

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

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## SERMONS OF HIS HOLINESS HỘ PHÁP VOLUME II

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### #57. FOOD FOR THE SOUL

*Holy See, Tý time the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month Mậu Tý year (01/12/1948)*

This time, Bần Đạo hold the progress of our soul on the path to Eternal Life to preach about a critical matter related to our soul.

When Bần Đạo returned to the Holy See, Bần Đạo have been paying attention and compelling all Dignitaries to attend the worship at the Holy See. Bần Đạo will explain why so you will all understand the mysterious secret of your cultivation and try to cultivate more. Everyone often says they look for the Tao. The Tao has been laid out in front of us; more exactly, the Tao has been trusted to us. It is put into the hands of the owner by the Supreme Being.

Bần Đạo recall the embryonic stage of the Faith when Bần Đạo went to Thủ Đức and stayed there for seven months. Pope (Li) guided via seances during the time when Bần Đạo was still not clear about Religious truths and was still studying them. Due to the eagerness to learn, Bần Đạo asked Him many out-of-line questions. If anyone urges today or in the future, Bần Đạo will not dare to ask again. During one session, He complained that the human mind is now lacking in spiritual virtue. For this reason, life is chaotic. The intellectuals and monks are researching and seeking good ways to remedy the situation. Unfortunately, at that time Religions were fading, conscience vanishing. How could mankind know their capability to rule themselves? Only by building ourselves up and ruling ourselves can we understand the mysterious secrets.

If each individual can better themselves and each society and the entire mankind respect themselves, they can remedy the destruction.

Unfortunately! The tragedy of the destructive war originates from humans' lack of spiritual virtue. Due to lack of virtue, desire for material wealth pushes them toward materialism and the search for happiness therein. Happiness has no shape; they think they can be happy by killing each other to protect their own life. They are no different from animals which fight to live and know neither virtue nor humanity. The entire mankind is now jeopardised due to absence of spiritual virtue. They not only lack virtue but also refuse it; it is nothing to them. As a result, the Supreme Being comes to establish the Faith.

Bần Đạo see declining spirituality in this twentieth century. Scientific civilization urges mankind to broaden their mind to the extreme. They think they can control life and death. Learned men like Phan Thanh Giản saw the civilization develop to a mysterious level during his diplomatic trip to France. Despite being a man of letter in Vietnam, he was even afraid and admitted the civilization had reached extremity. He submitted a report to the king which contained a seemingly overstatement:

“Their skill can be compared to heaven and earth,

Except only for power over life and death.”

He meant that their materialistic capability was not lesser than Creation; only life and death are subject to the power of Creation. Therefore, we see that literature and science rule the human mind.

It would be fortunate if science led the human mind to spiritual virtue. In reverse, such civilization only spawns materialistic way of life; they seek happiness in materialism. Consequently, Religions lose power. Bần Đạo thought others also noticed this, and thus asked His Holiness Pope Li. Bần Đạo asked, “In this twentieth century, civilization has gone too far. I am afraid it is fruitless to advocate spiritual virtue as the means of salvation. Admittedly, around two thousand years ago, mankind still preserved their conscience and was inclined to spiritual virtue. Spiritual virtue at that time was like seeds sown into a fertile field; the seed grew as a result. Meanwhile, the twentieth

century is the age of material civilization. I am afraid it is no use proposing virtue as the means of salvation.”

He sighed! He asserted: “According to My kind friend, mankind at this time does not need virtue, do they?”

Bần Đạo replied, “Indeed, mankind does not need virtue in this age; they only seek happiness in science civilization. They can, can’t they?”

He laughed, “Science civilization only feeds their body; their soul will be hungry for sure.”

Bần Đạo asked: “Why do You say they soul will be hungry? Does the soul need food?”

“Yes, there must be food to nourish the soul like the body. Without food, the soul will wither and die.” Then, He taught Bần Đạo a sublime philosophy. In a human, there are three entities called the three souls, and seven emotions called seven personalities. They are closely related to each other. Certainly, there are three parts in each human which need nourishment to survive. Therefore, the Supreme Being said that activities of the mind and soul form our ego. Those three entities must be fed to survive like our physical body. Religions are like essential matters; there must be food and drink to keep the essential matters alive. The second entity is our intellectual mind. We see that humans not only seek good food to sustain the physical body, but also watch stage performance, dance, play, gamble and smoke. They think those are the food to nourish their mind, but do not know that they are harmful. No, the soul also requires food which is sublime philosophy. The second entity is called Qi; the Supreme Being calls it the perispirit. It is the intermediary between the body and the soul. Its kindness protects the body, while its conscience seeks food for the soul. What do we feed the soul with? Material is food for the body, while the soul lives upon spiritual virtue. To cultivate ourselves means to find ways to protect spiritual virtue and feed our soul so we can reach positions of Angel, Saint, Immortal and Buddha. We guide and protect the soul in order to have enough strength to walk the Divine Path to Eternal Life.

Where can we find virtue? We must find it at the Divine door of Eternal Life, i.e. the Religious door. The soul is fed when we attend the praying sessions in the Temple. If you do not know the taste of the food, you are not blessed. You may think we are obliged by the Codes to pray in the Temple, but in fact it is to feed your soul. Bần Đạo think you must all attend the praying sessions, because you have not known its taste. Like the countryside men who are force-fed some kind of cake; when they know its taste, they sell off their clothes to buy it.

At this moment, the Females have not known the good taste of such food. Only when all of you know its taste will you like and hunger for it however little it is. Food often tastes good in time of hunger. However, Bần Đạo advise you not to stay too hungry; your soul may perish. Food for the soul has limitless Divine power to help us shed the cruel outfit. If we let the outfit stick to our skin, upon our death the desire for secular power will be sloughed off by the Divine. How painful it will be. You will repent and become afraid.

Nothing that is stipulated by the Supreme Being in His True Religion is useless, whether it is esoteric or exoteric. That Being loves His children dearly. Anything that is not useful and is not wanted by His children will be abolished by Him. Since the beginning, all the Bible, Rituals and virtue-related arrangements have been initiated by the Supreme Being, rather than any other Being. As He Himself tended to them, they must serve certain essential and useful purpose. That is why He forces us to follow. Now that Bần Đạo force strict compliance, some may be complaining in secret. When you meet Bần Đạo in the Divine realm, Bần Đạo will ask if forcing you to attend praying sessions is a merit or a sin. We will have a strange and endless discussion. Only then will you know what is right and wrong.

Today, in this moment Bần Đạo stand on this pulpit and advise that you are still very lazy. Your body has sinned; you must watch your soul closely. Otherwise, you will regret one day when it is too late.