

### 13) Virtuous Practice And Wisdom Cultivation

One must possess both inner and outer qualities. The outer quality can be cultivated through the performance of virtuous and compassionate service to others while the inner quality can be cultivated through self-development in conduct and moral restraint leading to intuitive wisdom. These are merely the fundamental requirements in the art of successful Tao cultivation. Both the qualities must go hand-in-hand and are equally essential, for the lack of one will render the cultivation in disequilibrium and is considered incomplete.

Altogether three thousand number of virtuous service and eight hundred number of wisdom are required in order to achieve that goal of complete purification. For virtuous service, one must perform one thousand number of heavenly service, one thousand number of earthly service and one thousand number of material assistance (charity giving) and it is presented as follows:-

#### a) Performance of material assistance

It is the compassionate giving of material assistance to those needy and poor. Any surplus of food and money from us are of great help to those unfortunates who have had not enough. Performance of social work by helping in the collecting and channelling of money and material for homes of the aged or relief clubs, or by helping in the mending of bridges and roads for the society, are also a form of meritorious deed.

#### b) Performance of earthly service

It is the channelling of effort towards the encouragement of bad and ignorant people to become good and accept the teachings of rightful Tao cultivation. Whatever bad things or vices done in the past is already past and it is always not too late to turn over a new leaf. Encouragement must also to those who have been an active cultivator before but had somehow backslided. The generous donating of money for the printing of holy books for others to read is also highly commendable. One have to comfort the bereaved by consoling words, ministering to the sick that were deserted, purifying the corrupted lives of criminals, encouraging the feeble, and also enlightening the ignorant.

#### c) Performance of Heavenly service

It is the channelling of money and effort towards the spreading of Tao and in the maintenance of worship venue. The place have to be tidy at all times. A lot of time is also required for entertaining, organising of preaches, ceremonies and other formalities concerned. It should be realised that Heavenly work in the 'white period' is of utmost importance because this is the last stage and as such even gods and sages are being reborn on earth or by getting themselves into mediums so as to help speeding up the spreading of Tao.

Internal assistance is the putting of effort into the managing of the worship venue by attending to ceremony, preaching and encouraging newcomers, cleaning the place, giving financial aids and other general daily duty. External assistance is the putting of effort and time in spreading the Tao to other country. Places where human helps is insufficient, e.g. in preaching and managing of ceremony, modest and selfless service should be extended to there regardless of whether it is small or elegantly big.

In short, precious Tao must be spread to more people so that they too can benefit from this worthwhile cultivation – the more people, the more peace will be the place.