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關於茲善的思考

——第四届"国际公益慈善论坛"演讲

『 2010年 6月 20日下午 』

各位高僧大德、各位慈善家:

大家好!今天很荣幸与这么多人共同交流慈善的话题。

我是,我有结益乃生。我是,我,我想得我的人名,我的是是为了一个一个一个,我们一个人名,那是为人的,是为人的,是为人的,是为人的。



各位一起探讨这样的理念,对我来讲非常高兴。

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慈善是心

所谓慈善,其实就是无条件关爱一切众生。在这方面,有钱的人可以作物质上的支持,而没有钱的人,则应发起一份爱心。我们虽不要求世界上所有人都变成比尔·盖茨、巴菲特,但至少也应效仿特蕾莎修女,先从身边的众生关心起。

特蕾莎,是天主教的一名普通修女,当她发现修道院外 穷人的悲惨遭遇后,毅然决然舍弃了天堂般的舒适生活,用 一生的时间,挑起了拯救贫民、麻风病患等的重任。从表面 上看,她不过是个平凡而普通的女人,但实际上,她所做的 事远远超出我们想象。且不说别的,仅仅在6年时间里,她 就收留了6万多个弃婴……这些可歌可泣的善举,赢得了全 世界的认同。1979年,她获得了"诺贝尔和平奖"。去年, 诺贝尔基金会一致认为,她是诺贝尔奖百余年历史上最受尊 崇的3位获奖者之一。(其他两位是1921年物理学奖得主爱因斯 坦、1964年和平奖得主马丁·路德·金。)所以,不管是佛教徒, 还是天主教等其他宗教徒,以慈善来帮助他人都非常有意 义。

现在人生存的目标各不相同,但若是只一味追求外在的物质,内心充斥着自私自利,那就算生活条件再好、世界变

得再美丽,一切的一切也无有任何实义。所以,要想人生真正具有价值,就应该用佛教的利他理念来调整自心,若能做到付出一切而不求回报,这才是最有意义的。

然而,如今不少人认为,慈善只是有钱人的消遣,跟自己这种平民百姓没多大关系,故对这方面不闻不问、从不关注。这种观念是错误。对此,我常想起一个非常难忘的故事:2007年2月16日,刚刚卸任的联合国秘书长安南,在自己的庄园举行一场慈善晚宴,旨在为非洲贫困儿童募捐,应邀参加的都是富商和社会名流。晚宴将要开始时,一位老妇人领着一个小女孩来到庄园的入口处,小女孩手里捧着一个精致的瓷罐。保安见状,拦住了这一老一小,请她们出示请柬,否则不能进去。

小女孩说,她从电视上知道这里要为非洲儿童举行慈善活动,很想为那些可怜的孩子做点事,就把自己储钱罐里的钱都拿来了,想全部捐给他们。保安却仍以没有请柬为由,拒绝她们入内,并说这种场合不太适合她们。

小女孩问道:"叔叔,慈善不是钱,是心,对吗?"她的话让保安愣住了。见自己实在无法进去,小女孩就将手中的储钱罐递给保安,请求道:"我知道受到邀请的人有很多

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钱,他们会拿出很多钱,我没有那么多,但这是我所有的钱。如果我真的不能进去,请帮我把这个带进去吧!"

正在此时,旁边突然有位老人说:"不用了,孩子,你说得对,慈善不是钱,是心。你可以进去,所有有爱心的人都可以进去。"他,就是美国大名鼎鼎的"股神"巴菲特。

后来,这场慈善晚宴的主题改为:"慈善不是钱,是心。" 当天的主角并不是捐出 300 万美元的巴菲特,也不是捐出 800 万美元的比尔·盖茨,而是这仅仅捐出 30 多美元的小 女孩,她赢得了最多、最热烈的掌声。

这个故事说明了什么?就是普普通通的人也可以参与慈善,这并非仅仅是有钱人的专利。在此问题上,李连杰的"壹基金"就做得非常好,他号召每人一个月捐一元钱,或者做一个小时的义工,如此一来,只要有颗善良的心,谁都可以参与到慈善中来。

当今慈善的现状及历史原因

现在社会两极分化非常严重,有钱的人挥金如土、一掷千金;没钱的人却衣不蔽体、食不果腹,连基本生活都难以

保障。以前杜甫所描述的"朱门酒肉臭,路有冻死骨",也是当今许多现状的真实写照。在这样的环境中,我们每个人应发起无私的爱心,尽量去帮助相关众生。若能人人都做到"老吾老,以及人之老;幼吾幼,以及人之幼",构建和谐社会才会轻而易举、指日可待。

然遗憾的是,这样的理念,如今只留在文字上,很少人能真正做到。大部分人只关心身边的亲朋好友,而素昧平生的那些人,即使遇到了困难、痛苦,自己也袖手旁观、无动于衷。人们的慈善观念之所以这么差,究其原因,可以追溯至六七十年代。那时由于受极左思潮和"文革"的影响,慈善被视为"资产阶级的糖衣炮弹"、"地主阶级的伪善之举",从而遭到了历史性的毁灭和打击,致使慈善事业一度陷入停滞,销声匿迹长达 30 年之久。直到 20 世纪 80 年代,慈善的概念才重新兴起,慈善机构纷纷建立,慈善活动频频开展,此时一部分人才纠正了对慈善事业的误解和偏见。

但尽管如此,慈善理念由于历史上的影响,在大众中仍未得到广泛认可。现有的《辞源》、《辞海》中都没有"慈善家"的词条,几年前出版的《中国大百科全书》中对"慈善事业"的解释是:"带有浓重的宗教和迷信,其目的是为了做好事求善报。慈善者通常把慈善事业看作是一种施舍……

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它只是对少数人的一种暂时的、消极的救济。"相比之下,美国《百科全书》中"慈善事业"的释义则是:"最悠久的社会传统之一,它借由金钱的捐助和其他服务,来提升人类的福祉。"所以,为了推动慈善事业的发展,廓清遗留在人们头脑中的模糊认识和偏见,重新定义"慈善事业"等词语,从各方面加强人们的慈善意识很有必要。



未来对慈善的展望

作为佛教徒,帮助可怜众生,甚至舍己为他,是我们义

不容辞的责任。即便在座各位中有些不是佛教徒,但对于看不起病、读不起书、吃不饱、穿不暖的人伸出援手,也是一个具良知者的基本道德。那么,我们如何才能加快这种慈善公益的步伐,改变当前一些不足,以更大程度地利益众生呢? 对此,我想提一下自己的看法:

第一、慈善的未来,离不开民间慈善力量,这与政府相关政策上的鼓励和支持,是分不开的。就拿这次玉树地震来说,我们佛学院当时去了一千多位出家人,大家都不顾生命危险、饥寒交迫,没日没夜地抢救,最终救出了一些埋在废墟中的人,也挖出了很多灾民的财物。可见,在一场大的灾难面前,单纯依靠政府的组织、领导,要解决许多问题有相当大的困难。因此,政府应积极调动各方面的力量,增强人们的慈善观念,并在此基础上,加快慈善的立法进程,健全慈善法律制度,以令更多的人承担起这种社会责任。

第二、全民应增强慈善意识,从根本上转变以往的观念。 现在许多人在学校所受的教育、所读的书,长大后在社会几 乎用不上,而且由于缺乏人格和道德的培养,到了工作岗位 之后,成天为金钱而四处奔波、为地位而不断忙碌,结果给 自己带来了什么? 唯一就是痛苦折磨。因此,不管是什么样 的学校,都应发挥它的教育作用,让青少年从小有一种仁爱

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的观念,时时培养他们助人为乐的意识,以慈悲心来行持一切善举。

今天,公益慈善论坛的背景,就是一个大大的"善"字。假如人人小时候都能有颗善心,就不会做违法乱纪的事情了。因此,现在社会最需要的,不是外在的金钱和物质,而是内心的道德。

大家都清楚,在 20 世纪末、21 世纪初,整个人类的经济发展达到了前所未有的高度,可是由于人们不知足,以至于伦理道德日益下滑,内心的困惑不断增加,天灾人祸也频频出现。因此,心里没有善念的话,外在的物质再丰富,也无法得到真实的幸福安乐。所以,每个人应转变自己的理念,这一点相当重要。

第三、要完善慈善机构的管理机制。倘若这些机构资金 使用的透明度不高,运作方式不完善,就会丧失公信力,得 不到民众的支持和信任,这样一来,其时间也不会长久的。

总而言之,不管中国,还是其他东方国家,在慈善的理念、力度、管理上,与西方发达国家比起来,确实有天壤之别。因此,我们今后如何用心去推动慈善事业的发展,这值

得每一位有志之士三思。

好,非常感谢!最后祈愿我们能以菩提心或爱心,对待 所有人类乃至一切众生。谢谢大家!

Thoughts on Charity

The 4th "International Charity Forum" Speech
(June 20, 2010 PM)

All senior monks and nuns and philanthropists:

Hello everybody! Today, I am very pleased to be here with so many people to share a topic about charity.

For myself, I am a Buddhist, and of all the philosophies of Mahayana Buddhism, the fundamental basis of it is to benefit all human beings, and even all sentient beings. Therefore, for me, I am very happy to discuss about this concept with everyone here.

Charity is Heart

The so-called charity is actually the unconditional care and love to all sentient beings. Regarding this, the rich can offer material support, while for those that have no money, should generate a loving heart toward others instead. We are not asking everyone in the world to become Bill Gates or Warren Buffett, but at least we should imitate Mother Teresa, starting taking care of sentient beings around us first.

Mother Teresa is an ordinary Catholic nun, when she encountered the plight of the poor outside the convent, she resolutely abandoned the comfortable heavenly life, using her whole lifetime, to undertake the important tasks of rescuing the poor, leprosy patients, etc. On the surface, she is just an ordinary and commonplace woman, but in fact, what she had done were far more than what we could imagine. Not to mention anything else, Only with just six years, she gave shelters to more than 60,000 abandoned babies ... These heroic charities, has received worldwide recognition. In 1979, she won the "Nobel Peace Prize". Last year, the Nobel Foundation, agreed that in the hundred year history of the Nobel Prize, she was among the most respected three winners. (The other two were Einstein Prize in Physics in 1921, Martin Luther King Peace Prize winner in 1964.) So, whether Buddhist, Catholic or other religious believers, acts of charity to help others are very meaningful.

Nowadays, the objectives of human life are different individually for everyone, but if we solely seek for external material things, the heart filled with selfishness, then no matter how good the living conditions are, no matter how beautiful the world is, nothing will have its real meaning. Therefore, to have a meaningful life, we should use Buddhist concept of benefiting others to transform our mind, if we give everything without asking for return, then only it becomes very meaningful.

However, today, many people think that charity is only entertainment for the rich and has little to do with the civilian population. Therefore, in this respect, they have no interest and never concern about it. This thought is wrong. In this regard, I often think of a very memorable story: February 16, 2007, the just outgoing UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, held a charity dinner in his own manor to raise money for the poor children in Africa, participants were the wealthy and celebrities. Before the banquet started, an old woman led a little girl came to the entrance of the manor, that little girl was holding a delicate porcelain jar. Seeing this, the security man stopped the old and the young, and then asked them to show their invitation cards, or otherwise they would not be allowed to enter.

The little girl said that she knew from television that

there would be a charity event for the children of Africa, and would like to do something for those poor children, as such, she decided to take out all the money in her saving jar to donate them for the poor children, but security man was still using the ground that they were not invited to refuse them entering the manor, and said that the place was not so suitable for them.

The little girl asked: "Uncle, charity is not money, is the heart, right?" her words shocked the security man. Knowing that she was really not able to get in, the little girl then handed the saving jar to the hands of the security man, she then requested: "I know the people invited are all very rich, they will donate a lot of money, I do not have so much, but it is all the money I have. If I really cannot go in, please help me take this in!"

At that time, suddenly, there was an old man said: "No, child, you're right, charity is not money, is the heart. You can go in. all the loving persons can go in". He is the famous American, "Sage of Omaha", Warren Buffett.

Later, the charity banquet slogan was then changed to: "Charity is not money, is the heart", the protagonist of that day's charity dinner was not Warren Buffett, who donated 3 million dollars, not Bill Gates, who donated 8 million dollars, but the girl who just donated 30 dollars, she was so well received and got the most enthusiastic applause.

What does this story imply? That, an ordinary person can participate in charity, this is not just a privilege of the rich. In this matter, Jet Li's "One Foundation" has done a very good job. He encourages each person to donate at least one dollar per month, or do an hour of volunteer work, this way, as long as there is a kind heart, anyone also can participate in a charitable event.

The Present Charity's Situation and Its Historical Causes

Social polarization is now very serious, wealthy people spend money like water and being extravagant; In contrast, poor people, do not have enough clothes to wear, do not have enough food to eat, and even their basic needs are not guaranteed. Once upon a time, described by Du Fu, "While the manor of the rich got spoilt wines and rotten meats, the road side got the frozen bones of the deaths.", this is now also a true picture of many existing