



BODHI BULLETIN

DHARMA NEWS FROM BODHI MONASTERY • JUNE 2003

Making Good Use of the Three Doors of Action

Body, speech, and mind are commonly known as the three doors of action. How do we make use of our body, speech, and mind so that they function as the true body, speech, and mind? My verse is intended to answer that question.

Let your body show integrity. Now that you are a student and practitioner of the Buddha Dharma, the most important guideline to correct bodily action is to act rightly and honorably; not to put on a show when in the presence of others and then slip into laxity when you are alone. Otherwise your bodily action will lack integrity. And what is true integrity? Integrity means that you behave in the same way whether or not others are observing you. It means your action flows from your own inner standards, not from the desire to win esteem from others.

**Let your body show integrity,
be clear in your speech;
let your intention be kind
and unwavering.
Be humble, quiet, even, and
steadfast; studiously learn in
movement and in stillness.**

Be clear in your speech. Ordinary people can speak logically and coherently, but logic and coherence are not enough. The mark of true speech is to speak meaningful, inspiring words. It is not easy for ordinary people to speak clearly. Why? Because their wisdom is limited. When speaking of exceptional matters,

they may not explain them clearly, and they may not inspire others.

What is the value of language? If you have true wisdom, a profound and correct comprehension of the Dharma, your words will be very clear and possess an exceptional power to move people. At the right moment one word from you can rescue others from the brink of death and bring them back to life. Thus, the content of speech is clear and powerful. Your speech is like a brilliant light. Normally, people's minds can be hazy and confused. If you use speech accurately to clear away the haze and brighten their minds, this is the value of speech.

Let your intention be kind and unwavering: No one can see another person's intentions, for they are private and hidden. But you can know your own intentions. How do you cultivate, practice, and maintain your intention? The guideline is "be kind and unwavering." What is kindness? To be kind is to be pure, unselfish, decent, and tender-hearted. This means that in all affairs, you always consider others first. Sometimes you are ready to undergo suffering in order to enable others to live better than yourself. This is the meaning of kindness. If you have this kind intention, your mind will have a profound sense of morality. In due time, you will naturally bring your sense of moral obligation to fruition and fulfill your mission as a disciple of the Buddha.

To be "unwavering" means that your mind is consistently healthy. If your mind does not have a special stabilizing power, then under difficult circumstances you will become unsettled. You will be spun around by circumstances and cannot maintain inner poise. If you have truly achieved some degree of success in practicing the Buddha Dharma, your mind will naturally be relaxed. In dealing with difficult people, or when facing obstructive conditions, your behavior will be pure, honest, simple and kind. You will not be sarcastic and heartless, you will persist in your aim without concern over gain or loss. Such concerns will not disturb you at all.

(The above is an excerpt from a series of lectures by Master Jen-Chun on "the basic concepts a Buddhist must have." These were the preliminary lectures to the study of Master Yin-Shun's The Way to Buddhahood.)



JULY DHARMA RETREAT

From July 18th 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), given by Ven. Bodhi, Ven. Seelananda, Michael Roehm, and Franz Li. There will be Dharma talks, meditation sessions, study groups, and liturgy – a balanced blend of the intellectual, contemplative, and emotional sides of the Buddhist path.

Those who can't attend the retreat every day can still attend on selected days; those who can't attend for a full day can come when it fits their schedule. In accordance with Monastery policy, there is no charge, but please remember that such retreats are made possible by the generous donations of our friends and supporters, whether large or small. See the attached schedule of the English program. The Chinese schedule will be found in *Enlightenment* magazine.

Please inform us by July 10th whether you intend to participate by filling out the form on the enclosed schedule sheet. Please also indicate for how long you wish to stay and whether you want to spend the nights here.



SPECIAL JUNE DHARMA SCHEDULE

DURING THE VIPASSANA RETREAT, FROM JUNE 18TH - 29TH, THE MONASTERY WILL BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC. All classes, Dharma talks, liturgical services, and meditation sessions usually taking place are cancelled during this time period. Please see the schedule below. We will resume our regular schedule on June 30th.

SPECIAL EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Wed., June 18 Vipassana Retreat
- Sun., June 29 (Monastery Closed)

SATURDAYS

June 7,
10:45-11:30 am Monthly Ceremony (all else as other Saturdays)

June 7 & 14,
10:00 - 10:45 am Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi Dharma Talk
11:15 am - 1:00 pm Lunch/Free time/Merit Gathering
1:15 - 2:00 pm Ven. Master Jen-Chun Dharma Talk
2:30 - 3:45 pm Pali Language Class: The class can't be entered now, but you can catch up using recordings.

SUNDAYS

June 1, 8, & 15,
9:30 - 11:00 am Meditation Group meets in the Buddha Hall, guided by Shifu and Bhante; Beginners who need basic instructions in sitting and walking meditation should come at 9:00 am on the first Sunday of the month.

(To Be Determined) Ven. Jen-Chun Dharma Talks at Ch'an Center, Elmhurst, NY, Phone: 718-592-6593 (in Chinese w/English translations)

TUESDAYS

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

June 3, 10 & 17,
7 -8 pm Sutta Study Class with Bhikkhu Bodhi (in English only)

THURSDAYS

June 5 & 12,
9-10 am Madhyamaka Philosophy with Ven. Jen-Chun (in Chinese Only)

DAILY

4:30-5 pm Chanting Liturgy (Cancelled June 18th-29th.)

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE PROGRAMS OR EVENTS. TEL: 973-940-0473 EMAIL: INFO@BODHIMONASTERY.NET

JUNE SUTTA STUDY

SUBJECT:
DEEPENING ONE'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE WORLD

Bhante's class on Majjhima Nikaya,
Tuesday evenings, June 3, 10 & 17, 7:00-8:00 pm
(in English only)

In June, continuing his talks on the Majjhima Nikaya, Bhante will discuss suttas that pave the way to the liberative dimensions of the Buddha's teachings. These will deal with the faults in mundane existence (MN 13), the shortcomings in sensuality (MN 54, MN 75), the misery of samsara (SN 15), and the story of Rattapala (MN 82).

The course will be ongoing for approximately the next two years. There is no fee. Newcomers are welcome at any time. Previous exposure to basic Buddhist teachings is recommended but not required.

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.

INTRODUCTORY COURSE TO BUDDHISM AND MEDITATION

The Spring session of this course is just ending but we will offer it again in late summer in August or September. This 5-6 week course held on Saturday mornings is designed for people who are relatively unfamiliar with Buddhism and who wish to know more about our religion. Participants will learn about: (1) the basic teachings of the Buddha, (2) basic meditation practices, (3) ceremonial practices at Bodhi Monastery, and (4) a brief history of Buddhism. The course is generally conducted by lay practitioners. However, participants will also have opportunities to ask questions of senior members of the monastic community.