

The Bodhi Mirror

Bhikshuni Heng Liang



Bhikshuni Heng Liang has been fully ordained and has cultivated at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas for several years. She speaks about what she has learned:

To cultivate you have to use your true mind. That means being honest with yourself and honest with others. It means being open about your faults and not trying to hide them. It means offering up goodness in all ways in order to benefit beings in this world. It also means, however, not being turned or distracted by external things. One must stay in touch with what one is supposed to be doing. Although the members of the Sangha live in harmony, like milk mixing with water, still, each person must fulfill her own responsibilities and cannot rely on others to cultivate for her. Each person has to purify his own body, mouth, and mind karma.

Bhikshuni Heng Liang contributes her abilities in many areas in the monastic community. She is a graduate of Dharma Realm Buddhist University and is pursuing a Master's degree in Translation. She is a regular participant in the Translation Review Committee meetings and helps compile and revise the materials as the Sutras and commentaries are reviewed. She has translated *VAIROCHANA*, the sixth chapter of the *Flower Adornment Sutra*.

In commenting on what happens here at the City, she says:

Faith and patience are essential in cultivation. The real benefits may not be visible or immediately perceptible. Since cultivation is a combination of "doing all good" and "not doing any evil," often it involves doing something good in order to prevent something bad from happening. For that reason, there is no "proof" in cultivation, in the usual sense of the word. When something bad doesn't happen, who's to say that it would have happened if we hadn't dedicated our practice to keeping it from happening? Ordinary people can't prove it, but those who have faith believe it to be so. Those fortunate enough to believe will continue to practice without any doubt and without needing any "proof." Imperceptibly our world will be benefitted in important and far-reaching ways.

Imperceptibly each of us will be able to become aware of our faults and change for the better.