

Venerable Master Chin Kung: What is Buddhism? Buddhism is the truth of all things in the universe.

From these Mahayana sutras, we have learned what Buddhism is about. To put it simply, it is about the truth of all things in the universe. To get the truth thoroughly clarified and understood is Buddhism. The word 'Buddha' is in Sanskrit. It means to awaken in Chinese. The person who is awakened to and clear about the truth of all things is called Buddha. A Buddha is neither a god nor an immortal. A Buddha is a person. If you are thoroughly clear about the truth of the universe, you are called Buddha. If you are clear about it but not thorough, if you have not reached the perfect understanding, you are called bodhisattva. Bodhisattva is one level lower than Buddha. It is not lower in any other aspects but in the level of understanding. Bodhisattvas have not reached the perfect level. Those who have are called Buddha. So, Buddha is human being, is yourself. Bodhisattva is also yourself. Arhat is also yourself. Arhat has reached the level of rudimentary understanding. Bodhisattva has gained an in-depth understanding. Buddha has gained perfect understanding. That is all.

It is why Buddhism is education. Today, science and philosophy are all about this. They head towards the same direction as what is recorded in Buddhist sutras. Science also aims to find the truth of all things. What is recorded in Buddhist sutras, in today's term, is the mystery of the universe. It is just too profound. It is why, although the Buddha's teachings are recorded in the sutras, very few people can truly understand them. Most people do not quite believe the teachings. Why? Because you have not been able to prove the teachings. You will not believe it unless you have seen it with your own eyes. Because you have not seen it, you would always cast doubt on the Buddha's teachings and would ask 'Is it true?' Here the text 'seeing all things as illusions' talks about this. The Buddha used the word 'dharma' to refer to all things in the universe. He used this one word to refer to all human beings, all matter and all things. It includes not only what we can see, hear and touch, but also what we cannot see, hear and touch. What we cannot touch, hear and see is far more than what we can.

Why can't we see, hear and touch? Because our abilities are far too limited. To see, we need light. The range of wavelengths that our eyes can detect is this small. Any light longer than it, we cannot see. Any light shorter than it, we cannot see, either. If we can see light of all wavelengths, the universe that we can see will immediately change. For example, x-ray can pass through the human body. But our naked eyes cannot see it. If we can see it, the movements of everything inside a human body will be transparent to us. If we go deeper, we will be able to see everybody's thoughts. This sounds to be mysterious, but it is the truth.