

COLLECTED FA TEACHINGS - VOLUME IX



COLLECTED  
FA TEACHINGS

VOLUME IX

各地講法九

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# Fa Teaching Given at the 2009 Greater New York International Fa Conference

LI HONGZHI ~ JUNE 7, 2009

Good afternoon! (*Disciples: Good morning, Master!*)  
You've been working hard! (*Disciples: Master has been  
working hard!*)

I am delighted to see you all, as we haven't seen each other for over a year. (*Enthusiastic applause*) I have intentionally avoided lecturing too much, for I am aware that the more thoroughly I talk about something, the greater the difficulty it will bring your cultivation and the more trouble the old forces' elements will make. The Fa has been taught, and Master has told you that as long as you are steadfast in cultivating by this Fa, everything will be yours. That's definitely the case, so as long as you study it earnestly, it is the same as my teaching you directly. So having pondered this matter, I decided that it was better to speak less frequently, leaving you more opportunities to improve, to

arrive at your own insights, and to walk your own path. When I teach the Fa infrequently though, what worries me most is not the hardships or ordeals you face, which you know to be plenty hard. They are not the hardest thing; after all, however trying hardship may be, it's over after you get through it, and at that point things are clear to you. Rather, to quietly cultivate in bleak loneliness, unable to see hope, is the hardest of all. Doing any form of cultivation entails undergoing a trial such as this and a path with such features. Only if one can persevere and continually forge ahead does it amount to true diligence. It's easy to talk about, but putting it into action is tremendously difficult. That is why it's said that always cultivating as if you were just starting will surely result in achieving your ultimate rank.

You have all seen that in today's society negative things abound, and they spur on people's attachments and affect their minds and souls, continually dragging the world's people downwards. It is terrifying. Dafa disciples are human cultivators, not gods that cultivate, and so as people who cultivate, they will be interfered with to some extent. If they cannot handle themselves well, then they are just like ordinary people; and when interfered with, their behavior will be much like that of ordinary people. Some students haven't encountered much in the way of ordeals and have gradually become lax. This means that they have formed attachments to the various temptations of ordinary society, and been dragged down by its lure. Of course, different people have different human thoughts as they cultivate and their innate foundations are different, just as their attitudes toward cultivation are, of course, different. The most precious thing is to manage to continually progress

while in this grueling setting, under pressure, and unable to see hope. That is the most precious, and greatest, thing.

I have discovered that many students have, in this period of time where they couldn't see me, become relatively lax and not so strict with themselves. Cultivation is truly something solemn. Two earths have come to pass since the creation of the world, and this eons-old history has all been to await the final moment that is today. This time is, in reality, but the blink of an eye or the wave of a hand, as gods see it. But in this dimension of man, it requires a process that takes time. However long something takes in human dimension time, it is still but the blink of an eye to the gods. Many years need to pass in this human place, and as the time drags on, some students are apt to become less diligent and to slack off a bit. You have to be vigilant about this problem. I think that you will be fine as long as you pay attention to it from now on. Seen in another light, the path that you have traveled and all that you have faced and gone through, as with Dafa's vast spreading, and the deeds of our cultivators—none of this is possibly by chance. Ordinary people would never have the chance to experience all that you have gone through. The unfolding of an event as great as this in the human world could by no means be accidental. Think about it a little and you will see that it really isn't ordinary. Since you have made it through so many years, why can't you do well on the final leg of the journey? Failing to be diligent in cultivation is actually no trivial thing. The instant you relax, you will be led away by human thinking and take a backward, or roundabout, route, and you will cooperate poorly with each other as you validate the Fa and clarify the facts.

Each of our Dafa disciples' projects that clarify the facts and save people is self-organized voluntarily for the purpose of validating the Fa, and you have seen what you've achieved. The media entities and networks that Dafa disciples have put together, and all that you have accomplished, strike fear into the evil elements. The wicked CCP has mobilized China's entire state apparatus—not just its propaganda organs—and as a result, all of its foreign affairs initiatives abroad have stagnated. It all exists solely to persecute Falun Gong. As Dafa disciples clarify the facts, they are truly going at it one man against a hundred, or even one against a thousand, and have effectively exposed this ordeal that the evil created and directed at Dafa disciples. In the last few decades, the wicked CCP has always put up a façade and feigned peace and prosperity so as to get the world to recognize the legitimacy of the wicked Party's rule. Right now, the evil in other dimensions has been badly decimated, and its ability to control people has waned. So, for Dafa disciples, things overall have become ever more relaxed and comfortable. But as things get more comfortable, the pressure lessens; and when the pressure is lessened, it's apt to lead to a desire for comfort, to wanting a little more ease, to relaxing a little bit, and to seeking some relief. But the reality is, each Dafa disciple's life has been tightly wed to, like links in a chain, his cultivation. So when you relax yourself, it amounts to relaxing in your cultivation.

Some Dafa disciples are working on projects meant to save people, and they are busy and work hard. I'm aware of all of this. And I know some Dafa disciples have very little time to rest, and face many challenges. But whatever the case, isn't today what we have awaited? Whether you made

vows in history or came specifically for this affair, what's before us at this moment, today, is what Dafa disciples are to do and have long awaited. Though what you are doing is saving people, you are nonetheless cultivating yourselves as well, and so what manifests in this human setting won't be fully divine-like. If the world's people could see your godly appearance and the wonders of what you do, it would break the spell of delusion that makes this an ordinary, human place. In that case there would be no such thing as Dafa disciples cultivating or saving people, and the hardships would disappear. And without those things, your cultivation would become less sacred. So it is for this reason that you appear to be ordinary human beings. And there is more than just this. As I just said, this kind of cultivation setting, where one cannot see what lies ahead and one is immersed in prolonged loneliness, is the hardest to endure, and it is most apt to lead a person to slack off. This is the greatest test in cultivation.

Of course, the evil factors in mainland China are still quite rampant in some locales. Though the majority of the bad factors have been cleared away, in some locales and in certain scenarios, they can still manage to control bad people and act out in sinister ways. So, a portion of our students will really feel a great deal of pressure when setting out to do things. The same is true outside China; that is, those that are truly at the forefront of things will feel this pressure. No matter what, though, and regardless of what kind of setting they are in, all Dafa disciples need to do well.

Yesterday, I discussed with our Dafa disciples from NTDTV a few of the situations at hand. Another thing at present that you are all aware of, is that students who

haven't been diligent—people that didn't step forward for a long time and fell far short—have begun to step forward in a steady stream as the climate has changed. In mainland China, quite a few Dafa disciples from the most severely persecuted and heavily pressured areas have stepped forward after long having failed to. There are also some people who have come here from China, and conflicts have arisen when they tried to work together with overseas Dafa disciples. This has led to Dafa disciples around the world feeling that things have gotten more complicated. The main reason for this, however, is something other than their cultivation state.

The notions that people from mainland China have were formed under the influence of the wicked CCP's culture. Their concepts, mindsets, way of life, and day-to-day conduct were all formed under such circumstances. The people in Western society or those in societies not ruled by the wicked communist party live in a human way that is natural, with the differences among peoples just being cultural. In a natural society such as that, people share a common way of life that values keeping calm, being kind and open-minded, and not putting up your guard around people. That's normal, and before the wicked Party came along, Chinese people used to be that way too. But in today's Chinese society, the wicked CCP constantly uses lies, hatred, and "struggle" to educate people from birth to adulthood. It unfailingly uses false principles to educate people, and always does so based on its needs, resulting in people's behavior becoming more and more in line with what it wants as their daily conduct sinks further. Some people in mainland China still talk about ancient

traditions though, and a few still have traditional values. The presence of such people was what led to the Cultural Revolution, and that's why there have been all kinds of political movements there, to constantly batter and destroy the Chinese people's traditions. Today's youth have grown up amidst nothing but Party culture and lies, and the mindsets they have formed amidst those lies, as with their conduct and how they go about things, are in stark contrast to those of people from other nations. In other societies, when two people meet in person, they are able to speak openly about anything, and even if they didn't know each other before, they are able to speak sincerely and frankly. That's simply impossible for people in the mainland. So, the students that have come from the mainland do things and interact with others differently from how people do outside China. Students from outside China don't understand the students from there, and can't understand what they say and do, wondering, "How can they do things this way? Why is this person so odd?" The reality is that Chinese people who were made to "struggle" against and denounce each other in multiple political campaigns by the wicked Party have, after having experienced such persecution, sealed themselves off by force of habit; and that has especially been the case during the persecution of Dafa disciples. Dafa disciples should be understanding of one another, however. And conversely, mainlanders, having formed that kind of mentality in China, can't understand people abroad, and wonder, "How can these foreigners be so stupid?" Nor can they understand Chinese who have been outside China for a long time, and ask themselves, "How come they do things this way?" Indeed, being human beings, everyone should

really just act normally. This is an area in which you need to be understanding of one another and cooperate well.

Because of the different mindset that mainland students have, the unsuccessful cooperation, their abnormal way of looking at things, their always being at odds with people, and their closing themselves off, some Dafa disciples outside of China wonder if the students from the mainland are spies. In a lot of places, this has stirred things up and caused quite some disruption. I think that you know what I've said before, namely, that I will save the spies, too. He may be a spy in this life, but in his previous lives perhaps he was outstanding. And they all came for this Fa. So, why would we judge him based solely on this lifetime? Should we no longer save him, in that case? He merely has a different profession, that's all. Of course, what he does in his line of work can indeed cause harm and mean that he has committed sins against Dafa. But I think that the Fa is immense and that this is the Great Law of the cosmos, after all, so it can resolve anything. As long as you can open up your heart and be tolerant, I think anything can change. Back when I was disseminating the Fa in China, there were so many students that were members of the wicked Party and veteran cadres from the Red Army, there were many party secretaries, many students from the state and public security bureaus, and many students from the military—even members from the third or second intelligence directorates of the military's general staff. It's not that they truly went to the other side during the persecution, but rather, that they were fearful and became confused in the face of pressure. The person is a human being, after all, and is capable of doing anything under pressure. Once

he becomes clearheaded, he will certainly come back. It's just a matter of time.

Saving people is just that, saving people, and to pick and choose would not be merciful. That is particularly true now, when human society has reached this point and everything is falling apart. The only criterion now is what a person himself wants. I discussed this just yesterday. I said that history has never seen an era in which people have become so bad, as they are today. And that is especially so for the people in mainland China, whose utter moral collapse has reached an all-time low. If you walk down the street and observe people's thoughts, very few of them have good things in mind, many think about bad things every moment, and most of what they do is bad. Society as a whole is driving these things, and the wicked Party is yanking people down. So for Dafa disciples, this persecution will allow them to, whatever the case—no matter how much physical suffering or mental torment it causes them, and no matter how severe the persecution—eliminate their karma and head towards Consummation. What awaits Dafa disciples are all the best things. Isn't this the goal of your cultivation? However, per the old forces' sinister arrangements, this wicked-Party-perpetrated persecution of the world—and especially of the Chinese people—that was wrought by the old forces so as to supposedly “help Dafa disciples achieve Consummation” is unmatched in its severity. By corrupting people and having them commit sins against Dafa, isn't it pushing the Chinese people towards destruction? Even though it was the old forces that arranged this vile persecution, it is nonetheless on account of Dafa disciples that the Chinese people have endured such disgrace and suffering. So from

that perspective, shouldn't you go and save them? Shouldn't Dafa disciples open their hearts wide? Aren't even those who carry out the persecution, with the exception of the head of the evil, themselves targeted by the persecution?

I thus wanted to point out that right now, when many of your different projects are short-handed, some of the Dafa disciples who have come out of China still have no place on a project. I'd say that you shouldn't worry about whether they have been "transformed" or not. As long as the person has left that evil setting, he will regain his clarity and feel regret. Even though it was a disgrace, the person needs to be given a chance to come back. Cultivators must have human thoughts in order to cultivate, after all. Such a person's sore spots are going to be sensitive when they're hit upon, and sometimes the person will even defend himself with some kind of argument, fearing scorn. So, regardless of how he got out of there, he should still be able to enter this environment of Dafa disciples. You cannot push these people away. Instead, you should get close to them and show them warmth. No matter what they think or do, and no matter how different their mindset may be, they will gradually come to know and appreciate how people in other countries lead their lives. Broaden your hearts and minds some, for they are your fellow disciples, Master's Dafa disciples. You need to show tolerance for them. If you really do feel uncomfortable putting someone like this on a certain project or asking him to do certain things, then you can inquire with the Dafa disciples in China from his locale about his specific circumstances. As long as he was a Dafa disciple originally, then I don't think involving him

will present a problem. Dafa can strengthen even diamond, so could it be that we can't help one such individual person to improve? No environment can compare to that of Dafa disciples. As long as your righteous thoughts, as Dafa disciples, get a little stronger and you collaborate a little better with fewer conflicts, the strength of your efforts to save people will be greater.

Right now some of your projects require a lot of hard work. Especially notable are the media projects, which require a relatively large number of people. For a media entity to really have the effect of saving sentient beings and really leverage the strengths of a media outlet, you have to have a firm footing in ordinary society. Having a firm footing in ordinary society isn't just something to pay lip service to. Rather, it is something you need to truly act upon. If you want to have a firm footing in ordinary society, you have to run that entity well. The ultimate goal and starting point for any company in ordinary society is to do business and make money. Though your starting point is to save people, you still need to become well established in society, get into a positive cycle financially, and adhere to society's management methods as much as possible. If something were not quite right for human society, it surely wouldn't be adopted widely. So, when everyone uses certain methods of management, it means that they suit people's needs and that gods permit such a format in society. In the last century or two, the way corporations operate has proven to be viable, and you could say it is the result of what ordinary people have learned through experience. Then why can't we follow those conventions when we run ours?

Dafa disciples all have in mind the thought, “We will rush to the front lines, no matter how hard or exhausting it may be or if it means long nights without sleep—we can, and will, do whatever it takes.” But, when it comes to management, they falter. Didn’t you say that you could do whatever it takes? (*Audience laughs*) Didn’t you all go from not knowing how to do something to knowing how? Then why is it that you can’t do this part well? Only by running a media entity well can it grow stronger and have more of the desired effect. Right now how much time is wasted figuring out how to keep it going and scrounging around for money to sustain it—how hard it has been! If you really put some thought and effort into this, then I think the outcome will be great. Whether it’s seeking sponsorships or getting ads, all of that behind-the-scenes work done to get capital for the media companies is the same as that of those who act as the public face of the company—the mighty virtue is exactly the same. It couldn’t possibly be that someone’s mighty virtue is greater just because he writes articles, acts as an editor, serves as a translator, often appears in or on that media, or because he has some select assignment. All of you who participate in that media entity are, as Dafa disciples, the same, regardless of what task you do.

Yet when you deal with this issue that has long confounded you, upon seeing the challenges ahead, fully aware of them, you retreat instead of pushing forward, and don’t want to do it. I want to tell you here, as Master, that I support managing the media companies well. I have told the people responsible for the media entities that they should put some effort into this. But there are more people who aren’t so clear on this, and you have this short-

term thinking, namely, “When Fa-rectification requires something, we’ll do it. When it’s over with, we’re done.” But that’s not how things work. When Dafa disciples do something, it is never solely for that one thing. With whatever you do, you need to consider the present as well as the future, and you need to consider the task itself as well as anything related to it. Right now this cultural format is being used to save people and validate the Fa, but won’t this format be left to the future? Won’t it be given to the people of the future to follow?

Then there is another management issue related to how you run a media company. You all have this attitude of, “If I want to do something, I’ll do it. But when someone tells me what to do, I don’t go for it.” How could that work? You are Dafa disciples. When you work at an ordinary company, you do whatever your boss tells you to. So how come with a Dafa project, when doing something for Dafa, you won’t listen when someone says something, tells you to do something, or assigns something for you to do? Just think about it: is that right? If we want to gain a foothold in society and have that media entity more effectively play its role, then you have to run it with ordinary means. That’s what I have told the television station, the radio station, the Epoch Times newspaper, and the other media entities. It was something I said to them. If you want to use these [media] forms to clarify the facts and save people, then you need to take that approach. Whatever ordinary people do or however they run a company, that’s how you need to do it. It’s merely that your motive is to save people. That’s where the difference lies.

Real-life experience has shown that the human style

of management is quite effective, so why don't you use it? Perhaps that format for doing things is to be left to the future. But if you're telling me that with your managerial process nobody listens to anyone, then could that format be passed on to the future? No, that wouldn't work. If people don't want to listen whenever you assign something and they just want to do whatever suits their fancy, and each does things his own way, could that ever work? It's just like when this fist goes out—it's strong when everyone is clenched together. (*Master makes a fist.*) But if you're saying that this one wants to do this, that one wants to do that, and the next one something else (*spreading the five fingers apart and pointing to each finger*), then that's weak, and as soon as it goes out, it will be repelled, right? You need to have a plan and organize things, coordinate well, and cooperate with each other.

Some people might think, "Why should I listen to so-and-so? I think I've cultivated better than him." You mustn't say that. Only someone who has cultivated well will be content to follow whatever is assigned to him, and [thinking that way] only proves that you have not cultivated well. I have said that the media companies you run are not inherently a part of Dafa, and that the duties which go with your assigned role do not represent your cultivation level. You are Dafa disciples, and have come together of your own volition for the purpose of saving sentient beings and validating the Fa. You built up this project to save people and validate the Fa. That's how these things should be viewed. Since the company is not a part of Dafa, it should gain a solid footing in society, and be ordinary. Why shouldn't something ordinary be managed

with ordinary methods? An ordinary person's job doesn't bespeak of how high his level used to be in the heavens, nor does it represent how high a cultivator's current realm is or how well he has cultivated. Since you understand this principle, and know that just because someone manages you it doesn't mean he has cultivated to a higher place, then should there still be issues of discontentment or jealousy involved here? It's fine for someone to manage you, since that is for Dafa. Aren't Dafa disciples supposed to be able to adapt to different circumstances? When you faced harsh persecution while in jail, when you were beaten and cursed at by wicked people, and ordered around, did you succumb to discontentment at that time? Then why is it that in this situation, when involved in something so sacred, you can't do it??

Today there are a great many Dafa disciples before me, so I wanted to spell things out. You have done very well with the media entities and already had a huge effect in saving sentient beings. So this is something that needs to be done well. Master's wish is that you will get them on a solid footing in society and make them solid businesses with a positive cycle, thus allowing them to have an even greater impact and do even more to save sentient beings. That's what I wanted to say. As for the management of things, you should have departments, a managerial level, and people who do the hands-on tasks. The roles are different, but they all have in common the one goal of validating the Fa. Those who manage things and those who carry out tasks earn the same mighty virtue. You are supporting the format of that media entity and using it to save sentient beings, so your impact is the same.

I have a lot to say, but whatever I would bring up would lend too much emphasis to that topic. I won't say much more. I just wanted to talk in general terms about things at present. If you have questions that you really feel a need to ask or that urgently need to be resolved, you can pass them up shortly on slips of paper, and I will answer them for you. (*Applause*)

Looking at the essence of the current situation, we can see that the evil's factors are finished and that the evil specter of the wicked CCP has been destroyed. It's just that some of its messages still exist—for example, in some of its books or pictures from the past—along with its evil factors, though most of those evil factors have been destroyed. The harm being done to Dafa disciples comes from the mess of utterly base low spirits and rotten demons that exist in the low-level places that have been impacted by Fa-rectification. Those things are being directly controlled by evil factors, and the old bad factors of even higher levels are at work layer after layer. But in China, that evil specter of the CCP has long been finished. As you know, there are factors of the evil specter behind the wicked Party. Who before would have dared to say that the wicked Party was bad? People wouldn't dare say anything, even behind closed doors in their own homes. People were even afraid at just the thought of it, and had a sense something was watching them. Yet now, everyone—from the wicked Party's central authorities down to the common folk—dares to curse it in public. Whenever they get together, they curse the wicked CCP. This shows that the evil factors that used to control people are no more, that they're finished. Then why is its political power still intact? That's just a gang of thugs who want to

oppress and exploit the people, and stay in power—it's an extremely depraved gang at work, holding onto power. It plays into the hands of the old cosmos's evil factors, which exploit their bad thoughts and use them to create pressure for, and sustain that sinister climate for, the Dafa disciples who have yet to step forward or who haven't cultivated well. That society is now rotten to the core.

If I were to end this affair right now, too many future lives would be destroyed. Those people that came down to obtain the Fa, those people that came on account of obtaining the Fa, would have come in vain. Regardless of what those lives are now doing, they were, in the beginning, gods. They saw how terrifying it was here, yet they dared to jump headlong in—they dared to come. Why was that? Because they had hope in the Fa-rectification and Dafa, and they came out of a deep faith. No matter how they are behaving now, we need to look at how things were initially and look at their history—at how that life once was—and do our utmost to save them. This is the Great Law of the cosmos, after all, and for the countless sentient beings, it's an opportunity that is hard to come by. It is here just this once, and if they can remain, they will remain; if they cannot, then they will disappear forever. So I feel that we need to keep doing this and keep saving them. If the people who had obtained the Fa today were not you but others, and you were the ones in that circumstance and counted among the ordinary people, think about it: wouldn't you be deserving of pity? And as for the Chinese people, who suffer the most severe persecution, they are persecuted to that extent only on account of the old forces' trying to interfere with you. So there is even more reason for you to save them. At present,

it is a given that you need to do well the three things and cultivate yourselves well. Have strong righteous thoughts. When you cultivate yourself well, your righteous thoughts will of course be strong. So for all of you, saving sentient beings is your responsibility and your historic mission, and it is something at once both monumental and grueling.

You know that it's not hard for us to save a person; the difficulty lies in the evil's interference and pressure. When a person manages to understand the truth and be saved, it means that, speaking on a fundamental level, all of the lives in the cosmic system behind him that he represents are saved in conjunction. It means that immeasurable numbers of sentient beings and immense systems—so many lives—are saved. It is a factor that major which makes it hard for the person to have a chance to hear the truth and understand what is before him. It takes the form of various evil factors interfering with our clarifying the facts, but in essence it's due to the presence of that major factor behind it all. I just said that the responsibility Dafa disciples have is monumental and that this historic mission is not something just anyone could take on—only Dafa disciples are worthy. It's magnificent, truly magnificent.

I want to mention something in passing. It is something I haven't talked to you about before. I spoke about something at the meeting yesterday, and I need to repeat it today. Otherwise it will circulate inaccurately. In the past, as a part of Fa-rectification, gods at every level addressed the matter of determining what would happen with humankind after Fa-rectification, and gods at a certain level arranged for there to be a great Final Judgment. This can be found in the Western tradition, which tells of mankind facing

a grand judgment. But it would not be limited to mankind: all beings of the whole Three Realms would face it. Even deceased people would be brought back to life and face judgment. This judgment would be the final conclusion to all that had come to pass since the creation of the world, and encompass the beginning of and spreading of Dafa as well as mark the end of saving sentient beings, and in particular, it would encompass all of what beings during the final Fa-rectification period had done—all of it would be displayed in full view. When I have spoken about “sentient beings,” I have used the term in a broad, comprehensive sense that includes everything in the cosmos. Regardless of whether man’s science calls something organic or inorganic, the truth is that everything is alive. The lives of the multitude of dimensions, all sentient beings, came for this Dafa; and the living environments that all the sentient beings were provided with were themselves created for this Dafa. Then I would say that in the end, all of them would have to face the Judgment. I didn’t mention this before while teaching the Fa, for the arrangements made at that specific level no longer count; ultimately it will be I who decides what is done. The Final Judgment that they arranged was not limited to the judging of those who would play oppositional or negative roles, or those who would do bad things. Rather, those that had played positive roles would also have to face the Judgment. What would they face? Here’s an example. While you might have played a positive role during Fa-rectification, there would remain the question: did you fulfill your responsibilities to the utmost degree? Another example is, those who came here to be Dafa disciples: what was the vow that you made? did you honor that vow? what

did the Lord Creator require of you? did you do as the Lord Creator required? If you did not honor your original vow or do as the Lord Creator required, then you would not have completed what you were supposed to do and would have in effect deceived the Lord. Since you would have thus brought losses to your local area's situation at that time, to the progress of Fa-rectification, and to the sentient beings that were thus not saved, and you would have thus brought damage or ruin to different levels of the cosmos, you would be held accountable. I talked about this yesterday, and I needed to repeat it for you today lest it be passed around inaccurately. I didn't talk about this before and hadn't wanted to get into this, for I know that you have all been through so much. But ultimately, no matter how you are made to stand and face Fa-rectification and yourself, if you have failed to do well, you will truly be considered responsible.

Next, you can pass up your slips and I will answer your questions. (*Applause*)

*Disciple: I would like to ask Master to talk about the function and significance of Shen Yun's performances at this point in the history of Fa-rectification.*

MASTER: By now you've all seen that at each of Shen Yun Performing Arts's performances there are hundreds in attendance at a minimum, and most typically there are over a thousand, or even two or three thousand, with the number ranging upwards of over five thousand at times, depending on the size of the venue. As many as that may be, after watching the performance over ninety percent

who attend have a change of attitude toward Dafa, and they become clear about what that evil Party is; the people become completely positive. Effecting change in that many people all at once like that would be really hard to achieve simply by clarifying the truth. Just think about how many Dafa disciples it would take, all clarifying the truth in sync, to achieve that? Of course, that's not to say that our media haven't had a large impact. Rather, it's that right now nothing but a Shen Yun performance can have an impact as big and instantaneous as I've described.

Everyone's experience while taking in a Shen Yun performance is different. Chinese audience members understand it on a rational level. The pure goodness and beauty of what unfolds on stage is just stunning both in terms of the visual effect and the feelings it evokes, especially so because it is built completely upon [China's] divinely inspired cultural heritage, has not a hint of Party culture, and is something truly human and part of the human heritage. So when the performance shows the great compassion and fortitude of Dafa disciples, and after it lays bare the lies of the wicked CCP, it is truly stirring indeed to the Chinese in attendance. Westerners and persons of other ethnicities also find the experience to be really powerful, with some even actually seeing, as they watch, mesmerized, divine beings on the stage. Nowhere else but at a Shen Yun performance have they ever seen performers of such high caliber or with that kind of positivity on stage. After watching, many say things like, "It was heavenly," "God was with them," "This gives us hope for the future," or "Shen Yun is reviving the arts." Many who make such remarks are people of prominence, and not the type to speak frivolously. And some of them are so moved

that they are wiping tears away as they speak. All of this indicates that the performances really do accomplish what I've described. So we know that Shen Yun's performances really can have the effect of saving people. Then as Dafa disciples, when we consider that but one Shen Yun tour can manage to save hundreds of thousands of people, is there anything not to like about it?

Okay, that's all for this question.

*Disciple: Disciples from all countries abroad who have come to the New York Fa conference give their regards to Master.*

**MASTER:** Thank you all! (*Warm applause.*)

*Disciple: Could Shen Yun travel to India to perform? Also, there are many people in India, especially school students, who are rapidly gaining the Fa and starting the exercises. But, owing to a shortage of Dafa materials, we can't ensure that they are diligent about exercises or understanding the Fa after they learn it. How should we help these new practitioners? Another thing is, may we produce an English edition of the Epoch Times in India at this time?*

**MASTER:** It's fine for Shen Yun to perform there. You can start an English edition of The Epoch Times if conditions permit. There aren't any restrictions in place for this media entity. If conditions suffice, one day it will appear in mainland China.

Newer students need to study the Fa more; there is no way around it. If we look at the cultivation state of Dafa disciples as a whole, we find evidence from the path walked thus far that tells just how important Fa-study is. A human being is like a container. If he is filled with Fa, he will—this being

the Fa of the cosmos—naturally have righteous thoughts and play a positive role. That’s for sure. So there is only one way, and it is to study the Fa more. Don’t turn doing the exercises into a formality and stop at that. Rather, you should guide everyone to study the Fa more. The best thing is to organize students to study the Fa together in different settings, and this would be especially good in India, given the large number of school students.

*Disciple: When we’re promoting Shen Yun and, as of the last day or two before a performance, there are a lot of tickets left, fellow cultivators are often of two opinions. One is that we should lower the ticket prices, since we shouldn’t have empty seats. The other is that we shouldn’t lower the prices, since we need to establish the Shen Yun brand.*

**MASTER:** Since this has come up, here’s what I would like to say. You know how there are a number of famous brands out there that are known internationally, well, often these well-known brands are not hit hard in times of economic recession. Generally speaking, they aren’t affected much when the economy is bad. The reason is, typically what a bad economy affects is the lower rungs of society; the upper rungs have savings, and so they aren’t hit very hard. Looked at from another perspective, it is most definitely the case that in human society the upper class is endowed with a greater amount of blessing, and such people’s inborn quality is better. While this isn’t a hard and fast rule, it does hold true for the vast majority of people, since if they didn’t have blessings allotted to them they wouldn’t be entitled to what they have—unlike what the twisted logic of the wicked CCP says. We don’t try to distinguish the rich from the poor, for

we try to save all the sentient beings before us regardless of which class they belong to. So, it's not acceptable if we don't take care of the upper echelon of society.

A second matter is the ticket. The effect of a Shen Yun performance now counts it as the top show in the world—the best. (*Applause.*) And I don't just mean at present. I examined the quality of various shows during different eras of history, and ours is still the best. I'm referring to the theatrical effect of the performance, and this includes the artistic form as well as the artistic technique that's demonstrated. Ordinary people's performances can't compare, to be honest. What we have here is an assemblage of cultivators, and their starting point is a desire to save sentient beings; and what fills the stage but divine beings, who give assistance. Could ordinary people's performances possibly achieve that? They can't.

So as for the value of the ticket, we know that the people in Western society have social classes; the fact remains, however unhappy some people might be about it, that social classes really do exist. People from different social classes go to different stores and establishments. There's no question about it. This is something that Chinese people, having lived under the wicked Party, do not understand. If you ask someone from the upper class to go and partake in something lower class, he most certainly won't. Image is something everyone cares about, and, given that everyone wants to look good, there are many people who want to make their way into society's upper tier. So, if you find a good venue for our performances, people from both the upper and lower classes will be happy to go. But if, on the other hand, the location is a poorer neighborhood or it's a venue

that puts on low-end shows, neither upper nor middle class people will have anything to do with it. Whatever one may think about this, that's the reality of society. If we want to save people, then when we try to save them we have to be attentive to their circumstances. Don't take this for granted.

Here's my take on Shen Yun ticket sales. You're all talking about what to do when you still have tickets left over prior to opening night. Let me first address this in cultivation terms. How sales go in a given locale is, in reality, a true, tangible sign of how well practitioners have cultivated and cooperated there. (*Applause.*) I'm not just saying this because I think Shen Yun is so important. Rather, it truly is a reflection of your cultivation. The assistants in some areas are narrow-minded. They will only team up with the people they "believe in," and if there are other people that they can't stand, they don't let them participate and even drive them away. In some areas there are students who interact with each other with strong human attachments and neglect to make cooperation the top priority. The fights between people there are endless, with the result being that it compromises our validating of the Fa as well as our selling of tickets. In some places, people try to grab practitioners to join their side, each group goes its own way, and they don't work together in the least. In some areas there have indeed been people who harbor bad intentions and that stir up trouble. And in yet other cases, people have been preoccupied with the thought that spies might find out about their plans, and so they cover and hide what they're doing to the point that practitioners don't have any clue about what's going on—in which case, how are they supposed to cooperate together? (*Applause.*) They go about things stealthily, as if they were

doing something unspeakable. But isn't this something you should do with confidence and poise? Again and again I've said: don't let appearances, or evil factors, deceive your eyes, for this phase of history is given to Dafa disciples for validating the Fa; if you can walk this path well, nothing will block you, for it is all a matter of whether you walk it righteously. If your mind is that narrow, how will you achieve what's needed? You won't be able to. Of course, arranging a performance by Shen Yun is something that the practitioners in each area have done voluntarily. It's something you do because you want to. If you don't want to, it's not as if Master would insist on it. It's something that is done by Dafa disciples of their own accord, solely to validate the Fa. There is something very real that I've observed, however. Namely, the change that a Shen Yun performance brings about locally is enormous. So many people become clear about Dafa in one fell swoop, and they change for the better. That would be awfully hard for you to achieve under normal circumstances. And, moreover, some local people seek out Dafa as a result of the Shen Yun performance and start to cultivate. That is even something we've seen often.

Then as for the question of the ticket's worth, consider that this is the best artistry performed on any stage in the world, that divine beings are performing, and that a person's health problems are resolved when he watches the performance. And consider that when someone watches the show, the stress in his life from the economic crisis nowadays, no matter how great, will be completely dissolved and relieved; the person's troubles might truly disappear afterwards, he will feel as if he's seen the light at the end of the tunnel (*laughter*), and he will seem to have changed as

a person, if not his finances too. (*Applause.*) This happens because, having made the right choice at the show, people will have their karma dissolved for them, and it will be transformed into blessings. And the health problems of many people disappear after they see the performance. Then what would you say: how much is that worth? Many audience members have said, just speaking about the quality of the performance at the most superficial level, that one ticket is worth \$500—\$500 U.S. dollars, that is. (*Applause.*) Be it in Europe, America, or other places, many audience members have said that it is worth \$500.

Of course, when you have leftover tickets, there is another reason involved as well; it's not just because of poor cooperation on the part of Dafa disciples. Namely, in many places people don't know Shen Yun. However well Shen Yun might perform, the several hundred thousand who see the performance amount to just a tiny figure when there are over 7 billion people on this earth. Also, in Western society the performances and ballet companies have histories that go back a century, and parents take their kids to see them starting right from their youth. They watch the same performance over and over again right into old age. People thus know even the details of a ballet company, such as what caliber it is, who is performing in a production, how a given artist is doing, and so on. So, when that ballet company comes to town, all an advertisement has to do is tell which company it is and what dates it's performing on, and that's it. They can keep it simple and things work out, people come. But in our case, no matter how well we do our ads, you still think it's not good enough, and you even think that it will work only if you pack everything about the show into the

ad. Yet that's not possible. And besides, even if the ad is done supremely well, it doesn't necessarily mean people will come. The year before last, in the New York metro area more than 10 million people—just about every person—had seen the ads for Shen Yun five times. So it was done to that extent, yet those people still didn't come. And why was that? What people were thinking was, "I know you're in town, but I don't know whether I would like what you perform and I don't know how the quality is." Their not being sure suggests that we still lack the level of brand recognition that's needed. Thus, it's not a question of our ads, and it's not simply that we haven't put in enough effort. Rather, there is an element of people not knowing [Shen Yun].

Then there's another reason. Consider what kind of stuff people in the U.S., or whatever country it may be, are exposed to when song and dance performances from China come. It's one big hodgepodge. For example, contained in their dance movements are techniques from ballet, classical Chinese dance, and "modern," or contemporary, dance, in addition to all sorts of random, irregular stuff that is mixed in. Then do you think they'll go for this in Western society, where they are used to formal, clearly-defined art forms? Mainland Chinese don't get this. Filled up with wicked CCP culture and trapped in its confines, the Chinese people—including choreographers, directors, and performers—haven't the slightest clue about these things or about the psychology of normal people. But the wicked Party's evil specter is clear on all this, and it has all along sought to harm the Chinese people and destroy their culture. So it has directed Chinese people to do such things. That's why the things that they perform are such a mess and so lacking in creativity. Thus, you don't see

anybody outside of China praising it, and this has created a definite obstacle for Shen Yun's performances. The moment people hear "Chinese show," they have a bad impression.

But that said, I have observed that the quality of absolute beauty that permeates a Shen Yun performance really can have the effect of saving sentient beings and stirring the soul. The impact of this will only grow greater and greater as Shen Yun keeps performing in the time ahead. Truth be told, the extent to which Shen Yun's performances have moved and impacted society is already something that no other show can match. It's really sizable. And what's more, this is achieved by the combined effect of Shen Yun's own strength plus that of the local Dafa disciples who are organizing the event. After people see the performance they will speak from their heart about it publicly, spreading the word person to person, mouth to mouth. Soon there will be a sense of excitement brewing, and we will quickly be on the radar. At that point you will just need to write a few words and you're all set—"Shen Yun is returning!" You won't need to do much publicity. (*Applause.*)

So, what are you to do when you have tickets left? You didn't do well, and so tickets remain. My stance is that we shouldn't lower the prices. (*Enthusiastic applause.*) Some people might be wondering, "But since we're saving people, wouldn't it be nice to bring in even just one more person? Isn't it the more, the better?" That's not how it is. It's not how you imagine it. Some Chinese people still don't understand how things work outside of China. If you really do lower the prices, if you really take that approach, the long-term effect is extremely bad. To illustrate, there was once a person who had bought one of the most expensive seats.

He overheard the person next to him saying that his ticket was bought at a discount, and this infuriated him—to the point that he tracked down the theater’s manager to chew him out. In another episode, our practitioners invited the audience members in the third mezzanine to come down to the orchestra level. Little did they realize that those sitting there, in the best seats, wouldn’t stand for it. People got up and sought out the manager to get a refund, saying things like, “What are you thinking, bringing people who bought cheap seats over here?” They were really upset, and felt humiliated. The issue isn’t whether their mentality was right or not; let’s not criticize them. The point is, if we want to save people, we are only going to be effective if we do it in a way that takes account of society’s realities. Another thing is, anytime a new brand is established it has to go through a challenging period of time, and ensuring that the price reflects the quality of the product is how you build credibility in Western society. By contrast, in mainland China nowadays, when people do business they want to make a quick deal, and they want to move their goods as soon as they arrive. They figure that a buck made is still a buck, and they pay no attention to prestige, credibility, or branding. And what’s the end result? They end up with nothing. We can’t go about things that way. We need to ensure our quality and the reputation we have in society, and doing so will be to our benefit down the road as we save more sentient beings. So I don’t think the issue is one of whether or not to cut prices. Rather, it’s a question of whether you can devote your attention to cooperating well. With that, you will sell a lot more tickets.

*Disciple: Recently I have discovered that what makes it hard to remove attachments is in fact that my resolve to cultivate is inadequate and my will is not firm, and thus, as we head toward the end, the problem is especially apparent.*

MASTER: If you realize it, that's a good start, for you have begun to improve. If we are able to recognize our shortcomings, then we can quickly catch up. At present, some people still aren't aware of them, and aren't willing to face up to their cultivation situation or see their shortcomings. Then could you call that cultivation?

*Disciple: Some coordinators in Japan are forceful in their manner of handling things, and don't listen to other people's opinions. This has led to a group of disciples opposing them, and many disciples have become quite disheartened as a result. I think that we shouldn't give up hope in the Association or get stuck arguing over who is superficially right or wrong. By discussing together in terms of the Fa's principles, we should be able to ultimately resolve any problem. We should try to, starting with a pure and correct intent within us, be tolerant of others' shortcomings.*

MASTER: In cultivation one mustn't look outward. If people don't listen to your idea, will you then form a negative attitude? Who are you cultivating for? You know how intensely those evil factors in mainland China make wicked policemen persecute Dafa disciples, right? Yet despite such persecution, none of them became negative or sank into despair. Yet over such a little thing you're getting deflated? (*Applause*) You should proactively clarify the truth and walk your own path. Don't waste your energy being preoccupied with the coordinators.

It is true that some newer students who haven't studied the Fa in depth have been affected, so I need to shift direction and say a few things to the coordinators. When you're doing things, think about how Master handles them, and learn from it a bit. Only when you can manage to have the great breadth of mind befitting a cultivator will you be able to guide more people and save people. With some things, everyone needs to listen to the directives of the Dafa Association and act in a unified manner. With other things, the Association needs to loosen its grip and allow everyone to act on their own. However, when people can't reach consensus, the Association will have to decide on the course of action for everyone; once a decision is made, that's how it will be done, and you need to cooperate. *(Applause)* We can't allow differing opinions to affect what needs to be done. Of course, if you can truly come to an understanding and improve together, that's terrific, and how it should be. But when time is tight, as is often the case, and we can't afford to wait until everyone is on the same page before taking action, then it is sometimes necessary for everyone simply to follow an executive decision by the Association. Do you understand? *(Enthusiastic applause)*

*Disciple: My father is a veteran practitioner and lives outside China, but he doesn't have the courage to step forward. I don't know what I should do.*

MASTER: Then he's not making the grade. *(Laughs)* For one thing, it would be best if he could realize for himself what to do, since this is cultivation after all. Another thing you can do is to serve as a catalyst for him and help him along. The evil won't suddenly tell him one day, "We're not going

to persecute you anymore.” If a person wants to cultivate, he should just go ahead. What’s actually at work is fear. Everyone talks about “setting aside all thought of life and death,” but when the pressure increases a little they can’t come through. Don’t be a “lesser man who hears the Dao.”

*Disciple: Please allow yourself to sit.*

MASTER: Many of the question slips are asking me to sit, but I think I’ll stand. *(Everyone laughs, applauds)* It’s been a long time since we last saw each other, and I want to have a good view of you, just as you want to have a good view of me. *(Warm applause)*

*Disciple: I have a child who saw Shen Yun perform last year and was very moved. He even shed tears. He saw Shen Yun again this year, and from the first note, before the curtain had even opened, he began to weep. He said that it was the same scene appearing before his eyes again, and that it was how Heaven looked. The child has a predestined connection to Dafa, and believes in it, and in Master, very much. But sometimes he has doubts. Is this interference?*

MASTER: I have addressed this in my Fa teachings. If you study the Fa a bit more you’ll all be clear on this, actually. Human beings naturally have both a good and a bad side, and all material things and creatures in the Three Realms are constructed of both good and bad factors, either of which can have an effect. When it is goodness that dominates the person’s actions, then he is good; when it is evilness that dominates the person’s actions, then he is not good. If goodness abounds as a person cultivates, then he will be in a corresponding state; if goodness is lacking, his foolish

ignorance will show. It's just a question of which quality is in effect. Cultivation is all about cultivating away the things that are not good, or negative, and it means cultivating your positive side to the point of completion. And that is when good fruits will follow. You shouldn't be thinking, "Wow, this child is just outstanding. He should be just like a god, and always righteous." It's not like that. People are people. If someone can see gods, he is still a human being; it's merely that his human state is different.

*Disciple: My mother cultivated for over ten years, but passed away not long ago. When she was cultivating, she provided a great deal of assistance to me in life. But I failed to help her break through the test of life and death.*

MASTER: You shouldn't have too many thoughts about this. If you think too much, it will become an attachment. Just put your heart into cultivating. Only when you have cultivated well will you be able to help sentient beings. The Dafa disciples that have passed away all have good returns awaiting them. There's no need to worry.

*Disciple: Why is it that articles submitted to the Minghui website from mainland China all seem to have certain elements of Party culture in them?*

MASTER: Many articles that come from the mainland do indeed speak the way they do in the Party culture. Their authors don't know any different, as that's how they were educated in that environment. But after you have edited the articles, you can still use the true things that are present in them. Don't let it affect anything.

*Disciple: How are we to make sense of the thinking and behavior of students who come from the mainland?*

MASTER: Try to put yourself in their shoes and understand them a bit. They are cultivators too, and in essence, the same as everyone else. They are doing the three things as well, and they too are my disciples. That's grounds enough to try to work with them. They will gradually become aware of the issue themselves. You need to be clear on this. Don't push them away just because of this.

*Disciple: Should we steer our little disciples to learn dance, artistic gymnastics, and music?*

MASTER: I know you all adore the kids of Fei Tian Academy, and consider them very fortunate—performing so well on stage as they do. You want your kids to attend Fei Tian and later become part of Shen Yun, right? Well, there won't be that many people who can join Shen Yun. Also, the requirements that have to be met to enter Fei Tian are high, for Fei Tian prepares students to join Shen Yun. Shen Yun is a world-class company, and its requirements are only getting higher. The child's physical attributes have to meet the standard for professional recruitment, and students of dance have to be tall and thin, have a slender frame and long legs, be very flexible, and have a good vertical leap. The boys, too, have to meet these conditions, and so those who are plump or have too large a frame, or aren't tall enough, are not suitable. Music students need to have good musicianship and a good sense of rhythm, with the difference being that Shen Yun requires that they be skilled before coming in. Dafa disciples have a lot of projects going, and if you work on something else, that's good too. But those who really

do have the necessary traits won't miss their chance, even if you don't say anything. If you don't have the necessary traits, though, don't try too hard to force it.

*Disciple: Each time we have a group activity, because there are very few fellow practitioners who are capable of sharing the load with creating materials and doing promotional work, oftentimes I'm the only one and must scramble to get things done. This situation has created a huge array of problems for my ordinary work and my family. (Master: Indeed.) It's thus hard for me to squeeze in Fa-study or cultivation.*

MASTER: Actually, all of our Dafa disciples face this kind of challenge, since each has family that they have to take care of, and each still needs to cultivate as well as to validate the Fa. It's like that for everyone. Balance things well. Of course, there are often certain special situations where others don't have the skills that are needed, and there's just one person. In that case, do your best to find others to learn those skills.

*Disciple: I don't know what my vow is. Some practitioners tell me to do this, and others that, but I can't do it all. How can I know for sure what my path and my vow really are?*

MASTER: I have never said to anyone that he should do this or she should do that. Manpower is needed on each and every front. If you feel that you're especially skilled in a certain regard, or there is something you especially like to do, then go and solidly, resolutely, do a good job with that thing. As long as that effort can save sentient beings, and you have a part to play in it, then go and do it, and that's

that. It's not as if when you wrote your vow you spelled out that you would specifically come down to be a reporter or a performer. *(Everyone laughs)*

*Disciple: Could I ask Master to talk a little about the environment of Fa-rectification at this time?*

MASTER: The environments in mainland China and outside the mainland are different. The problems that the rest of the world faces, and its environments, are just what they are. Dafa disciples should cultivate in keeping with the circumstances they are in, and, similarly, validate the Fa and save sentient beings in keeping with them. Right now, the evil in some areas of mainland China is really crazed, and in such circumstances a person needs to do his utmost to keep safety in mind. Clarifying the truth and personal cultivation are integrated. If someone's state of mind is not right, or if his righteous thoughts are not strong enough, then problems will follow, for your own cultivation is what's fundamental. Remember too that the rotten demons and evil entities of low levels that directly persecute Dafa disciples don't want sentient beings to be saved.

*Disciple: There are many projects that need Dafa disciples' participation, and there are many disciples who have yet to appreciate the future prospects of Dafa disciples' media.*

MASTER: Yes, I know. This is especially the case with the English Epoch Times and other, non-Chinese-language editions of the paper or of the other media. We're really short of hands, and this often results in many things being hard to do. So I would ask: has the coordination of our projects as a whole really achieved what it should, or are

there still shortcomings that exist? If you can truly handle these things well, they will really begin to achieve the effect they should, and it will change the environment around us; it could even be that the effect of the media will become such that more people in society want to read or watch them, learn the truth, and even seek out Dafa. If you can really achieve that, then you will have sufficient manpower, as there will constantly be new people coming, with some being very capable persons. If you haven't managed to make that stride forward, then you should examine things and ask whether it results from some form of inadequacy and that is why you have such difficulty. If you really manage to do well, the situation will change—change for the better. That really is the case. Of course, what I described isn't the sole reason for your situation. There are evil factors making trouble for you as well, after all. They hold that only when you cultivate in hardship, amidst ordeals, and under trying circumstances will you gain mighty virtue. And thus, they interfere. That's how the situation is right now.

*Disciple: When we are doing group study, should we be reading aloud the parts of Master's Fa teachings such as the signature, the date, and the parenthetical remarks such as "applause" or "Master laughs"?*

MASTER: *(Laughing)* No, you don't need to. You don't need to read the signatures, dates, commas, or parenthetical parts. *(Laughing)* *(Everyone laughs)* Just read the Fa—the Fa content—and it will be fine. There's a phenomenon among mainland students, namely, while studying the Fa some people think that they shouldn't read Master's full name aloud whenever they come upon it, and that, instead, they

should just say “Master” or “respected Master.” Reading the Fa is reading the Fa, so you shouldn’t change it.

*Disciple: The mainland Chinese Dafa disciples who live in Korea send their regards to Master!*

MASTER: Thank you.

*Disciple: How should the management in our media go about listening to the ideas and opinions of its staff? And in particular, how so when the students’ ideas and opinions diverge from their own? The coordinators of the Sydney branch of the Epoch Times would prefer to look in other countries, to the periphery, to recruit new people, and seem not to value the students who have been working inside the company all along.*

MASTER: That’s true. We often do that. That is, when people don’t cooperate well they just go and look for other people, and they keep doing that again and again as things continue not to work out and, in the end, the Epoch Times just becomes one big practice site. *(Everyone laughs)*

But having touched on this, I want to say a few words about how some students fix their attention on the management. If the setting were your normal workplace, would you dare to fix your attention on your superiors? Could you do that? You couldn’t. Then how come, while validating the Fa and cultivating yourselves, you are focusing your attention on external things? What’s more, Master has told you that cultivation is about cultivating yourself; you have to cultivate inward, to look inside yourself. If you can all manage to do this, there will be no problem that can’t be resolved, and this is the greatest way to work together and

is a magic tool given by the Fa. So how come you don't do it? Those who manage things are responsible for this, and so are those who should cooperate—each is responsible. But has it occurred to you that we're always talking about how others "don't cooperate well," with some people always talking about how the management has this and that problem? In every case, that is looking outward, cultivating outward, and dwelling on what others are doing. Why don't we instead look for our own faults, and try to truly do well? If you can truly do things correctly, how will others view you? Then when you, as the coordinator, are anxious about getting something done, why don't you reflect for a moment on what you might have done inadequately that has led students not to want to do what you tell them? So you must remember, it is cultivation—exactly cultivation!

*Disciple: There are some veteran students in the mainland who believe that things like the so-called "Unabridged Fa" and "Lecture Ten" are real.*

MASTER: That's all stuff concocted by those despicable secret agents. There is no such thing as this supposed "Unabridged Fa," nor is there any "Lecture Ten" or any other rotten demonic stuff like that. What will they cook up next, a "Foot Fa"? (*Laughs*) That stuff is just concocted by the evil specter using the brains of secret agents, and it is used to confuse those among us who they think aren't diligent, who like to hear gossipy things, who like to hear something new just for novelty's sake, or who like to show off. It's meant to confuse such people. But they cannot confuse even one person who cultivates solidly.

*Disciple: Is it the case that when a person inside China sees the Shen Yun DVD he can be saved just as someone would outside of China who sees the performance in a theater?*

**MASTER:** As long as someone can see the evil for what it is, become clear that Dafa is good and that Dafa disciples are good people, then that will suffice. But that said, watching the DVD will never have the same effect as seeing the performance in a theater. Some people have asked whether we could play a recording of the performance on a big screen, in effect allowing more people to see it, as if they were watching Shen Yun live. No, you cannot. You most definitely don't want to do something like that outside China, for it will ruin people's chances of being saved. Were you to do that, it would mean that those who have the predestined fortune to see Shen Yun live on stage would not be stunned by it in the way they normally would, or worse still, if it seemed as though the performance was going to be the same [as the DVD], they wouldn't even come. So you don't want to use that approach. When seeing the live stage performance, there are divine beings directly on the scene, whereas while watching the DVD there isn't anything like that power, and moreover, the surroundings in which the person watches the video might interfere with him or her. With mainland China it's different, however, for people can't see Shen Yun there. If they can manage to see the DVD, it can have a certain impact. But outside of China we don't want to use that approach.

*Disciple: The core players in our media often leave to work on other projects, making it impossible to ensure the quality of our work. How can we better deal with this?*

MASTER: Right, when someone who has done quite well suddenly leaves for some other project, it instantly creates a manpower shortage. With some students, the moment something isn't agreeable to them they just disregard how [leaving] will affect others, they don't consider how it will impact that task that was being done to validate the Fa, and they just do whatever they please. I have observed this in some students, and the gods are not exactly impressed, either. At the same time, though, it is true that other projects are in need of people. If you have the spare time to help them, well, many Dafa disciples are simultaneously shouldering multiple duties, so there shouldn't be a problem in principle. But no matter how much we discuss this matter, it all boils down to a problem of coordination and cultivation.

*Disciple: Could Master please talk about the Nine Competitions?*

MASTER: New Tang Dynasty Television has held the nine competitions for the past two years. It has made them quite dramatic and appealing, and they've become a sensation. The nine competitions are all about traditional culture—divinely-bestowed culture, the true cultural heritage of man. It is something that was being lost. In terms of the long-run, the competitions will serve to pass on such things to the future and its people. And as for the present, the obvious way in which this format is helpful is that it raises NTDTV's profile and increases the station's viewership, while, more fundamentally, it has the even greater impact of clarifying the truth and saving sentient beings. Once the competitions are over, though, let's stop there and not keep hyping them up. And if you keep putting on such events, and are doing

so internationally, then you are promoting ordinary people's things since most of what they involve are ordinary things, after all. The competitions are to help promote the TV station, enrich its programming, and further its name-recognition. And the other idea behind the competitions is that people are competing on the basis of things from traditional culture—something beneficial for the people of the future and that helps people to reclaim their traditions.

*Disciple: This year's vocal competition only includes the bel canto style, and not Chinese folk singing. Is that because folk singing is not being affirmed or kept?*

MASTER: I've mentioned before that there are many vocal styles in this world. Each ethnicity corresponds to the culture of a different cosmic body. Perhaps a certain vocal style is a distinguishing trait of the particular culture in a particular cosmic body's system. So we don't disapprove of any specific vocal style, other than things that have an adverse effect on society, the bad things. I won't affirm those things. Since there are so many possible choices, and we can't possibly use everything, we thus have to take some things into consideration and use things selectively. As for the question of what the future human society will be left with, that's a future matter. Whatever is good will be kept. This year, Chinese folk singing is not included, only bel canto is. That style can be used by just about any ethnicity.

*Disciple: I would like to ask whether organizations such as the Falun Dafa Information Center should also be run like an ordinary company.*

MASTER: I can't talk about things that specifically. If I

were to now say how the Information Center should be run, you would turn around and say, “Master said that the Information Center must be run in such-and-such way,” and that “Since Master said that, nobody should think of doing otherwise.” So I can’t address the question specifically. What I can say is, if you are able to do so and have the right conditions for it, then you may. But if you lack the ability to do so or conditions aren’t ripe, then you still have to take it slow. I think, though, that for the media companies such as the Epoch Times and NTDTV, it is imperative.

*Disciple: A Changchun Dafa disciple asked me to raise a question with Master on his behalf. He said he is observing that although many fellow cultivators are really active in validating the Fa, for long stretches of time they aren’t able to study the Fa or do the exercises well. He feels this is a serious problem. I was in the same predicament for a while. The effect is that when we work on our projects to validate the Fa, things are not sacred, and it is hard to achieve the impact that we wish for. And conflicts among fellow practitioners also result from failing to study the Fa well, causing them not to do well looking inward or cooperating with one another.*

MASTER: Yes, indeed. I feel the same way. I hope that the Dafa disciples in all regions of mainland China—not just those in Changchun—will manage to do all three things well at the same time. Only by doing so are you truly accomplishing what you should, and only then are you advancing diligently as Dafa disciples.

*Disciple: There is a lot of interference in Southeast Asia. Is it because Dafa disciples’ efforts to clarify the truth have*

*been insufficient?*

MASTER: Although this part of history is meant for Dafa disciples to validate the Fa, the environment is complicated and there are evil factors at work; hence the challenges. But as long as you do well, have ample righteous thoughts, and coordinate things well, the situation will change. If you are unable to do that, are fearful, or have too many human attachments, then you are apt not to do well. And when you don't do well, evil factors act more wildly, negative factors gain the upper hand, and all that you see will be interference and ordeals. My Dafa disciples... you are distributed over a large expanse (*gesturing*), and you are each now responsible for your respective area of this world. Changes in your thinking can lead to changes in your surrounding environment. How the people in your region are is a result of the extent to which you have clarified the truth to them. The environment is shaped by your human attachments. When the environment is bad, it is because you made it that way. Of course, if you now say, "Then I will act like a god," and you start to be irrational, then it will be another case of self-wrought interference. You must be rational, go about things with confidence and poise, and know well what you should do.

*Disciple: Russian disciples send their greetings to Master.*

MASTER: Thank you. (*Applause*)

*Disciple: We have tried hard to clarify the truth, but the situation has not turned around much. What can we do to have Shen Yun perform in Russia?*

MASTER: Yes, there are political factors that have led to big

challenges. Don't be anxious. If our Dafa disciples have truly done well but things still aren't good there, then let's give it a little time and see. The evil factors of the old forces can see that the wicked CCP is done for, and if there were a country on its northern border that dealt with it in the manner that the U.S. does, then the evil would be in no mood to persecute Dafa disciples. So, there are special circumstances where it might not be that Dafa disciples haven't done well, but rather, that the larger situation involves something like this. So given that, let's wait and see. No matter what, Dafa disciples should still do the things they are supposed to do in terms of clarifying the truth and saving people.

*Disciple: We have come across situations such as the following when selling ads: some of our clients listened to us clarify the truth and learned about Dafa, and decided to advertise, but after a while they stopped advertising with us when they felt the effect was minimal. Was this because we disciples didn't do well, or was it that the client left after having done what he was supposed to do for Dafa?*

**MASTER:** A person doesn't necessarily change after you clarify the truth to him. When you clarify the truth, you have to clear up the person's wrong ideas and help him to see that the CCP's intentions are evil. If your truth-clarification is inadequate and the effect of the ads is minimal, then of course the client won't want to stay on. But if a contract has been signed, then it needs to be honored. If there is a breach of contract that results in any loss, then whoever caused the loss has to be held accountable. If there is no economic consequence and it's just a matter of whether they want to continue, then handle it on a case by case basis. There is no

such thing as a client being supposed to do this or that for Dafa. You are saving sentient beings, period. It's not that the sentient beings should do certain things for you. As for whether you've done well or not, Master really doesn't need to comment on such things. You will know the answer if you try to figure out what isn't quite right.

*Disciple: How can we do better with clarifying the truth to the two hundred thousand Chinese people in Brazil?*

**MASTER:** You are Dafa disciples, so just do your best. Clarifying the truth is your responsibility. If you're asking how you could possibly talk to all those people that you want to save, then I'd say just do your best—do as much as you can. When Dafa disciples do well with what they are supposed to, things change.

*Disciple: There are a lot of new students who would like to join certain projects, but who don't speak up since they are afraid that the veteran students might criticize them. And then there are veteran students who seem to equate participating in activities with cultivation, and they push new students to go everywhere to participate.*

**MASTER:** Then there's a problem with the veteran students. New students are new students, after all, and isn't our focus on saving sentient beings? New students have just joined in, and they really do need your help. What's most important is that you guide them to study the Fa a lot.

Another thing is, let's stop participating in the community events that take a large number of people and where you can't directly clarify the truth (for example, the parades and activities in areas where there aren't many

Chinese residents). They don't have much of a substantial impact and are not that effective.

*Disciple: If ordinary people book Shen Yun and it is not Dafa disciples taking the lead and driving ticket sales, will the audience be saved just the same?*

MASTER: Yes, it will be. Whoever watches the show will be saved, and it's the same regardless of who does that work.

*Disciple: Some students go back to the mainland almost every year. Can they take on important projects?*

MASTER: I think it's best that they don't. One day they might be taken away by the evil Party's wicked police, and once they are gripped with fear, they might say anything. *(Laughs, sighs)*

*Disciple: When will Shen Yun be able to perform in China?*

MASTER: That's exactly what I am thinking! *(Applause)* But let me assure you, they will go, for sure! *(Enthusiastic applause, cheers)*

*Disciple: Many disciples know that doing work is not cultivation, but they still value highly the accomplishments of our media. How should we, speaking in terms of personal cultivation, maintain a pure state of mind and at the same time be effective in what Dafa disciples are to do?*

MASTER: Keep your righteous thoughts strong, and realize that you are doing that work to save people. The starting point of what you do, as a cultivator, is sacred. If your approach isn't right as you go about things, it will bring about interference to, and cast a shadow over, both what

you are working on and your cultivation.

*Disciple: Is the current economic crisis caused by the significant decline of mankind's morality, and especially that of those in power?*

MASTER: Let's not worry about the condition of the world economy. Who holds power or what happens somewhere on some day has nothing to do with our cultivation. We focus on saving people, period. The normal arrangements for human society are most definitely based on people's allotted blessings and amount of karma.

*Disciple: Dafa disciples in Donggang city, Liaoning province; Xinjiang province; Gaomi city, Shandong province; Lanzhou city, Gansu province; Qingdao city; Yuyuantan park, Beijing; Shanxi province; Yangpu district, Shanghai; Shanghai; Changping district, Beijing; Weifang city, Shandong province; Chongqing city; Shenzhen city; Hulu Island, Liaoning province; Shenyang city; Chengde city, Hebei province; Kunming city, Yunnan province; Shijiazhuang city, Hebei province; Yantai city, Shandong province; Jinan city; Heilongjiang province; Lianyungang city, Jiangsu province; Zhejiang University; Guan county, Shandong province; Hefei city, Anhui province; Jiangmen city; Guiyang city, Guizhou province; Xi'an city; Bureau of Health of Guangzhou municipality; Chaoyang city, Liaoning province; Wuxue city; Huanggang city, Hubei province; Xishui county; Macheng city; Fushun city; Datong city, Shanxi province; Hebi city, Henan province; Weihai city, Shandong province; Qiqiha'er city; Fuyang city; Tianjin city; Jinchang city, Gansu province; Changchun city; Handan city, Hebei province; Chaoshan city;*

*Xuzhou city; and Tai'an city send their greetings to Master.*

MASTER: Thank you all. *(Warm applause)*

*Disciple: Greetings to our compassionate, magnificent, and venerable Master from Dafa disciples at the Minghui Schools. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is providing funds for Chinese language education to organizations outside of China that have been infiltrated by the CCP. Meanwhile, organizations such as ours that provide normal Chinese language education are not receiving such funding. Some students think we should use this opportunity to clarify the truth to the government and expose the evil. But some think that since this is not direct persecution, we shouldn't get involved.*

MASTER: While we are persecuted, you can tell the world about the things that the wicked CCP has done abroad, but don't get overly preoccupied with this. Saving sentient beings is first and foremost. Just try to save more and more people. You can expose those evil elements as circumstances permit. Actually, sometimes I've thought: now that the wicked CCP is almost finished, who should be given all those things that it racked its brain to get through deceit and fraud? It hasn't yet been decided where those things will end up.

*Disciple: Master, could you offer a few words to the Dafa disciples imprisoned in the mainland? How should they conduct themselves and strengthen their righteous thoughts while imprisoned?*

MASTER: Those are dark dens where the evil is entrenched during its final days. Each Dafa disciple's circumstances

are different, but under no circumstance should you lose your righteous thoughts, and you mustn't forget for even a moment that you are a Dafa disciple. If you put the Fa first, you will manage to have righteous thoughts and be able to withstand the evil; you will know what to do in the face of the evil. That said, things are complicated, and people's cultivation states are different. Some might indeed lose their lives, and some will be severely persecuted. Each person's situation is different; each person's past history, along with that which the old forces might have arranged for a Dafa disciple if he was deceived, have made things awfully complicated. But whatever the case, if you can manage to keep Dafa in your heart, you will make it through. And even if the person does lose his life, he will return to his rightful position, for sure. Even though some people get confused temporarily, they will ultimately make it through.

*Disciple: There is a practice site in our area and most of the participants are African-American. Some of them have been coming for over eight years, but they only do the exercises and have read the book only once or twice. The same is true with the newcomers. How should we help them?*

**MASTER:** Just help them to study the Fa, and do a good job of explaining to them how important Fa-study is.

*Disciple: Should the European Choir continue to try to raise awareness and save the world's people by using the format of a choir?*

**MASTER:** I sometimes wonder whether your singing can really have an effect like Shen Yun, can it really save people? That would be hard to do. If the choir can't achieve a real

effect in terms of saving sentient beings, then it's not that meaningful. The reason I say that is because when you rehearse or sing together, it consumes human resources. If you can, however, really play a big part in saving sentient beings, then you should do it as long as some people are indeed saved, even if you can't guarantee a large number. But by all means don't become attached to the choir itself.

*Disciple: The Toronto branch of Tianti Books, Inc. has been open for business for almost a year now, and the number of people coming to the store to learn the truth and study the Fa has gradually increased. But the store's business operations are still not quite ideal. Should the store be run like the media companies, and work on marketing and advertising?*

MASTER: You're coming to me with even this question? *(People laugh)* Just manage your business operations; there's nothing wrong with doing that. When you don't do well, the evil will interfere and there will be difficulties. That's how things are right now. If you want to do something, then do it well.

*Disciple: Last week some malicious thugs in Flushing tried to snatch video cameras from our students' hands, right in front of a federal investigator from the U.S. Department of Justice. We plan to sue those thugs. The American police only charged them with "attempted robbery."*

MASTER: Well, it was attempted robbery, as they didn't succeed in taking anything. *(Laughs)* It's only natural that the police would say that. They couldn't say those things were stolen when they were not. If the thugs did indeed take something, then you can sue them.

*Disciple: We would like to tell the federal government that for a long time now these violent thugs have targeted us, tried to provoke us, and threatened us for our faith.*

MASTER: It's not just an issue of faith. It is that the wicked CCP is behind these things. Actually, people know already even without your telling them—even the police know it. I've been thinking about something, though. Our students who are in Flushing, the ones on the front lines, have a good starting point—to stand up to the evil. That is really good, and I do affirm that. But, do you perhaps rush into things a bit? Calmly think things over, and broaden your mind a little. If you can really regard everyone as a sentient being that we want to save, and then you try to save them, see if things change. It's definitely no coincidence that the evil emerged in Flushing and has made people do bad things. It must have come about to target our students' omissions. Don't blindly go battling against their human sides. Your goal is not to defeat them, but to save them. Do things with compassion and a calm mind, and then see how it goes.

*Disciple: When reporters who are responsible for reporting on Shen Yun work under tight deadlines and with a heavy workload, it's hard to share resources among our media and reporters. It's difficult to do. As a result, there have been a number of problems where reporters contend with one another to get the few allotted press passes.*

MASTER: Indeed. It's not so much that the problem is people contending for allotted press passes. There have been times where there weren't that many people in the audience, but there were still reporters everywhere and it was quite intimidating for people. It's a performance they're going to.

Haven't you ever thought about how the theatergoers look at you? And some students like to show off. They'll be carrying their camera around, "click, click, click," taking photos non-stop, left and right. That has annoyed people. This isn't just about your character and how you conduct yourself; rather, it is a matter of cultivation. You didn't make saving sentient beings first and foremost. Reporting on the performances is a good thing; your intention is to help promote the event. But when there are too many reporters, it might really have the opposite effect. And the theater management won't be able to stand it, either. So it's really not an option to have no limit in place on the number of press passes.

*Disciple: All of the Dafa disciples in the Beijing aerospace industry, and all Dafa disciples at Ganjiakou, Zhanlan Road, and Outer Fucheng Gate, Beijing; the Shuangxiu practice site in the Haidian district, Beijing; Changsha city, Hunan province; Guangzhou city; East Lake Scenic Area, Wuhan city; Hongshan district; China Academy of Sciences; China Academy of Social Sciences; Zhuhai city; Hongdu Park, Nanchang city; Leiyang city, Hunan province; Chenzhou city; Hengnan county; Xining city; Liuzhou city, Guangxi province; Harbin city; Dongguang county, Hebei province; Fucheng county; Chengdu city; Benxi city, Liaoning province; District 204, Shenyang city; Changqing district; Ningbo city, Zhejiang province; Dongfang city, Hainan province; Xinyang city, Henan province; Jiangmen city, Guangdong province; Dongbei University of Finance and Economics in Dalian city; and Jiangsu province send their greetings to Master.*

MASTER: Thank you all. (Applause)

*Disciple: While promoting Shen Yun ticket sales (Master: My goodness—this is not a conference on Shen Yun. Why is everyone asking about it?), I realized that the purpose of Shen Yun’s performances is to save people, and that, as Dafa disciples working on this, factors of our cultivation are involved. Thus, clarifying the facts should be the main thing we do. But some fellow practitioners think that advertising in mainstream media is the main task.*

MASTER: Selling tickets is just that, selling tickets, and you only need to clarify the truth when problems come up. It’s at the performance that people are saved. There is nothing wrong with advertising in normal media, large or small. As for how to do the advertising, do things based on your local circumstances. Some say that passing out flyers is all it takes; some say focusing on selling tickets at certain locations does the job; and some believe that advertising is necessary. However you do it is fine. In some areas they didn’t advertise much, but the students worked well together and sold all the tickets at just a few stores. What I’m saying is, do it based on the specific circumstances of your locale.

*Disciple: Those of us who do media work need to study the Fa as a group, but we’re scattered throughout the world. Would it be appropriate for us to study the Fa together over the Internet?*

MASTER: You can give it a try. But I’m thinking, wherever Dafa disciples may be—in whatever remote corner of the world they may be doing media work—they should not become disconnected from the local Dafa Association. And it’s best for you not to disassociate yourself from the local group, either. You should all study the Fa with the Dafa

disciples in your local area.

*Disciple: When the evil Party's regime has collapsed, will the people of mainland China still have an opportunity, under those more favorable circumstances, to come to understand Dafa and be saved? What do we need to do to achieve that?*

MASTER: When the evil really does collapse, and it is the time of Fa rectifying the human world, there will be a different state of things specific to the Fa's rectification of the human world, different from that at present—completely different. Don't think about those affairs, for right now we need to do things according to the present situation and save people accordingly.

*Disciple: How are we to distinguish hints from Master and interference from the old forces?*

MASTER: Master and certain righteous gods will give you hints, for sure. But often they will be meant to, for your sake, remove your attachments or help you avoid danger, and they will be for your cultivation. The interference from the evil factors, by contrast, often takes the form of false hints that go along with your attachments, your being overjoyed by something, your likes, or any of your other attachments. Afterwards you will feel extra happy and be even more attached, and take a wrong turn, all the while thinking that it was Master leading you along. That's usually what happens. So how are you to distinguish the two, then? Some people say that they cultivate by the spirit messages that they receive in dreams. I would say that's nonsense. *(Laughter)* Being attached to dreamtime hints is not cultivation, but rather, going dangerously off course.

Disciples of Dafa cultivate by following the book of Dafa, and they take the Fa as their standard. Whether you're off in dreamland or in whatever setting it may be, you have to use the Fa as your standard for measuring right and wrong, and only then will you not fall prey to interference. I have never given you some kind of cultivation method whereby you don't have to cultivate but instead just do whatever my law bodies tell you. I don't recognize that as cultivation. It's not possible for each and every student to be by my side, and I have thus taught you to "take the Fa as Master." Having the book of Fa, you should know how to cultivate.

*Disciple: After Master taught the Fa to the Australian students, their situation improved in some regards. However, before long, things lapsed. There have been communication problems between Chinese and Western students, and when problems come up many students say, "We should study the Fa more," or "Let's set aside our attachments," but people don't really look within.*

**MASTER:** Human attachments will always be present. If it were as simple as Master teaching the Fa to them one time and then all those attachments being gone, then I'd be happy to teach them the Fa every day. But actually, the Fa is already with us—it's just a question of living by it. Cultivation is a process, and one has to allow time to eliminate [attachments]. But that said, you should always keep an eye on the clock. You have to seize the day—you really must. You're saying that the Dafa Association is lapsing into old ways and becoming closed again, but is it really like that? I'll look into it. But whatever the situation, as Dafa disciples who are cultivating themselves, you should

do well yourselves regardless of whether the Association does well or not. Master has never pinned all of his hopes, or all of Australia's hopes, on the shoulders of any one person or the Association. I have pinned them on each and every Dafa disciple and your ability to cultivate well. You are the hope of salvation for the beings in your region, you are disciples of Dafa who are validating the Fa, and you are helping Master do Fa-rectification. It's not just the Association that is helping Master do Fa-rectification, nor just the assistants. If attachments lead you to fix your gaze on the Association, that's not right. If the Association really does have problems, I will straighten them out, but I wouldn't be doing it in response to your attachment.

*Disciple: Will we witness the grand Final Judgment?*

MASTER: You shouldn't get attached to whatever it is Master talks about. *(Audience laughs)* Don't pay that any mind. Do a good job with what you should be doing.

*Disciple: Some students are very proactive about work on Dafa projects, and they are cultivating their xinxing. But, they aren't up for doing the exercises, and they don't take sending righteous thoughts very seriously. Can students such as this achieve consummation?*

MASTER: If that's the case, maybe he hasn't put much heart into cultivation, but if he decides to give it some more attention things will work out. But that said, there are indeed some people who don't study the Fa and just do the work. You need to do all of the three things. If you only do work and don't study, then it is a case of an ordinary person doing Dafa work. And an ordinary person who does

Dafa work cannot achieve consummation; he can only build up merit. Building up merit, or blessings, means that the person will have blessings when reborn, but that is all, and he won't achieve consummation. Then wouldn't you say all of your efforts were for nothing? Is it acceptable when a cultivator doesn't cultivate? When you go to clarify the truth, only when your mind has stored up ample Fa will you be able to save people. That is when your words will have the power to move them.

*Disciple: When I was clarifying the truth I encountered ordinary people who said that they knew such-and-such Dafa disciple and how he's not even as good as your average non-practitioner, and though his words sound really good, his conduct is really poor.*

MASTER: I've heard such things too. If what you do is not befitting a Dafa disciple, then you are playing the role that the old forces would like to see, and it is dangerous. But that said, I hope that those of you who happen to hear people say such words will think about how it might relate to you. Do you understand what I just said?

*Disciple: I'm a twelve-year-old little disciple. I missed the chance to enroll in Fei Tian Academy of the Arts because my father opposed it. Will I have another opportunity?*

MASTER: Since you are not yet an adult, the law stipulates that your parents have custody over you. If your parents don't approve, then it won't work out. If you have the natural talent and physical attributes required, there will always be an opportunity. If you don't, then try not to be attached.

*Disciple: When Western practitioners are learning Chinese, should they study the simplified or the traditional characters?*

MASTER: It doesn't matter much whether it's simplified or traditional characters. It's fine to study the simplified, just as it's fine to study the traditional—neither is a problem. I say this because those who study the simplified characters can still read the traditional ones, and vice versa. Human affairs are to be dealt with in the future. What we're concerned with at present is the matter of saving sentient beings. It should be noted, though, that many simplified characters were produced by the wicked CCP, and their connotations aren't good. But with so many people—over a billion—using the simplified ones, this will have to be something that's addressed at a later time.

*Disciple: When it's said that "the evil is finished," does that mean that the wicked Party is about to disintegrate?*

MASTER: The factors of the wicked Party are no more. It's as I said, those people who are propping up that system are really just trying to maintain their power.

*Disciple: Many secret agents have come to my area. How should we deal with them?*

MASTER: There are U.S. security or intelligence personnel, or secret police, following each secret agent and keeping an eye on him or her. A secret agent who is produced by the wicked CCP's culture is himself someone who was duped by the culture of the wicked Party, and for that reason he is in danger. When we save sentient beings, we give everyone a chance. But there are some people who are always wrangling and starting trouble among us, and you may

think they are secret agents though they are not really so; but, the deeds they do are actually worse than what real secret agents do. Yet such a person thinks he is doing something good, and gives no thought to what it is about him that causes our students not to accept him.

*Disciple: Many Chinese citizens have wished Master well over the hotline to quit the CCP. Their words of gratitude towards Master are very moving. I would like to hereby pass them on to Master.*

MASTER: Please pass on my thanks to them if you have the opportunity. (*Applause*)

*Disciple: The attitude of Western governments toward the wicked Party has grown increasingly soft. Disciples feel that their strength to save them is insufficient, and that the students involved are too few.*

MASTER: Pay no regard to such things, as it is just the old forces playing a balancing game. They won't allow one side to overpower the other right now. They believe that the evil is no longer sufficient to test Dafa disciples, and so they try to even things out. All the same, things overall are changing, the situation as a whole is changing—changing for the better.

*Disciple: The past two days at U.N. Plaza, I saw a couple of asylum seekers, one of whom was wearing a yellow [Dafa] T-shirt. When I asked about it, he said that one of our students loaned it to him.*

MASTER: Which student loaned it to him? The clothes you wear represent Dafa disciples. If you casually loan it

to an ordinary person, and that person does things not befitting the Fa or that shouldn't be done, then are you saving sentient beings or ruining them? We always have some people that don't live up to expectations. (*Laughs.*) If everyone could manage to do well, the ordeals that you face today wouldn't be as they are.

*Disciple: Dafa disciples have altered the lyrics to certain songs from the wicked Party and sing them. Of course, the lyrics now oppose the sinister CCP, but the melodies remain the same and I find them unsettling to hear.*

MASTER: My view is that Dafa disciples shouldn't be singing that stuff. It's fine for the general public to sing it.

*Disciple: When clarifying the truth to the mainland, [we encounter people] with two different types of attitudes: one type agrees to the idea of the "three withdrawals" but doesn't identify with Dafa; the other type identifies with Dafa but isn't willing to do the three withdrawals. When the weeding out takes place, what will be their fate?*

MASTER: This means that they have not changed fundamentally from before; it's that the truth hasn't been spelled out adequately to them. As for what their fate will be, the line is drawn right here, through this. Whichever side of it he stands on, that's the side he belongs to, and there is no ambiguity. It's possible the person will say he agrees with this or that, when in fact, in his heart he hasn't changed in the least. Perhaps he's just saying nice things to be polite to you, but he hasn't in fact changed and is only being polite.

*Disciple: In New York, many people have begun interacting with Dafa in the interest of gaining political asylum. Many fellow cultivators are disgusted by their behavior, and want to turn them away.*

MASTER: What I'm thinking is, though it wasn't a good motive that led those asylum seekers to interact with Dafa disciples, what we're doing after all is trying to save people. If you can treat them with compassion, perhaps they will forever remember your words and deeds. These might have an impact on the person, and perhaps it is like planting the seeds of his future affinity with Dafa. If we don't treat them well, however, perhaps that affinity will be lost. But whatever the case, we should know that what we're doing is saving people.

*Disciple: When I encounter degenerate art during my ordinary work, is it possible for me to, if I maintain righteous thoughts, correct those warped factors similar to how Shen Yun does it?*

MASTER: If you go and try to correct ordinary people's modern art, do you think they will listen to you? And besides, we don't have the time to tackle those things right now. What you are to do is save people, so for now you don't need to pay attention to those things. At present you can just ignore those things one and all. When the Fa rectifies the human world, the Fa will naturally have its means of rectifying things here.

*Disciple: There are a large number of industrial and commercial enterprises, and a large migrant community, in the Pearl River delta area of Guangdong, and some of the*

*coastal cities there are sizable, and the population is dense. But disciples haven't done enough there.*

MASTER: The specific conditions of each area in China vary, and you have no option but to do things in keeping with local circumstances. At the same time, it's important to be attentive to safety. Whatever part of China it may be, the Dafa disciples there understand what their responsibility is, namely, to cultivate themselves well and save sentient beings. And that is what should be done. The more people that can be saved, the better, for that is the responsibility that you shoulder.

*Disciple: With the TV work we do, certain skills have yet to reach a professional level. Would it be all right for us to collaborate with ordinary people in that case?*

MASTER: If you want to hire ordinary people for a certain project, that shouldn't be a problem. However, it's best you not jointly start a company or collaborate on some project or other. If the person is interfered with, it will spell trouble. There have been too many instances of this. You are a Dafa disciple, and what you do is sacred whereas what he does is human; little could the two be wed. If you run your own company and you wish to hire the person and have him simply be your employee, that's fine, since he will do whatever you say. But if instead you collaborate with him, that often leads to problems. It's easy for the person to be interfered with.

*Disciple: Some veteran students who obtained the Fa many years ago have left Dafa after being trapped by some hang-ups in their minds and by attachments. We have no way to*

*untie those knots, and feel sorry and anxious for them. How can we help them?*

MASTER: Handle it a bit carefully. Try to see what the person's fundamental issue really is. If it's really that the person is holding onto the wicked CCP, or on a fundamental level doesn't want to cultivate and was just joining in the fun back then, then leave it be. But whatever the case, as Dafa disciples you are to try to save sentient beings regardless of what their situation is, and that is what you should go and do. When you see someone to save, go do it. And if you cannot manage to, then it's not your fault.

*Disciple: There are many projects that I could get involved in. With the exception of Shen Yun, I'm not sure how to discern which are related to my primordial vow.*

MASTER: It's not something you can tell, and if you think too much about it, it's an attachment. Just go and do what Dafa disciples should do, and what you do will be right.

I think I'd rather not take up any more of your time. It wasn't easy for you to make the trip, and you should carry on with the experience sharing conference. I hope that through this conference you will all improve by seeing how others have done well and what approaches they've taken, and bring the good things back home with you. If you can truly get something out of this conference, it will benefit your cultivation and thus you won't have come in vain. The expenditures associated with each conference are not small. In total, according to our estimate, the cost of flights this time alone might have reached into the millions. The costs were really sizable. So don't let this become a formality,

and don't just come to join the crowd. Nor should you just come out of curiosity, wanting to hear what Master has to say. Master has told you that you should walk well the last leg of the journey and fulfill your mission. And that is what I will always tell you.

In conclusion, I hope that you won't lessen your resolve. Haven't you caught glimpses of dawn's light? The evil is finished, and the closer it gets to the end, the more invigorated you should be. Fulfill what you are supposed to as Dafa disciples, and save more sentient beings. Therein lies mighty virtue. Behind each being you save lies a massive group of lives. What a magnificent thing that is.

Many of you might have passed up slips that were brought up by the conference staff, while many still want to ask more things. But whether you ask or not, in our book of Fa you can find the answer. Read it more. You cultivate in a state of delusion, and cannot see what the book of Fa is truly like. When you truly do manage to see it, words will be inadequate, simply powerless, to describe it. I have told you before that behind each word lie Buddhas, Daos, and Gods, tier after tier. Nor can you grasp what it meant when Master said that everything has been compressed into the book of Fa, for at this time you cannot, with your human thoughts, fathom that sentence. Everything can be gained there; it all depends on how much you put your heart into it and what your state of mind is. Everything can be gained through the book of Fa. But cultivation is a serious matter, and you can't be the least bit sloppy with it. If you bring with you any of a variety of impure thoughts when you study the Fa, the book, you will see nothing and gain nothing. Many Dafa disciples have remarked that when a person is persecuted for

a long time it is as if he doesn't improve any by reading the Fa. Actually, the problem is that at those times your brain is preoccupied with persecution, and you cannot quiet your mind. Cultivation is serious. You have to be able to ensure a pure and sincere state when you study, and cultivate, and only then will you make improvements and get results.

I'll end on a familiar note. I hope that you will all handle the final leg of the journey well and be worthy of the title "Dafa disciple." Thank you all. (*Long, enthusiastic applause*)



# Fa Teaching Given at the 2009 Washington DC International Fa Conference

LI HONGZHI ~ JULY 18, 2009

You've been working hard!

We just concluded the New York Fa Conference, and I saw you there. I don't want to talk too much this time, so I came a little late. (*Laughs*) (*Audience applauds*) The state of things here in this world has changed tremendously, owing to the rapid progress of Fa-rectification as a whole as well as to the work Dafa disciples have done together to save sentient beings and validate the Fa. You have seen this, and so have the world's people. Early on in the persecution that began on July 20, 1999, many people asserted that Falun Gong wouldn't make it more than a few days. Some people who had wanted to support Falun Gong didn't take a stand as a result of that notion. The CCP's suppression of the students in the Tiananmen Massacre left many people with

little sense of hope for China, and there were some people who even said publicly that Falun Gong didn't warrant any concern since it too wouldn't be able to withstand the suppression for more than a few days. Whatever mentality it was that led them to say that, all the same, Falun Gong didn't end up as they predicted. Falun Gong made it through (*Enthusiastic applause*), and it did so without the benefit of outside support. (*Enthusiastic applause*) This has truly caused the world's people to look at us in a new light, and it shows just how extraordinary Dafa disciples, the cultivators of Falun Gong, are. Some people have in fact gone from being indifferent to paying close attention, from watching what happens amusedly to instead having admiration.

But it hasn't stopped at that: Fa-rectification is still forging ahead; Dafa disciples are still validating the Fa and saving sentient beings without letup; and the situation is still changing—and rapidly, at that. As the evil's factors in other dimensions continue to be destroyed in large quantities, the world's people are becoming more clearheaded. And with the reduction of those bad factors that control people's thoughts, the world's people are now able to think soberly about this persecution and Dafa disciples. In reality, though, how the world's people regard us is not critical or even important. What's most important is doing our own things well. We haven't paid attention to what attitude people have as we're subjected to persecution, and we haven't placed our hopes in ordinary people doing something for Dafa; nor have we given up on saving the world's people or sentient beings. Saving people is something that only Dafa disciples can do—it is a monumental responsibility. Even when the persecution was at its severest, you never shirked

the responsibility you have as Dafa disciples. And while the persecution was most severe, you always remembered, from beginning to end, to see sound cultivation as the fundamental thing, thus validating the Fa and saving sentient beings in a rational manner.

Indeed, when the persecution first started, people fell short in many things that they were doing. That was somewhat inevitable, though, since many people didn't know what to do at first. They were suddenly faced with this persecution that just sprang up out of nowhere and with the slander that blanketed the earth. And the misinformation had spread all throughout the world, as Falun Gong had no media of its own or forum through which to speak. All of the world's media repeated the propaganda put out by the CCP's media, and it amounted to persecuting Falun Gong and Dafa disciples on the CCP's behalf, with the scale being overwhelming—it spread to just about every corner of the earth. Even then we were unafraid. Cultivators don't value ordinary things, after all. Cultivation is a matter of extricating oneself, and what one cultivates is oneself, with no weight being given to what others may say. It is just that Dafa disciples have a duty to save sentient beings, so they are concerned for sentient beings. That's unlike how things were in past forms of cultivation. And moreover, the kind of responsibility that this entails is monumental. The sentient beings before you, the people here in today's world, are different from the lives of any era in history. Though they appear to be human beings, many came from higher planes and are in fact reincarnated gods. This makes the responsibility associated with saving them and what you are doing even more significant and extraordinary,

as well as absolutely necessary. Were this not the case, the persecution would not have lasted so long, nor continued to exist. After all, if it were merely a group of people doing personal cultivation, that would pose no threat to the old forces. Rather, what stirred up the old forces and bad factors was the cosmos's need for Fa-rectification. The persecution seen in human society is merely the manifestation on this plane. The bad factors rose up because, as can be readily seen, the form of cultivation that Dafa disciples have puts them in ordinary society and is different from past forms; because it involves such a large group of people; and because its positive impact disturbed the balance between what is righteous and wicked, good and evil. But even then, that wouldn't have been enough to trigger persecution on a scale such as this. It owes to arrangements by factors of the old cosmos combined with the bad lives of other dimensions having constantly accumulated and fallen downward during Fa-rectification, and that is why the dimensional field in this world became exceptionally bad. This has caused society's morality to plummet and people's hearts to change dramatically, making this world even more chaotic than before; making it still harder to save sentient beings; and making the demonic manifestations here even worse. Just the fact that Dafa disciples could make it through such circumstances is extraordinary, much less the fact that they are saving sentient beings that are in such a wretched state.

At the beginning, it really was the case that you didn't know what to do, and some people were not adequately calm or composed. With that pressure, the cultivation states of Dafa disciples varied widely, and this made it hard for us to coordinate the things we did. It's just a fact of cultivation

that there are always those who are diligent and those who aren't, and a variety of human mindsets are brought into the mix, all of which makes things complex. I have said before that nobody could persecute this Fa, and that a negative impact can only come about by Dafa disciples failing to do well. You have seen how much the persecution has managed to do to Falun Gong, right? Nothing—it is powerless. This persecution can only serve to enhance the mighty virtue of cultivators, and other than that it is nothing, and has no effect aside from ensuring [the evil's] demise as the persecution plays out. During this contest between good and evil, Dafa disciples have gone from at first not collaborating well to gradually being able to work together, and have gradually become more rational. Although at this point there's still evidence of poor coordination and cooperation on many fronts and in many places, as a body Dafa disciples have, when things are looked at as a whole, been tempered by the cultivation and validating of Fa in these years such that they are increasingly mature and rational. You have gone from not knowing what to do and being irrational to, bit by bit, knowing what to do and becoming rational.

Cultivation was in the past merely a matter of one's own Consummation, and how well or poorly one did had bearing on only that one individual. Now you are to save sentient beings, and that means that coordinating with each other and cooperating come into play. Human attachments will surface as you work together. The gratifying part is that regardless of [what has surfaced], the main segment of our disciples has always been good and your motive has been correct. Even if there have been human attachments involved or factors arranged by the old forces, your starting

point has been to validate the Fa, and that's something nobody could change. And for that reason, your endeavors to validate the Fa and save sentient beings have never stalled. When the coordination was poor, you proactively did things on your own; when the coordination was poor on a larger scale, you got things done on a smaller scale; and when the coordination went well, you did things together. So whatever the situation was, you made it through. I hope that going forward you will do a good job with whatever you are supposed to do, and will do so with even greater rationality.

It's just remarkable that your validation of Fa as well as your personal cultivation have become what they are today. You have been tempered to maturity, and the process that led to it was one of removing human attachments. To go a little further, I want to say that all of what you do is intertwined with your personal cultivation, and nothing you do is in any way just for the purpose of that action alone, and never is what you do isolated. Everything is tied to Fa-rectification, everything is tied to the responsibilities of Dafa disciples, and everything is tied to your personal cultivation. All of these are inseparable. Thus, your actions will be a reflection of the state of your cultivation. When you are working together and you feel wronged or get angry, it's hard at that moment to reflect on your role in the matter or look within and realize what your state is or what attachment triggered that event. The majority of the time it's that [you are upset about] your suggestion not being adopted or that you looked down on someone. The manifestation of these two attachments tends to be the most intense. I can see that even now these things still exist. But whatever the case, it's cultivation after all, and I hope that you can discipline

yourselves such that you become ever more mature and rational, and act more and more like a cultivator.

It is true that in the past I've said that the time left for Fa-rectification was not that long, quite short in fact. I really hope that you will quickly mature and grow rational, thus allowing this affair to be concluded in a short time. If Dafa disciples cannot all be rational and mature, and instead often act with a human frame of mind—and one that manifests so strongly, at that—how could this affair be concluded? How could one say that Dafa disciples have completed their cultivation?

Another thing is, some people have a hard time realizing how urgent it is to save sentient beings. And there are only so many Dafa disciples acting on this at present. Some people have not stepped forward and don't take this task seriously, and they don't think that saving sentient beings is all that important. In reality, your responsibilities as Dafa disciples all lie right there. If you don't take action to save sentient beings, you will not have fulfilled your responsibility as a Dafa disciple and your cultivation will amount to nothing, for your becoming a Dafa disciple was not for the sake of your own Consummation. This means that you shoulder a monumental mission.

I hope that as time goes on, you will act more and more like Dafa disciples and cooperate ever better. Be considerate of others when you do things, and look at yourself when you get into disagreements. You probably all know how to talk about this and you know what these words mean, but at critical moments you don't put them into practice. I repeat these words at every Fa conference and instruct you on this. If you could all accomplish what I've described, then

there wouldn't be those disputes among you. If you could all accomplish this, everything could be resolved and you would manage to work together well.

Those who have come from mainland China and aren't familiar with the outside world will, I believe, come to understand these things and quickly assimilate to this society. So that's not the biggest issue. The biggest one is having too much of a human mindset. Of course, since we're on the topic of a human mindset, I would say that you need to have strong righteous thoughts when validating the Fa, saving sentient beings, and doing cultivation, but, how you act in daily life and as a part of society can't be abnormal. If you think that we should live our lives like divine beings, and you carry yourself differently just walking down the street, or your demeanor in regular life changes into something else, then that is taking it to an extreme. You are to cultivate while conforming to the way of ordinary society as much as possible, and that is something I have told you to do. So you need to cultivate with rationality and in a respectable manner. I don't think these things should be hard for you to balance. By now you've come to understand how things work, after all. There aren't that many people left who are irrational.

I'm truly worried about the futures of all those who are behaving abnormally among Dafa disciples, whatever form it may take. This includes those who are not thinking rationally; those who talk nonsense; those who play a negative role by specifically seeking out and wanting to be together with those who aren't diligent, who have lots of human attachments, or who don't act like cultivators; those who interact with special agents; or those who are irrational

and deliberately cause trouble among our students. But that said, I'm also thinking about the people who, when problems arise, give no thought to their own cultivation state and focus solely on how bad this or that person is and who he or she might be. But in those instances, have you considered this: why does someone like that exist among Dafa disciples, and why would such a thing come about? Isn't that person's presence meant to target certain people, or certain human attachments? For sure. Nothing happens in cultivation without a reason. When incorrect states and bad human conduct surface among us, those things have come to target human attachments. We don't acknowledge the old forces' arrangements, but, when we fail to do well they will exploit our gaps. So, perhaps it was that a particular place needed to be targeted in that manner, and that was why an incident happened. When something of this sort occurs, everyone gets anxious, and thinks, "Why did this happen and make Dafa disciples look bad, and why are there people like that around?" But have you asked yourself, "Did we perhaps do something wrong?" The truth is, when your understanding of it is right and you handle things correctly, those people and occurrences will disappear, for things cannot happen among Dafa disciples without a reason—that is not allowed, and no one dares to violate this. As sinister as the evil may be, it wouldn't dare to do that. The old forces' factors are bold enough to play the role they do among Dafa disciples precisely because you have the human thinking that I described and needed such people to appear. You have to be clear on this.

There are many things that I didn't want to, or could not, discuss before. Once I spoke about any such thing, that

ordeal would have expanded in size and become harder to manage. That's because those old factors think that once I shed light on something, your human attachments there will go unremoved. [The old force factors] would have even caused those [problematic] people to go to the opposite side because of this, leading to even greater problems. So you have to make it through on your own, for the Fa has been taught to you and you are cultivating. Anything can be resolved through cultivation. It's only a question of whether you cultivate diligently. If you truly do cultivate diligently, anything can be resolved.

What I just said was meant to tell you that no matter what problems might arise among Dafa disciples, they are, for sure, aimed at certain people or the human attachments of a certain group of people. That's definitely the case. The old forces don't dare to harm the Fa-rectification, for if this undertaking were to be damaged the cosmos would cease to exist. Dafa disciples are helping Master rectify the Fa, and their doing so plays a decisive role. And nobody would really dare to undermine that effort. It is just that the old forces want this affair to proceed according to their wishes. Then as you cultivate, how will your human attachments be removed? Master has his ways, while they have theirs. But whatever the case, don't let them exploit your gaps, and make sure to examine yourselves often as you cultivate. No matter what kind of problem arises, first reflect upon yourself and the group you are working with, and quite likely you will find the root of the problem.

For a cultivator, looking within is a magical tool. Monks and certain cultivators used to say, "Buddha is found in the mind." It told of the need to cultivate one's mind—that's

the real meaning it expressed. And indeed, that's how it works. Human society is situated at virtually the center of this cosmos, in between the greater and lesser forms of matter. Gazing outward, there seems to be no outermost limit, with things being so large as to be nearly boundless. I have spoken with you about the immensity of the cosmos. When I did so, I spoke at length, only to then stop, for I had no way to proceed. The human language had run out of words to describe it, and human thought could no longer contain the concept. It could only be fathomed with a divine faculty of thought. Gazing inward, then, the cosmos is found to be immense to the same degree. I remember that there was once a film that showed a drop of water falling, which was then magnified, again and again, until it was enormous and revealed itself to be many molecules of water. Then, one molecule of water was magnified still further, and it was revealed that this water molecule was itself formed of many, many particles, and that the formation of those particles was just like celestial bodies in the cosmos. Then, one such celestial body was magnified further, and one particle that formed a water molecule in that body was looked at. Within it was an entire world, with cities, mountains, and oceans. Then a drop of water from rain that was falling in that world was magnified, and again it revealed a vast universe. That's how infinitely it would go on, without end. Of course, the screenwriter was probably basing it on some scientific theory, but that conceptualization definitely couldn't have originated from a human being alone. And in reality, the true state of those things is even more complex and immense than what the screenwriter imagined it to be. It's almost inconceivable

how infinitesimal a particle can be. Within but a grain of sand are boundless, limitless, and enormously expansive dimensions as well as boundless, limitless numbers of sentient beings. The Daoist school teaches that the human body, just like the greater universe, is a small universe. But there's more to it than that. When you compare the human body with what is greater than it, there does appear to be a difference in their sizes. But actually, that's not the right concept. Whether it is outward or inward that one faces, in either case the expanse is both boundless and limitless. The degree of matter's minuteness, the factors that form the origin of man's thinking, the causation behind all matter, and the most original source of all phenomena—one day you will see all of this for yourself. These are too complicated to readily explain. (*Master laughs*)

I just talked about how cultivation requires that one cultivate inwardly. To speak about this further, Dafa disciples cover an enormous range of places and regions around the world. In other words, while you are here in this world you may have the appearance of simply a cultivating human being, but your field can affect your surroundings—to put it in superficial and plain terms. In reality, the entire world has been divided up with a piece apportioned to each Dafa disciple. This is reflected in how things are on Earth, and the people in this world correspond to the cosmos. If a person came here to gain the Fa, then he is the representative of a system's sentient beings, and behind him lies an enormous system. And that system is formed as particles are, and it certainly doesn't stop there; these systems contain even more minute, and immense, systems at a yet more microcosmic level. And how many particles

might it take to form a god? All of those particles would also be gigantic, enormous systems. At a higher level it's the same scenario, repeating itself again, and again, and again. Here on the earth, however, it is just a single person in this world. Yet there is more for a Dafa disciple. Each covers a very large area, which includes many people. If a Dafa disciple's heart is unsteady, it will cause changes in his or her surroundings. When you have fear, for instance, you will find that the sentient beings around you are not quite right. When you change such that your presence is refreshing and uplifting to people, and your mind becomes broad and full of optimism, you will find the things around you to be correspondingly different. When clarifying the truth, when validating the Fa, and when encountering challenges as you do things, adjust yourself and look at things with righteous thoughts. It might just prove to be effective.

As Fa-rectification continually pushes ahead, that phenomenon will become more obvious, for your strength will be increasing as the evil's decreases. At times when your human attachments are severe and there is interference from evil and bad factors, however, it will instead be the case that when you get stronger it becomes weaker, and when you get weaker it becomes stronger. As Fa-rectification forges ahead and bad factors are further destroyed and weakened, to the point that they will be no match for you, your strength will show itself to be stronger and stronger. In the future, at a certain point, you will increasingly see Dafa disciples manifest their power, though reaching that point will mean the end has been reached—the very end of the end. So, as Dafa disciples go about validating the Fa and saving sentient beings, their attitude, state of mind,

and manner of doing things are all critical, for such things can determine what changes take place in this world. A single person can determine the outcome of things within a certain expanse, and when we are talking about even more Dafa disciples—since there are so many Dafa disciples, even tens of millions—once they put their minds to something, it's something to reckon with.

Back in the day, Dafa disciples brought Chinese society a great deal of change. Once there were a lot of cultivators, good people and their good deeds emerged one after another. Newspapers everywhere were reporting on how Dafa disciples acted and how good they were, and radio stations, news broadcasters, and television stations were making such reports. However, the positive influence of all this began to stir up negative factors. In the Three Realms, there is mutual promotion and restraint, for human society is not a divine society, but rather, one where good and evil co-exist. Even a person's own body is simultaneously composed of both factors, good and evil. This holds for all material elements in the world, including the basic foods that you eat. The factors that form you are themselves matter of this dimension. When you are rational and your actions are kind, then you are exhibiting Buddha nature, which is shan. When a person is irrational, acts impulsively, throws an angry fit, or even loses any semblance of reason, all of that amounts to demon nature. It's just that each is expressed to different degrees. Thus, as you save sentient beings and validate the Fa in this worldly setting, the sentient beings will also exhibit those states that I described. When you are clarifying the truth, those that you engage will be people who have varying degrees of good and evil in

them. But, though good and evil do co-exist in this world, shan is what should protect and ensure human society. Mankind may lack principles that are ultimately right, but it does have a universal state of existence that everyone agrees should be upheld by shan. So as you clarify the truth, you should do so with awareness and rationality. If you, as Dafa disciples, want to effect change in a person when you clarify the truth and want to save him, you must not arouse the negative elements in that person. You must hold to being shan, and only then can you resolve problems that may arise and save that person.

I have talked with you about what shan is. Some will say that shan is when you smile at someone and come across as kind and genial. Yet that only amounts to a human being displaying friendliness. True shan is what a cultivator attains in the process of cultivation and cultivating goodness, and this is a genuine shan that is achieved by cultivation. When you interact with sentient beings, it's not possible for you to display your successfully-cultivated divine side in full, since you still have a human side that has yet to complete cultivation. When required, you must be rational and clearheaded like a cultivator, allowing your responsibilities and righteous thoughts to direct you, and only then will your true shan be displayed. That is what's different about a cultivator and a divine being. And that is what compassion means—not some intentional display, show of human preference for this or that, or an instantiation of, “If you're good to me, then I will be shan toward you.” It is offered unconditionally and has no thought of reward—it is fully for the sake of sentient beings. When this compassionate goodness emerges, its strength

is without equal, and it will disintegrate any bad factors. The greater the compassion, the greater the power. Human society never had true principles to guide it before, so man has not resolved his problems via shan. Instead, man has always resolved things through fighting and conquest, and that has thus become man's norm. If man wants to become divine and transcend the human state, then he must forsake that frame of mind and use compassion to resolve things.

Compassion is an enormous energy, the energy of righteous gods. The more compassion that is present, the greater this energy becomes, and it can disintegrate anything that is bad. This is something that has never been taught, be it by Shakyamuni or cultivators of the past. The greatest manifestation of shan is compassion, and it is an expression of tremendous energy. It can disintegrate all that is not right. And naturally, the power of your compassion will grow in proportion to your level, which is to say, it is determined by your cultivation level. The strength is determined by the height of one's ultimate rank, for sure.

What I just taught was meant to tell you to do even better in clarifying the truth and saving sentient beings at this time, and I discussed how to do better. My talk revolved around these things. I didn't want to talk too much this time since I answered questions for you at the last Fa conference. Whatever more I might say would amount to explaining Zhuan Falun, and with more words from me, there would be less for you to think about for yourself. So I didn't want to say too much. It's for the same reason that I haven't spent much time teaching the Fa in recent years. There are things that must be left for you to cultivate through and mature through on your own. If Master were to teach

everything, spelling it all out, whatever you did would no longer count as your cultivation. I will speak up if and when big problems arise. If, however, there isn't anything that obstructs Dafa disciples' efforts to validate the Fa and save sentient beings, then I won't come out to give a talk. In the absence of prominent, widespread problems that pertain to the whole body, I won't say anything. What I want is for you to blaze your own trails.

I think that's all I will say. You should resume your Fa-conference. I came this time to see you. I know that some came from other countries, and traveled a great distance. One reason for holding a Fa conference is for you, the attendee, to learn from others and one another's strong points, offsetting your own weaknesses. It is meant to help you walk your path better and do better at cultivation and validating the Fa. And of course, the other reason I'm here is that so many people wanted to see Master. I knew that. *(Enthusiastic applause)* I wanted to see you too, so I came. *(Enthusiastic applause)* Okay, I will stop here. I thank you all! *(Enthusiastic applause)*



# Fa Teaching Given at the NTD Meeting

LI HONGZHI ~ JUNE 6, 2009

Hello, everyone! (*Disciples: Hello, Master!*)

You have really been working hard. A long time has passed since I last taught you the Fa or saw you in person. I know, however, that the more I teach and the more I push you forward, the more numerous and more serious will be the ordeals that the old force factors create for Dafa disciples. But the Fa has been given to you. As long as you cultivate according to the book of Fa and study it, you will be able to resolve anything and gain everything. I have thus intentionally not spoken about things in more detail during this period of time. Many things really were left for you to think through and figure out. That's why I have not come to speak with you for nearly a year.

Whatever the case, the progress of Fa-rectification is pushing ahead rapidly, and you can all sense this from

how our situation and time itself have changed, for things are going so fast now—unfathomably fast. And, to mankind, what has taken place in the cosmos is likewise unfathomable. Regardless, Dafa disciples' cultivation and all of what I am doing in Fa-rectification are as they are and the form is set, such that there won't be much change to speak of. And the pace of Fa-rectification is extremely fast. Fa-rectification is approaching at the fastest speed in the cosmos, even without needing me to direct it. Judging from things at present, changes are rapidly unfolding in this world as well, with human society's decline being especially notable. In today's Chinese society, morality is declining at an almost inconceivable rate. Mankind was never so bad anytime before in human history. Never before at any time—such as the fall of a dynasty or on the eve of a catastrophe—did things get as bad as they have today, for before reaching this point man would have perished. If it were not for Fa-rectification, gods would have long since forbidden today's people to exist. This is especially so for China. It is the hub of mankind's divinely-bestowed culture, and for thousands of years its influence rippled throughout the world. Its culture even had a significant impact on other dimensions. In the past it never would have been allowed to degenerate to the degree it has, as gods would have destroyed it before it got there. At present, that [outcome] has been delayed because many Dafa disciples have yet to finish their paths of cultivation. I do know that cultivation really is tremendously difficult. And the event of Fa-rectification itself is hard. The fact that human society is so degenerate has had an enormous impact on the world's people, including Dafa disciples. Dafa disciples

are cultivating in the secular world and are faced with such complicated circumstances, with society's degenerate side presenting such a strong attraction for people. Then what should be done about things? Right now we can't say that it's time for these people to be discarded, for there will be more chances to save them. This is one of the reasons for things being delayed again and again.

None of you realize what the people in today's world once gave of themselves for this affair. Nor have you realized what magnificent beings they once were, plunging down headlong into such a dangerous place, braving the tremendous peril. That fact alone makes them worthy of your saving them and pulling them out. For them, the danger lies precisely in how attractive their surroundings are. During this great ordeal, Dafa disciples have indeed taken on some added hardships for them, for sentient beings, but whatever the case, what awaits Dafa disciples are the best of things. In light of this, all the more so should Dafa disciples realize how monumental their responsibility is, and shoulder it. You all speak often about "helping Master rectify the Fa" and, whatever the case, I feel that those are weighty words and hope that you can accomplish that—and do so to the best of your ability. I know that doing so is really hard. Though you may say those words, carrying that out perfectly well is truly not easy. You are saving sentient beings and shouldering this historic mission, but you are also cultivating yourselves at the same time, and sometimes when you run into a problem, you don't handle it well or work together well. I have said that the stage of history was set for and has been given to Dafa disciples for the purpose of validating the Fa and saving sentient beings. With all that

you have done, the future is going to be, no matter what, something glorious. I just hope that you will really be able to do better, cooperate better, and work with each other better.

Have you paused to consider: is there really anything that you cannot let go? In the course of history you tasted honor and glory, and you endured enormous ordeals. In those long, drawn-out years of waiting, you went through everything possible all so as to arrive at the present. And by all accounts you should be able to, at the end, finish the journey well. Whether your validating of the Fa goes well or not is often simply your own doing.

I'm saying that this current page of history is left for Dafa disciples [to write]. Don't be fooled by the fact that all the various ethnicities and nations around the world, or the people of society's various strata, are busy doing their own things. That is just mankind's normal mode of life and necessary state of existence, and things have to be that way. It couldn't be that people all suddenly took action directly for the Fa, for that would mean the spell of delusion was broken. All the same, people's very existence is for the sake of this Fa. It might seem that neither who they are nor what they do is relevant to Dafa disciples, but in reality, all of it is. It might all appear random, but everything is, in reality, well ordered. All sentient beings are waiting to be saved, and I can tell you something certain. If Dafa disciples don't act to save them, those people, no matter in what corner of the world they may be, will have no hope unless you go to save them. And that especially holds true for the Chinese people. I have spoken about this before, as you know. A lot of kings from the heavens, kings of different nationalities, and kings from different eras of history have reincarnated in that

place. They are enduring the largest ordeals and pressure, because what they are achieving is not just completing themselves; rather, what they are achieving, shouldering, and putting in is in fact for the sake of their multitude of sentient beings. That is why they have such tremendous ordeals. What they choose amounts to the shared choice of sentient beings in enormous cosmic systems, and it is for this reason that their ordeals are so huge. The same holds true for you, because although you have, as Dafa disciples, assumed such a magnificent responsibility as a result of your predestined tie, the sacrifices you made in history are no less.

At this point I want to talk about a few specific things. As Dafa disciples now go about validating the Fa and saving sentient beings, the goal of their initiatives is clear, but those efforts themselves, as with how you carry things out, need to be understandable to people. I mean understandable to human beings, rather than gods. People look only at the surface of things, and they can understand things from only the surface, so the superficial form that your actions or activities take must conform to ordinary society. You shouldn't overdo things, or else people won't understand. But at the same time, if you don't do enough you will not manage to save people. Failing to balance these two things well is the main problem our Dafa disciples' projects are prone to. If you aren't careful about what you say and do, it will cause ordinary people to fail to understand us, to mistakenly think that you are getting involved in politics, or to believe that you have ulterior motives—all of which would needlessly cause our Dafa disciples' magnificent mission of validating the Fa and saving sentient beings to go unfulfilled. As Dafa disciples you are all plenty clear on

this intellectually when I bring it up, but when you try to put it into action, you tend to lose sight of it and get confused. You need to pay attention to this and absolutely mustn't make trouble for yourselves.

Don't take the wicked CCP's disintegration to be your goal. The CCP is nothing, and I have never seen it as cause for worry. It is just something that was created expressly for Fa-rectification. By its very nature it is antithetical to the cosmos, and so the forces of the entire cosmos have wanted to destroy it. This has led to there being an old force that is dedicated to its preservation. It has protected it for over a hundred years and saw to it that it gained experience that would allow it to, in the final stage, oppose Dafa disciples' effort to save sentient beings; to act as a brutal ordeal when Dafa disciples were to succeed at cultivation; and to serve as a demon who brings chaos to the world when you were to save sentient beings. That's all it is, so don't give it so much weight or let your goals revolve around it. It's not worthy. What you do is for saving sentient beings. The wicked CCP isn't in fact capable of all that it has done. In reality, this has been a case of factors of forces from the old cosmos using it to do things. An obvious question would be to ask why use [the CCP] and not some other being instead. It was chosen because it is that bad, and it was created exactly like that. If Dafa disciples were to really focus what they do upon this entity itself, it would collapse, after which the factors of the old cosmos's forces would then use something else to make trouble. The wicked CCP exists solely for this one purpose, and whether you go after it or not, it will fall apart. Once our Dafa disciples have completed the things that they are to do, it will fall apart for sure. But in

the meantime, as good and evil collide, each life's choice of where it stands, the path that each chooses, and the conduct of these sentient beings will determine where they head in the future. That's how all this works.

You can expose the wicked CCP in your media efforts, but it should be done for the purpose of clearing things up for sentient beings so that they may be saved. Today's meeting is for Dafa disciples around the world who work with NTD. Most of you present here are thus involved in media work, and in some cases you assume multiple roles. As Dafa disciples who run media outlets, your thinking in regard to what you are doing needs to be clear. Of course, I needn't say anything for you to be clear [on what you are doing], but when you are dealing with actual, real issues, you should not act rashly. The moment you lose your sense of calm, that's when you are apt to go awry. At critical moments you need to remember that you do this work to save sentient beings.

It wasn't easy for the station to develop as it has in just a few short years. Whenever I see the programming broadcast by NTD Television, I have a feeling of admiration for Dafa disciples. Dafa disciples are truly extraordinary. You have gone from not knowing anything to running a station and doing it so well, with such colorful programs. Everyone would watch this TV station and find it just outstanding, a remarkable venture, if it weren't for the fact that they were deceived by the evil early on. Though it is right before their eyes, many people can't see how great the station is at this time as a result of interference and evil factors that are controlling them. That's all right, though. Things are changing rapidly as the Fa-rectification forges

ahead and as Dafa disciples' righteous thoughts grow stronger. The energy emitted by NTD is very strong, and the television sets tuned in to it receive powerful energy, which dismantles the evil's factors. So from this perspective, the station doesn't just need to be run well, but also be run in a more regular, standard manner. When you as Dafa disciples achieve Consummation, you will hand the station over to people from the period of Fa's rectification of the human world, and it will become a part of the culture of the future mankind. So you need to do a good job with it.

Let me get a little more specific. If you want to run a media outlet well, you need to have a good footing in society. Ordinary things aren't going to be magical, and old force factors are going to interfere with people's salvation. Of course, work at the TV station is not itself Dafa cultivation, and it has no direct connection to Dafa. The station is run by Dafa disciples, and it is for the purpose of validating the Fa and saving sentient beings. That's the connection. The station is not part of Dafa itself, but rather, it is a tool that is used by Dafa disciples to save sentient beings. Since it should get a foothold in society and become like an ordinary station, you have to, in terms of management, use normal approaches that are used in human society. The companies out in ordinary society have a lot of experience of this type. The management system they use does accord with the form of society, and that's why it was able to gain a foothold in, and take shape in, human society. In other words, what man has done in this regard conforms to the principles at this level, and so you too should follow ordinary ways like these as much as possible when running your TV station. If you want to run it well, you really should figure out how to

adopt standard management practices and get into a positive cycle, and put some thought into your business operation.

The fact is that the primary goal of ordinary TV stations is to make money. Your starting point is different. It is to save sentient beings. That's simply magnificent, and something no human beings could accomplish. Since that's the case, if the station is poorly managed and can't continue due to lack of capital, you will lose a powerful medium for getting the facts out. You have all seen its effectiveness and influence in recent years, so, given that, why not run it well?

You know that the CCP is a regime that's sustained by lies and that counts on the media to mislead people. From day one it has deceived the Chinese public and, to this very day, the end, it has used the media to lie to the Chinese people. It has buried the truth and kept up a façade of lies for so many years. People have been raised and grown up under its lies. Then wouldn't you say that Chinese people who live their whole lives accustomed to that approach to things are worthy of pity? Many Chinese people don't understand the outside world even after they leave China, since they grew up in the wicked CCP's culture and even think that other countries are abnormal and foolish. It's not that the outside world is abnormal. Rather, that is normal society, and the one that is warped is the wicked-Party-run Chinese society. For decades the wicked CCP has been quite pleased with itself, thinking that its deceptive propaganda has been a success. It has kept a firm grip on the media, ensuring that it churns out propaganda on its behalf so as to help it sustain power. I say this to tell you that propaganda can spur people to action, and it really can have an effect when people rely on it for information. Some people just don't

think for themselves, and believe whatever they are told.

Human thinking has a weakness, and you have discovered this over the years while clarifying the facts. Namely, that the first idea that's accepted tends to stick. (*Laughs*) Once a person accepts a certain idea, he will then evaluate whatever comes afterward in light of it. This is a flaw in man's design, but in this setting of inverted principles, it is actually helpful to people in terms of eliminating karma via ordeals and eventually arriving at the truth. Were it otherwise, it would be too easy for people to gain the Fa and return to the heavens. If it were the case that people used correct principles to seek and evaluate things no matter what others might say, then this human setting would never have been bad and it would not be human society. (*Laughs*) But correct principles were not to be found here in the human world previously. The emperor would rule the land, sending troops to conquer parts of the world; and the victor would become emperor, leaving the vanquished to become outlaws. Such are the principles that govern this human plane. Why did the Fa of Buddhas and Gods meet with such huge obstacles and why did so many ordeals, attacks, and rejections come about once it was disseminated here? Because those were the correct principles that were being disseminated, something that had not existed in this setting before.

Whatever the case, that is the history and the course that human culture has taken since the world's formation. But things are different today. Today is the final, grand culmination of all that has transpired since the creation of the world. Since Dafa has been broadly spread here, this setting may well be preserved forever for mankind. That

is the blessing that Dafa has brought to mankind as part of Dafa's grand dissemination and part of the cosmos's Fa-rectification: namely, the fact that the plane of this dimension may be preserved forever.

I don't want to say too much. I believe you are here for a meeting, and must have a lot to discuss. I don't want to keep you too long, but I would like to give you a little extra time. If you have some crucial, major questions, you can raise them now and I will answer them for you. Then the time that's left can be used for your discussion. (*Applause*)

*Disciple: Given that we are reporters, our coverage needs to be accurate. But sometimes we overstate things to persuade people of the truth. I feel that we should follow the standard set by Western media and report things accurately.*

MASTER: I agree with this perspective. That's how things should be done. Don't be like the propaganda tools of the wicked Party. It's not right to depart from the truth when you describe events in hopes of achieving some effect. Just let the piece achieve whatever effect it will achieve. Don't knowingly bend the truth. You will lose credibility.

*Disciple: I am a reporter who covers community events. From cultivation I know to do everything according to Zhen Shan Ren, and I know that our reporting is to tell people about things that are truthful, kind, and good. But there are some things that we are unable to decipher completely. For example, things are complicated in Chinatown. Some people are very pro-CCP, so we try not to report on activities that they sponsor or to report as little as we can. And when they push something that is not right, we know that we absolutely*

*cannot report on it. But sometimes the connections they have are so subtle, and we're concerned about not handling the reporting well and thereby helping bad people with publicity.*

MASTER: I remember that after the persecution began, a person from mainland China wrote me a letter posing as a student. The letter talked about how a particular thing could be done better and so on, but I knew that this person was a special agent. So as to disguise himself, the point that he made was beneficial to us. So, I adopted the idea. Why do I bring this up, then? All that I do is for the sake of saving sentient beings, and no matter who you are, as long as you can contribute to the salvation of sentient beings, I will use [what you have to offer]. As long as an ordinary person is alive today, no matter how poorly he behaves—with the exception of the very worst ones—there might still be hope for him. When someone who passively did bad things in the persecution gets clearheaded, he will, if he can then play a positive role, have a chance to make up for what he did. If such people say some positive things, you can quote them, for instance, but definitely don't use anything bad that they might say. If someone is bad, however, and what he says doesn't have much bearing on saving sentient beings, then it's better not to report [on his event or remarks], even if people might find it interesting. That's because any coverage will build a person up and enhance his level of recognition. There's no need to boost a bad person's profile. If what he says helps to save sentient beings, then reporting on it will actually help him to accumulate virtue.

*Disciple: What should we do if we're to run NTD well? In our area, the students that participate in sales say that The Epoch*

*Times needs to be done well before NTD can be addressed.*

MASTER: You don't need to ask me about these things. If a person says that he is primarily working for The Epoch Times, then of course he should focus on The Epoch Times and help NTD afterwards. If someone says that he is primarily working for NTD, then he should focus on NTD, and help out the other media entities only after finishing his work. These all fall within the scope of your duties as Dafa disciples, so do as much as you can within your means. All of the media entities that you run have the effect of saving sentient beings, and the voices that come forth from these entities carry the mighty virtue of each of you who has participated, for sure.

*Disciple: NTD is very much short of money, and in order to pull in advertisements—some are really hard to get—the marketing department sends reporters to shoot a lot of free infomercials, which sometimes go overboard. Is that the right approach?*

MASTER: If it goes overboard, then it's not right. At the beginning things probably weren't handled well, since everyone is in the process of going from not knowing what to do to knowing. I hope that you will gradually come to do well, become ever more experienced, and handle problems more and more rationally, so that you can handle things entirely on your own.

*Disciple: It has now been several months since NTD Television first broadcast in Canada, in 2008. However, as we tried to broaden the subscription base, we learned that the station's approval rating in the communities was quite*

*lacking.*

MASTER: The history that is unfolding now is designated for Dafa disciples, but nobody is about to proactively invite you to do something, for people are under the spell of delusion. All of this was put in place for you—including all the things that are right and wrong, or good and evil—and all of it is mixed together. So it is indeed hard for you to do things. Even though that's the case, no beings in this cosmos can compare to you. Gods especially designated for the task are handling what I just described, but only when you do well will things in this world change. Doing well, working together well, and being effective really come down to you, yourselves. You might ask, "Is there some kind of secret weapon we could use? Can we come up with some kind of special method?" What has been given to you is the most righteous of paths, but it is a narrow one. When your intention is wrong or there are issues with how you go about things, the path will be difficult. The path is very narrow, and it may look like it can't be traveled. But in fact, you can do it.

*Disciple: The rules for the nine competitions hosted by NTD have been changed again and again. I personally feel that it's not very good in terms of how those who have registered for the competitions will perceive us, and it's obviously not very professional. I'd like to ask Master if this is my own notion, or is it that we can do better than that?*

MASTER: I know that there have been changes, and mostly it was due to inexperience and trying to better suit the needs of the competitions. Indeed, it's not so good to have lots of changes. But actually, for the participants in the competitions, the clearer the rules are, the better. The coordinators lacked

experience, so they were gaining experience each step of the way. When things are found to be incorrect, they should be corrected. I think things will be better in the future since they will have more experience then.

*Disciple: I'm a journalist from Taiwan. Dafa disciples in Taiwan are doing a lot of news reporting in order to expose the bad things that the CCP is doing, and yet they find it challenging to collect first-hand evidence on the scene. May I ask how this problem should be solved? My second question is, the current government and some businessmen in Taiwan are becoming increasingly pro-communist. If we point out their mistakes in our reports, will we turn them against us?*

**MASTER:** There are more than enough things published by the evil Party itself and other major online media that you can use. You can reprint any of those things. It would be even better if you could get first-hand news directly from the mainland, but only if you have connections there that are completely secure and safe.

As for how a certain government or so-and-so is doing, a cultivator doesn't have to give this any thought whatsoever. Don't give it any thought or concern. Just think, "I came to save sentient beings, and that's that." Someone might be in power today, and tomorrow it might be someone else, but whoever wants to be in power, so be it. It is arranged by gods, so it is what it is. If you focus your attention on this, it means that your thinking has gone off track. The moment you think like that, it's a deviation. Don't concern yourself with such things, and just do what you should. What usually happens is that the more attached to something you become, the greater the likelihood that problems will follow and form

into something like a test of your xinxing. The more you ignore such things, the better. You have your path, while human beings have their affairs. You have things that you need to do. Don't give any concern or attention to political things or what happens between parties. Of course, our media don't really have a choice about reporting on it, since those are probably things that ordinary people are interested in. In that case you can just report as others do, and not write opinion pieces. You can just carry others' reports. And we don't write opinion pieces on inter-party squabbles. So that's the approach you can take to news that's of interest to people, until the persecution has ended and the media run by Dafa disciples have fully become a regular part of society.

*Disciple: Master, please explain to disciples what impact the Han Couture Design Competition will have on how the world's people dress, and please tell why Han clothing was lost for so long after the Ming dynasty.*

MASTER: (Smiling) Today's gathering is to discuss NTD's work, not Han couture. Let's leave this question for another time.

*Disciple: I have a question about management. When everyone is talented and opinionated, I have found that if I, as a coordinator, give instructions or try to reconcile different opinions somehow, there will always be someone who tells me to look within. Of course, in the context of cultivation I can look within when I get home. But when it's about dealing with a particular problem and deciding how to get something done, how should I handle it as a coordinator?*

MASTER: I know what you mean. (Audience laughs)

Usually Dafa disciples will readily forgo food and sleep in order to validate the Fa—“No matter how tired we are, we’ll do it.” But, as for managing things and doing them in a standard way; supervising one another; or trying to establish certain rules and procedures, you immediately refuse to comply. (*Audience laughs*) Have you considered that only that way will what you do be more powerful and methodical, and only then will you get a good footing in human society and play an even more powerful role? You set up a television station to validate the Fa. Your initial thought was for it to expose the evil, and that was the extent of it. But Master just told you that whatever you do, you should do well. And furthermore, what you are now doing is apt to be left for the culture of the future. If there aren’t even rules or regulations, however, then how could it be given to the future? What would people learn from in the future, then? Without any norms, what would they learn from?—just the zeal of Dafa disciples? (*Master laughs*) (*Audience laughs*) That’s why I say that regardless of what kingdom you once ruled or what project you are now involved in, whoever it is that’s supposed to supervise you, let him. Don’t think that people can’t supervise you. Don’t forget that human beings are in delusion, and the form of your cultivation has you practicing among ordinary people. Perhaps the Dafa disciple who supervises you came from a level that’s not as high as yours, or it may even be the case that he hasn’t cultivated as high as you. But that doesn’t matter. This is about cooperation that’s founded on righteous thoughts and that is meant to save sentient beings. Make sure that you work together well. Did I make myself clear? (*Applause*) Many students have actually brought this

up with me. Today I had an opportunity to explain it clearly for you. (*Audience laughs, applauds*)

*Disciple: I have two questions. The first question is, since many of the students doing media work assume multiple roles—and that's especially the case when it's time to promote Shen Yun's performances—no one works on the ads that our salespeople bring in, or those in the sales division go off to sell tickets. How should we balance these things?*

MASTER: That is a problem. That's why each time a Shen Yun tour begins, I want to let the world know about Shen Yun as quickly as possible. I require that the touring companies not stay in any one place for too long, because if they did, it would be really hard for the local practitioners and it would affect other projects. The problem [you've raised] actually occurred to me long ago. Back in the days when Shen Yun Performing Arts was being established, I made up my mind and decided to use young Dafa disciples for this, so that it would not affect Dafa disciples' other projects. But there were still so many Dafa disciples involved in selling tickets and it was a lot of hard work for them, so other projects still ended up being affected. So what I thought was this: once we achieve a certain degree of renown or if Shen Yun quickly gets famous, we can have ordinary people book the full show and then there won't be any need for you to work on ticket sales. As it turns out, Shen Yun already puts on the single best show in the entire world. Nobody is better. (*Applause*) But right now, the wicked CCP is interfering with the salvation of the world's people. Shen Yun is hugely influential now, though it hasn't developed as quickly as planned. Once its popularity spreads far and wide, there

won't be any need for you to expend so much effort over ticket sales. At that time we'll just need to put out an ad saying that Shen Yun is here and will perform at such-and-such place, and that will do it—people will come. I think that Dafa disciples won't have to spend so much energy and time on it then, and other projects won't be affected. So that's what I have been moving toward. In doing so, I specified that we ensure the quality of the program and that the performance is perfect, that we ensure the best results, and that there are no lapses or problems at any point along the way. When we truly achieve that, the show's influence is sure to expand. I won't guarantee anything, but I feel that the day is not far off. (*Applause*) At that time, all you will have to do is run an ad. (*Audience laughs*) Or perhaps your media will have gained the same kind of influence, so there wouldn't even be a need for ads. It would be enough to just have you report on it. (*Master laughs*)

*Disciple: Could Master please talk about the importance and responsibility of NTD Television's multi-language programming in relation to saving sentient beings?*

**MASTER:** For sure it would be better if there could be programs in more languages. And if the station could truly gain a solid footing in ordinary society, get into a positive cycle, and flourish and prosper, that would be great. Don't stop at having programs in other languages, however. You will really be doing well when you have managed to produce programs in every language, with no ethnicity left out. That's because who is before you and who you must save are all of the world's people. But I know that in terms of human and material resources, or what we can bring

to bear at present, we are really far off from doing that. But whatever the case, for now let's start from the basics. If we do well, it will not only have a great impact, but also, talented and capable people will obtain the Fa one after another; and since the two are connected, they will come on board and fill the needs you have. It's even possible that every facet of your enterprise would improve, including your financial means. But if your present state doesn't change fundamentally, none of those changes will come about. So, you should really give a lot of thought to how to gain a footing in ordinary society and get into a positive cycle. Let's work hard on this.

*Disciple: Just now there was a Canadian student who asked a question about Canada. I'm pretty confused too, in fact. More than half a year has passed since last September, when NTD Television started its operations in Toronto, and still we don't have enough viewers. I am thinking about how to make a breakthrough with the challenges we're facing. Isn't the success of a business a major responsibility that the management has?*

MASTER: Whether or not you cooperate well isn't in the hands of just one or two people. This time let's have everyone think along the same lines and see if there's a good solution. At a minimum, by doing so you can learn about how to go about things in the future and how to do things in a solid and steady way. If it still doesn't work, then it probably means that conditions still aren't ripe. If your efforts go well, though, and things work out, then it means that you have cooperated well.

*Disciple: Pardon the interruption, but we noticed that there are people taking notes. Note-taking is strictly prohibited, and neither is recording allowed.*

MASTER: It's not that we are afraid of people taking notes. Rather, once you leave here with what you have written down, it won't be the same as what I originally meant. And besides, you wouldn't be able to get everything down, so what you jotted down would amount to quoting out of context. What you are doing is picking and choosing what you like and think is useful to tell others. You are not cultivating yourself, and instead want to use my words to fix-up others. *(Audience laughs)* So you'd better not take notes. I told you long ago that it's not allowed, wishing to see you walk your path correctly. You need to destroy the notes that you have taken.

*Disciple: Shen Yun has performed all over the world, but not in Hong Kong.*

MASTER: I know. Increasingly, the wicked CCP seems to be brazenly exercising full-blown control over Hong Kong. What happened to that "one country, two systems" thing? It looks to me as though [the CCP is] utterly without shame, and right now it fits that saying, "A dead pig is not afraid of boiling water." *(Audience laughs)* It will stop at nothing, and the world's disgust with it is deepening by the day. More and more it's leading the world's people to see it more clearly for what it is. It's directly manipulating and controlling the government of Hong Kong, and the theaters there are all government property. But none of this matters, and there is no need for concern. You know what I'm thinking? I am preparing for Shen Yun to perform in mainland China.

*(Enthusiastic applause)* I'm not just thinking out loud. The evil may think it's powerful, but let's see what history has in store. *(Master laughs)* It's not up to them. Every dynasty was once full of bluster, only to be reduced to a whimper in the end. *(Master laughs)* *(Audience applauds)*

*Disciple: I'm with the marketing department of NTD headquarters in New York. I wanted to ask about collaboration between the news teams and production teams. We've gone out to report events, and have come back with lots of business cards each day. Many people are interested in us. One thing that concerns me is how time is now passing faster and faster every day, and I am anxious. Although I'm not doing this full-time, I hope that I can stay in touch with each and every one of those contacts. But there is only enough time to do very little each day.*

**MASTER:** True, those who are really doing things will feel that there isn't enough time. That's why I hope that you will get more people involved in marketing, and thus you won't feel so busy and will be able to blaze a trail and get into a positive cycle. *(Applause)* With marketing, you need to clarify the facts as you interact with people, and it too will be a way of saving sentient beings. And you are doing [marketing] to help the station as a whole do well, so it's outstanding. Don't think that only doing the more frontline types of work, like writing articles, amounts to saving people. That's not true. Everyone is utilizing the reports from the station to save people.

*Disciple: I have two questions. One is, NTD has been in existence for seven or eight years. Many students, however,*

*have not improved their skills to a satisfactory extent. They themselves hold this to be the case. The second question is, many students are more enthusiastic about handing out flyers than working on NTD Television's news reporting.*

MASTER: *(Master laughs)* There are differences among you, but every link in the chain is critical. If you consider the case of those who are a bit older and who don't have much schooling, or who don't know how to do anything else, the most effective thing they can do is to pass out fliers. For those of you who are well educated and adept at writing, however, you can play to your strengths and do writing. The truth of course is that all of these are ultimately the same. Whatever form it may take, if what you are doing saves people it is magnificent. *(Applause) (Master laughs)*

*Disciple: NTD has developed very quickly and its television programs are becoming more numerous, but we still have a shortage of manpower in each region. When we are overwhelmed by the work, some fellow cultivators say that we have to ensure a certain quantity and try to do more. Others meanwhile say that since we are so busy now, if the quality can't be ensured we should do less. So while we are en route to becoming more professional, how should we handle this?*

MASTER: I see that you've been working really hard, and everyone is trying their utmost to do better and do more. Of course, the better the quality and the more programs you do, the better. That's what I think. But when I see all of you working so hard, I don't want to say anything further. *(Master laughs) (Audience laughs)* That is what everyone wants, however. If you can work together better and add some more manpower, perhaps the situation will change

dramatically. I see the immediate challenges that you face. There's no special solution. (*Master laughs*) Master cannot give you some special method, for you need to walk your own path.

*Disciple: Some talk shows need to invite guests. One perspective is that as long as they hold views that help to expose the CCP, we can invite them on our programs. But sometimes we haven't looked into their backgrounds that well. Another perspective is that we should try our best to invite our own commentators.*

MASTER: As for inviting commentators, of course it's best to have those with the appropriate status. But if you have regular, strong commentators of your own who are popular, that's good too, but that means your station would need its own experts. That said, sometimes there is a need to invite appropriate people from outside for a program. They speak from a third party angle, as an expert or in a special capacity, and that too is needed. But it is hard to gauge the views some people have, so you might need to find out a bit beforehand. The theme of a program is usually clear, so [when you screen him] you can just have the conversation revolve around that topic. Tell the person your views, and if he agrees with you, then go ahead with it; if he doesn't, then don't. If the person is really someone from the CCP, then isn't it still good if he publicly exposes the wicked CCP for what it is through his comments? (*Audience laughs*) (*Master laughs*) You should be broad-minded and tolerant. (*Master laughs*) (*Applause*) Things will go well if you are magnanimous.

*Disciple: During interviews, some people from the mainland who understand things asked me to pass on their regards when I see you. (Master: Then I thank them.) (Audience applauds) Some rights advocates there are asking if they can work in China as NTD Television reporters.*

**MASTER:** It's too dangerous for them. You have to look out for their safety as much as possible. If they manage to provide information, you shouldn't reveal your source's identity; and you should be especially careful about their safety. Revealing their identity really would be detrimental to them. You should take these things into consideration.

Let me talk about another thing. In the mainland, some students have become confused during the persecution. However, once they become clear on things, or once they find themselves in a new setting, they are able to tell right from wrong. They definitely don't side with the evil deliberately, for sure. When you evaluate someone, you often say, "So and so was 'transformed' in the mainland." But, failing to pass tests is simply part of the cultivation process. Cultivation is not over after that, and the person is still cultivating. So, you shouldn't regard him as really being no good anymore. Of course, some people did do bad things during that phase when they were supposedly "being transformed," but, if they might still be able to make it up later on as they cultivate, they should be given chances. I hope, though, that these people will have the attitude of wanting to make a fresh start; when you act as if you don't care about what happened, you will be looked down upon. Of course, the Dafa disciples who were not "transformed" and made it through despite the evil are indeed magnificent, and deserving of respect. *(Applause)*

My point is, you shouldn't push your fellow cultivators away. They are fellow cultivators, and you should try your best to have them feel the warmth with which Dafa disciples interact with one another. If your concern is that you don't know them well enough, then you can try to learn more about them from Dafa disciple contacts in China. If the person really is a Dafa disciple, then bring him on board [your project]. Or if nobody knows for sure about him, then wait for some time. If it doesn't feel right, then tell him to go hand out fliers first. But if you determine that he really was a Dafa disciple in China, then I think there won't be a problem. Even if he's a special agent, consider that everyone can see that the CCP is about to fall. China's high-ranking officials are moving their capital overseas in large quantities, preparing a way out for themselves and buying foreign passports, thinking of how to flee. Who's actually dedicating himself to that regime? Yes, there are indeed some stupid people (*Everyone laughs*), some brainless ones. Those people have been indoctrinated to the point that they really can't tell right from wrong. You'll recognize such people the moment you meet them, but they are the minority, after all. The world's people are waiting for you to save them. You should open your hearts and not exclude your fellow cultivators. If you fail to do so, you are obstructing and stopping yourselves.

*Disciple: I do interviews with the community in Flushing. Some people are, as ordinary people put it, just set on opposing Falun Gong. Should I allow them to be on camera? There are others who we usually don't take footage of, and maybe only one of their hands or something would*

*appear in the scene. But ordinary viewers have complained about this. Also, should we report on the activities that religious groups hold?*

MASTER: You should make that judgment call yourselves. If you feel that you want to give the person another chance, then go ahead, do it. But if it's a case of someone who is rotten to the core, and because of him many sentient beings might be eliminated later on or lose their chance, then let's not allow him to appear on camera. It's up to you to decide. If instead someone's presence or words are good for saving sentient beings, then whoever it may be, it can be used. And if there is nothing beneficial, then don't use it. Some news items are not important and have no connection to your efforts to save people, so don't draw attention to those ones.

*Disciple: Travel programs are a good way for us to get into and expand a new market, so I would like to create such a program. The ones that we currently air are all tapes that we obtained externally, whereas if we could produce our own we could market them later on. (Master: That would be good.) But, when I brought up the things needed for this with the management, they felt that right now we aren't good enough and couldn't produce something the same caliber as others. (Master: Well, maybe they're right.) (Everyone laughs) When studying the Fa it occurred to me that I might be being too insistent, and since I'm a cultivator after all, I dropped the idea. (Everyone laughs) Yet some fellow cultivators believe that my idea was quite good, and they have encouraged me to carry it out. Right now I can't figure out whether it's really just that I have an attachment or whether it turns out we could currently produce a program as good as what ordinary*

*people do. I personally feel confident that we could.*

MASTER: Then you can explain to the station's management in greater detail your thinking in regards to what steps you would take and how you would carry things out. If you are able to instill confidence in them by discussing this, then I think there will no longer be any issues. *(Everyone laughs, applauds)*

*Disciple: I am currently involved in making music programs for the station. We've found that the technical skills needed for sound production are very high, and I'm not sure how much time I should allot for something like this. Do I need to make a special effort just to learn this, and perhaps make a study of it? I ask because it would be very time-consuming.*

MASTER: Things need to be done well at the station, and that means there have to be standards, and professionalism. If you can't do something, you will have to learn it. *(Laughs)* As for the specifics of how to do that, it's up to you.

*Disciple: Each time we hear Master teach the Fa, there are always students back home who really want us to tell them about it as soon as possible after we return. What happens next is this person recalls a little and that person recalls a little from memory. It doesn't seem that right to me.*

MASTER: When you discuss after going back, you'll need to add, "What I'm sharing is just the general idea, and not Master's original words." If people are just trying to learn, it's fine. But if, however, someone takes notes and reads from them, then that is a case of misrepresenting Master.

*Disciple: I had previously asked the person in charge of planning as a whole about the overall planning for*

*programming. He said that in many cases they found that when the station ordered that a program go forward, and for example told it what direction to go in, it proved to be very hard for practitioners to keep it up. By contrast, when instead those involved wanted of their own initiative to produce a program, they generally could follow through. One direct result of this has been that the station is really lacking in programs that have popular appeal. So I would like to ask how to better balance the ratio of popular type programs and truth-clarification ones.*

MASTER: If you were working at an ordinary company and your boss told you to do something, would you tell him that you're just going to do whatever you feel like doing? So, why can't you cooperate well when you are validating the Fa? Why can't you handle this well? Why can you do something well only if it appeals to you? These are precisely problems of coordination and cooperation. It was a shared aspiration that brought you together for this initiative, but when you each insist on your own views, and just do what pleases you, how could that amount to cooperation? If each of my five fingers here wants to be extended, a fist can't be formed and there will be no punch to throw (*laughs*). It's weak this way. So you need to work together well.

*Disciple: At present there is a lot of engagement between Taiwan and China. If we are to report on it as regular media would do, it will be hard to avoid making the wicked CCP look better than it is.*

MASTER: That's indeed something to be careful about. As for the specifics of things, that is still something for you to figure out. But you should modify the content from the

reports done by ordinary media if it contains things that would willfully make the wicked Party look good.

*Disciple: If we are to avoid writing commentaries, then can we find ordinary people to do so?*

MASTER: If you have ordinary people do it, it's still your paper that's running the commentary. Readers won't make a distinction between whether the writer is part of your staff or not. Don't get involved in ordinary affairs, and don't partake in ordinary people's politics. I have made this clear.

*Disciple: I would like to ask a follow-up question. There is now a lot of engagement between Taiwan and China, and the CCP has used a lot of media, business, and economic means to make inroads in Taiwan. Should we look for one aspect of this to hone in on and expose?*

MASTER: You need to consider whether or not these things help to save sentient beings. If not, then don't do it. If so, then reveal the truth. But don't pay any regard to whether or not [the CCP] has made inroads. The more you think about that, the more it will make inroads, with the point being to see what you'll do. Don't pay it any mind. When saving sentient beings, you want to direct your efforts at people—not how things are shaping up in society. Focus on people's hearts and minds, and not on a certain social class or an organization or institution.

*Disciple: When reporting on happenings outside of China, I've found that sometimes what is reported in mainland China is news that has already been published abroad, and that what we report on can serve as a strong counterpoint*

*to the CCP; for example, we could compare how democratic governments in the free world handle a certain thing with how the CCP does. I'd like to ask whether, when we broadcast news of happenings outside China, it's important for us to look at the news reported by China as a reference and expose the CCP by depicting the contrary.*

MASTER: No, it's not. There is no set tactic. Just do things sensibly. No matter how the CCP tries to seal things off, no matter how it tries to control information about its persecution of Falun Gong, what it is doing will nevertheless be revealed to society; people will find out in the end and that information will be reported internationally. You can reprint reports from elsewhere and, simultaneously, find out through your channels what exactly has happened, and report it afterwards. So there is no need to take the [wicked Party's] stuff and report the opposite. Of course, things are different for media that are reporting from special angles; they specialize in dissecting the wicked Party. *(Everyone laughs)*

*Disciple: I'm a disciple from Los Angeles, and I would like to ask about strategies for promoting Shen Yun. We had eight performances this year in January, but, because our initial marketing plan wasn't very effective, we didn't do a good job early on moving tickets. Later, we were hoping to capitalize on the Thanksgiving holiday to make up for lost time and set a plan, only to have it fall through when the practitioners couldn't agree on things and big arguments ensued. Then, in the end, the worst-case scenario happened: when the performances were about to start, we gave out discount vouchers.*

MASTER: The problems you experience selling Shen Yun

tickets are in fact a reflection of the cultivation state of the students in that locale. That's extremely clear to me. No matter which student or which place it is, however your state is will definitely be mirrored in how your ticket sales go. I'm not saying that you haven't cultivated well, but rather, that it is a manifestation of how successfully you cooperate. That is very apparent in how your Shen Yun ticket sales go. In some places students worked together extremely well, and in some places there were just a handful of students working on things, yet what they did, despite having few people, was highly effective.

I've observed that in San Francisco there are some students who for quite some time haven't stepped forward. I don't want to lose them. I'd like to see this group come out and do some simple things as a start, having them first of all step forward, and secondly have a chance to establish a certain amount of mighty virtue. Otherwise, what will happen to them in the future? Other Dafa disciples are very busy, and don't have any extra energy to take on more things. It's true that some of the students who didn't come out before have managed to come out, and that's great.

*Disciple: NTD Television Europe has a set television program that runs once every two weeks, called "Across Europe." It's a struggle even to fill up the fifteen minutes we have. I'm really concerned seeing NTD Television Europe like this. What will it take for NTD Television Europe to do better? There seem to be quite a few people involved in it.*

MASTER: *(Sighing)* You're basically asking me how to cultivate better *(Everyone laughs)* and cooperate better. When things don't go well, everyone bears some of the

responsibility, for sure. You wanted to take this path, to come on board and be part of this project so as to help Master rectify the Fa. Then we should ask, have you helped Master rectify the Fa? Or is it that you are just satisfying your attachments in the process? That's the problem as I see it. I'm not referring to just the difficulty producing those fifteen minutes that you described. If you can't work together well, how are all of those programs that the station needs to produce going to be made? You need to realize what your responsibility is. What Dafa disciples shoulder is a great, historic responsibility. Tens or hundreds of millions of years, or two Earths, have passed, all of which was for this very affair at the end. How could you not do well at the very end? Yes, it is a deluding place here, but how come some people do manage to do well? Why is it that others can manage to cooperate well? In cultivation, hardship is not the greatest challenge. Hardship passes after a brief spell, and if it's not handled well one will nevertheless be clear about things afterwards. What is hardest is to remain consistently disciplined when there is seemingly no hope—that's the most difficult. Dafa disciples, after thousands—or tens of thousands—of years, what you have sought to do has arrived. If you don't do well at it, how will you stand before all of this one day?

Have you heard about the Great Judgment? At one time the god(s) of a very high plane arranged for there to be a major judgment at the end of Fa-rectification. The plan was to include all who had passed away as well as all who had gone to hell, as they would be brought back to life for judgment; the living would undergo judgment too; as would all gods of the entire universe. All would be judged one by

one. The idea of the Great Judgment has been passed down in the West, in fact. It would not just be those who had done wrongful things who would be judged, but also those people and gods who had played a good role, including Dafa disciples—they too would be subjected to judgment. Each life would be made to bear responsibility for each and every one of its actions in history. And this would be especially true for during the time of the universe's Fa-rectification, where one would be held accountable for everything—be it one's motives, what one did, or even the little things; and it was set that gods, those who had played both a negative and positive part in the Fa-rectification, as well as demons and even tiny life forms, would all be subjected to judgment. Even those who had a positive effect would be judged just the same, in which case it would be asked how many sentient beings could not be saved on account of your failing to do well in the course of what you were doing? And in the case of a Dafa disciple, it would be asked how many of your vows went unfulfilled? Failing to make good on them would be just one aspect of it, for when you do not do something, or do it well, there are consequences of varying sizes, and you would be held accountable for all of these. Would it work if you weren't held accountable for the shame that your actions might have caused Dafa or for your having deceived the Lord? I haven't talked about any of this before. I didn't want to mention these things. But you really, truly should sober up. Don't you know what time it is yet?

*Disciple: Shen Yun will one day go to the mainland to perform. What are the future prospects for NTD in the*

*mainland?*

MASTER: (*Laughing*) (*Everyone laughs*) Well, it's no joking matter. As you've seen, here, during this critical moment in history, NTD has managed to play an overwhelmingly positive role in helping Master rectify the Fa and save sentient beings. That mouthpiece of the wicked CCP, that disaster of a television station (*laughter*), is in fact a den of fiends. It's a band of hooligans that rigs up lies and falsehoods, it is solely an instrument of the wicked Party that works to dupe the people. In the future, will there still be a place for it to utter so much as even a sound? There won't, you can be sure. Now of course, NTD has been responsible to society, it gives voice to the people, and what would be wrong with moving it to a different place? (*Everyone laughs, applauds*) Having said that, Falun Gong doesn't seek to gain anything of what ordinary people have, but, the fact is that NTD is a company that's established in ordinary human society. Mark my words: the magnificence of your saving sentient beings is such that the people of the future will really hold you in high esteem, and they will carry forward all of what our Dafa disciples have undertaken. (*Applause*)

*Disciple: [Putting on] a performance by Shen Yun indeed takes up a lot of students, which affects many projects. But, disciples in Taiwan know very well that Shen Yun is a matter of Master rectifying the Fa, so everyone is on precisely the same page. As to the NTD competitions, however, people have different understandings.*

MASTER: NTD's competition series has already had a pretty big impact and made an impression on people. The

competitions serve to restore human culture. For one thing, they can increase the station's name recognition and have the effect of distinguishing NTD. If the programming is made lively, it can attract viewers from different segments of society. That's looking at it on the surface, at least. In reality, though, it is a matter of saving people through the work of television. But that said, after the competitions are over, wait until next year before doing things again; don't keep hyping them up in the interim. If you promote them any further, it will amount to merely promoting ordinary human things. A Dafa disciple's priority is to save people, so you need to keep things in proper perspective. The competitions can help to distinguish the station, and they help to recover the proper cultural heritage of man. But when they are done, they're done, and you can't exclusively go on promoting human culture at the expense of saving sentient beings, which is your primary responsibility. Your top priority right now is to save sentient beings.

*Disciple: We have encountered some challenges while working on the business operations of NTD. One is that among our students there are not that many who do sales. Another is that people feel that doing sales for The Epoch Times is relatively easy, whereas with NTD it's hard, and they lack confidence. There really are issues that we face producing ads, as the requirements are high. How should we look at these difficulties?*

MASTER: What I think is, [these two media] are interfacing with different kinds of businesses. If a business is rather large, it will definitely be interested in doing television advertising. But if it is smaller, it's possible it will only

be interested in doing advertising in print media. This should be quite clear. If a restaurant were to use television advertising, for instance, they might feel it's like bringing out the heavy artillery to kill a mosquito. *(Everyone laughs)* Whereas larger enterprises have a wider business scope, and the effect that television advertising has benefits them. So, when doing advertising you need to think a bit about what kind of commercial entity is suited to your medium.

*Disciple: I coordinate the reporting on Shen Yun for multiple languages. I have noticed that sometimes when people are preparing Chinese language reports they are a bit sloppy handling the names of Western interviewees, yet a person's name is very important in journalism. Another thing is, there was a Shen Yun television ad that was to be translated into several languages, but the quality of its editing wasn't that good. I thought that it would only take half a day to perfect it, but one of my supervisors said that it would take too long and we should just quickly roll it out. I feel that the approach wasn't right. Could I have a discussion with him about this?*

**MASTER:** You certainly could, but that doesn't mean you should just change it as you wish and drag it out for days or even longer. Quality is important in journalism. If there are indeed the problems you mentioned of people's names being written wrong or typos, then you all need to pay more attention to such things going forward.

Let me say a few words in passing about promotional video clips. There are a lot of opinions being tossed around about the Shen Yun promotional video(s). I'll speak about this from two angles. On the one hand, it's possible that indeed the footage and the creative aspects didn't meet your

expectations. Everyone is still learning, and for sure there will be shortcomings in people's work. But each is trying his or her best. And with time, each will do better and better. That's something I require of them, and those involved will work hard on it. There is another element to it, though. As you know, ordinary people are not the same as cultivators, and when they size up whether something is beautiful or good, what's to their liking is not going to accord with the true, traditional standards for these things as set forth by divinely imparted culture, for they have lost that standard. The wide array of notions that people form in the world after birth determine their thoughts and actions, and that's why you have some people saying one thing is good and others saying something else is, or one person saying something you've done is a problem while the next finds it okay.

Many productions in Western society, as you might know, don't use a lot of advertising—with some even using no television advertising at all. They don't give a clear explanation in their ad copy about what the performance involves, and even just write a few words, maybe adding on some vague picture, and it's effective even though it's that kind of ad. Then compared to that, Shen Yun's ads actually reveal too much, isn't that right? That's true, as you well know. No other productions use such detailed and precise representations, and yet some of our students still think it's not enough; some even think that you need to depict in an ad the entire production for it to work. That's not possible, though. And this holds true for ads for movies as well. If you make it too detailed, people won't come see it, for they will think that they know the whole thing already. With many people, they will only have a new, fresh experience

if they go into it not knowing anything about it, and only then is it interesting, and only then are they mesmerized by it. So if your ads are too detailed it will in fact have a bad effect. It's the opposite of what you think—that people will come to see it only if you portray it in all its glory. If people know about all of it already, they won't in fact come to see it.

Then what accounts for all the difficulty you have selling tickets? It's not just a matter of your promotional materials. Then what is the issue? It has to do with the longstanding cultural foundations that people have, as well as their degree of familiarity with another culture. Take any ballet company in the U.S., or the ballet company of any place in the West, or whatever performance company, and the majority of Americans will know it, with many even knowing who the principal performers are. They even know who will be performing on a given occasion. All they have to do is put out a simple ad and people will come—just a simple ad. That's not something Shen Yun can do at present, as many people still don't know who Shen Yun is. We know that our performances are the best, but ordinary people don't. On top of that, the wicked CCP has long been systematically destroying Chinese culture, and pretty much every company that's come to the West from mainland China to perform has been one big hodgepodge. Mainlanders, with their broken culture, mistakenly think that Westerners will only want to watch you perform if you serve up a big mix of everything. What Chinese people don't understand, having been inundated with the culture of the CCP, is that the evil specter of the CCP is purposefully controlling the Chinese people and causing them to destroy their own culture, using Chinese people to ruin the image of the Chinese internationally. What they

put forth is thus really poor. For example, in their dance they mix together all kinds of things, such as ballet, Chinese dance, modern dance, and contemporary dance, making for one big motley mix. In Western society people really have little tolerance for such things. And then there's the fact that they learn some modern expressive techniques that were produced by modernist thought in the West, and yet they can't measure up to the performances or to the causes that those abnormal artists in the West have. And these artists who try to be in vogue by going "modern," they don't know that those modernist things are not mainstream in Western society. This has caused Westerners to never have a good impression of Chinese performances, and this creates an obstacle for Shen Yun.

So it's not that you haven't given out or put out enough promotional materials. Consider that last year in the New York metropolitan area, people, including those nearby in New Jersey and Connecticut, saw your ads or materials at least five times each. How come more people didn't come to watch the performances, then? People didn't know what you were performing. They knew your company was coming, and they knew about the show, but, they didn't know what you would perform or how the quality was. Then there is only one solution, namely, for us to break into the market by offering a show that is high in quality and with content that only gets better every year. Actually, the performances have already had an impact on society, and interest has been constantly brewing; after someone sees it and likes it, he tells people everywhere about it. In these few years Shen Yun's performances have already managed to achieve that. But, because Shen Yun only came about recently, and

because what's before us is a world with billions of people, if we want to extend that impact more broadly, it will take a process. Nevertheless, the power of Shen Yun's brilliant performances is already substantial, and the impact is huge. One day things will be easier, and one day we won't need to put much effort into advertising or producing video clips. At that time it will just take a few words—"Shen Yun is coming"—and people will come. (*Everyone laughs, applauds*) It will definitely be like that. But, while we are still in the process of reaching that point, you cannot neglect quality in your materials and advertisements. Don't neglect it—be it a promotional video, your writing, etc. A new venture is always hard. No matter what it is, the first steps are always hard. Make sure you walk them well together.

*Disciple: As for our media outlets reporting things that have broad appeal, is what you have in mind the kinds of things that go along with ordinary people's attachments and appeal to people whose moral values have slid down? Or were you referring to the kinds of things that they really should enjoy...?*

**MASTER:** There is no set standard for what people like. When anything is done well, people like it. It comes down to quality. Some people like things spicy, some bitter, some sweet, and some sour, as they have different tastes. When people live in society for a long time, they develop their own views on things and what they like, and everyone has different tastes. But don't let this fact affect you. You know that what comprises a Shen Yun performance is really crucial, so people say to me, "Why don't you include xiaopin [skits]?" "Why don't you have xiangsheng [comedy dialogue]?" "Why don't you include popular songs?" "Why

don't you have acrobatics?" "Why don't you have this, why don't you have that...?" There is one thing I am extremely clear on, and that is, whatever it is you do, if you do it well, people will like it. When you choose what to use, you take into consideration your audience and ask whether a given artistic form is classy or whether it's unrefined. Why have I chosen song and dance? Because song and dance have no language barrier, and no cultural or ethnic barriers, and anyone can follow it. Then supposing we were to do a xiaopin skit, what would all those groups out there who don't understand Chinese be hearing? Many kinds of arts are by nature limited in their appeal. Only song and dance are something everyone can accept and find accessible.

Sometimes I can't help but observe how every day there are people around me airing their views, expressing this, then that, then this... At those times I'm thinking: I am probably the only one who could handle all of this, I know what I am doing as well as what the future holds (*Everyone laughs*), and if anyone were to take my place it would be a mess, as they couldn't handle all this. (*Everyone laughs, applauds*)

That reminds me of the media that Dafa disciples are running. When Dafa disciples are doing something, for sure there are always yet more people at ear's length who air their views, unloading a whole pile of suggestions—"do it this and that way, that and this way..." (*Master laughs, everyone else laughs*) Those who are involved in the [media] projects always think that the management has problems, while those involved in the management always think that the others aren't being very cooperative. But actually, Dafa disciples should first be considerate of others no matter what the occasion, and put themselves in the other person's

shoes, and look at the whole picture. Then you will know what to do. Think about where the other person might be coming from, see if you can look at the whole picture, and then you will know what to do.

*Disciple: Could Shen Yun's performance be played in Hong Kong as one would a movie? Also, in Taiwan could NTD Television work on becoming a public station?*

MASTER: No, Shen Yun's performance cannot be played as a movie. It wouldn't be striking the way it is on stage, nor would it be as effective saving people. As for the question of what the station should do, that's still left to you yourselves to determine. I was really happy when I heard that Taiwan's Dafa disciples had started up a station and that the resources are better than over here in the U.S. But then, later on, I heard that you didn't want to do it anymore. Since it's you validating the Fa though, after all, it's left to you to do if you want to, and if you don't want to, you don't have to. It was something you had wanted to do originally, after all. But I think that you shouldn't be so lacking in resolve. What makes you think you can't do well or cooperate well? Why can't you work hard to ensure that financially the station is sound enough to keep running? In Western society our Chinese Dafa disciples are culturally disadvantaged [and yet still get things done], so how could it be that you can't do well in your own backyard? Ordinary people can run a station well, but you think you can't? The things you broadcast appeal to ordinary people, are what others aren't brave enough to report, and are liked by those who watch them, so what's not good about it? Don't veer off course when you look for solutions. When you have

thought things through and concluded that you want to do something, then go ahead and do it. And if you really can't pull it off, then try a different approach. That's fine. I think that when Dafa disciples do something they should carry it through to the end. If you spend half of your strength, or walk half of your path of cultivation, and then turn around and start all over again, then it was really a waste. Time is limited.

*Disciple: There are a lot of young disciples among those doing media work. Because they haven't figured out the appropriate degree of intimacy between men and women, it has made their own cultivation and things around them highly unstable.*

**MASTER:** This is really something to watch out for. If Dafa disciples don't do well in this regard, if they can't pass this test, or if they have not walked their own path well, then they have disgraced both themselves and Dafa disciples as a whole. I don't want to say much about this; I already said more than enough before. Pay attention to it. The media in mainland China like to publicize this sort of scandalous thing, as the evil wants to corrupt the Chinese people and make them unsavable. The evil's goal is plenty clear: to see whether gods will still bother to save such people. Then how are you, as Dafa disciples, to get other people to do well if you yourselves aren't managing to do well? How are you to save them?

*Disciple: Many of us who are involved in media work have to attend to an ordinary job as well, which makes it hard for us to put all of our effort into the media's operations.*

MASTER: That's the situation for pretty much everyone sitting here. Everyone's doing it that way. It's just a matter of using your time well, of managing it well. That's the situation before us, unless you have a way to resolve the problem of making a living or to get full-time employees. I've in fact told the station that those who work full time on selling ads can have a regular wage. That is, we do it by treating it as a formal job, allowing people to take on this work without those worries—we have to make this path into a reality. Other initiatives can do the same if conditions permit. But if they do not, then you can't do that.

You all know the effect that Shen Yun Performing Arts now has, and you have seen it; even if it is thousands who attend, when they leave, they have changed. That kind of instant result isn't something that our other efforts to clarify the truth can achieve under normal circumstances; at least at present they haven't reached that kind of level, let alone with an audience of Shen Yun's size. But a show put on by a performing arts company can. A performing arts company can have that big of an impact, but, of course, for that to happen many things first need to be done well. This has led some people to conclude that we should just focus on starting up more new companies then—"let's all work on this." But that won't work. As you can imagine, that would cause problems in terms of financial, material, and human resources. The [Shen Yun] performers you see, those young adults, have ample conditions for this, and their artistic skills improve at an incredible rate. The students at Fei Tian have done really well in their academic courses too—their scores on standardized tests were among the top in their upstate New York area. (*Applause*) And it's

not just their academic studies in which they've excelled. They train extremely hard at their art, and their skills have improved very fast; at present theirs are better than those of your average professionals. And they've accomplished that in a short span of time. So, what accounts for that? For one thing, they are Dafa disciples. And secondly, they have excellent teachers—be it the academic teachers, the dance teachers, or music teachers. These teachers have completely withdrawn from their other jobs just to work there, and every day they teach all day long. If these Dafa disciples carry on like this for a long time, it won't work out, since they have families and careers. Other projects, as you know, are done in one's spare time, with one being able to fulfill duties on the home front and at the same time carry out Dafa activities, and nothing is affected. But that's not the case for these people. So, they need to receive a formal salary. If we include the adult performers in the picture, the expenses are huge. With the costs of each performance being what they are, and with the people involved now totaling in the hundreds, if we were to try to pay salaries we wouldn't have the means. So we would like to get outside support, and to this effect have set up a Shen Yun Office that can specifically reach out to government institutions and corporations for support, since that's what other performance companies do. It's really not easy to accomplish. Don't think anything of the fact that people are seeing a little bit of profit. It's still far, far from enough.

*Disciple: There was an ordinary person who, after seeing Shen Yun perform, brought the company's promotional materials back with him to mainland China. A couple of days ago he*

*returned from China and said that he had passed out more than forty items about Falun Gong. He asked me to pass on his regards to Master.*

**MASTER:** As the evil factors are increasingly cleared out, people are increasingly becoming freed. People will analyze things for themselves after waking up, and they will see the persecution and the wicked Party for what they are. They will immediately be able to tell which is good and which is bad. However badly people's moral values might have sunk, they still have powers of reason after all, and they are still able to discern good from bad. Gradually people will wake up.

*Disciple: It has already been set forth that The Epoch Times has to break even financially. So in terms of the business side of NTD, how should Dafa disciples at the station go about drawing up goals?*

**MASTER:** The specifics are still things that you need to work out for yourselves. Don't ask Master things that are so specific. Cooperate together well. I have also spoken with the coordinators, so they will know what should be done.

I think that I won't say anything more. I would like to leave you time for discussion. After all, today is not a Fa conference. *(Everyone laughs)* I'm just here to resolve some of the pressing questions you might have. That's all I will say. Thank you all! *(Enthusiastic applause)*