

## **Translator's Introduction and Message**

Dear Reader,

I am the translator of the recent public domain English translations of important Buddhist/Taoist sutras and scriptures found here:

<https://www.scribd.com/user/269920848/bc1993>

Titles include the Path to Pure Land, Upasaka Xia Lian Ju's Infinite Life Sutra-Edition II, The Buddha's Augur- The Guanyin Spiritual Response Oracle, Upasaka An Shi's Discourse on the 48 Inquiries of Non Violence, The Treatise on Response and Retribution, Maxims of the Sages, Lord Wen Chang's Yin Chih Wen and many more.

All of these translations are in the Public Domain and have No copyright. Anyone may use them for any purpose and neither attribution nor permission is required.

Moreover, it is my sincere wish that all of the good karma and merits generated from these translations be transferred to my mother, father and elders. May they live long, easeful and happy lives. Without their unlimited and unconditional support all these years, I would never have amounted to anything, much less accomplish these translations.

The reason which prompted me to translate these sutras is that key parts of Upasaka Xia Lian Ju's priceless and indispensable contributions to Pure Land Buddhism are still not available in English. Thus, these are my humble efforts to bridge that gap. Moreover, many of the scriptures and moral texts I have translated did not previously have a modern translation or newer commentary. Thus, my purpose is to make the true meaning of important Chinese Buddhist scriptures/teachings rarely found in English readily accessible and understandable to today's average native English speaker.

Furthermore, according to the Ven. Master Chin Kung, Buddhism is neither religion nor philosophy:

***Today, there are four types of Buddhism being practiced. First, there is the religious Buddhism, which can be witnessed in temples throughout Taiwan. However, this does not represent the real Buddhism. Second, there is the academic Buddhism being taught in many universities today, where we see Buddhism being treated purely as philosophy, an academic pursuit, especially in Japan. This is not exactly Buddha's education either. Third, and the most unfortunate of all, is the total degeneration of Buddhism into a cult. This third type of Buddhism is much more damaging to the public than the first two types. Finally, there is the traditional Buddhism, the teachings of Buddha Shakyamuni in its true essence, which is very rare in our day and age.***

<http://www.buddhanet.net/budasedu.htm>

Thus, my intention when I translated these sutras and scriptures was to do so in accordance with the Buddha's original vision ; which is to help people understand the true nature of the universe and Samsara, to know the karmic causes of today's many problems, find foresight and wisdom, cultivate virtue and merit, neutralize past evil karma, and embark on the proper path towards rebirth in the Pure Land. In other words, to gain true control over ones's fate.

I also wish to express my great gratitude to the Ven. Master Chin Kung and the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas. Without their profound teachings and tireless efforts, I would never have been able to study the profound Dharma.

I encourage all who read these translations to share and introduce them to others, and if able, translate them into other languages. Lastly, I hope that these translations will help all who read them to become wiser and speedily realize their dreams.

Namo Amitabha,

Brian Chung

May 20th 2016