

# Hospitality and Contemplation



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# **The main religions of China— Confucianism, Buddhism and Daoism—influence each other**

- ✓ This is shown in language, customs, rites, ethics...  
Buddhist terms such as karma, community support are used in daily life
- ✓ The four relationships and eight virtues of Confucianism are accepted by Buddhist and Daoist ethics
- ✓ Daoist ideas such as ‘stepping back to get a larger view’, fostering life are used by all people and in Chinese medicine
- ✓ Many stories, fables from history illustrate the teachings of the three religions.

# The famous Mt Huang

A famous pine  
tree:  
The Welcoming  
Pine



**Nature**



**Guests are met  
and seen off at  
the main gate of  
the temple.**

**A Buddhist  
Master  
welcomes  
guests**

Three laughing Buddha statues, also known as Hotei, are shown in a row. They are bald, have large, round faces, and are wearing green robes. The statue on the left is laughing with its mouth open and hands raised. The middle statue is laughing with its mouth open and hands near its face. The statue on the right is laughing with its mouth open and hands covering its eyes. They are set against a dark background.

**世間所有的事，  
都有因緣果報**

**Everything in the  
world has a karmic  
relationship with  
something else  
Karma**

**Karmic  
Affinity**

That certain conditions mean that everything exists and changes owing to other things is a manifestation of “karma”.

Various reasons lead to a distinction in time between what comes first (cause) and what comes next (effect).

**Karmic  
Affinity**

# Through Meditation, Dhyana, to be aware below:

**All things are equal. All human beings have the potential to grow and advance through the generations**

**Compassion, the spreading or disintegration of different levels: self, others, stranger,... deal with in joy**

**Cause and effect grow...  
Cause and effect disappear...  
Return to original nature**



**One good word,  
One good deed,  
One smile,**

**Connecting  
Good Karmic  
Affinity**

## **Connecting Good Karmic Affinity**

The Buddha says: “Before becoming a Buddha first connect with other people.” There are many ways of connecting, nodding to persons you pass, catching their eye, praising a person, by word or in person, serving them, by skills, in your heart, giving advice...

## **Connecting Good Karmic Affinity**

To be used by others is also a way of connecting. Never be afraid of being used. Don't be afraid to share with others because we humans exist in relationships, connecting and coming together. Giving to others is to give yourself; to help others is to help yourself.

Connecting can overcome difference. In daily life connecting rather than resent, accept, be patient, change the other, wait for the opportune moment and you are sure to obtain the other's good karma.



**Put a good  
interpretation  
on what others  
say**

**Getting to  
know guests**

Learn who the guest is, what they are looking for, what their personality is like, what they need, how I am to welcome them, greet them, arrange things for them, help them. Above all, make them feel at home, and so in every place, at every moment getting to know your guests requires clearly understanding the whole course of action and all the details.

**Front line  
of the  
Buddha's  
Door**

**Getting to know  
guests**

Learn how to offer guests a cup of tea and see how they are, try to understand your guests, chat with them, converse. In the temple take them to offer incense, bow before the Buddha. Explain things to the guests. At mealtimes, offer tea and provide adequate food and know how to accompany your guests, to make them feel appreciated. There is an art to how you use your time with the guests, knowing when to leave etc.

**Front line  
of the  
Buddha's  
Door**

**Getting to know  
guests**

# Getting to know guests

A best one who is really good at getting to know guests can talk with them and speak about the Dharma, resolve problems, show compassion and patience. Nothing is impossible.

A middling sort of getting to know the guests can give tours and make polite talk but not solve problems

A poor one simply rushes to get the guests to worship the Buddha and eat while the one has nothing to do.

**Observations  
made in the  
course of  
formation**



**Front line  
of the  
Buddha's  
Door**

**Cultivating  
Merit and  
Blessings**

Marginalised  
people  
neglected by  
society

having the  
potential for  
moving up

Are made at peace  
by a master who  
knows how to  
welcome guests as  
his/her equals and  
so throughout his/  
her life, he/she can  
uphold the three  
jewels (Buddha,  
Dharma, Samgha).

## What I learned - -

- ✓ Why Buddhists donate so generously, supporting the Buddha, the Buddhist Masters and meeting place. It is to spread good connections and help Maitreya (oneself or others)  
Catholics: Love, union
- ✓ To have no discrimination mind (external background is karma)  
Catholics: Seeing persons as the image of God, weak brothers and sister are Jesus.
- ✓ Everything is connected to something else, relationships  
Catholics: In the Lord we are brothers and sisters. We imitate Jesus Christ to die for self but live in Christ (Paschal mystery)

## Problems with the dialogue

- ✓ Imitating the love of Christ, doing common good, union with the Lord  
Buddhism: everyone can become a Buddha or a bodhisattva.  
Connecting helps Maitreya. Do not rely on others, rely on yourself.
- ✓ Christianity holds that there is original sin and actual sin.  
Buddhism: the nexus of dependent origination
- ✓ Christianity holds that there are sinful structures so reform is necessary.  
Buddhism: connect with good karma and do not connect to resentment. Move up generation by generation, attain nirvana, utmost joy.