

Religious Sentiment & Religious Fanaticism

We all practice with your greatest effort in this monastery, because you are a Buddhist, someone with religious faith. But have you ever thought of this, what's the difference between someone with religious faith and someone without religious faith? Does someone with religious faith have to have some kind of label, to show that he's different from those who have no religious faith? We should be aware the difference does exist. However, it may not be reflected from the appearance, it can be observed from three places.

For someone with religious faith, the most important aspect is that he/she possesses a higher degree of religious perseverance and religious sentiment. For someone without religious faith, the first difference is of course that he/she has no religious faith. Secondly, he/she has no religious perseverance nor religious sentiment. Those without religious perseverance are worse than those without religious faith. Their life is lost with no sense of direction. Therefore, those who practice religious faith in some form, but in fact has no religious perseverance, are more miserable than those who practice no religious faith in any form, but in fact possesses religious perseverance. So between religious perseverance and religious faith, we'd like to think people with religious perseverance are considered the ones truly possessing religious faith. Therefore, it matters more to have Buddhism perseverance than Buddhism faith. Similarly, having religious sentiment would avoid religious fanaticism; a person without religious sentiment, is likely to be swayed by others and turn into religious fanatic. It's like among our society, someone with patriotic sentiment, is unlikely to become the Nationalism type of fanatics.

I've told you this story before: I have an old friend who's almost eighty now. During the Second World War, he's a Japanese officer. Japan had a type of fighter aircraft called Type "Zero". Basically the pilot will have to go look for an US Army target, once found, he will charge into the target with the plane. At the time, young Japanese in their 20's loved this job, everyone was enjoying it. One day, the alarm is ringing, officers from his troop all rushed to their plane, at the time there were 20 planes flying out together, but one of them couldn't launch. The pilot of that plane watched everyone flying away, he become very upset and jumped out, complaining that he could not have the opportunity to serve his country. Obviously, none of the 19 planes made it back, all 19 pilots are gone as well. It was about 20 years ago, that I run into this old friend again, so I asked him: "If now they ask you to go, would you go?" He said: "Are you crazy?! That's a bunch of psycho and nuts." Likewise with religious fanaticism, in the moment you would be crazy about it, just like those patriotism fanatics, but when you think about it afterwards, it was totally insane. For someone with religious sentiment, it won't become religious fanaticism. Every time when there is a religious incident, there is always some sort of fanaticism involved. So if someone is religious fanatic, then he/she has no religious faith, all he/she does is just act in blind.

Therefore, religious sentiment and religious fanaticism, is a standard for determining if someone truly has religious faith. Religious perseverance is also part of the standard. Religious perseverance and religious sentiment, is the benchmark for a healthy and sound personality, which is a common attribute. The right way of religious sentiment and religious perseverance, is

to lead those ones with religious faith (those who possess religious attributes), to steadily pursue religious truth. Those with only religious fanatic or with only religious faith, will merely stay on the level of religious culture and rituals. They will never think: "Why am I doing this? Is this right? Would this lead me to the religious ideology, to the ultimate goal?" They will never think about this, they will just follow the routine, and then call it a day, that's the standard sign of an ordinary Joe.

This is not the way it should be for someone who's pursuing religious truth. We can see from here: Religious perseverance, religious sentiment, and the pursuing of religious truth, are the basis for someone with religious attributes. If one only has religious faith and religious fanaticism on the surface, then it's inevitable to end up with only religious rituals and religious culture. Similarly, from here, we can see the main difference between someone with religious faith and someone without. Between Buddhism and other religions, the end goal being pursued are quite different. Those who are pursuing the Human/God Vehicle versus those who are pursuing the One Buddha Vehicle, it's significantly different, even the Human/God Vehicle and Small Vehicle consists of obvious differences. Let's carefully examine each one, from this point and upward, what's the difference between Small Vehicle and Medium Vehicle? What's the difference between Medium Vehicle and Great Vehicle? What's the difference between Great Vehicle and One Buddha Vehicle? What's the difference between Renunciation Path and Bodhi Path? What's the difference between Bodhi Path and Bodhisattva Path?

We can see from here, it gets more and more profound and subtle. In addition, you may continue to spin it, other than the differences among Buddhism tiers, what's the difference between Tiantai School (Heavenly Tower / Lotus School) and Huayen School? What about Sanlun School (Three Treatise) and Huayen School? What's the difference between Emptiness School and Dharma-Nature School? All of them may be derived through comparison. Other than the above, we may also apply this in daily life, such as a successful person and an unsuccessful person, what's their difference? You'll be able to see it right away, whether someone will be successful at spiritual cultivation or not. Between a successful spiritual cultivator and an unsuccessful one, what's the difference in conditions and qualities they possess? We can see it very clearly. If it's not clear to you, it's because you've never kept your feet on the ground to begin with, it's all about your personal desires and expectations. I've said this many times in the past, what's the true spirit of a spiritual cultivator? He/she is purifying and training, to eliminate the negative qualities in our life, and keep absorbing the positive qualities that we ought to possess in our life. This type of purification and cleansing, is the true spirit of a spiritual cultivator.

Today, it should be the same throughout life and work, not just spiritual cultivation. Do we possess this type of quality? Can you succeed? This should be very clear. "Success or Failure" does not matter to an ordinary Joe. For an ordinary person, all he/she cares about at the moment is, would I get blamed for it? For some people that's the only thing matters in life, it's all good as long as I don't get blamed for it. But for someone to be successful, it requires accumulation and acquirement of qualities that make up success. If someone would like to be praised by others, he/she would keep accumulating the qualities that's worth praising for. If someone keeps accumulating the qualities of screw-up and qualities of failure, then all this person would have is repeatedly screw-ups and failures as an outcome.

So, would you be able to acquire such alertness/sensibility? It's nothing special, and it's very ordinary. You may start working your way from here. This is a very important provision/requisite within the preconditions of spiritual cultivation. How to cultivate ourselves to attain such alertness/sensibility? It's only with such alertness/sensibility, that you may truly become successful along the Bodhi Path towards Awakening.

宗教情操與宗教狂熱

大家在道場中用功精進，因為你是個佛弟子是一個有宗教信仰的人。但是大家有沒有想過，一個有宗教信仰的人跟一般沒有宗教信仰的人，到底有什麼不同？是不是有宗教信仰的人，他就一定要有某一種符號，表現出他跟沒有宗教信仰的人是有所不同的？我們要知道這個差別它是存在的。但是它不一定在外相上有何不同，這個部份我們可以由三個地方來看。

一個有宗教信仰的人，最重要的是，他具有一種很高度的宗教意志跟宗教情操。一個沒有宗教信仰的人，第一個，當然他沒有宗教信仰。第二個，他沒有宗教意志宗教情操。沒有宗教意志的人比沒有宗教信仰的人，那是更糟糕的。他的人生茫然沒有目標的。所以形式上有宗教信仰，而實質上沒有宗教意志的人，他是比形式上沒有宗教信仰，而實質上有宗教意志的人更痛苦。所以在宗教意志跟宗教信仰上，我們認為，擁有宗教意志的人才是真正擁有宗教信仰的人。因此，擁有佛教意志比擁有佛教信仰更為重要。同樣地，擁有宗教情操才不會造成宗教狂熱；沒有宗教情操的人，則很容易被人家煽動而造成宗教狂熱。就像社會上，一個擁有愛國情操的人，他不會造成國家主義的那種國家狂熱。

曾經跟各位提過：我有一個老朋友現在已經快八十了。在二次大戰的時候，他是日本的軍官。日本有一種叫零式飛機，就是要駕飛機的人去找美軍的目標，找到了，他就連人帶機衝下去。當時日本年輕人一二十歲很喜歡這個工作，大家樂此不疲。有一次，警報一響，與他同期的那些日本的軍官就趕快上飛機，當時一次出動二十架飛機一起飛，其中有一架飛不上去。那一架飛不上去的，看大家都飛了，他就很生氣的跳下來，說他沒有機會報效國家。當然十九部出去都沒有回來，十九個人也都這樣的走了。大約在二十年前，再碰到那個老朋友，就問他：「假如現在要你去，你會去嗎？」他說：「你神經病哦！那是一群瘋子一群神經病。」宗教狂熱，在當時你會很狂熱，就像那愛國主義者一樣，可是事後一想，那就像神經病一樣。一個擁有宗教情操的人，他不會造成宗教狂熱。每次宗教事件都會發現，都是擁有那一種宗教狂熱在裡面。所以擁有宗教狂熱的人，不能叫做有宗教信仰，他只是在進行一種盲目的行為。

所以，宗教情操跟宗教狂熱，在判斷一個人是不是真正擁有宗教信仰的一種指標。宗教意志也是判斷的一個標準。宗教意志跟宗教情操，是一個健全人格完美人格的標的，也就是一個共同的特色。正確的宗教情操宗教意志，是帶領這些有宗教信仰的人（擁有宗教素養的人），踏實地去追求宗教的真理。只有宗教狂熱或者宗教信仰的人，他只停留在宗

教文化儀式的這個層面上。他從來不會去想：「我這樣做為什麼？我這樣做對嗎？會達到宗教所要求的那個理想那個目標嗎？」他不會想這些，他只是照做一遍，他就心安理得，這就是標準的凡夫俗子。

若一個追求宗教真理的人，不是這個樣子。我們從這裡可以了解到：宗教意志宗教情操及追求宗教真理，這是一個擁有宗教素養的人一個基本的條件。而只有表面上的宗教信仰宗教狂熱，那就必然只有宗教儀式和宗教文化。同樣地，從這裡可以知道，一個有宗教信仰跟無宗教信仰的人，他們最大差別所在。佛教跟其他宗教，它們所訴求的標的，就有很明顯的不同。追求人天乘跟追求一佛乘的人，它的差別當然很明顯，即使人天乘跟小乘都有明顯的區別。再慢慢地一個一個去看，從這裡往上看，小乘中乘有什麼不同？中乘大乘有什麼不同？大乘一佛乘有什麼不同？出離道跟菩提道有什麼不同？菩提道跟菩薩道有什麼不同？

可以從這個地方看得到。越來越深越來越微細，除此之外，你再轉一下，除了佛教的這些不同，天台宗、華嚴宗有什麼不同？三論宗、華嚴宗有什麼不同？法相宗、華嚴宗有什麼不同？空宗、性宗有什麼不同？都可以比較出來。除了這些，其他的把它們轉回來，在日常生活中同樣也可以看到，一個成功的人跟一個失敗的人，有什麼不同？這個修行會不會成功，你一看就知道了。一個修行成功的人跟一個修行失敗的人，他所帶有的條件氣質在哪個地方有何不同？我們一看就清楚了。之所以弄不清楚，就是你從一開始就沒有立足點，只有你個人的你想要的。跟各位一再提過，修行人的本色是什麼？他在淨化跟鍛鍊，把我們生命中不當的因素一再地錘打掉，把生命中應該具備的良好因素一再地把它吸收進來。這樣的純化這樣的淨化，這個就是修行人的本色。

今天，不只在修行上，在生活上工作上也一樣，我們到底有沒有具備這樣的條件？你能不能夠成功？這個很清楚。「成功失敗」對一個凡夫來說並不重要。一個凡夫，他最重要的是在眼前，我挨罵不挨罵？有的人一生就在這裡，只求得不被挨罵就好。要知道一個人的成功，是要累積聚集那些成功的素質。一個人想要被人家讚嘆，他自己會一再地去累積被讚嘆的條件。若一個人一再地累積被罵的條件跟失敗的條件，那他只有一再地被罵跟失敗的結果了。

所以自己是否能具備這一個警覺性，它並沒有什麼特別，而是很平常的。各位可以從這個地方去完成，這在修行的前方便裡，是很重要的一個資糧。如何培養自己擁有高度的警覺性？你擁有這個警覺性，你才能夠真正在覺悟的菩提道上，獲得成功跟勝利。