



Chung Tian Newsletter

Foguangshan Chung Tian Temple commemorating the tenth Anniversary

Inviting the Founding Master Hsing Yun to Brisbane to conduct the Ceremony of Taking Refuge & Observing Five Precepts & the Chief Abbot Master Hsin Ting to deliver a Buddhist lecture on Buddhism & World Peace

The Ceremony of Taking Refuge in Triple Gem & Observing Five Precepts

Conducted by:

Ven. Master Hsing Yun

(The Founder of Foguangshan Buddhist Order)

Time : 10:00AM (Saturday) 28th June 2003

Venue : Chung Tian Temple

The Purpose of this ceremony is to nourish and enrich the spiritual well-being of community and to provide guidance in human belief.

TO BECOME A BUDDHIST

When one wishes to become a Buddhist, one is required to take refuge in the triple gem as a commitment to practicing the Buddha's teachings. The Triple Gem consists of the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha.

Lay Buddhists may also vow to uphold five precepts on their daily lives. The five precepts are no killing, no stealing, no sexual misconduct, no lying and no intoxicants.

For more information, please refer to "What is Buddhism", which is available in Chung Tian Temple, 1034 Underwood Road Priestdale QLD 4127.



BUDDHISM & WORLD PEACE

Lectured by

Master Hsin Ting

The Chief Abbot of Foguangshan Buddhist Order

Time : 2:00PM (Saturday) 21st June 2003

Venue : Chung Tian Temple, 1034 Underwood Road, Priestdale QLD 4127

**For further information, please contact (07) 3841 3511 email: info@chungtian.org.au
Everyone is welcome!**

BETWEEN IGNORANCE AND ENLIGHTENMENT

Source: [BY VENERABLE MASTER HSING YUN](#)

11th June 2003

Meetings are popular in modern society. There are daily, weekly and monthly meetings at every level of government, organizations, companies, and businesses. The purpose of meetings is to get people together for their opinions and ideas about issues making it easier to reach consensus and decisions. They can be an efficient and effective way of getting work done.

In these times of democracy, every matter needs to be dealt with in an open, equal, just, and public manner. As a result, meetings will be called for anything that concerns the general public. Internationally, there are summits between nations. Academics hold study seminars, and in businesses, there are special meetings concerning their fields. In schools, there are morning or weekly assemblies for students and teachers. Families also hold meetings to talk about their concerns. In addition, breakfast and luncheon meetings are held so that people can meet and discuss as they eat.

Meetings are the driving force behind social progress. If there is any misunderstanding, it can be explained over a meeting. When opinions differ, a meeting improves communication enabling the parties to reach a compromise. If there are questions, they can also be answered. Public hearings are very popular in the Western world because public opinion can be obtained on various issues and can be considered in the planning process.

However, people do complain about having too many meetings because they often meet without a good discussion, discuss without reaching a decision, and then fail to actualize any decision reached. Because there are too many meetings where people just talk and fail to act, the credibility of meetings is much discounted.

In Chinese history, the morning assemblies of emperors were the highest order of meetings. In Buddhism, since the Buddha's time, the Sangha community often held meetings. According to the Madhyamagama, the Buddha believed that the first principle for a country to establish a system is to "meet from time to time discussing matters of importance." We can see how serious the Buddha look upon meetings.

During a meeting, everyone can express his/her opinion. However, the minority has to abide by the decision of the majority while the majority should respect the minority. Once a decision is reached, everyone should join together with the shared purpose of accomplishing the goals formulated. This is an expression of poise and etiquette of democracy.

However, nowadays there are some people who do not abide by the rules of the game. When they agree with a proposal, they are merely answering the roll call, and when they disagree it is an impulsive response simply disagreeing for the sake of it. As meetings become more frequent, there are also rules to go by. For instance, the time of a meeting should be limited to no more than an hour or two. The chair and anyone who wants to speak must abide to the time rule. Usually, before the start of any meeting, the coordinators prepare the agenda and much material in the form of graphs and statistics as reports with the aim to expedite its progress. This preparation improves the quality of meetings.

Regular Classes

Tai Chi Class

9:00am -10:00am every Saturday & Sunday

Fee: \$ 10 (six months)

English Buddhist Class & Meditation Class

Date: 6th July-17 August Every Sunday

Basic Buddhist Class 10:10am –11:00am

Basic Meditation 11:10am –12:00noon

Fee: \$ 20

Buddhist Study & Meditation Class (Intermediate Level)

Date: 17th August – 7th Dec 2003

10:00 am – 10:50am Buddhist Chanting & Meditation

11:10am –12:00noon Buddhist Study (including Sutra Study)

Register Fee: \$10 only

Practical Meditation (Intermediate Level)

Date: 6th July –17th August 2003

Time: 2:00pm -3:30pm

Fee: \$ 20

For further information, please contact (07) 3841 3511 email: info@chungtian.org.au

[http:// www.chungtian.org.au](http://www.chungtian.org.au) <http://www.fgs.org.tw/english/first.htm>

Everyone is welcome!