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.

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.

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.

(These are the preliminary lectures to the study of Master Yin-Shun’s The Way to Buddhahood.)
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 practi-
tioners. However, participants will also have opportunities to
ask questions of senior members of the monastic community.

SPECIAL EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Wed., June 18
Vipassana Retreat
(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 ft 17, 9-10 am Madhyamaka Philosophy with Ven. Jen-Chun
(in Chinese Only)
June 3, 10 ft 17, 7 -8 pm Sutta Study Class with Bhikkhu Bodhi
(in English only)

Thursdays
June 5 ft 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 SURTA STUDY

SUBJECT:
DEEPENING ONE’S PERSPECTIVE ON THE WORLD

Bhante’s class on Majjhima Nikaya,
Tuesday evenings, June 3, 10 ft 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 Ratthapala (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 conve-
nience. The course syllabus is posted on our website. If you have
any questions please call the monastery or email us at info@bod-
himonastery.net. Type in “Re: Sutta Study” in the subject box.

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.

JUNE SUTTA STUDY

SUBJECT:
DEEPENING ONE’S PERSPECTIVE ON THE WORLD

Bhante’s class on Majjhima Nikaya,
Tuesday evenings, June 3, 10 ft 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),
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