma books or listening to several Dharma lectures to understand Buddhism. One needs certain duration of time, a place for learning, and a Dharma lecturer who can guide you in order to make real progress. Therefore, I said the following verse a few decades ago:

*To master the things you pursue,
Painstaking effort is required;
Having dedicated sufficient efforts,
your understanding will come through.*

“To master the things you pursue”: This “thing” could be anything, such as studying, working, or investigating Buddhism—it’s wherever you focus your mind. To master what you want, “painstaking effort is required”: You need to dedicate sufficient efforts for results. This kind of effort is not easy to apply; you need strong perseverance, and with that, you will achieve your goals.

“Having dedicated sufficient efforts”: When your hard work reaches a threshold, “your understanding will come through.” You will intrinsically understand your pursued learning effortlessly.

Therefore, although some people studied Buddhism for five or six years, they still do not understand the sutras completely. Why? It’s only because the necessary effort has not yet been applied. Once you dedicate the necessary effort, you will naturally gain understanding. ❀