

Twenty Challenges to Enlightenment

Written by Tzu Chi Foundation
Thursday, 01 March 2001 00:00



Synopsis

We encounter many difficulties when deal with worldly affairs, and even more difficulties when we are learning the ways of the Buddha. Some difficult lie in carrying out the Buddhist teachings one has learned, some lie in saying the proper things, and some difficulties, perhaps the biggest, pertain to keeping one's mind sincere and respectful. These difficulties are included in what the Buddha pointed out as the "Twenty Difficulties on the Way to Attaining Buddhahood" in Chapter Twelve of the Forty-Two Chapter Sutra.

Biography

Venerable Master Cheng Yen was born in a small town called Chingshui in Central Taiwan in 1937. When she was twenty-three years old, she left home to become a Buddhist nun. The Master has always led a simple and virtuous life. In her frugality, she made candles and bean powder to maintain a living. In 1966, she established the Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation, and for more than forty years this organization has concentrated its activities in the major areas of charity, medicine, education, culture, environmental protection, community volunteers, international relief and bone marrow donation. In 1991, the Master received the Philippine Magsaysay Award, the "Asian Nobel Prize." Living a simple life with only the basic necessities, the Master has actively pursued her work of helping the poor and educating the rich.

Product Details

Pub. Date: March 2001, Fifth Printing May 2006
Publisher: Tzu Chi Cultural Publishing Co.
ISBN: 957-8300-74-3
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