



淨土

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Amitabha Buddhist Library in Chicago
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地址(Address): 2753-2755 W. Maple Avenue, Lisle, IL 60532, USA

網址: www.amitabhalibrary.org

電話 (Tel): (630) 428-9941, 傳真 (Fax): (630) 428-9961

發行人: 林麗淑

主編: 譚祖德

排版: 編輯室

印光大師法語

Quote from Great Master Yin Guang

念佛法門，縱不明教理，未斷惑業，但能信願持名，求生淨土，臨命終時，決定蒙佛接引，往生西方，見佛聞法，悟無生忍，即此一生定補佛位。

入道多門，唯人志趣，了無一定之法，其一定者，曰誠曰恭敬。此二事雖盡未來際諸佛出世，皆不能易也，而吾人凡夫，欲頓消業累，速證無生，不致力於此，譬如木無根而欲茂，鳥無翼而欲飛其可得乎？

欲得佛法實益，須向恭敬中求。

有一分恭敬，則消一分罪業，增一分福慧；

有十分恭敬，則消十分罪業，增十分福慧；

若無恭敬而致褻慢，則罪業愈增，而福慧愈減矣！

恭賀

Happy



新禧

New Year

Even if one does not understand the Buddha taught us about the and one is still deluded, as long as

Amitabha Buddha's name and Pure Land, one will definitely be

present life by Amitabha Buddha to be reborn in the Pure Land, where one will see Amitabha Buddha and hear his Dharma teaching, attain Sambodhi, and become a succeeding Buddha.

the underlying reasons as to why Buddha-name chanting method one can faithfully keep chanting sincerely vow to be reborn in the escorted at the end of one's

There are many methods on the Bodhi path; which one to choose and practice purely depends on its suitability to one's character. There is no fixed method for all. The commonalities for all methods, however, are sincerity and respect. These two will never change even after all future Buddhas have appeared. If one, being an ordinary person, wants to eradicate one's delusion quickly to attain Sambodhi but does not start with sincerity and respect, it is just like a tree wanting to grow big and strong but without a firm root, or like a bird wanting to fly but without feathers on its wings; is it possible?

To gain real benefits from practicing the Dharma, we must pay sincere respect to it. If one pays one part of sincerity and respect, one will be able to reduce one part of one's karmic obstacles and build up one part of one's merit and wisdom; if one pays ten times the amount the sincerity and respect, the benefits increase as many times accordingly. Conversely, if one does not pay sincerity and respect to the Dharma or even appears to be arrogant, then one's karmic obstacles worsen and merit and wisdom decrease.

海地地震賑災特別呼籲

Special Announcement—Haiti Earthquake Relief

● 編輯室 (Editor's Room)

海地此次地震災情慘重，本館呼籲大家發揮慈悲愛心，廣伸援手，救助災民，及資助該國災後重建。本館亦可代收轉送捐款，所有捐款，本館會以最迅捷的管道，送到需要之處。您可使用 PayPal 直接在本館網上捐款，或者開具支票，支票上註明“海地地震賑災”，寄至或送至本館。所有捐款均可在美國抵減所得稅。阿彌陀佛！

The earthquake in Haiti has brought terrible disasters to the Haitian people. We hope that everybody can give rise to compassion and extend your hands to help the victims and the recovery work ahead. The library also has begun taking and forwarding donations. We will take the shortest and the fastest route through our network to deliver the help to the victims and the places that most need such help.

You can donate directly online at the library's website, or you can make your check to "Amitabha Buddhist Library in Chicago" with a note "Haiti Earthquake Relief", and mail or deliver your check to the library. All donations are tax deductible in the United States.

Your help will be highly appreciated by the victims. Amitufo!

書目組公告 — 新書結緣

Announcement — New Items Available Now

● 編輯室 (Editor's Room)

本館最近收到台灣 紫經覺緣舍 印贈之『八十華嚴』二十套，可供結緣。每套精裝五冊，包裝成盒；印刷精美，且附有國語注音，易於讀誦。不過，每套重量不少，郵寄不易，暫時只供應來館領取。

歡迎各地同修前來本館請領。本館同時尚有 紫經覺緣舍 印贈之妙法蓮華經、楞嚴經，及梁皇寶懺等法寶各若干，亦歡迎各地同修申請。

申請以上法寶，敬請依照本館最近公告的結緣法寶申請辦法申請。申請辦法請參考下列網址：http://www.amitabhalibrary.org/Dharmaltems/index_c.htm。

The library just received from the Zi-Jin-Juei-Yuan-Sher in Taiwan twenty sets of the *Eighty-fascicle Avatamsaka Sutra* for free distribution. Each set has five hard-copy volumes packaged in a beautiful box. The printing is beautiful, and the text with Chinese Zhu-yin is very easy to read. However, they are quite heavy and bulky, and will be expensive and difficult to mail. Therefore, they are only available for pick-up at the library.

We welcome interested friends to apply for the books in person. The library also has a number of the *Lotus Sutra (Saddharma Pundarika Sutra)*, the *Shurangama Sutra*, and other Dharma items for free distribution. These items were also donated to us by the above organization.

If you are interested in these items, please follow the Dharma Items Request Policy to apply for. Please refer to http://www.amitabhalibrary.org/Dharmaltems/index_e.htm for the policy description and the request form.

書目組公告 — 新書預告

Announcement — New Items to be Available

● 編輯室 (Editor's Room)

本館最近收到悟琳法師的通知，即將出版兩本新的英文書，第一本是“弟子規”的英文本：“*Di Zi Gui—Guidelines for Being a Good Person*”，第二本是由悟琳法師依照 弟子規 編寫的故事書：“*How Will I Behave Today and the Rest of My Life?*”

歡迎有興趣的朋友向本館預訂。這兩本書現在都已經可以在網上閱讀或下載，網址如下 www.howwillibehavetoday.org。

The library recently received notification from Venerable Wuling that two new English books are undergoing printing. The first one is the Pure Land Translation Team's new English translation of *Di Zi Gui*, titled *Guidelines for Being a Good Person*. The second is based on *Guidelines for Being a Good Person* and titled *How Will I Behave Today and the Rest of My Life?*. The latter is a commentary and story book authored by Venerable Wuling.

If interested, you are welcome to pre-order copies from the library by following the Dharma Items Request Policy which recently became effective. Both books are also available for online viewing and downloading at www.howwillibehavetoday.org.

佛學講座

Lectures on Buddhism

● 編輯室 (Editor's Room)

本館接受南伊大學佛團體 SIU Buddhist Fellowship 的邀請，將於南伊大舉辦佛學講座。目前暫定將於二月二十日(星期六)於南伊大圖書館舉辦首次之英文『基礎佛學討論』。本館大約

會有四位義工一同前往，並將同時邀約本館在伊利諾大學香檳校區及在聖路易市的義工們在南伊大校園會合，共襄盛舉。

The library received an invitation from SIU Buddhist Fellowship, a Buddhist organization in Southern Illinois University (SIU), Carbondale, to provide lectures on Buddhism. Tentatively, the first lecture is scheduled for February 20, Saturday, on "Introduction to Buddhism: The Basics" to be held in the SIU library. There might be as many as four volunteers to visit SIU together for this purpose. We will also invite the library's remote volunteers at the University of IL, Champaign campus and in St. Louis to meet at the SIU campus to support this activity.

讀者投書 — 年終二日念佛法會報導(1)

● 何豐妙

值此二〇〇九年歲末，芝加哥華藏淨宗圖書館舉辦了一場念佛共修法會。法會共計二天，已於十二月十九和二十日圓滿結束。

法會主要有誦經、繞佛與念佛，其中最能攝心的，莫過於念佛了，道場中有不少同修，念佛功夫一流，他們能念得口齒生津，經歷數小時也不覺疲累。引領念佛的敲法器的師兄姊，也各自展現不同的氣象，有師姊敲起地鐘來，其韻律如行雲流水，讓同修們念起佛來，酣暢無比、舒服極了；有師兄敲地鐘，則令同修們精神十足，念起佛來倍覺勇猛精進、欲罷不能。

二天念佛，同修們不但沐浴在一種清淨平和的境地中，還能聽聞佛法呢。第二天下午，在品嚐過美味的素食與點心後，有林館長的佛學講座。林館長以輕鬆活潑的語調，深入淺出的闡釋 無量壽經 的義理，並簡單介紹一些佛學常識與佛教禮儀，讓在座者於明白佛經的同時，再也不覺得佛學的深奧難懂了。同時間，還有譚師兄的即席翻譯，讓說英語的同修們亦能同霑法益。

法會就在這梵唱聲中進入尾聲，各人帶回家的，是充滿法喜平安的心境，和那猶環繞於耳邊的佛號聲。願以此念佛的功德，迴向給諸有情無情的眾生，並祈求新的一年，人人都能平平安安、順順利利。

讀者投書 — 年終二日念佛法會報導(2)

From Readers — The Two-day Retreat

● 鄧紀鳳 (Chi-fang Duong)

十二月十九日清晨的大芝加哥區已是一片淡妝的銀色世界，此時的美東大城正飽受十年罕見大風雪之苦。芝加哥華藏淨宗圖書館於風雪中蒙佛力加持，圓滿完成 2009 年終念佛共修法會。

同修們心懷踴躍，不畏風雪，有攜家帶眷，有三代同堂，有呼朋喚友，更有久違遠郊同修大家同來共聚一堂。雖各來自不同國家說不同語言（國語、廣東話、福建話、美國話、越南話等），雖各有所願，各有所許，但大家共持精進念佛之心來參加此盛會。

同修們隨著維那與悅眾莊嚴和諧的樂音中頌經唸咒唱偈讚佛，一聲聲攝心的地鐘聲入盤膝而坐的念佛人耳根使令一片片清淨心油然而生讓人法喜充滿。莫怪採訪記者詢問師姐云何眾人念完第一柱香後臉上示現明亮光彩之色，是茹素之故？實因勤心莫退念佛力故——相隨心改。

十二月二十日午齋之後是例行佛堂週日午間學佛講座。因適法會林館長特先講解食存五觀，而後續講演此期定課——佛說無量壽經，座中並分別解答同修疑惑與問題。每一講座譚副館長為美語同修提供現場即時翻譯。將近四年來林館長不辭辛勞，已講授基礎佛學概念、觀世音菩薩普門品等。此初聽講座的同修們亦感深入經藏智慧如海受益非淺。

感謝館長、副館長、文宣、書目、總務、悅眾，與鼎力相助師兄姐佈置會場，供花、供果、供齋，使令此法會殊勝圓滿。

On December the morning of 19th, 2009, the Chicago area was glistened in a white cover of snow. At this moment, the east coast was suffering from the most severe winter storm in a decade. With the blessing of the power from Amitabha Buddha, Amitabha Buddhist Library in Chicago successfully concluded the 2009 year-end two-day retreat.

Participants braced the winter storm and enthusiastically showed up in numbers. Some brought along family members, some came with whole family of 3 generations, some brought along friends, and some were non-local Dharma friends. Though they all came from different countries and spoke different languages (e.g. Mandarin, Cantonese, Fukienese, and Vietnamese), with different expectations, they all participated in this retreat, devoting in their heart paying tribute for Buddha by reciting the sutra.

Participants followed Dharma chanting solemnly and harmonically and recited the sutra to praise the Buddha, the pounding sound of ground bell purifying and calming the mind and letting people feel the gratitude of Buddhism. After the 1st Incense, one of the reporters asked why everyone's face looked so bright and glorious. Was it because of a vegetarian diet? This was truly because the whole heart was devoted to praying for the Buddha.

The regularly scheduled Sunday Buddhism seminar was held after a vegetarian lunch on December 20th. For this occasion, Director Lin first explained "Five Contemplations Before A Meal", then continued on the scheduled course "Aparimitayur Sutra – Infinite Life Sutra". She also answered questions from the audience, and Co-Director Tan provided on-site Chinese to English translation to American Dharma friends. Director Lin has been teaching about four years from Buddhism fundamental concepts, the "Chapter of the Practice and Vows Samantabhadra Bodhisattva", and to "Aparimitayur Sutra – Infinite Life Sutra". Even those first-time listeners also appreciated the profound knowledge from this seminar.

Thanks to the Director, Co-Director, publication, book cataloging, general mattering, and all volunteers for help with organizing the retreat.

They say the essence of Buddhism is to do only good, do no evil and to purify one's mind. But good and evil only appear on the lesser of the two levels of truth, or the conventional level of phenomenon, where we all know water is wet and fire is hot. On the level of ultimate truth, we cannot harbor any such dualistic notions as good or evil, wet or dry, hot or cold. But to obtain this level of cultivation we must purify the mind, because everything comes from the mind.

Most people think Buddhism is a religion, but to me it is not. To me Buddhism is the most comprehensive explanation of the true nature of mind this planet has ever seen. To me Buddhism teaches one not to have blind faith, but to act and think of oneself. We should apply the methods that were taught by Lord Buddha in our everyday life, and we should treat these methods as scientific experiments, and if these methods prove to be beneficial then retain them, but if they prove to be detrimental, then discard them as worthless, and move onto something that proves to be of benefit to you, as well as those around you.

To me Buddhism is a complex set of guidelines that has the potential to guide anyone, at any level to the highest level of attainment possible, and that attainment is Buddhahood. Once at this level you completely understand the true nature of mind, and see all things as they truly are.

To me, Buddhism is to see what we already are, and what we have always been. To me Buddhism is to not fear sickness, old age, and death.

To me Buddhism is to accept the truth that all things are impermanent, and decay is inherent in all component things.

To me Buddhism is not jumping into another culture, donning a yellow robe, sitting endless hours in silent meditation, or chanting thousands of sacred mantras, while, all the while, you do not harbor even the least amount of compassion in your heart for all sentient beings.

To me Buddhism is: we should apply all of our effort, and always be mindful to never bring any harm to ourselves, but what is even more important, we should try even harder to never bring any harm to any living being.

Sourced: Inside Dharma, Vol. No. 7, Issue 5, Sep.-Oct. 2009

[作者簡介 About the author]

I am a 52 year old white male, and I am also someone who feels he has wasted the majority of his life by using bad judgment, or what I now realize as not having been mindful. But these things changed about 5 years ago when I was fortunate enough to have been introduced to the Buddhadharma. My friend Mr. Lee, who is from Taiwan, introduced me to Pure Land Buddhism at that time. It was through the teachings of Master Dixian and his slow monk, by reading the account of the Monks Rebirth in the highest level of Lord Buddha Amitufo's Western Pure Land, that uncovered my Pure Land roots. I have been practicing Pure Land Buddhism ever since and will continue to do so the rest of this life. And by being fortunate to have the Venerable Wuling and Mr. Bert Tan as spiritual guides and advisors, I feel very confident that I will achieve my goal of rebirth in The Western Pure Land.