

DIVINE PATH TO ETERNAL LIFE

Sermons by His Holiness Hộ Pháp (Head of Legislative Affairs)

Recorded and compiled by the shorthand committee in Tây Ninh

Translated by Đào Công Tâm & Professor Christ Hartney

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The Supreme Being Created the Cao Đài religion in order to Create Happiness for All Human Beings and Peace for this 68th Planet.

In my last sermon, I left a question hanging: can the Cao Đài Religion produce happiness for all humanity and create peace for universal harmony?

Now we must answer it. We should not only believe in the Supreme Being, but we must also know He created this religion mainly to sign the third great covenant with humanity, to create happiness on Earth and allow people to enjoy profound happiness on this 68th planet. Certainly, we dare to believe that it will be achieved, especially because of the assurance by our spiritual elder brother, that is, the Spiritual Pope (Lý Bạch, Li Po 李白). He said,

A great belief begets a figure,
Already united living beings with the Supreme.

That is, the Cao Đài religion has been established, and will gradually progress towards its ultimate height.

We know that the Supreme Being has come and signed the agreement with this earth. We have seen how the agreements of human beings work, especially those amongst the great powers. Their agreements comprise of all kinds of clauses.

With the Supreme Being, there are only two articles:

1. The Law of Love. He stipulates that we love not only each other, but also all beings.
2. The Right of Justice. He designates the right of justice.

We have not seen any agreements which are as simple as this, nor so powerful. We have not seen agreements which can be carried into full effect, even until doomsday.

We have understood and believe that the new covenant will nevertheless be achieved, but we cannot determine the time. We only instinctively know and ascertain through our wisdom and intelligence the true physiognomy of the Cao Đài religion. The goal is to create happiness and peace for universal harmony.

We only need to use wisdom and knowledge to understand the power of the law of Love. It has been in effect ever since humans came into being. Without it, the Sakyamuni Buddha would never have founded his religion.

When the Buddha engaged in a fasting practice at Ream, there were four people who followed him. These four were not His followers, but went along to observe if he would reach enlightenment. When they saw Prince Gautama (that is: the Buddha-to-be) come down from the mountain and start eating and drinking again, these four people who had been waiting for him remarked that he had returned to an earthly life and had not attained enlightenment at all. They then walked away from Him.

When he went out to preach, he searched for these four people. They only joined Him after recognizing His authenticity. Among these four, there were only two that were essential to the cause, but at the end there was only one left that attained the way of the Buddha.

Daoism of Lao Zi had one disciple, and one servant, (Từ-Giáp), but only Doãn-Hí (Yin Hsi) followed Lao Zi and attained Immortality. Through him Daoism developed right through to our own times.

Although Confucius (Kong Zi, Khổng Tử) had 36 saints, 72 sages and 3000 disciples, He was not sure if any would completely realise his teachings. There was only one person who did, i.e. Master Sam. Upon His last breath, He called and said, "My way – only you know it."

Jesus Christ had only half a disciple, because Saint Peter denied him three times, before he repented and confessed to Mary.

At the start, Muhammad had but one female disciple (Khadisha), and still Islam was realized.

We deduce that it is only Love. With only one person, or even half a person, who offered their Love, these religious founders could establish their religions on this earth.

We see that Caodaism is more fortunate than these previous religions. There were three disciples at the start, which is more than the others.

The true physiognomy of the religion of the Supreme Being is relied through His incomparable powers. It was sketched and moulded by those who followed His orders. May I offer my excuses to His children; it is not pride that makes me say this, but this hand has contributed a good part to that endeavour. Therefore, I would like to ask all of us to go through your memory while identifying yourself as part of this religion. If we recognize our true identity and combine all those identities to create that of our Faith, the Cao Dai religion will reveal itself as immense and boundless Love. It is formed from a natural beauty because it is drawn with Love. His Holy Body shall follow His Divine sketch to form a body of Love.

We are not dreaming. Neither do we deceive humanity. Everyone can see the evidence in front of them. Which power has created our current Faith!

The current power of the Dao originates from the law of Love. Therefore, no power can destroy it. It might be concerned about the law of hate, but how fortunate it is that even hatred cannot cause trouble thanks to Divine blessings.

It is formed from Love, and grows with Love. As the embodiment of love, the more it grows, the stronger it becomes. It will triumph over hatred.

For sure, I have defeated this hatred, when the parties and factions used their power to occupy the throne of the Supreme Being on earth!

I braved myself to fight them off and preserve the Divine physiognomy of the Dao. I have lost a great deal in shouldering all this hatred in order to maintain the true Love of His Holy Body.

I took courage to shoulder all hatred and protect the boundless love of our Supreme Being. I prevented it from being blemished or besmirched. Why did I dare make such sacrifice? Because I knew that it would become the Lord of the future. It would be the Master that teaches people how to govern the earth. If it were not complete or were blemished, it would not be able to guide humanity.

The sects at the time used earthly power to overthrow the religion. As the Hộ Pháp, who holds the orthodox power of the Supreme Being in my hand, how could I let them usurp the throne and become the heritage of the religion of the Supreme Being?

How fortunate that those powers would not harm the Holy Body of the Supreme Being. They were defeated, because in His Holy Body there is an imposing figure who holds the law, that is, he holds the sword of wisdom and enlightenment in his hand to protect the true religion. If it can realize its full potential, it can create the power for humanity on this planet earth in the future.

Doãn-Hỉ - Yin Hsi. Lao Tzu (Lao Zi, Lão Tử) wrote his only book the *Tao Te Ching* (Đạo Đức Kinh) just before he walked away from the Chou empire that he had served. One day Lao Tzu decided to take his leave of the city and simply started walking towards the distant mountain pass to the West. Arriving at the gate leading out of the Empire, he was halted by the gate keeper at the border. This was a man named Yin Hsi, who asked him, "Before you retire entirely from the earthly world, will you please write some words for our enlightenment?" Lao Tzu agreed and before he walked out through the gates and disappeared into another realm, he left with Yin Hsi a slender collection of eighty-one short chapters verse consisting in total of only around five thousand words, which is now called Tao Te Ching.

Đạo Cao Đài - Cao-Đài Religion.

Đức Cao Đài - God, the Supreme Being.

Hộ Pháp - is the one who unveils the Mystery of the Invisible and is the Maintainer of the Rules and laws of the New Religion /The Cao- Đài Religion. It is he who pronounces judgments on dignitaries and disciples, who elevates the dignity of the faithful through their merit and brings sanctions against

those who have committed faults. He is actively involved in assuring that the religious Rules and Laws which have become Divine Laws are carried out in detail, in order to keep the dignitaries and adepts free of the suffering inflicted by the Lords of Karma.

In so doing, he watches over the positive progress of disciples in the Way of God, and guide all evolved souls to achieve the Divine Phase of the Great Spirit. He holds control over the Legislative Power both exoterically and esoterically.

Khổng Tử - Kong Zi, Confucius

Lý Bạch - Li Po 李白, the Spiritual Pope of Cao-Đài Religion.