



淨土

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蕩益大師法語
Quote from Patriarch Ouyi

(接上一期)

隨功力之淺深，以分九品、四土，纖毫不濫。只須自己簡察，不必旁問他人。

謂：深信切願念佛，而念佛時，心多散亂者，即是下品下生。

深信切願念佛，而念佛時，散亂漸少者，即是下品中生。

深信切願念佛，而念佛時，便不散亂者，即是下品上生。

念到事一心不亂，不起貪瞋痴者，即是中三品生。

念到事一心不亂，任運先斷見思、塵沙，亦能伏斷無明者，即是上三品生。

故信願持名念佛，能歷九品，的確不謬也。

又，信願持名，消伏業障，帶惑往生者，即是凡聖同居淨土；

信願持名，見思斷盡而往生者，即是方便有餘淨土；

信願持名，豁破一分無明而往生者，即是實報莊嚴淨土；

信願持名，持到究竟之處，無明斷盡而往生者，即是常寂光淨土。

故持名能淨四土，亦的確不謬也。

(Continued from the last newsletter issue.)

Depending on our chanting efforts, we will be reborn in one of the nine grades [of the three classes] in one of the Four Lands of the Western Pure Land. We need to reflect on our effort. There is no need to consult with others to tell the grade and land we will be reborn into. That is,

By chanting the Buddha's name with deep faith and an earnest vow, yet with a scattered mind, we will be reborn in the lower grade of the lower class.

By chanting the Buddha's name with deep faith and an earnest vow and with a diminishing scattered mind, we will be reborn in the middle grade of the lower class.

By chanting the Buddha's name with deep faith and an earnest vow and with a concentrated mind, we will be reborn in the upper grade of the lower class.

By chanting with one mind undisturbed, and without being impacted by any greed, anger, and ignorance, we will be reborn in one of the middle three grades.

By chanting with one mind undisturbed, eradicating the afflictions from thoughts and external stimuli, and overcoming the afflictions from ignorance, we will be reborn in the upper three grades.

Therefore, faithful Buddha-name chanting with a sincere vow will enable us to be reborn in [one of] the nine grades.

Furthermore, if we faithfully chant with an earnest vow and overcome karmic obstructions, but still with delusion, we will be reborn in the Land Where Saints and Ordinary Beings Dwell Together;
If we faithfully chant with an earnest vow and eradicate the afflictions that arise from deluded thoughts, we will be reborn in the Land of Expedient Liberation;
If we faithfully chant with an earnest vow and are able to eradicate some levels of delusion, we will be reborn in the Land of Real Reward;
If we faithfully chant with an earnest vow and uphold the practice all the way to perfection such that all delusion is eradicated, we will be reborn in the Land of Eternally Quiescent Light.
Therefore, upholding Buddha-name chanting will enable us to attain rebirth in one of the Four Lands.

發行人的話 — 六週年館慶

Publisher's Notes — the Sixth Anniversary Celebration

• 林麗淑 Li-Su L. Tan

圖書館六週年館慶已在一日念佛法會中祥和渡過。圖書館成立六年，館務一切按部就班；不求大開大闢，只盼望在老實修行之同時，能有些許餘力，為接引初機及流通法寶、勸人念佛略盡棉薄。



副館長在課堂上報告，只要有二、三位受刑人肯求受皈依，我願發心，安排出家法師通過身家調查，隨副館長前去獄中傳授皈依。這些受刑人長期繫獄，他們若希求今生有緣出去拜訪法師、求受皈依，實大不易；而我們這些看似自由之人，雖不在牢籠，但流轉輪迴，為世情所繫，若不求出離，又何曾、何能有真正自由？

除了持續進行之法寶及佛菩薩聖像流通、週日共修與午間學佛講座之外，本館之兒童學經班及幼兒中文唱遊讀經班成績亦佳，頗受家長歡迎。同時，今年開始對監獄受刑人提供之基礎佛學講座也漸入正軌，成為本館固定服務項目之一。

前幾次副館長前去監獄講解『三皈傳授』時，我為鼓勵受刑人皈依三寶，請



於日常館務之外，我於今年三、四月間，再度應邀出席『世界佛教論壇』大會。除了代表圖書館發表工作報告論文，此行最大收穫，是於會中、會後有緣親近了好幾位佛門耆宿長老。

古德云：『言教不如身教』。大會短短數日之中，我有幸先後與淨海老法師、真華老法師及明哲老法師等幾位長老大德同席，深深感受到修行人言談中自然散發之慈悲氛圍，也體會到住持僧寶之可貴。大會之後，我隨淨空老和尚前去台南，聆聽了兩場開示。老和尚身安體健、精神抖擻，更是念佛人的楷模。

人生苦短、人世多難，何不向這些自在安然、長壽康健之長老耆宿學習、好自修行？阿彌陀佛！



淨空老法師於台南講開示，精神抖擻 (4/2/2009)
Ven. Master Chin Kung energetically lectured in Tainan.

The library's sixth anniversary celebration effortlessly ended after a one-day chanting retreat. The library has now been open for six years and all its operations have been in order. We have not had ambitious goals. We just earnestly practice on our own. Our remaining energy is dedicated to offering opportunities for newcomers to learn Buddhism, and to circulating the Dharma materials.

Besides this ongoing circulation of Dharma materials as well as Buddha and Bodhisattva statues, the Sunday chanting practice and lunch-time Dharma lectures, the Buddhism Class for Children and the Chinese Culture Class for Children have all been welcomed by the parents. This year, we began to offer the Introduction to Buddhism class to inmates and the class has become a regular offering of the library.

In the last a few visits to the Stateville Correctional Center, Bert taught "Taking the Three Refuges" to the inmates. To encourage the inmates to return to and rely on the triple jewels, I asked Bert to announce that if there were two or three inmates who would like to formally take the refuges, I would arrange for venerable, after going through the security clearance, to visit the correctional center with Bert and conduct the ceremony. Having lost their freedom, the inmates will find it very difficult to have the opportunity to visit a venerable and request that they take the three refuges. Reflecting on ourselves, while we appear to be free, we too are severely bound by worldly affairs and keep reborn in samsara. If we do not seek to transcend it, when have we had or will be able to have true freedom?

Beyond my regular duties at the library, I had the good fortune to be invited a second time to participate in the "World Buddhism Forum" in China this March. I represented the library and published an article for our working report. The most fruitful experience, though, was that I had the opportunity to become acquainted with some senior Buddhist masters.



林館長與真華老法師 (前左，福嚴佛學院前院長) 及明哲老法師 (前右，青島湛山寺方丈) 兩位長老合影 (4/1/2009)

Director Lin pictured with Ven. Master Zhen-hua, front-left, and Ven. Master Min-zhe, front-right.

The ancient sages said: "Teaching verbally is not as good as teaching by self demonstration." During the Forum days, I had the good fortune to eat at the same table as Venerable Chin-hai, Venerable Zhen-hua and Venerable Min-zhe. I deeply felt the compassionate aura emitting from their conversation and realized and recognized the precious value of the Sangha. After the Forum, I went to Tainan to meet with Venerable Master Chin Kung and listened to his two lectures. He is still very healthy and energetic, and truly is our role model.



無錫靈山梵宮之壁畫：法華經示意图 - 釋迦牟尼佛與多寶佛。The wall painting depicting the Lotus gathering where the pagoda of the Many Treasure Buddha manifested by the Buddha Sakyamuni

We are concerned with shortness of our lifespan and with the sufferings in our world. Why don't we learn from these worry-free older senior masters, and diligently practice?

Amitufo!

幫助受刑人(三)

Dharma Teaching for Inmates (3)

• [本館編輯室 \(Editor's Room\)](#)

在前幾期的雙月刊中，曾經報導譚副館長為伊利諾州警衛最森嚴的監獄之一的Stateville Correctional Center 監獄受刑人提供基礎學佛課程，並考慮演進成定期的課程。譚副館長終於于本月份(五月) 通過伊利諾州典獄部最後一道的身家安全調查，正式成為義務宗教工作人員，將每隔週為受刑人上一次課。

As we previously reported, Bert Tan has been visiting the Stateville Correctional Center, one of the maximum security facilities in Illinois. He is offering basic Buddhism classes to the inmates. The class has naturally evolved into a regular program. Bert finally obtained the security clearance by the IL Department of Corrections this month (May) and is now a regular volunteer chaplain. The classes will meet once every other week.

(Continue on next page)

蓮花廚房 *The Lotus Kitchen*
黑森林櫻桃蛋糕 *Black Forest Cake*

Provided by **Lotus Tan**



Happy Birthday, Library!!

[第一步 The First Step]

預熱烤箱至 345°F。將三個八吋烤盤底部用植物油抹勻。將麵粉(兩種)、可可粉、蘇打粉及鹽混合均勻備用。將植物油及糖混合打至鬆軟，加入蛋及香草精繼續打至均勻。同時將以上所準備的乾料與牛奶酌量輪流陸續加入，直至全部混合均勻為止。將混合均勻的材料倒入三個八吋烤盤，置於烤箱中烘烤40分鐘，取出冷卻。

材料 (Materials)			
高筋麵粉	一杯	AP flour	1 cup
蛋糕麵粉	三分之二杯	Cake flour	2/3 cups
未加過糖的可可粉	三分之一杯	Cocoa powder (unsweetened)	1/3 cups
蘇打粉	一茶匙	Baking soda	1 tsp
鹽	二茶匙	Salt	2 tsps
植物油	四分之一杯	Shortening	¼ cup
白糖	一杯	White sugar	1 cup
蛋	兩個	Eggs	2 pieces
香草精	一茶匙	Vanilla extract	1 tsp
牛奶	一杯半	Milk	1 ½ cups

1. Preheat oven to 345°F. Grease the bottoms of three 8-inch round pans.
2. In a medium mixing bowl, sift together flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, and salt. Set aside.
3. In a large mixing bowl, cream shortening and sugar until light and fluffy; beat in eggs and vanilla.
4. Beat in the dry ingredients (from 2 above), alternating with the milk, until combined.
5. Split batter evenly into the three prepared pans.
6. Bake at 345°F for 40 minutes on the center rack of your oven, set aside to cool completely.

(Continue on next page)

[第二步 The Second Step]

材料 (Materials)			
櫻桃汁	二分之一杯	Cherry juice	½ cup
奶油 (室溫)	二分之一杯	Butter (room temperature)	½ cup
粉糖	三杯半	Powdered sugar	3 ½ cups
鹽	少許	Salt	1 pinch
去核櫻桃 (瀝乾)	一罐半	Pitted Bing cherries (drained)	1 ½ cans

將櫻桃汁淋灑至三個已冷卻的蛋糕層上，放置一旁，令之入味。

將奶油打至鬆軟，加入粉糖及鹽，繼續打至均勻。

將櫻桃瀝乾，與以上之混合材料拌勻。若以上之混合材料太稀，可增加粉糖。

將以上與櫻桃混合好的材料，平均分配於三個蛋糕層上，並將三層重疊。

1. Drizzle the cherry juice onto each layer of cake. Set aside to let the flavor set in.
2. In a medium mixing bowl, cream the butter until light and fluffy; add the powdered sugar and salt; beat until smooth.
3. Pat the cherries between 2 sheets of paper towel, then add to the mixture. Beat on low until incorporated. (If the mixture is too thin, add a few spoonfuls of powdered sugar.)
4. Spread first layer of cake with 1/3 of this mixture. Stack another layer on top of this. Repeat spreading with the remaining layers.

[第三步 The Third Step]

將巧克力顆粒置於可耐高溫的碗中備用。將濃奶精置於鍋中攪拌以低溫加熱直到滾沸，然後倒入置巧克力顆粒的碗中，攪拌使巧克力顆粒融化與濃奶精混合均勻，冷卻使之稍微凝結。用攪拌器打至呈淺咖啡色，然後將之塗抹於三層蛋糕的外緣牆壁上。

材料 (Materials)			
巧克力顆粒	九兩	bittersweet chocolate chips	9 oz
濃奶精 cream	一杯	heavy cream	1 cup

1. Place chocolate chips into a heat-resistant bowl. Set aside.
2. In a small saucepan over low heat, slowly stir the cream until it boils.
3. Pour into the chocolate chips' bowl.
4. Stir with a fork until well blended, then let cool until slightly firm.
5. On the lowest setting of an electric mixer, beat the chocolate until it turns a lighter brown.
6. Cover the sides of the cake.

[第四步 The Fourth Step]

材料 (Materials)			
雞尾酒用櫻桃	一罐	Cocktail cherries	1 can
去核櫻桃，瀝乾	半罐	Pitted Bing cherries, drained	½ can

沿著蛋糕頂層的邊緣及中間，將櫻桃相間排放裝飾；將所剩的櫻桃沿著蛋糕底部的周圍排放裝飾即完成。

1. Alternating the Bing and cocktail varieties, arrange a ring of cherries along the border of the chocolate frosting and the cherry filling that is on the top layer.
2. Arrange any leftovers around the bottom edge.