

# OPENING THE MIND TOUCHING THE SPIRIT

A Brief Introduction to Dharma Realm Buddhist University

# 緣起

宣化上人於一九七六年在美國 加州創立法界佛教大學(法大), 為來自全世界追尋智慧的人們 提供嚴謹的學習和修行環境。法 界佛教大學注重學生的人品道 德之養成,其目的在於啟發一切 眾生本有的智慧,以實現學生的 最大潛能。宣公上人強調,教育 是為明理,而非名利;人生的意 義在有功於世,有德於民。現代 社會科技快速發展,物質極大豐 富,人類的心靈卻因被物欲蒙蔽 而變得更加焦慮和迷失,進而導 致教育,文化,倫理,環境,健康, 經濟等領域出現各種危機。從佛 法的角度看,解决人類危機的良 藥不在科技的發展,而在人心的 覺悟。我們希望學生經過法大教 育的薰陶,無論身在何處,在何 種領域工作,都能以德行為安身 立命之本,發揮自性本有的智慧 與慈悲,化導人心,利益世界。



法界佛教大學,是令人人 發掘本有的智慧,本有的 道德,本有的靈性的學 府...希望你將來畢業,做 世間一個光明者,不要做 黑暗者,做一個有利益世 間的人,不要做有害於世

間的人。

法界佛教大學創辦人宣化上人

## History and Background

In 1976, the Venerable Master Hsuan Hua founded Dharma Realm Buddhist University ("DRBU") in California, USA, to provide an excellent environment for people from all over the world wishing to pursue wisdom. DRBU emphasizes the cultivation of character and virtue in its students. Its pedagogical aim is to activate an inherent wisdom possessed by all individuals so students can realize their highest potential. The Venerable Master Hsuan Hua believed that the goal of education is to uncover the truth, not to seek fame and wealth, and that the meaning of life can be found in benefitting the world. Despite rapid advancements in the fields of science and technology, we are more anxious and lost than ever because of the hindrance of insatiable desires, which lead to various crises in the areas of education, culture, ethics, environment, health, and economics. From the Buddhist perspective, the solution to these crises is not found in science or technology, but in the awakening of human awareness. We hope that, after attending DRBU, our students will have established virtue and character as the foundation of their

3

lives, and that they will apply their inherent wisdom and compassion to making a positive impact on those around them and beyond, thereby benefiting the world.

Dharma Realm
Buddhist University
activates everyone's
inherent wisdom,
inherent virtues, and
inherent spirituality...
I hope that after you
graduate, you become
someone who brings
light into the world, not
darkness; who benefits
the world, not harms it.

FOUNDER OF DHARMA REALM BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY

## 辦學特色

#### 佛教傳統的博雅教育:

法界佛教大學是一所經美西大學評鑑委員會認證,在加州政府註冊立案的正規大學。法大提供以佛法為基礎的博雅教育體系,包括文理教育(哲學,文學,古典語言,藝術,數學,科學),個人修行,和啟發智慧三大領域。不同於目前高等教育重科技輕人文,以及專門化,部門化的趨勢,博雅教育是一種全方位的教育,重視學生完整人格的培養。法大的教育目標分為兩個層面:傳授知識和啟發人人本有的智慧。

大學目前提供兩種學位:四年制的博雅教育學士學位和兩年制的佛學經典碩士學位。不同於一般大學的宗教學系把佛教當作學問來研究的傾向,法大強調學習佛法要聞,思,與實修並重。法大也不同於致力於培養僧材的佛學院,其學生不限於佛教徒,培養目標也不限於佛教教職人員,學生畢業後可選擇任何感興趣的領域工作或深造。

#### 融會東西的經典課程:

法大的課程融合了東西方的傳 世經典。美國採用「經典教育」模 式的大學通常著重於西方經典, 而法大的課程則東西方並重。這 樣的設計在全世界是獨一無二 的。這些經典代表了人類悠久的 歷史長河中的智慧結晶。這些經 典試圖解答人類長期思考的問 題:生而為人,我們面臨的問題 和挑戰有哪些?人生的意義是 什麼?如何真正認識你自己?人 與人,社會,自然環境,乃至宇宙 萬物的關係是怎樣的?以碩士 班為例,其課程書單包括南北傳 佛教的主要經典(楞嚴經,六祖 壇經,南傳佛典選輯,成唯識論, 金剛經,解深密經,法華經,華嚴 經等等),西方重要思想家(如柏 拉圖,笛卡爾,尼采,海德格爾) 的著作。本科班的課程書單涉及 範圍更廣,包括佛學經典,中國 經典(如論語,大學,中庸,孟子 等儒家經典),印度經典,西方經 典,以及自然科學的原著。

### Features of DRBU

# LIBERAL EDUCATION IN THE BROAD BUDDHIST TRADITION:

DRBU is accredited by WASC Senior College and University Commission and is approved to operate in the State of California by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education. DRBU is a community dedicated to liberal education in the broad Buddhist tradition — a tradition characterized by knowledge in the arts and sciences (philosophy, literature, classical languages, arts, mathematics, and science), self-cultivation, and the pursuit of wisdom. Unlike the recent emphasis on STEM training, or the general trend of specialization and compartmentalization in higher education, the liberal arts offer a holistic education for the whole person. DRBU's pedagogical aim is thus two-fold: to convey knowledge and to activate an intrinsic wisdom possessed by all individuals.

Currently, DRBU offers two degree programs: the four-year BA program in Liberal Arts and the two-year MA program in Buddhist Classics. Unlike most Religious Studies departments, which analyze Buddhism at a distance or as a sociological object, DRBU's approach affirms that the Buddha's teachings can only be understood by applying them in practice. And, unlike Buddhist academies that focus on vocational training for monastics, students need not be monastics, or even Buddhists, to attend DRBU. The university does not limit its training to Buddhist clergymen and women; rather, graduates are free to pursue further education or a career in any area of interest.

#### A GREAT BOOKS APPROACH— ENGAGING WITH WISDOM EAST AND WEST:

At DRBU, students deeply engage with core curricula comprised of classical texts from both Eastern and Western traditions. Historically, most Great Books programs have focused primarily on the Western canon. DRBU is one of the first Great Books programs to offer curricula drawing from both the East and West. The seminal works studied represent humanity's priceless legacy of understanding and insight. They address themselves to the perennial issues that confront













#### 小班研討的教學方法:

法大的教學方法以互相討論和 深刻的自我反思為主。每個課堂 不超過十五個學生。課上並非以 老師為知識權威,而強調經典, 學生,老師這三者之間的對話和 合作。發掘經典中的智慧是課堂 討論的焦點。老師的角色是引導 學生去思考和自省,幫助他們理 清思路, 並清晰地表達自己的想 法。學生有疑問並非被動地等待 老師來解答,而是在老師引導的 過程中恍然自悟。課堂如此訓 練,學生便慢學會用從經典中 得到智慧和靈感來解答自己現 實生活中的問題。這種教學方法 旨在培養能獨立思考,富有創造 力,善於自省的學生。他們在快 速變化、日益複雜的生活情形中 能夠準確判斷,靈活應對,做出 真正利人利己的抉擇。

humankind, such as: What are the persistent questions and challenges we as humans face? What is the meaning of life? What does it take to truly "know thyself?" What can be known about the complex interconnections between the individual, social, and natural dimensions of existence? In exploration of Buddhist answers to such questions, the MA program includes primary texts from both Theravada and Mahayana Buddhist traditions, for example: the Surangama Sutra, the Platform Sutra, representative Pali texts, Demonstration of Consciousness Only, the Diamond Sutra, the Scripture on the Explication of Underlying Meaning, the Lotus Sutra, and the Avatamsaka Sutra. To complement the Buddhist perspective, MA students also read important works of major Western thinkers like Plato, Descartes, Nietzsche, and Heidegger. By comparison, the BA program draws from a broader spectrum of sources including Buddhist classics, Chinese classics, Indian classics, Western classics, and primary texts in the natural sciences.

# LEARNING THROUGH SHARED INQUIRY IN SMALL CLASSES:

The pedagogical model of DRBU is dialogical and deeply selfreflective. Class cohorts are small, with usually no more than fifteen students. Neither teachers nor texts are presumed to be ultimate authorities. Instead, teacher, text, and student comprise a triangle of shared inquiry in which authority depends not on one party alone but all three in concert. Mining the wisdom in these texts is the focus of class discussions. Instructors offer feedback and guide students in clarifying and articulating their thinking. Thus, students, rather than passively receiving answers from their instructors, can follow their own pathways of discovery. Along the way, they learn to apply the wisdom and insight of classical texts in their own contemporary contexts. Inquiry of this kind seeks to foster creative, critical, and selfreflective thinkers. Such individuals can respond nimbly to the shifting landscape of our increasingly complex world; they possess sound judgment, the flexibility to adapt to evolving circumstances, and the public spirit necessary to make decisions that benefit themselves and others.

#### 重視實修的課程設計:

法大鼓勵學生將課堂所學實踐 於修行中。很多課程以禪坐開始,為深入經典做準備。每學期 全校有一週停課參加觀音七,禪 七,或其它法門的修持。學校亦 設修行顧問老師,按需要為學生 提供引導和支持。在課外時間, 對佛法修持感興趣的學生可以 自由選擇參加聖城的日常功課 和法會,從大眾共修中受益。

#### 沉浸式的校園環境:

法界佛教大學位於萬佛聖城內。 聖城佔地約八百英畝,城內有萬 佛寶殿,如來寺,喜捨院,育良 小學,培德中學,僧伽居士訓練 班,福居樓(年長僧眾的養老院) ,君康素食館等等。住眾們秉持 宣公上人訂立的「不爭,不貪, 不求,不自私,不自利,不打妄語 | 的六大宗旨。法大提倡簡單環 保的生活方式,學生在校園守五 戒,全素食,參與社區服務。清淨 的校園環境幫助學生能夠心無 旁騖地學習和修行,讓學生的法 身慧命得到滋養。德行的教育重 在身教,而非停留在口頭的灌輸 或理論的理解。學生在日常生活 的觀察和互動中,耳濡目染,躬 行實踐,耕耘自己的心地,從而 由戒生定,由定發慧。

廣學多聞。識自本心。達 諸佛理。和光接物。無我 無人。直至菩提。真性不

易。

六祖法寶壇經

#### INTEGRATION OF CONTEMPLATIVE EXERCISES INTO CURRICULA:

At DRBU, students are encouraged to apply what they learn in class through contemplative exercises. Many classes begin with meditation in order to ready students' hearts and minds for deep exploration of the texts. One week of each semester is set aside for an immersive contemplative retreat, during which students recite Guan Yin, sit in Chan meditation, or participate in various other contemplative practices. Chaplains are also available to guide and support students in their contemplative practice. Outside the classroom, students interested in Buddhist practice have the opportunity to join the daily practice and Dharma sessions held in the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas ("CTTB"), allowing them to benefit from the support of the larger CTTB community.

# THE CITY OF TEN THOUSAND BUDDHAS — AN IMMERSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:

DRBU is situated on the eight

hundred acres in the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. It shares the space with the Ieweled Hall of Ten Thousand Buddhas, Tathagata Monastery, Joyous Giving House, **Instilling Goodness Elementary** School, Developing Virtue Secondary School, the Sangha and Laity Training Program, the Tower of Blessings (a nursing home for elderly monastics), and Jyun Kang Vegetarian Restaurant. Residents of CTTB live by the Six Guiding Principles established by the Venerable Master Husan Hua: "Not contending, not being greedy, not craving illicit gratification, not being selfish, not pursuing personal advantage, not lying." Amid this supportive setting, DRBU promotes a simple and ethical lifestyle. Students are provided with a vegetarian diet and are required to hold the five precepts while on campus. They also share in community service and care. This pure and collaborative campus environment helps students study and cultivate with minimal distractions, so they can best nourish their Dharma bodies. Virtue cannot be cultivated by merely listening to

lectures or developing an intellectual understanding. Instead, virtue must be learned from those who embody it. At CTTB, students learn virtue every day through their interactions with others. In each moment, they have the opportunity to practice what they have learned in class to cultivate the ground of their minds. From moral virtue, concentration arises; from concentration, wisdom blooms.

Study extensively,
be learned and well
read; recognize your
original mind and
master the Buddhas'
teachings. Graciously
welcome and get along
with all creatures;
have no notion of
"self" and "other."
Directly reach Bodhi,
your unchanging true
nature.

DHARMA JEWEL PLATFORM SUTRA OF THE SIXTH PATRIARCH

## 展望未來

人類想要擁有美好的未來,其希望在於人心能改惡向善,回歸我們清淨的自性。法大中西合璧的博雅教育,其特點是以德行為根,智慧與慈悲為果,利他為用。每一位法大畢業生的自我修行和轉變就好像一盞明燈:一燈能除千年暗;一燈能燃百千灯,明终不尽。

法大現在可招收國際學生。我們歡迎誠心想要深入經典,引發如海智慧,認同法大的教育理念,英文能力優異的學生,與我們聯繫。如果您想了解更多法大的信息,可以訪問我們的網站www.drbu.edu,也可以發郵件到info@drbu.edu。網站上有入學信息,課程設置,校園生活,活動信息和最新消息。

您若來訪問美國加州,有意來 參觀我們的校園,請通過電子 郵件與我們聯絡。我們的地址 是 4951 Bodhi Way, Ukiah, CA 95482, U.S.A.



# Looking Forward

The hope of humanity lies in the awakening of the human mind, which leads to turning away from selfish behavior and rediscovering our basic goodness. DRBU takes, from East and West, the enduring hallmarks of liberal education, as its guiding principles: that selfknowledge rooted in virtue is the basis of learning; that insight and goodness are its outcomes; and that its application should be to benefit others. The inner transformation of each DRBU graduate is like a bright light in the world. The light of a single lantern can banish a thousand years of delusion. And it can ignite a hundred thousand lights. Then there is no end to its brightness.

DRBU can now accept applications from international students. We encourage applications from those who aspire to study the classics and activate their inherent wisdom, who feel inspired by our educational philosophy, and who have excellent English-language abilities. To learn more about DRBU, please send us an inquiry at info@drbu.edu or visit our website at www.drbu.edu to read about admissions, academics, campus life, events and programs, and all the latest news.

If you are in California and would like to visit our campus, please contact us by email. DRBU's mailing address is 4951 Bodhi Way, Ukiah, CA 95482, USA.



# DHARMA REALM BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY



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