



# 淨土

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### 印光大師法語 — 論因果事理

#### Quote from Great Master Yin Guang — Notes on Cause and Effect

因果者，世出世間聖人，平治天下，度脫眾生之大權也。

若無因果，則善無以勸，惡無以懲，遑論明明德以止至善，斷煩惱以證菩提乎！

由其知有因果也，則必趨吉避兇，改過遷善，閑邪存誠，克己復禮，

冀入聖賢之域，期登極樂之邦。

上焉者安而行之，中焉者利而行之，下焉者勉強而行之，

同得格物欲以顯良知，出迷途以登覺岸。

現在世界之劫運，吾人所受種種災難，皆是過去惡業所招，以致感受現在苦果。

故知此惡業者，即過去之惡因所造成也。欲免苦果，須去苦因。

過去已種之苦因，念佛懺悔，乃能消去。現在如不再造苦因，將來即能免受苦果。

何謂苦因？貪瞋癡三毒是；何謂善因？濟物利人是。

若人人明達因果之理，則諸惡莫作，眾善奉行，災害自無從起。

唯今人不明因果之理，私欲填胸，無惡不作，祇知有己，不知有人；

詎知利人即是利己，害人甚於害己。

Cause and effect is the best method used by all sages, lay and monastic, to help people liberate themselves from sufferings and attain enlightened.

If there was no cause and effect, then it would be difficult to advocate that one practice good deeds, and there would be no penalty for those who commit to misdeeds. It would be far from saying that one can understand one's ultimate morality and attain the best merit, and that one can eradicate one's afflictions and attain the Bodhi.

Because one knows that cause and effect does exist, one will endeavor to move toward good fortune and avoid misfortune, correct wrongdoings and return to goodness, stop evil thoughts and nurture sincerity, refrain from desire and adhere to discipline. Then, one will be able to attain the sage's level and be reborn in Ultimate Bliss.

Those with sharp faculties will practice good deeds naturally, those with average level faculties will practice good deeds to receive the benefits from practicing them, and those with the lowest faculties will reluctantly practice good deeds.

In the end, they all will be successful in refraining from their desires and in giving rise to their consciousness. They will be able to break through delusion and attain enlightenment.

The world's misfortunes and many disasters we are experiencing today are all retributions from our past bad karmas. Now we are receiving the bitter results. We know these bitter results are rooted by the bad causes in the past. To avoid the resultant suffering, we must eliminate their causes.

The causes for suffering that were planted in the past can be eliminated by sincerely repenting them and chanting Amitabha Buddha's name. If we do not seed any more causes for suffering, we can avoid receiving their results in the future.

What are the causes of suffering? They are greed, anger, and ignorance—the three poisons. What are the good causes? They are offerings of all kinds for the benefit of others.

If everyone truly understands cause and effect, then everyone will endeavor to refrain from evil and practice goodness. Naturally, tragedies will not arise. Unfortunately, people today do not understand cause and effect. Immersed in selfishness and desire, they commit to much evil. They think only of themselves, not of others. They do not know that benefiting others is benefiting themselves, and that harming others is worse than harming themselves.

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## 新聞報導 — 修習六和敬大會

### News Report – The Conference on Practicing Six Harmonies in Hong Kong

● 本館編輯室 (Editor's Room)

應香港佛陀教育協會之邀請，本館林館長及譚副館長於七月二十四日及二十五日前往香港，參加了由淨空老法師親自主持之修習六和敬大會。

主辦單位香港佛陀教育協會在 修學六和敬大綱 中，敘明大會緣起如下：

『經云，凡有一處六和敬僧團出現於世，必得諸佛護念，龍天善神擁護，自然能福蔭一方，化解災難。今世社會動亂，災難頻生，苦不堪言。欲求挽救劫難，故本會竭力呼籲仁人志士，發奮振作，修六和敬，自救救世，自他二利，功德無量。』

六和敬包括六條綱要：見和同解、戒和同修、身和同住、口和無諍、意和同悅、利和同均。這六條是所有僧團與學佛團體都應遵奉、實行的團體生活規章，原與淨業三福、戒定慧三學，及普賢十大願王同為淨業學人之必修功課。只是，時值末世，各地學人雖知六和敬之重要，但因各自煩惱習氣，未必都能將六和敬真切落實於日常生活之中。

此次大會即是淨空老法師見世間災難層出不窮，且日益加劇，基於慈悲心，深切希望經由修習六和敬，能有真正的和合僧團



林館長接過淨空老法師頒發的六和敬祈願文。Director Lin received the prayer for Six Harmonies from Master Venerable Chin Kung.

出現於世，並藉和合僧團的福德，能夠蔽蔭一方，幫助化解及減輕世間災難。

林館長及譚副館長此次應邀參加修習六和敬大會，除了將大會訊息帶回給道場同修，勸導大眾一起修習六和敬，同時，也將負責把修習教材譯成英文，讓外國同修也有機緣一起學習。



林館長、譚副館長與淨空老法師合影。Director Lin and co-director Tan pictured with Master Venerable Chin Kung.

目前本館義工已著手將《感應篇》《弟子規》《十善業道》三種功過格譯成英文，完成之後，將放上網站，讓世界各地外國同修可以開始一起修習。

Invited by the Hong Kong Buddhist Education Foundation Ltd., Director Lin and co-director Tan participated in the Conference on Practicing Six Harmonies in Hong Kong on July 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The conference was hosted by Master Venerable Chin Kung himself.

*The Outline of Practicing the Six Principles of Living Harmoniously*, which was distributed by the Hong Kong

Buddhist Education Foundation Ltd., the sponsoring organization, described the background for calling this conference:

“It is said in the sutras that wherever and whenever a Sangha appears and abides by the Six Principles of Living Harmoniously (the Six Harmonies), this group will be protected by all the Buddhas and supported by all the devas. The good fortune that the Sangha brings will naturally shield the surrounding area from disasters, lessening and dissolving them. Today, chaos is everywhere, tragedies occur frequently, and sufferings are beyond description. To help save the world from more disasters, our organization advocates that those who share the same views take the initiative to practice diligently and accomplish the Six Harmonies to benefit themselves and others, and to save themselves and the world. The individuals who do this will accumulate immeasurable good deeds and merits.”

The Six Harmonies outline the six principles of living harmoniously: (1) harmony in having the same viewpoints, (2) harmony in observing the same precepts, (3) harmony in living together, (4) harmony in speaking without conflict, (5) harmony in experiencing Dharma Bliss, and (6) harmony in sharing benefits. These are the rules for group living that should be followed by all Sangha and Buddhist groups. The Six Harmonies, together with the Three Virtuous Deeds; the Three Curriculums: Precepts, Dhyana, and Prajna; and the Samantabhadra's Ten Great Vows, are the core courses for all Pure Land School practitioners. It is now the Dharma Ending era, and although every practitioner may be aware of the importance of the Six Harmonies, not everyone can actually realize them in daily lives due to their severe afflictions.

Master Venerable Chin Kung called this conference because he saw disasters in our world happening more frequently and severely. He compassionately and sincerely hopes that through the promotion of the practice of the Six Harmonies, a Sangha that truly follows the Six Harmonies might appear in the world. The good fortune of this Sangha will help shield areas from disasters, lessening and dissolving them.

Director Lin and co-director Tan brought the messages from the conference back to the library's friends and advocated that the group begins to practice the Six Harmonies together. In addition, they



will undertake the responsibility to translate the conference materials into English and make them publicly available to allow the opportunity for the Western friends to join the practice, too.

The volunteers of the library have begun to translate into English the daily checklists based on the teachings in *Accounts of Request and Response*, *Guidelines for Being a Good Person (Di Zi Gui)*, and the *Ten Virtuous Karmas Sutra (Dasabhadra Karmamanga Sutra)*. When the translations are completed, they will be published on the library's website for everyone to access and begin to practice.

## 新聞報導 — 本館法會圓滿結束

### **News Report – The Three-day Retreat Ended Successfully**

● 本館編輯室 (Editor's Room)

本館於八月六日、七日及八日一連三天舉辦的學佛座談、念佛共修及「三時繫念」佛事法會，在多位法師與眾多義工、同修同心支持下，已圓滿結束。

此次法會目的一如以往，是為世界各地之受難亡靈祈福追薦，回向眾生消災免難、同霑法益。法會除了邀請到 悟行法師、悟琳法師、諦恆法師、照續法師、如智法師、常樂法師、持行法師、真學法師前來主持之外，同時邀得芝加哥光明寺住持 釋明行法師率領眾多越南同修，及威斯康辛卅 古明法師帶領數名弟子前來協助，共有十位法師全程參與盛會。本館及大芝加哥區學佛同修都非常感激這麼多位法師慈悲光臨，主持法會。

同時，此次法會參與者除本地同修之外，尚有來自休士頓、華盛頓 D.C.、亞特蘭大、印地安那、威斯康辛、拉斯維加斯，及中國北京等地的同修踴躍前來護持、莊嚴道場，佛友們的至誠心意由此可見。

八月六日及七日舉辦的學佛座談及念佛共修在館內舉行。學佛座談與會者近八十人，首先由中文班「兒童弟子規」小朋友們背誦弟子規，兩年的學習小朋友們背得琅琅上口；接著，英文班小朋友們表



八月七日念佛法會場內。  
On August 7, inside the Chanting Room.

演手語，還有少林拳、古箏等精彩節目。表演



八月六日兒童學經班結業典禮。The graduation of the two Children's Buddhism Classes on August 6.

結束後，由林館長頒發弟子規結業證書以資勉勵。接著

是學佛問答，同修們把握請益的機會，由悟行法師及多位法師以深入淺出的方式一一作答，給同修們一個難得的受教好機會。

七日舉辦的念佛共修，與會者共一百二十餘人，把道場擠得水泄不通。共修時大家穿著海青，莊嚴肅穆的一起念佛、拜佛、繞佛及靜坐。坐著念佛時，隨著悟行法師熟練脆響的地鐘

聲，把佛堂念佛的氣氛帶入莊嚴感人的境界。悟行法師在開示中提示大家學「淨宗法門」要秉持「一門深入」的意志並且要有老實念佛的學佛理念，同時他也告訴大家，淨空老和尚極力推廣六和敬。本館林館長和譚副館長曾於七月底赴香港參加淨空老和尚主持的六和敬會議，並將負責六和敬教材的英文翻譯工作，以利推廣、普益眾生。



八月七日念佛法會場外。

On August 7, outside the Chanting Room.

「三時繫念」佛事法會是淨空老和尚近年來慈悲倡導的超薦法會。法事以灑淨開始，儀規甚多，但以誦阿彌陀經、念佛，及勸導亡靈念佛、發願往生為主。此次法會之維那及大多數悅眾均由法師擔任，他們熟練的唱頌與法器聲融合，特別感人肺腑，與會大眾都感動不已。

八月九日本館招待法師和遠來同修觀賞芝城景點，來賓們放鬆心懷，一路笑聲不斷；晚間並舉行餐會，與法師及各地同修話別。在與會者個個充滿法喜、平安、感恩的心境下，圓滿結束此次法會。

The library sponsored and held a three-day retreat on August 6, 7, and 8. It included dialogues with venerables on learning Buddhism, Buddha-name chanting, and the Thrice Yearning Ceremony. The retreat ended perfectly with the support from many venerables, volunteers, and Dharma friends.



八月八日三時繫念法會現場(一)。

On August 8, in the Thrice Yearning Ceremony (1).

The purpose of this retreat, like the ones in the past, was to pray for the victims of the recent disasters in the world and dedicate the merit to the survivors and all beings, hoping that we can all be free from disasters in the future. We invited many venerables to host the retreat: Venerables Wu Shin, Wu Ling, Di Heng, Zhao Xu, Ju Chi, Chan Le, Chi Xing, and Zhen Xue. We also invited the Abbott of



八月八日三時繫念法會現場(二)。

On August 8, in the Thrice Yearning Ceremony (2).

Quang Minh Temple in Chicago, Venerable Minh Hanh who led many Vietnamese friends to the retreat, and Venerable Guming from Wisconsin who led several followers to retreat. Altogether, we had more than ten venerables in this retreat. The library and all Dharma friends in the Chicago area felt very thankful to them for their compassionate support.

There were also participants from Houston, Washington D.C., Atlanta, Indiana, Wisconsin, Las Vegas, and Beijing China for this event. We can easily see their sincere support of this retreat.

The programs on August 6 and 7 were held inside the library; they are dialogues with venerables on learning Buddhism and the Buddha-name Chanting respectively. The dialogue session attracted



about about eighty participants. It started with the graduation of the two Children's Buddhism Classes, one in Chinese and the other in English. First, the children of the Chinese class recited fluently the text of *Guidelines for Being a Good Person*, followed by the sign language performance performed by the children of the English class. In addition, there were performances of Martial-art and Chinese musical instruments by the children. After the performance, Director Lin handed out the diplomas to each of the children. Immediately after, a question-and-answer dialogues with the venerables took place. Participants took this good opportunity to ask their questions and the venerables answered them clearly.

On August 7, there were more than 120 participants in the Buddha-name chanting; filling all available space. Everyone put on their haiqings and together they chanted, prostrated to the Buddha, and did walking meditation and sitting meditation. When in sitting meditation, the clear, crisp, and rhythmic sound of the ground bell played by Venerable Wu Shin created a beautifully serious and moving atmosphere. Venerable Wu Shin reminded everyone that those practicing the Pure Land method must keep up the principle of being focused and must genuinely chant Amitabha Buddha's name. He also told us that Master Venerable Chin Kung strongly advocated practicing the Six Principles of Living Harmoniously. Director Lin and co-director Tan actually went to Hong Kong in late July for the Conference on Six Harmonies called by Master Venerable Chin Kung. They will translate the conference materials into English and make them generally available to benefit more people.



申處長與夫人及林館長與眾法師合影。Director General Mr. Shen and Mrs. Shen pictured with Director Lin and many venerables.

On August 8, the library leased the Lincoln Junior High School Gym to hold the Thrice Yearning Ceremony. We setup the altars of Buddha Amitabha, Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara, and Bodhisattva Ksitigarbha in the very spatial gym. Approximately 150 attendees were in the ceremony. Mr. & Mrs. Pei-hwang Shen, the Director General of Taipei Economic and Culture Office in Chicago, also participated in this ceremony.

In recent years, Venerable Master Chin Kung has been compassionately advocating the Thrice Yearning Ceremony to benefit the deceased. The ceremony starts with the purification ceremony. Although the Thrice Yearning Ceremony has many detailed rules and movements, the focus is on reciting the *Amitabha Sutra*, chanting Amitabha Buddha's name, and urging the deceased to chant and vow to be reborn in the Pure Land. In the retreat, the ceremony master and the majority of the instrument team members were undertaken by the venerables. Their proficient singings melded with the sounds from the instruments deeply moved the participants.

On August 9, the library chartered a bus to tour a few highlights in Chicago. All the guests were relaxed and laughter was heard throughout the trip. In the evening came the farewell dinner and everybody said good-bye to each other. The retreat concluded with joy, peace, and gratitude in every participant's mind.

### 新聞報導 – Lewis大學暑期班之學生來訪 News Report – Student Group Visit

● 編輯室 (Editor's Room)

七月十一日，在伊利諾州 Lewis 大學所舉辦暑期班就讀的高中學生二十七人，由該校教授 Dr. Getty 帶領，前來本館參訪，並參加佛堂共修早課。不過，遺憾的是，由於道場場地的限制，只有少數學生能夠進入佛堂，真正參加共修，其他二十餘位學生只能站在佛堂門口觀看。



圖書館義工與參訪學生合影。Library volunteers pictured with the visiting student group.

participated in the Sunday morning practice. Regrettably, due to the space limitation, only a few of them could actually enter the chanting room and join the practice. The remaining students could only stand at the door of the chanting room to observe.

After the practice, the library treated the guests with a vegetarian lunch. After the lunch, co-director, Bert Tan, held a short session to introduce to them the basics of Buddhism. Based on the reflections, the majority of the students felt that they benefited from this visit for they had a much clearer understanding of Buddhism. We invite you to read the two articles from the students as they reflected on their visit. You can find the articles at the end of the newsletter.

共修結束後，本館招待他們全體一起享用素齋，午餐之並後由譚副館長為他們上了一堂精簡的基礎佛學介紹課程。課後根據學生反應，大部份的學生都覺得此行讓他們對佛教有了比較清楚的認識，詳情請參考後附兩封讀者投書。

On July 11, a group of twenty seven high school students from the summer school of Lewis University led by their professor, Dr. Getty, visited the library and



譚副館長為來賓介紹基礎佛學。Co-director Tan held a short session on Introduction to Buddhism for the guests.

### **『兒童學經班』及『幼兒中文學經班』開始接受報名**

### **Registration Begins for the Buddhism Class for Children and the Chinese Language and Culture Class for Parents and Children**

● 編輯室 (Editor's Room)

廣受歡迎的『兒童學經班』及『幼兒中文學經班』已開始接受報名。兩班課程均為三個學期，學員報名人數各達六人或六人以上，即可開班。依據報名人數，兩班均計劃於九月中旬或明年一月中旬開始上課。

『兒童學經班』由翁慧娟老師負責指導，以中文教學，學員為五歲至十一歲之間的小朋友，於每隔週之星期六下午四點上課，每堂課九十分鐘。其中，五歲至六歲之學員最初兩堂課需由一名家長陪伴上課，六歲以上之小朋友則可以自行上課。

『幼兒中文學經班』由張馨方及李萍老師負責教學，以英語教學，學員為三歲至五歲之兒童。學童必需由一名家長陪伴上課。上課時間為每隔週之星期日下午兩點，每堂課五十分鐘。

以上兒童班及幼兒班完全免費，本館並供應教材及茶水。歡迎家中有學齡兒童及幼兒之家長利用以下網站踴躍報名。

- 兒童學經班：<http://www.amitabhalibrary.org/Classes/Buddhism001.doc>
- 幼兒中文學經班：<http://www.amitabhalibrary.org/Classes/Buddhism002.doc>

The well-received “Children’s Buddhism Class” and “Bilingual Chinese Culture and Language Class” will once again begin registration. Both classes are three semesters long. Each class will be held when the minimum registration of six children is reached. Depending on the registration, it is planned that both classes will begin either in mid-September or in mid-January, 2011.

The “Children’s Buddhism Class” is taught in Chinese by Ms. Weng. The class is for children aged five to eleven. Children aged six and under must be accompanied by a parent in the classroom. Children above age six can attend the class without their parents. The ninety-minute class will meet at four PM on every other Saturday.

The “Chinese Culture and Language Class” is taught in English by Ms. Stephanie Shinfan Chang and Ms. Ping Li. The class is for children aged three to five. Children must be accompanied by a parent in the classroom. The fifty-minute classes will meet at two PM on every other Sunday.

There is no charge for the above classes, and all materials and supplies will be provided by the library. We welcome all parents who have children in the above age groups to enroll their children at the following websites:

- Buddhism Class for Children: <http://www.amitabhalibrary.org/Classes/Buddhism001.doc>
- Chinese Language and Culture Class for Parents and Children:  
<http://www.amitabhalibrary.org/Classes/Buddhism001.doc>

### 讀者投書 From Readers—Reflection on Buddhist Library Visit (1)

● **Chad Hietschold**

The Buddhist Library that we visited today was interesting and eye opening. I never knew how a traditional Buddhist ceremony was conducted before today. I found it to be interesting and much different from my traditional Catholic upbringing. Although the Buddhist ceremony was not what I expected I can truly say that I enjoyed it, and learned a lot in a few hours. I enjoyed the singing, it was very relaxing and unlike anything I have ever done before. Overall, I have to say that this was a positive experience. For example, before entering the library I thought that Buddhism was a religion. Buddhism is an education in which you are allowed to challenge your teacher as long as you keep a clear mind. I think that was the main message, Buddhism involves an immense amount of practice and effort but if you succeed you will live a sin free life.

They also made us traditional home cooked Chinese meals that were absolutely delicious. I enjoyed the food and the atmosphere in the Buddhist library. Everyone that I ran into when I was there was smiling from ear to ear and very helpful and understanding. I sat down and talked with some of the people that went through the ceremony with me and got to know them and they were all very kind-hearted and made me feel welcomed. I think that the Buddhist library was a great idea because it was fun and opened my eyes to a different culture that I would have never experienced if I wouldn't have taken this class. There is no doubt in my mind that I would go back and sit through another session if offered the opportunity, the people are so welcoming and friendly.

*Chad Hietschold is one of the students who visited the library on July 11.*



My experience at the Buddhist library was absolutely amazing. It was amazing because we were invited to participate in the service. We also learned what Buddhism really is and what it teaches. I initially thought that Buddhism was a religion; it was until we went to the Buddhist Library that I found out that Buddhism is a teaching and not a religion; and the people that practice Buddhism and participate in the service are called students. We learned that most people make this assumption because of how Buddhism is practiced. However, Buddhism really teaches us how to live a good, healthy, and happy life. Buddha taught us to give and not to take, to respect our parents, not to lie, envy others, and much more; almost similar to what Christianity teaches, and there are some Christians who practice Buddhism as well.

I enjoyed the Buddhist library because I was able to experience what their service is like. We were taught many things about Buddhism. The temple representatives provided our group free books that would help us learn more about Buddhism. My experience made me look at Buddhism in a different way and to become more open to it. Even though the practice of Buddhism is a little different from other teachings in other religions, it is actually similar to some. It is similar to the Catholic and Christian church because in the beginning of the service, the students pray for individuals who have recently died, just like how the Catholic Church asks its followers to pray for people they mention during their services, who are sick or have just died. However, the Buddhist service was different because unlike the Catholic Church, during the Buddhist service the students sing and meditate throughout the entire service; because at the service it is your time to let your mind be free from your troubles, be at peace, and free from unhappiness. People shouldn't shun Buddhism because it is different, they should be more open to it so they can experience new things and they might be happily surprised, like it was for me.

I also like how most of the books at the temple were free, because Buddha taught us to give and not to take; this also lets you know that you are free to read any book you like to learn more about as in Buddhism. This approach made me feel more accepted into learning about Buddhist teachings. Also, the lunch we had after the service was really delicious. I was able to experience different Chinese dishes that I hadn't tried before. I'm really happy that I was accepted into the Startalk Program otherwise I may not have been able to experience the Buddhist teachings.

*Maimuna Venzant is one of the students who visited the library on July 11.*