



Dear Reader,

Here our minds meet again!

Spring is in the air. HeShang was in North America with Pu Kuan ShiFu, Hai ShiFu and associates from Taiwan during April. HeShang's three-day dharma lectures in Vancouver were a big success; the audiences were totally impressed and amazed by the wisdom and originality of the talks. The lectures that HeShang gave during the retreats in Vancouver and Ann Arbor were magnificent too. He presented a step-by-step elucidation of how a practitioner can reach the Four Fruition Stages (four grades of saintship) and go beyond the Three Realms of Existence. The Arising, Abiding, Changing and Diminishing stages of the mind/consciousness were thoroughly clarified. How to live a wholesome, virtuous and meaningful life until one reaches Anuttara-Samyak-Sambodhi (perfect and complete enlightenment) was explained. Listening to HeShang's talk was like breathing pure air, being warmed by the radiance of the sun -- the experience was so genuine, so close to the truth. All participants were blessed and astonished by what they learned during the retreats. A Ch'an retreat is something that one should do at least once (or preferably every year) in a lifetime. What else is more worth living for? Please check in the website of HYBC-NA <http://www.huayen.org> for photos and details of the retreats. We are working on transcribing the lectures into both Chinese and English. Please stay tuned; we will let you know when they become available.

The English version of "**The Dawn of Enlightenment**"- the Opening Passage of Avatamsaka Sutra with a Commentary by HeShang and translated by Tony Prince is being published and available for sale. What a beautiful masterpiece by the author and the translator. Do yourself a favor, get a copy and enjoy reading it.

We are experiencing a severe shortage of manpower and resources in the Toronto Chapter, so we are planning to take matters slowly in Toronto for the next three years. We hope that situations are better in other chapters.

For the Toronto Chapter: in summer, we are organizing a 3-day trip by bus on the July 1 (Canada Day) long weekend. In September we are planning a "DVD moment with HeShang" to watch HeShang's dharma lectures, followed by open discussions and a potluck party. On October 9<sup>th</sup> (Thanksgiving Monday), we will have a 9-hour Chanting Retreat, back by popular demand. We are also looking for a suitable place to hold meditation class in the Scarborough/North York/Markham area.

The retreats were fun. The upcoming activities are going to be fun. Practicing is fun, fun, fun...

Best wishes for a remarkable summer!

Olivia Tsang