



BODHI BULLETIN

DHARMA NEWS FROM BODHI MONASTERY • JULY 2003

How to Become a Powerful Person

It is not through arsenals stacked with lethal weapons
Nor by battalions of lightning-swift troops
That we can vanquish the forces of darkness
And open the gates to freedom for the world.

The source of true power lies not in domination
By the brute force of armies or the bright lure of gold.
The source lies hidden deep within ourselves,
But to find it we must use the appropriate tools.

The first key to success is the *power of faith*,
Trust in a supreme wisdom that points us to the good.
Faith settles the mind and inspires us with courage,
Inciting us to deeds of joyful self-transcendence.

But the agents of harm lurk in the mind's dark shadows,
Ready to spring their traps when our vigilance slackens.
To stem their attacks and sustain our self-respect
The *power of shame* keeps us firmly on the path.

Contemplate deeply our relatedness to others,
Consider the value of esteem in others' eyes.
Reflecting on the bitter fruits of thoughtless deeds,
Let the *power of moral dread* hold us back from the abyss.

The path to liberation is not for the weak,
Nor for those given to self-pity and despair.
It is only by the invigorating *power of energy*
That we can become heroes, true masters of our minds.

Traveling by night, enveloped in dense mist,
We have wandered pointlessly in the maze of birth and death.
Now use the *power of wisdom* as the light
To guide our steps to the shore of final freedom.

Equipped with these five powers taught by the Great Sage
We rise up as conquerors stronger than any foes.
Masters of ourselves, examples for the nation,
We illuminate the world like the blazing noontime sun.

By Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi; this poem was the theme of a discourse given by him in January of this year.



W E L C O M E

VEN. XIN-XING

We are happy to welcome to Bodhi Monastery, as a full-time resident monk, Ven. Xin-Xing Shi. Ven. Xin-Xing was ordained as a bhikkhu in Taiwan in 1988. He is a graduate of the Yuan-kuang Buddhist Research Institute and has taught at the Chung-hua Buddhist College and Tsyu-kuang Buddhist College in Taiwan. He speaks fluent English and before coming to Bodhi Monastery was the vice-guest master at the Chuang-Yen Buddhist Monastery in Carmel, NY.

AJAHN SUNDARA

Ajahn Sundara, a senior Buddhist nun of the Theravada tradition, will be residing at Bodhi Monastery during the traditional three-month "rains retreat," which this year extends from mid-July to mid-October. Ajahn Sundara, born in France, was ordained as a Buddhist nun in 1983 under Ajahn Sumedho at the Amaravati Buddhist Monastery in England, where she participated in the establishment of the nuns' community and training. She has taught and led meditation retreats in Europe and North America and for the past three years has been living at the Abhayagiri Buddhist Monastery in California.



July Dharma Schedule

The Dharma Retreat at Bodhi Monastery will be held from July 19th to 25th. All regular classes, Dharma talks, liturgical services, and meditation sessions will be cancelled during this period. Please see the schedule below. We will resume our regular schedule on July 26th.

SPECIAL EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Sat., July 19 Bodhi Monastery Dharma Retreat
- Fri., July 25

NEW SATURDAY SCHEDULE

July 5, 12, & 26,
9:00 - 9:50 am Refuges & Precepts; guided meditation
10:00 - 10:30 am Devotional service
10:30 - 11:15 am Work period
11:15 am - 12 pm Lunch and cleanup
12:30 - 1:30 pm Dharma discourse
 (July 5, Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi;
 July 12, Ven. Jen-Chun; July 26, Guest Speaker)
1:45 - 2:15 pm Dharma discussion
2:45 - 3:45 pm Pali class

SUNDAYS

July 6, Beginners instruction in sitting and walking
9:00 - 9:30 am meditation
July 6, 13, & 27, Meditation Group meets in the Buddha Hall,
9:30 - 11:00 am guided by Shifu and Bhante
(Dates to be Ven. Jen-Chun Dharma Talks at Ch'an Center,
determined) Elmhurst, NY, Phone: 718-592-6593
10:00 - 11:30 am (in Chinese w/English translations)

TUESDAYS

July 1, 8, 15, 29, Madhyamaka Philosophy with Ven. Jen-Chun
9 - 10 am (in Chinese Only)
July 8, 15, & 29, Sutta Study Class with Bhikkhu Bodhi
7 - 8 pm (in English only)

THURSDAYS

July 3, 10, 17, 31 Madhyamaka Philosophy with Ven. Jen-Chun
9 - 10 am (in Chinese Only)

DAILY

4:30 - 5 pm Chanting Liturgy *(Cancelled July 19th-25th.)*

JULY SUTTA STUDY

SUBJECTS :
DEEPENING ONE'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE WORLD
THE PURPOSE OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

Bhante's class on Majjhima Nikaya,
Tuesday evenings, July 8, 15, & 29, 7:00-8:00 pm
(in English only)

In July, Bhante will continue to discuss suttas from the Majjhima Nikaya that pave the way to the liberative dimensions of the Buddha's teachings. These deal with the shortcomings in sensuality (MN 75), the misery of samsara (SN 15), and the story of Rattapala (MN 82). When these are completed, he will discuss two suttas that explain the purpose of the Buddhist spiritual life (MN 63 and MN 29). There is no fee. Newcomers are welcome at any time.

If you are unable to attend on Tuesdays, you can make an appointment to listen to the recorded classes at your convenience. The course syllabus is posted on our website. If you have any questions please call the monastery or email us at info@bodhimonastery.net. Type in "Re: Sutta Study" in the subject box.

Sign Up for the Dharma Retreat

From July 19th to 25th, Bodhi Monastery will be holding its annual Dharma retreat. This year the retreat will feature parallel programs in Chinese and English. The two will merge for key events, such as the evening lectures (in English only). There will be Dharma talks, meditation sessions, study groups, and liturgy. On the closing day of the retreat the monks will conduct the Going for Refuge and Five Precepts ceremony for those who wish to formally embrace the Buddha-Dharma. You can come for all or part(s) of the retreat but we will need advance notice of your participation. There is no charge, but such retreats are made possible by generous donations, whether large or small.

Please inform us by July 10th whether you intend to participate by filling out an application form. You can pick up a form and the schedule at the monastery or you can get them from our website www.bodhimonastery.net. If you need them to be mailed, please call the monastery and leave a detailed message with your name, address, and phone number. The preferred method of correspondence is by email to info@bodhimonastery.net.