

**Outline short notes for Bro Teoh's Sunday class dated 29 September 2019. (The Path to Truth for the Modern-day Bodhisattva Practitioner by Master Shih Cheng Yen, page xiv to xvii).**

**Audio :** <https://broteoh.com/wp-content/uploads/3-The-Path-To-The-Truth-For-The-Modern-Day-Bodhisattva-29-Sept-2019.mp3>

**Whiteboard :** <https://broteoh.com/wp-content/uploads/3-The-Path-To-The-Truth-For-The-Modern-Day-Bodhisattva-29-Sept-2019.jpg>

1. Through the **Bodhisattva Vows**, we come to this world **with understanding**, **not** ignorance. The Vows and understanding will take us along the Path and shorten our cultivation process when we have the understanding.
2. We need to perfect love and compassion, patience endurance, renunciation and wisdom to fulfill our Bodhisattva vows.
3. The Bodhisattva way is not about **self practice** and **being a hermit** but to go **beyond the Sainthood way** into Life to realize Buddhahood.
4. When Tzu Chi's activities are been performed with **love and compassion**, volunteers start to truly **understand the Dharma**. Through these activities, volunteers **witness suffering** and the **Law of Karma**.
5. The upcoming Brother Teoh's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering of kalyanamitta (6 October 2019) will be an occasion for joy and wholesomeness, an **opportunity** for fellowship and interaction, a time to express our gratitude, joy, appreciation and thanks, sharing of cultivation experiences, counsel and motivating each other leading to deepening of faith and witnessing of **noble characters** and **personality** as express by the true Kalyanamitta who already has the dharma. True cultivators of the way is a blessing to all.
6. When precepts are kept, there are no more negativities of mind states. The world is not polluted by negative consciousness. These are blessings to the world which bring forth positive mind states for humanity. Develop the wisdom to free the mind. When we (the individual) change for the better, the world will also change for the better because we will influence the collective consciousness. When the individual changes, the totality will change.
7. When you have the dharma, others will feel good and safe when around you.
8. Tzu Chi's 4 missions are:
  - **Mission of Charity** (Educating the rich to help the poor; inspiring the poor to realize their riches)
  - **Mission of Medicine** (Patient-centered medical care that respects patients as teachers)
  - **Mission of Education** (Educating children to be moral and upright)
  - **Mission of Humanistic culture** (covers giving of food, shelter and other support to relieve sufferings, recycling, disaster relief, saving the environment and helping the sick and disabled).
9. Kalyanamittas are free **to join** Tzu Chi and **activities organized by other Buddhist organizations**.
10. Sister Tammy **shared her experiences** of **understanding** the **Teachings** which evolved over the years of attending Brother Teoh's classes and activities. Please listen to the audio recordings for the full details.
11. Just do it! Don't try to know because the mundane mind will not understand. It will question why we need to take the trouble to do all the wholesomeness, etc. But when Tzu Chi volunteers go down to the field to see the sufferings, they will start to understand the Dharma.

12. This is similar to what Brother Teoh has been telling us all these while, i.e. don't try to know while in meditation as we will create thoughts to prevent us from being just aware.
13. Brother Teoh went over the **Avijja Sutta** again. Just do step by step without the thought interfering. Just practice according to the **Avijja Sutta**. Free yourself from knowledge. Start from a clean slate. Narrow down to steps 2 (Listen to the Dharma) to develop the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> turnings wisdom leading to step 4 (Yoniso Manasikara) and step 5 (Sati Sampajanna).
14. Sister Alicia developed her understanding of the Teachings when she taught children to make lantern. The children are innocent and naïve, do not have much conditioning and followed instructions step by step. So it was not hard for the children to learn when they have **no preconceived ideas**. Learning the dharma is the same, be simple and start from a clean slate free of all knowledge and conditioning.

(The above draft short notes was prepared by Mun Yuen)