

Proceedings of First International Conference on Humanistic Buddhism

*Hsi Lai University, Rosemead
Los Angeles County, California
December 12-16, 1999*

The primary objectives of the Conference were to provide a forum for consultation and exchange of information and experience to scholars and students, specializing in various aspects of Buddhist Studies, and to set in motion a tradition of enabling scholars to meet at regular intervals and have their contributions to Buddhist scholarship disseminated systematically.

The Inaugural Address was delivered by Dr. Naichen Chen, President of HLU. In the course of his presentation, he stressed that "Buddhism is the most comprehensive and fundamental solution to today's problems, and it is for all human beings." He continued, "Buddhism is now becoming a universal belief system and spiritual practice." Dr. Chen defined Humanistic Buddhism as "the universal application of Buddhism in human life and the human world in order to enrich our spirituality and achieve genuine happiness."

A message from Venerable Grand Master Hsing Yun stated, "In Buddhism, the human realm is the most important realm of all. The human realm is the realm where great transformations can occur...It is a real pity that so many Buddhists, especially when they first begin to practice, place so much emphasis on long retreats and on liberating themselves from the cycle of birth and death. These are important concerns, but remember, no one is going to achieve liberation from the cycle of birth and death if he/she has not figured out how to live as a human being in the human realm."

Over the four-day conference the following presentations were made:

A. KEYNOTE ADDRESSES:

1. Dr. Richard Kimball, Dean of Student Services, HLU, *Humanistic Buddhism as Conceived and Interpreted by Grand Master Hsing Yun of Fo Guang Shan.*
2. Dr. Darui Long, Visiting Professor, HLU, *Humanistic Buddhism from Venerable Tai Xu to Grand Master Hsing Yun.*
3. Dr. Ananda W. P. Guruge, Dean of Academic Affairs at HLU and Director of International Academy of Buddhism, *Humanistic Elements in Early Buddhism and the "Theravada Traditions"*.
4. Dr. Lewis Lancaster of U.C. Berkeley and Hsi Lai University, *The Three Treasures and "Humanistic" Buddhism of the 20th Century.*

5. Dr. James A. Santucci of California State University, Fullerton and Hsi Lai University, *Humanistic Buddhism in Tibetan Tradition*.
6. Dr. George Bond, of Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, *Wisdom and Compassion: Two Paradigms of Humanistic Buddhist Movements*.
7. Dr. Padmal de Silva of the Institute of Psychiatry, London, United Kingdom, *Buddhism & Psychotherapy – the Role of Self-Control Strategies*.

B. PANEL PAPERS:

1. Venerable Thich Vien Ly, Abbot of Dieu Phap Temple and Bao Phap Monastery, Monterey Park, California, *The Four Sublime States and Buddhist Meditation*.
2. Mr. Michael Murry, HLU computer Center, *Attitude Mechanics: The Engineering of Equanimity*.
3. Dr. O'Hyun Park of Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina, *Zen Buddhism and Humanism*.
4. Dr. John R. Jones of La Sierra University, Riverside, California, *Humanistic Values in the Lotus Sutra*.
5. Dr. Leslie Grey, M.D. of the University of Denver, Colorado, *Humanistic Buddhism in Jātakas and Avadānas*.
6. Dr. Ingrid Aall of California State University, Long Beach, *About What Does the Buddha Image Inform? Buddhist Ethics Made Visually Manifest*.
7. Dr. Tanya Storch of the University of the Pacific, Stockton, California, *Chinese Buddhist Historians' Views of Human History*.

At the concluding session of the Conference, Venerable Grand Master Hsing Yun was recognized the International Academy of Buddhism (IAB) Honoree of the year 1999.

–Editor