

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

**SERMONS OF HIS HOLINESS HỘ PHÁP
VOLUME I**

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SERMON #43 - SUFFERING RELIEF

Holy See, the 13th day of the 10th month Đinh Hợi year [1947] - Commemoration of the Interim Pope.

Once again, the Three Treasures offering is the key part of the ceremony. Each offering is raised up so we know its meaning and pray to the Supreme Being. When it is lifted, we bow and offer the Treasure.

The secret dharma is very important: Flower is the physical (body) and Flower offering is the offering of our body to the Supreme Being as a sacrifice; Wine offering is the offering of our mind and brain; Tea offering is to fully dedicate our soul to the Supreme Being. We are the animal body which the ceremony chief brings to the Supreme Being in heaven as a Ceremonial offering.

Today is the Commemoration of His Holiness Quyền Giáo Tông (the Interim Pope), who is our lofty Dignitary. I will preach about the two words Suffering Relief. By the way, I would like to declare to the entire Sacerdotal Council, i.e. the Holy Body of the Supreme Being, and all His children that He (the Pope) is a noble and highly respected soul; although His body has disintegrated, His divine conscience will exist for eternity without decay. The coming of the Supreme Being surprised me; I sought its meaning for several years before I really understood the two words 'suffering relief' of the Supreme Being.

How strange! His Holiness Cao Thượng Phẩm and His Holiness Quyên Giáo Tông knew the Supreme Being's feelings when He mentioned the two words 'suffering relief'. Relief means help; complete relief implies adequate power to make the decision. Suffering means pain spiritually and physically. Only when we understand people do we have compassion and can assume religious authority; so that we will save human beings. Our love for each other will fuel our love for all mankind.

Alas! Upon hearing the words 'suffering relief', anyone that has endured spiritual pains and sufferings will yearn for it like it is essential. If someone brings us a bowl of rice when we are hungry, its smell carries a profound meaning.

Alas! As the two words 'suffering relief' implies, the Faith will offer its Holy Body to people in this Southern country, and then the entire world. Mankind has not evolved into civilization; they are still in slavery. The weak, cruel, crude, and ignorant Vietnamese race has falling into distress like the aboriginals being caught for sale in the past. I have observed this situation in human history in Asia; the same with Europe. Slavery trade was a particular feature of the Roman Empire; they considered slaves less than animals. The owner had the full right to kill his slaves like animals. Now the Roman authorities must abolish slavery. Thus, slavery consisted in the purchase of impoverished people and turning them into servants. After Maurice suddenly came to confront the Roman Emperor and relieve such misery, people regarded him as the Supreme Being incarnate who liberated and saved human beings from misery. In Asia, China in particular united different nations into one, although it was not lofty and entirely loving. It was possible because in the primeval past they subdued less civilized races to serve them. Our race could not bear it; we opposed them and sought ways to relieve the suffering. Now the suffering has reached its limits. We are all familiar with it; if we cannot accomplish anything, we have to submit ourselves to others in poverty and humility.

It is not strange that when we aim for the extraordinary, we are alone with no support. It is sad to see the lonely being oppressed. The oppression binds

them in slavery psychologically. Amid slavery, we have too often seen situations where brothers under the same roof and friends in mutual poverty and suffering are oppressed indirectly. As everyone is slave, nobody is higher in authority, either temporally or spiritually.

The Gautama Buddha taught that birth, aging, sickness and death are the four sufferings of mankind; the entire world have been racking their brains to eliminate those sufferings so that mankind will live in satisfaction. Birth is followed by aging; we see that as countries become more civilized and developed, they build retirement homes for old people. No country on earth does not support the elderly. Regarding sickness, the more patients, the more hospitals there are to restore their well-being. If they did not achieve their goals, people would rebel. Regarding death, civilized societies are seeking ways to mitigate the accompanying pains and to gather families and the nation together as a civilization.

How can we mitigate the four sufferings? We must focus on correcting and alleviate mental suffering. Where does physical suffering come from? It comes from our desire to be happier than others. There is no power which decides our fate; it depends on our own decisions because mankind knows it is more lofty than other living beings. Since the material created on earth by the Supreme Being is not enough to secure His children's life, there are rich and poor, smart and ignorant people. Some consider it injustice, so where does the injustice come from? It comes from lack of virtue. How can we eliminate the suffering? Currently on earth what have the key opinion leaders done to win people's hearts and define politics? They have had only a loving heart and shown that love to the world. They use justice and love to save people who entrust their life to the leaders for their government. Who can be sure that such loving hearts exist? I would like to pose this question. It takes many families, who sincerely and adequately show their love, to 'sow' the love into the hearts of all the people of a nation and to appeal for their mutual love and existence. Any country that is lucky to have a wise governor reach that goal will enjoy boundless familial happiness. Nations as well as societies only care about themselves, but not others. They are killing each other. Therefore, the Cao Đài religion has come into being. Why does the Cao Đài religion exist?

When a family suffers, the father bears suffering with his children. In a country, if the people suffer, the governor or king or president assumes their authority to seek way to relieve their suffering.

Beyond the boundary of nation and society, who can hold the power to fulfill such duty? All nations are suffering; who has the duty to guide them away from it? Except for the Supreme Being, no one else can govern this earth. In a family, the father shares suffering with his children, while across nations and peoples on earth no one has shared their suffering. The Supreme Being comes to cry out for the love of all mankind so that we regard each other as brothers, love, protect, support and respect each other. He sows love and harmony into human minds by saying, *"I am your Father who comes to make Myself known to you, so that you know yourselves. Once you brothers love each other, it means your Father has saved you from suffering spiritually and physically."*