

Buddhist Perspective on Donation

Date: 9-18-13, Wednesday

Time: 11:30am ~ 12:15pm

Speaker: Dr. Ven. Jue Ji/University of the West

Association of Multicultural Affairs in Transplantation (AMAT) Conference

Plenary Session:

- Religious & Cultural Perspective on Donation: Buddhists, Muslims, Jehova Witnesses and Bahai”

1. The Puzzle of Life and Death

- A celebration of birth or a celebration of death?



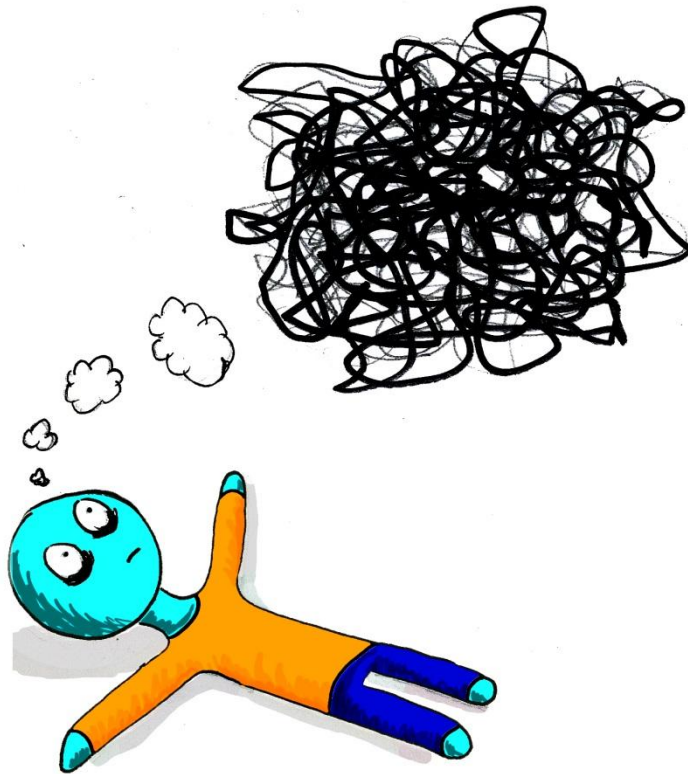
2. The Imperfection of Life

- The ideal of perfection
- A “complete” body



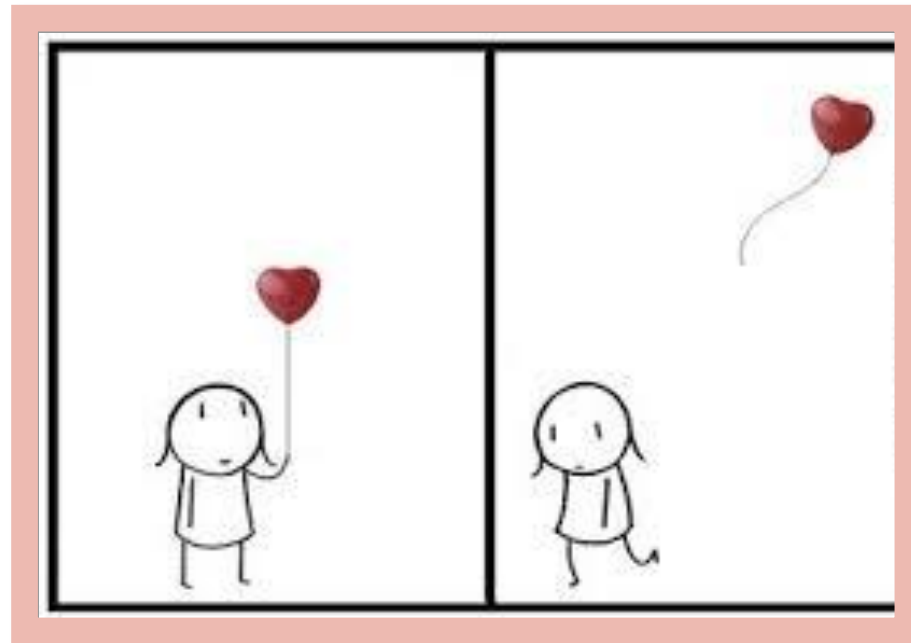
3. The 8-hour Issue

- The anxiety for potential organ donors



4. Giving-paramita

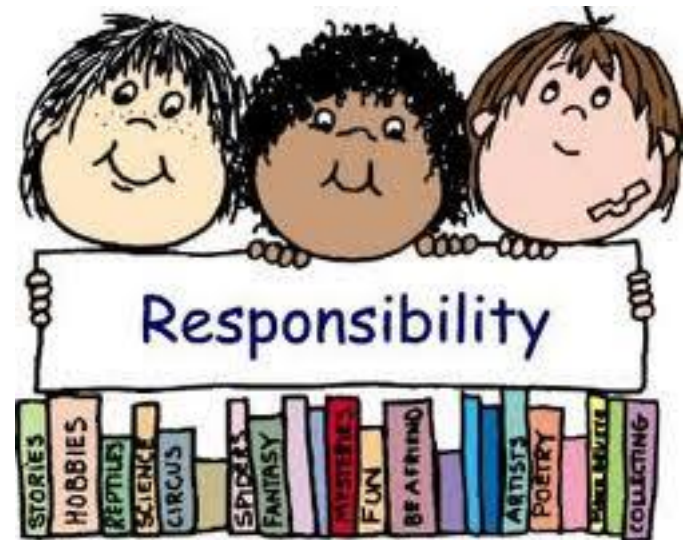
- Benefiting oneself → benefiting others
- Sacrificing oneself → benefiting others
- Letting go → Giving-paramita



5. Not a confused promise

sign the volunteer organ donation contract

- the responsibility of organ donation (0)
- a momentary pleasure (x)
- a confused promise (x)



6. Mission Possible

- physical body -- internal property
- Giving physical body is more difficult than giving the external property



the giving of external property
→ The giving of internal property



7. Master Hsing Yun



Venerable Master Hsing Yun

- Born in China in 1927, ordained in 1941, and is the 48th patriarch of the Linchi (Rinzai) Chan School
- went to Taiwan in 1949 with a revolutionary vision to integrate ancient Buddhist teachings into modern life with emphasis on practicing Buddhism as a way of living
- founded the Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Order in Southern Taiwan in 1967
- emphasis on promoting culture, education, charity, and spiritual cultivation worldwide:
 - 4 universities
 - many Buddhist colleges
 - more than 200 branch temples
 - many Fo Guang Shan affiliated charitable organizations

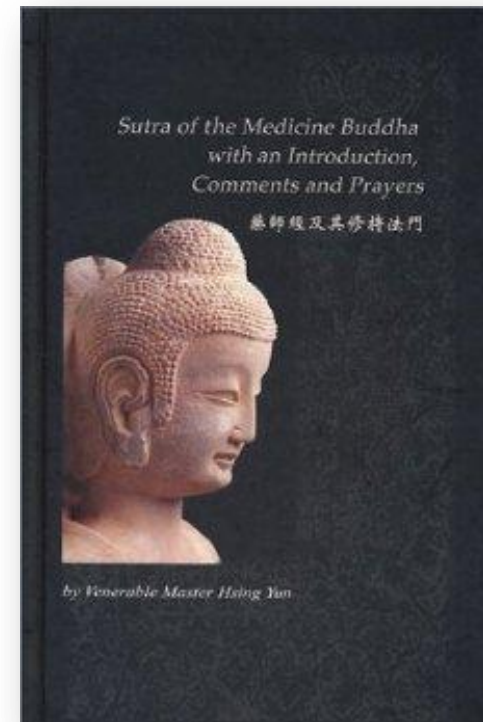
On Organ Donation—by Master Hsing Yun

- Organ donation encompasses the extension of life, donating one's internal wealth, the resource for supporting rebirth, and living together as one. Think about it: when you donate a cornea, you are bringing light to another; when you donate a heart, you are giving another the vitality of life; when you donate some bone marrow, you are infusing the flow of your life into the life of another.

- Therefore, true life cannot die! Though the body has its time for old age, sickness, and decay, life is a burning fire that is passed from torch to torch, eternal and unlimited. Giving others a chance to live through donating our organs also means that our own life will continue.

Quote from the Buddhist texts

- Sutra of the Medicine Buddha with an Introduction, Comments and Prayers



Buddha said:

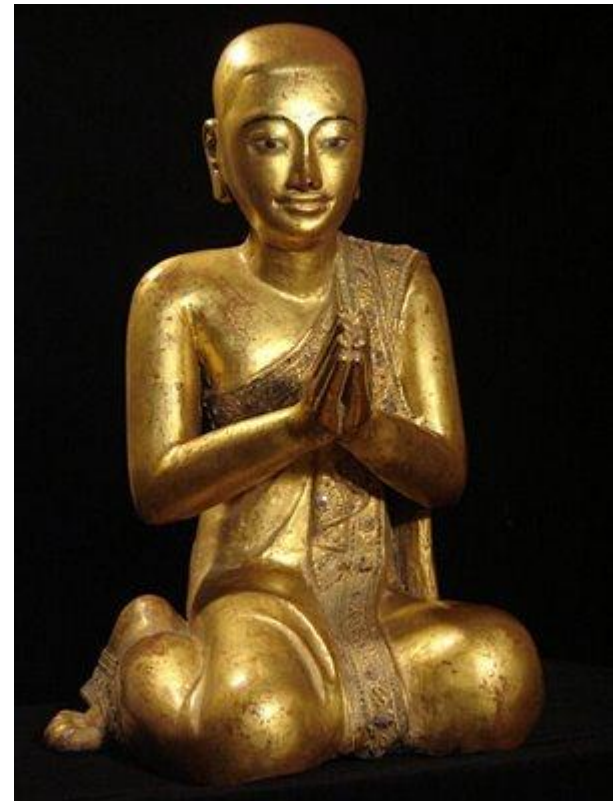
- There are sentient beings who do not know the difference between beneficial and harmful conduct. Bent on acquiring and maintaining advantages for themselves alone, they remain greedy and closefisted, unaware of the beneficial fruit of giving.

- Ignorant and therefore lacking in any trust in the merit of giving, they desperately accumulate and guard their material riches. Thus, upon meeting a beggar, they experience suffering from the knowledge that they will receive nothing in return for their donation. So strong is their attachment to their riches that to part with even a portion is like parting with a portion of their own flesh....

- Influenced by the memory of that past-life experience and the suffering of the lower realms, they are willing to forego the enjoyment of sensual pleasures and instead enter into activities of generosity, even praising the efforts of others who give. They are no longer attached to their possessions and are gradually willing to share parts of their bodies, if necessary, with any who request it, as well as the remainder of their wealth and possessions.

8. A Test on Giving

- Sariputra's determination to practice the Right Way
 - ◆ left eyeball
 - ◆ right eyeball
 - ◆ smelly eyeball!!!



9. Compassion

- Life goes on with the donated organs
- The spirit of compassion passes on



10. The world of Co-existence

