

Faith in the Dharma

Written by Tzu Chi Foundation
Friday, 08 March 2013 10:45



[[Master's Teachings](#)]

Every day, before the break of dawn, I walk out of my study. The world is quiet and tranquil at that time. Gazing at the sky far above, I feel the difference between today and yesterday. The sky was a pale patch of white at this time yesterday, but it is dimmer today. This is the time when summer gives way to autumn.

How alive our earth is! How wonderful that the four seasons change! My heart is always filled with immense gratitude when I feel the laws of nature working like this. I thank heaven and earth for nurturing all our lives. I thank the immeasurable, wondrous Dharma that everything in the universe teaches us.

Every day, our Six Roots—our eyes, ears, nose, tongue, body, and mind—sense the outside world and form our perceptions of external phenomena. The visual consciousness arises when the eyes see an image. The auditory consciousness arises when the ears hear a sound. The olfactory consciousness arises when the nose smells a scent. The gustatory consciousness arises when the tongue tastes a flavor, and the tactile consciousness arises when the body touches an object. Last but not least, the mental consciousness arises when the mind perceives a thought.

We can fully experience this world through our Six Roots. For example, every day I hear birds sing; sometimes they sing in chorus, and sometimes they sing solo. There is no way to know what the birds are thinking or how they feel, but we can still feel and appreciate their beauty if we mindfully listen to and look at them.

Similarly, can we ever know exactly the thoughts of the Buddha from 2,500 years ago? Can we know exactly the words he spoke, or what he felt, or what his environment was like? It is impossible to know for sure. However, when we open our heart to his teaching, when we ponder it and put it into practice, then we can come close to a full realization of the Dharma.

The Buddha expounded the Dharma for 49 years. What he hoped to pass on to people was an unsurpassable, wonderful law—an enduring truth. The truth has existed forever. It's like the sky above, still and unmoving, eternal and unchanging. It's just because the earth continually rotates on its axis and revolves around the sun that the sky appears different to our eyes from one moment to the next.

Having been exposed to the Dharma, we must have faith in it and do our best to learn from it and fully absorb the teachings. Only then will we be able to gain profound insight into the Buddha's wisdom, uncover our pure innate nature, and help ourselves grow in wisdom.

Hold true to your faith

Faith in the Dharma

Written by Tzu Chi Foundation

Friday, 08 March 2013 10:45

