



# ***Dharma Rhymes***

***Second Volume***

**智海法師法語**

***Master Chi Hoi***

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## The Author



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Dharma Master Chi Hoi (“Ocean of Wisdom”) was born in 1926 in a village near Beijing. At the age of seventeen he was initiated at Chi Fu Monastery, in the Hong Luo Mountains north of Beijing, originally founded by the venerable Master Tsou Wu, the twelfth patriarch of China’s Pure Land school. For three years, Chi Hoi learned the teachings of the Pure Land school and practiced the “recitation of Amitabha Buddha.” In 1944 he entered a Buddhist academy in Beijing to study literature, history, and logic in addition to religion. From 1948, Chi Hoi further studied the Pure Land teachings at Mount Lin Yan Monastery in Suzhou, the monastery of the Pure Land school’s thirteenth patriarch, the venerable Master In Kwong. Chi Hoi then learned the Buddhist doctrines of the Tien-t’ai school from the venerable Master Tan

shu in Hong Kong between 1952 and 1962. He was later appointed the forty-fifth dharma successor of the Tien-t'ai school. Chi Hoi's philosophical perspective is based on the fundamental principles of both the Pure Land and the Tien-t'ai schools; his approach to enlightenment likewise combines the faith and devotion to Amitabha Buddha espoused by the former and the one vehicle teaching and emphasis on meditation from the latter.

In 1967 Dharma Master Chi Hoi came to the United States to preach Buddhism and in 1972, founded the Buddhist Wisdom Lecture Hall of Fo Shan Monastery in San Francisco. Chi Hoi devotes his time not only to writing Buddhist literature, but also to traveling around the world to lecture on various sutras as well as Buddhist philosophy. Despite his reputation as a scholar, Chi Hoi always emphasizes

the importance of both faith and prajna. Master Chi Hoi wishes to introduce Buddhism to all, and to bring harmony and serenity to the modern mind.

## The Translator's Preface

The attentive reader may recognize that this selection of *Master Chi Hoi's Dharma Rhymes*, though bright and colorful like the first volume, addresses more directly the heart of Buddhist wisdom, and thereby, provides more extensively an intellectual guide for those on the Buddhist path. In this collection, the mainstays of Buddhist thought, the Four Noble Truths, the Eight Rightfold Path, dependent origination, karma and the theory of No-Self, are illustrated in rhyme and metaphor. Master Chi Hoi's teaching combines faith in Amida Buddha with Ch'an (Japanese: Zen) meditation. The chapters *Mindfulness of Buddha* and *Through the Gate of Zen* highlight this dual practice of Mindfulness and Ch'an meditation.



### ***Precious Precepts***

Following the precepts, as presented in the Eight Rightfold Path, is not only the starting point of good conduct, but the very foundation of Buddhist practice. It is said that only when the mind is without guilt, it is truly settled, and thereby prepared for further study. Indeed, following the precepts is essential in lighting the path to enlightenment. As Master Chi Hoi says in *Precious Precepts*, "through the practice of precepts, attain unequalled *Bodhi*."

### ***Mindfulness of Buddha***

Mindfulness is a major theme because a calm, concentrated, and focused mind is the gateway to Buddhist wisdom. How does one achieve mindfulness? Buddhist monastics of old have taught a myriad of different methods, based on schools of Buddhist thought, a practitioner's skill level, and even personality types!

What about Mindfulness of Buddha? This is one of the many ways to practice mindfulness and is said to be one of the most expedient means of practice. In *Dharma Rhymes*, Master Chi Hoi recommends Mindfulness of Buddha via a range of practices including reciting the Buddha's name, contemplating the Buddha's image, and walking contemplation. What matters most is that the one who meditates must wholeheartedly think and call on the Buddha. As in Master Chi Hoi's stanzas on Mindfulness, true, steadfast meditation in this manner can initiate wisdom, extinguish all karmic dust, and even lead to Amida Buddha's Pureland. Master Chi Hoi's work *Perfect Realization by Mindfulness of Buddha* offers additional insight into the practice of mindfulness.

### ***Through the Gate of Zen***

Master Chi Hoi's stanzas in *Through the Gate of Zen* have an obvious Zen-like appeal. Not only do they address sophisticated Buddhist theory on emptiness and dependent origination, they challenge the reader to think about meaning behind meaning through smart word play. In this way, the poems in this chapter encourage readers to "wake from the dream within a dream" and reach towards attaining the ultimate insight of Buddhist wisdom. Master Chi Hoi's work *Bodhidharma's Meditation for Settling the Mind with a hands-on manual for beginners* offers an example of this practice.

This volume of Master Chi Hoi's *Dharma Rhymes* is not only an excellent instruction manual but a refreshing inspiration for those interested in either Buddhist philosophy or practice.

Hui-hong and Hui-nien  
July, 2009

念佛法語

# Mindfulness of the Buddha





稽首西方安樂國，  
彌陀觀音大勢至，  
常演法音如天樂，  
接引眾生到蓮池。

**Hail to the Western Pureland!**

**Of Amida Buddha,**

**Avalokitesvara and**

**Mahasthamaprapta too.**

**Their voices of Dharma,**

**like heavenly music,**

**welcome all people**

**to Amida's lotus pond.**



手持明珠念彌陀，  
一心專想出五濁，  
人身難得法難聞，  
莫將今生空蹉跎。

**Meditation beads in hand,  
Recall Amida Buddha.**

**Contemplation in mind,  
Extinguish the five defilements.**

**Rarely obtained is human life,  
Rarely heard is Buddhist Dharma.**

**Don't dally, make haste,  
Don't let this lifetime slip in waste!**



一 信 四 五  
心 願 大 蘊  
求 持 本 原  
往 佛 來 非  
生 號 空 我

**In the five aggregates, there is no self,**

**In the four elements, nothing but emptiness.**

**In faith and avowal, recite Amida's name,**

**Into His Pureland, earnestly wish for rebirth.**



念 佛 開 智 慧  
能 辨 諸 邪 正  
心 眼 有 光 明  
不 為 惑 所 惑  
。 ， 。 ，

**Recite Buddha's name to initiate wisdom,**

**And discern between views, both those right and wrong.**

**If the mind's eye is brilliant, with the light of Buddhist wisdom,**

**Then surely, there could be no confusion, in this *saha* world of delusion!**



極 娑 苦 彌  
樂 婆 海 陀  
蓮 塵 有 有  
華 緣 慈 大  
香 盡 航 願

○ , , ,

**Amida Buddha's great vow to all people,**

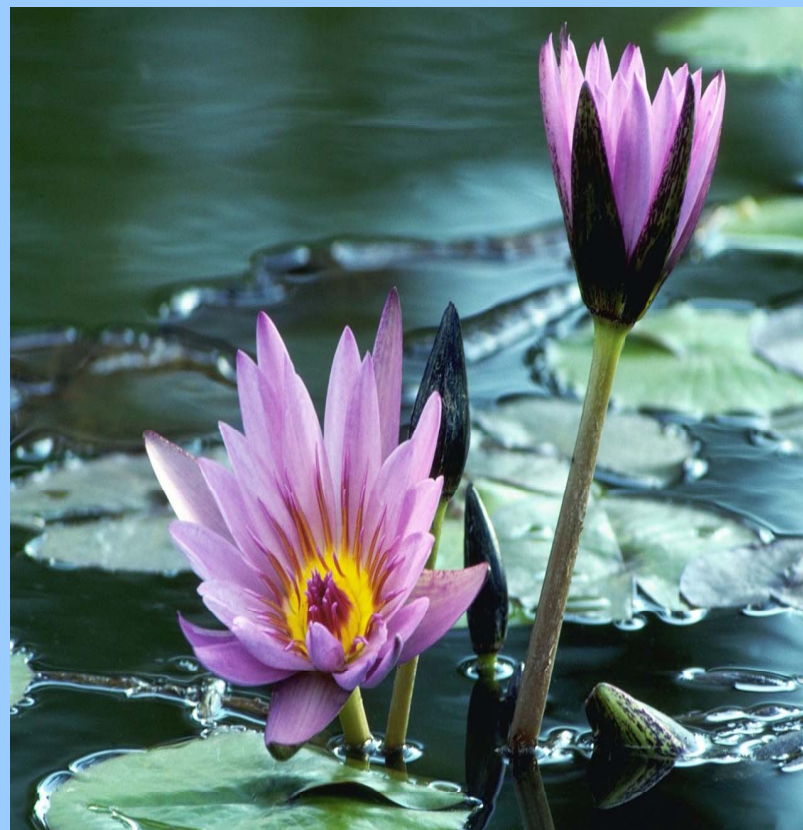
**Is His ship of compassion in the suffering sea.**

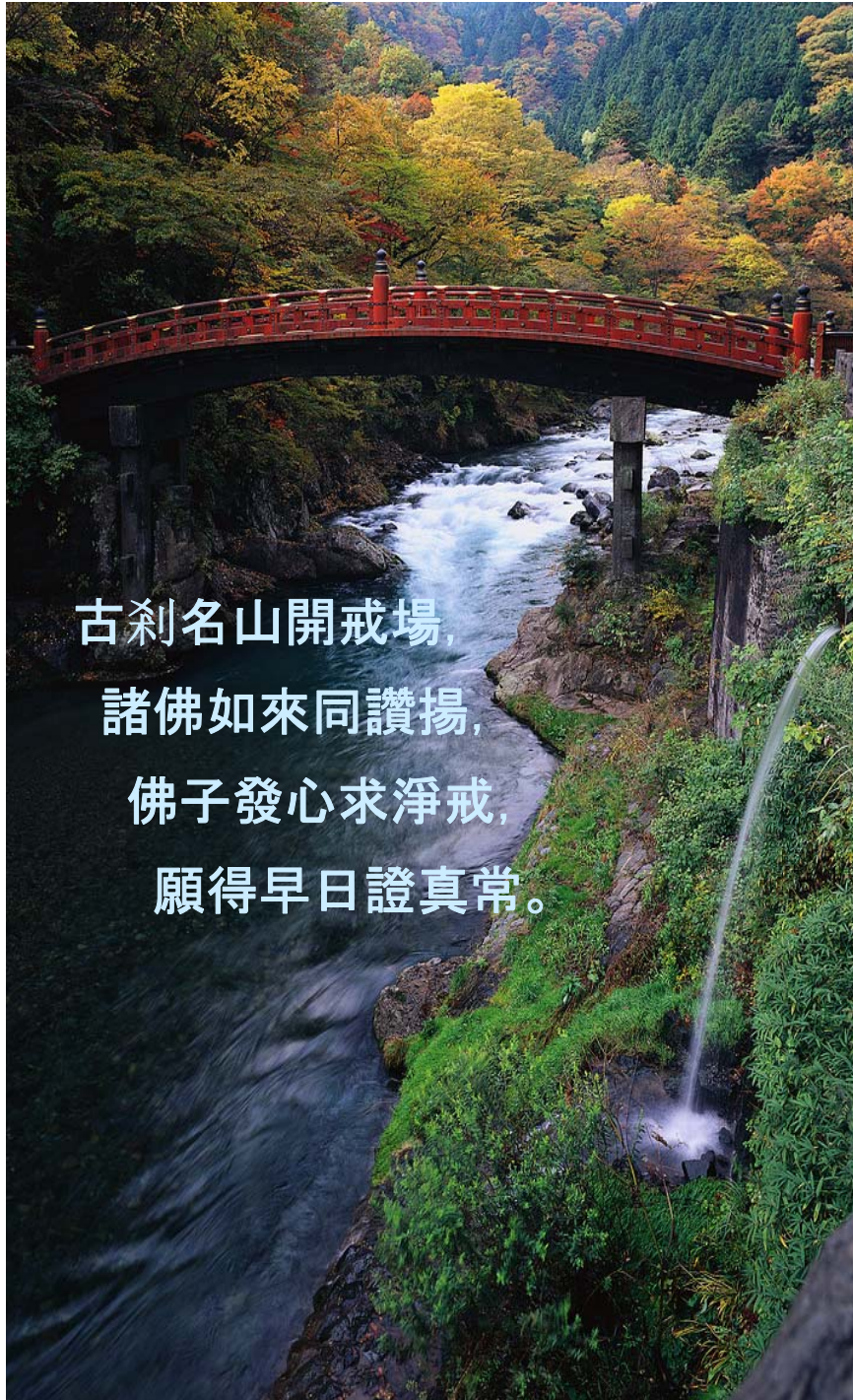
**Extinguish all karmic dust in this *saha* world,**

**To smell the lotus fragrance in His Western Pureland.**

戒堂法語

Precious  
Precepts





古刹名山開戒場，  
諸佛如來同讚揚，  
佛子發心求淨戒，  
願得早日證真常。

**On a mountain legendary, an  
ancient monastery,  
opens a hall of precepts.**

**All the Buddhas of the world,  
Extol, applaud and praise.**

**Disciples of the Buddha:  
take refuge in the precepts!**

**Vow for early attainment  
Of the ultimate truth—  
enlightenment!**



諸佛子等欲成佛，  
堅持淨戒念彌陀，  
戒為無上菩提本，  
仗此功德生極樂。

**For all disciples of the Buddha,  
who aspire to Buddhahood:**

**Steadfastly pursue pure precepts,  
wholeheartedly recall Amida.**

**Through the practice of precepts,  
attain unequalled *Bodhi*.**

**Through the merits of recitation,  
attain rebirth to the Pureland.**

禪  
門  
法  
語

**Through the**



**Gate of Zen**



諸法本不生，

緣生亦無性，

淨業已成林，

諸佛從此證。

**All dharmas of this world,  
have no self-origin,**

**Dependent origination too,  
has no self-nature.**

**Wholesome karmic seeds,  
Have bloomed into trees.**

**Buddhahood is attained,  
right here in this forest.**



見 觀 醒 夜  
身 潭 夢 聞  
外 月 中 鐘  
身 影 夢 聲

○ , ; ,

**Listen to the ring of the bell at night,**

**Wake up from dream within dream;**

**Reflect on the moon's image in the  
pond,**

**Contemplate form outside of form.**

## **Works by Master Chi Hoi**

**Distributed at the Buddhist Wisdom Lecture Hall  
and available online at [www.bwlh.org](http://www.bwlh.org)**

### **English Translation**

*Understanding the Heart Sutra*

*Perfect Realization by Mindfulness of Buddha*

*Bodhidharma's Meditation and the Fundamental*

*Techniques of Sitting Meditation*

*Bodhisattva Forest of Awareness's Praise of Buddha*

*Dharma Rhymes by Master Chi Hoi (First Volume)*

*Understanding the Awakening of Faith in the*

*Mahayana (First Volume)*

*Dharma Rhymes by Master Chi Hoi (Second Volume)*

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