

**THE GREAT FAITH OF THE THIRD UNIVERSAL AMNESTY
TÂY NINH HOLY SEE**

**SERMONS OF HIS HOLINESS HỘ PHÁP
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SERMON #61 - GREAT COURAGE, STRENGTH AND COMPASSION

Holy See, Night of the 30th day of the 11th month Mậu Tý year (1948) ()*

Today, Bần Đạo will preach about the philosophy of Great Compassion. The philosophy originates from the doctrine of Minh Đường and Minh Sư. Minh Đường and Minh Sư have a very good method to establish the philosophy firmly. They also preach many remarkable doctrines, and frequently preach about great courage, strength and compassion. Indeed, unless the cultivating souls have such a strong faith, they cannot reach their goal. Since the creation of heaven and earth, Buddhist philosophies have moulded innumerable Beings who follow the Buddhist call to teach living beings on earth. Without those virtues, they cannot have built up the Religion. Great strength will probably raise a debate. It takes great courage to have faith in the Religion we commit to. Without courage, we will never overcome trials. All the children of the Supreme Being know that there have been drastic trials since the embryonic stage of the Faith. The children of the Supreme Being have shown courage and determination to triumph. Thanks to your united spirit, the Faith has come into being.

In retrospect, at the beginning, the Supreme Being came and used the Divine pen to select members of His Holy Body. They strayed from the Faith. Bần Đạo saw and am sure about it. All the children of the Supreme Being also know it. They failed to follow the Divine steps of the Supreme Being due to fear, weakness, submission (to power), and fear of enemies. They did not have

enough courage and determination to triumph. Their failure is the result of lack of courage, of fear and of weakness. Courage is not only essential to the Faith, but also to life. Without it, great men who aimed to transform the world would have been swept away by the waves of life like water-fern. The Supreme Being has special power, but they lacked courage and determination. When His Holiness Shakyamuni was still a prince, someone heard of His Holy quality. They approached and asked for His eye. He dared to give away His eye to them. Without courage and determination, no one on earth can act like Him. When He had attained Divinity and was meditating under a bodhi tree, a king on his hunting trip chased after a deer and stopped by His place. The king could not see the deer, but only saw Him sitting under the tree. The king asked if He saw a deer running by. He thought if He showed him, the cruel lord would kill it and He would commit the sin of killing. If He said no, it would be a lie. It was best for Him to keep silent. He resolved to keep silent. The cruel lord got angry and shouted at Him, "Although you are a Brahman, you are still a subject in my country. That means you are my servant. I will ask once more; if you do not reply, I will cut off your arm. Do you see a deer running by?" He was determined not to reply. The cruel lord immediately cut off His right arm, and said: "I will ask again. If you remain silent, I will cut off your left arm. Do you see a deer running by?" He remained silent. The cruel lord immediately cut off His left arm and said, "If I ask again and you do not reply, I will cut off your head." He thought He already had His arms cut off. He was not afraid and would not say a word. So He resolved to keep silent. The cruel lord immediately cut off His head. His soul left His body. Then, a fire wheel came down upon His head and burned Him, because the Ngọc Hư Cung (the Court of God) accused Him of suicide. He already lost His arms, but still did not speak up to save His head. That means He committed suicide. The fire wheel was very hot – His pain was unspeakable. He thought no one would be able to bear the hot wheel on their head. He already endured the pains of having His arms and head cut off. So He prayed to endure the punishment. Then, the wheel flew away. Without courage, He could not have done that.

When He reached enlightenment in Kabikanla, i.e. His homeland, the king accused Him of non-piety for renouncing His family life. If any son returned to

confess His search for the Tao, he would probably not make accusation. The father mainly would like to see the Buddha. He commanded the people to arrest His Holiness Shakyamuni upon seeing Him so He would sentence to capital punishment. When He heard of the sentence, He immediately turned Himself in. He said (to His father) that He would bear the sentence alone, and begged His father not to harm His disciples. Without courage, no one could act like Him.

We should learn from the courage of His Holiness Laozi. When He was expelled from the Zhou king's library, He returned to Côn Lôn Mountain (Kūnlún Shān - 昆仑) on a buffalo cart with only an outfit. He rode on only one buffalo out of the Zhou palace. Without courage, He would have hardly renounced His position in the Zhou Court and left with only a piece of clothing and a buffalo.

His Holiness Confucius travelled across six countries where He was mocked, criticized and threatened. As He returned to Lỗ (Lǔ - 鲁) State, He became a diligent teacher. Although He used to be a king adviser and the Minister of Crime, He still could be a diligent teacher. Without courage, He could not have done it.

His Holiness Jesus Christ passed away on a Crucifix. When He was being crucified, the atheists at the foot of the Crucifix criticized Him. They said He claimed to be son of the powerful God who could save the world, and thus challenged Him to save Himself first. How could He while His hands and legs were already nailed. He only looked up to the sky, praying: "Dear Father, please forgive them. They do not know their sin." Without courage, He would not have had such spirit.

Mohamed who established Islam was driven away, imprisoned and had to come into hiding many times. Still, He never lost His courage.

Let us learn from one Being whom we know as Huệ Năng (Huìnéng - 惠能). During His cultivation journey, He saw a naked woman dead on the roadside. A regular man would close his eyes while walking by. As a religious person, He

used a shoe to hide her part before heading off. Without courage, He would not have done it.

In this moment, one person who started a worldwide debate is Galania Davis. He dared to question the United Nations: "Can you guarantee world peace? I am essentially the first global citizen to ask if you can guarantee it." Without courage, He could hardly do it.

There are many other tasks which take courage and strength. Courage helps us to be righteous. As we have courage and strength, we have to be compassionate. If we would like to be Holy, we have to cross the door of compassion. Religions must be based upon compassion; cruelty will destroy rather than save life. His Holiness Jesus Christ showed great compassion and strength in His efforts to save the world. Religious Leaders who do not cross that door will defect to heresy. If they cross it to follow the Supreme Being, they may even attain Divine mechanism, plan and quality, i.e. true Divinity or true Tao. Unless they abide by the true Tao, their great courage and strength will turn them into great sectarian cruelty. Hitler, Mussolini, Lenine and Staline certainly have great courage and strength but no great compassion.

To conclude, if all the children of the Supreme Being see any lack of righteousness, you should observe the state of the True Religion of the Supreme Being. As we have great courage and strength, we have to follow the path of great compassion. If there is any sign of great cruelty, we all must stand up to form a natural or mystical wall of the Supreme Being. We must prevent His Religion from straying into great cruelty. Things will change; we must open our Divine eyes, Divine Dignitaries and disciples alike. Those are the Eyes of Wisdom which have to open wide and clear to watch the changes in the True Religion of the Supreme Being. Do not let the Faith collapse and regret it.

(): The Lunar 11th month of Mậu Tý year does not have the 30th date. The Lunar date 29/11/Mậu Tý year is 29/12/1948 in Western calendar.*