

All the organised religions of the world demand blind faith from their followers. Only the Buddha has declared in the Kalama Sutta and elsewhere that one should not accept a teaching unless one has examined it in various ways. At the time of the Buddha also there was a great darkness where the various religious teachers were duping their followers in various ways and demanding their unquestioned loyalty and faith. Buddha's speciality was that he exposed this, and encouraged people to work for their own salvation. This attracted a large number of people who followed his teachings and got benefited in that very life.

Even today the true Dhamma is spreading on the basis of Vipassana, as there is no darkness, no blind faith in this practice. One has to work on his own and derive the benefits by his own efforts. This practical and logical aspect of the Buddha's teaching, when brought to light, will help the people practice for themselves and be benefited. We have sympathy for the gullible faithfuls who have been duped by the con-men. But these incidents will awaken the people from their blind faith, and they will be able to distinguish between the truth and the falsehood.

The stand taken by Prof. Cheng Chen-Huang as I gather is very correct and I congratulate him for such clear understanding. Similarly,

the stand taken by Venerable Master Ching Yao is also laudable. All sensible people who have understood the Dhamma will agree to these views.

Dhamma, the eightfold noble path of Sila(morality), Samadhi (concentration of mind) & Panna(purification of mind by developing insight) is so pure that any admixture will pollute it. To maintain the purity of the Dhamma it is absolutely essential that the Dhamma Teacher or the Dhamma worker should not get any remuneration for the teaching and the service. It should be distributed freely for one and all, rich and poor. All the donations received should be subject to accountability and should be used for this purpose exclusively. This transparency alone will help maintain the purity of the Dhamma and its dissemination.

It is not my policy to get involved into politics and administrations of any nation as this will detract me from my mission of bringing the true teachings of the Buddha to the suffering people. However I feel that it will be a welcome step if the Government takes proper action to bring the con-men to light and eliminate them. But care should be taken that this brooming process distinguishes between the right and the wrong, the truth and the falsehood, and does not harm the spread of true Dhamma to people.



# ***A Response***

***by S. N. Goenka***

It is very clear after going through the article that the exposure of three swindlers who are con-men and who have deceived the religious minded people of Taiwan has disillusioned the public as well as the government. Although this disclosure has created a big earthquake which might shake the confidence of general public even towards the honest and genuine teachers of Buddha-Dhamma, I feel this situation will be only short-lived. Ultimately people will start understanding the difference between the substance and the husk. I feel it is a welcome sign for Pure Dhamma to arise in Taiwan, as the difference between the Truth and the falsehood, the difference between Purity and Impurity is vast. As more and more people realise this fact, more and more will turn towards the Truth--the real teachings of the Buddha.

There is no room for blind beliefs, superstitions or lifeless rituals in the teaching of the Buddha. Teaching of the Buddha is so clear that there is no room for any kind of

imaginary mysticism which can delude people and allow them to be cheated by unscrupulous Gurus. The basics of Buddha's teaching is that each person has to work hard for his own liberation from the misery of his mental impurities -- no one else can do this for him. Even the Buddha cannot liberate anyone as he has clearly declared that "Tumhe hi kiccam atappam, akkhataro Tathagata"-- You have to work out your own, Thathagata only shows the path. If people get to realise and understand this strong declaration of the Buddha, they will certainly not allow themselves to be duped by any con-men claiming to offer instant Nirvana off the shelf, and at a price.

Buddha's teaching is to help people come out of all delusions and not be carried away by any blind faith. The deception of clever con-men flourishes only in the darkness of blind-faith. Buddha's teaching is so practical and result-oriented that any person belonging to any sect can practice it and will get the same result here and now in this very life.