

A Letter From A Christian

Dear Master Miao Tian,

How do you do? I have a few questions and would like to have your advice. Please enlighten me with the truth. I do respect you wholeheartedly, and I do not mean to offend you in any way. I just have these thoughts and beliefs which are bothering me so much, I feel no longer able to meditate and to continue my mastering of Zen. I trust your power. And I believe that you are a Buddha. But, have you ever sinned?

Buddha cannot be compared with God – The Creator of the Universe.

Jesus Christ is God in flesh, conceived from the Holy Spirit. He is one of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit and the same as the true God Jehovah. Jesus did come to earth, and became a human being like you and me. But he never sinned. His thirty-three years of purity and sacredness has not been accomplished by any ordinary man. He is God's only son, and they are one and the same. Jesus is completely different from the Sakyamuni Buddha. One is God. The other is just a Buddha.

Glory, Authority, Wisdom, and Power should belong to the One who is deserving.

God is the Creator. Buddha is the Created. Their origins are different. Jesus had been with us for thirty-three years without sin. He is completely Holy, Pure and Eternal without any need to ask for Forgiveness. At the beginning, Buddha is just a man like you and me, and committed many mistakes while he was young. Only after years of practice did he gradually become Buddha. He is a self-improving man and became a Buddha at the end. He is still not God.

Then who really deserves the Highest Glory and Tribute? The Creator of the Universe, or A Creature of the Universe?

Our God is our Father who has created us. Buddha is just another man. If we pay tribute to Buddha and not to God, wouldn't our Father be angry and condemn us? We did not accept Him and honor Him the way He deserved. How can any father tolerate such behavior?

If Master is an atheist, and does not believe in Creation, but believes in Evolution, then I have nothing more to say. Can we really believe the theory of evolution, though? Do we have enough scientific evidence to support it?

Darwinism was conceived some one hundred forty years ago. Since then, there has been no laboratory evidence that a man gave birth to a gorilla, or an ape-man to a man. Or a single cell evolved to a double-celled entity. Can we create life by combining elements such as oxygen, carbon, etc.? Can we even create a living cell from all of our scientific might? The bottom line is: can man create life?

Scientists say, "Maybe later." Then you should wait for the scientific effort to bear fruit. I wish that you may experience it during your life span!

There is only one person who can resurrect himself from death. Because Jesus is completely pure, neither death nor hell can bind Him.

All masters of all religions in the world do not call themselves God, because they know that they are not.

Pursuit of Truth, and nothing but the real Truth, is my duty for this life, because it is the most precious goal. I resign herewith by wishing you

Peace,

Wei-Che
May 17, 1990

Master, if you find this letter ridiculous, please just laugh at me. If you find it disrespectful, please forgive me because of my youth and lack of knowledge. Please accept my honest intention which is without any malice.

Reply from Master Miao Tian

Wei Che,

I have received your letter. I sensed your determination in the pursuit of the Truth as well as your confusion and bewilderment. As we enter this world, we are constantly confronted with perplexity. This chaos often results in the obstinacy of our ego and our indulgence to methodology. In turn, a veil is created, shielding us from our inherited intuitive wisdom, and causing us to live our everyday lives in worry and pain. This is a very sad fact.

You came to Taipei from the United States, because you had physical discomfort incurable by modern medicine. You came to our center and meditated. I recall, during our “Hidden Potential Development Seminar”, you mentioned, “During meditation, I can receive the blessing from you, my Master. My sickness is more stabilized. And I am always full of joy, like floating in the galaxy.” I was praying and happy for you after I heard your wonderful statement. I am glad that you were not disappointed. The following are my replies to your questions:

1. You claimed, “Buddha cannot be compared with God – Creator of the Universe”. You are “comparing” the deities. In your mind, God is much more sacred and high above Buddha. Similarly, if Buddhists believe, that Buddha is much higher than Jesus, they are committing the same bias. The reality is, both are “descriptions” of the same. There is no difference.
2. You mentioned that, “Jesus is one of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit and the same as the true God Jehovah.” The Trinity is the same as that of Buddha. Buddha can appear through three different forms -- Nirmanakaya, as the flesh in its various incarnations; Dharmakaya, in the form of pure mind and soul of Buddha; and Sambhogakaya, in the glory form after bodhisattva is attained. The three forms of Buddha and the Trinity as claimed in your religion are the same. Both are Samyabuddhi -- righteous and all-knowing.
3. You believed that “God is the Creator. Buddha is the Created”. Then you are referring only to the flesh of Sakyamuni Buddha, which is only one of the many incarnations of Buddha, as I explained in the previous paragraph. Buddha, in its purest form, is also the Creator. It has no beginning and no end. It has no arrival and no departure. It is omnipresent. All glory and authority likewise belong to Buddha. Religion is for your convenience. You must understand the various forms of it, before you can witness the equality of the universe.
4. I agree with, “His thirty-three years of purity and sacredness has not been accomplished by any ordinary man.” However, your statement that “Buddha is just a man like you and me, and committed many mistakes while he was young. Only after years of practice did he gradually become Buddha” illustrated your confusion caused by the obstinacy of human knowledge. I recommend that you spend more time to study Zen Buddhism.

5. You worried, “Our God is our Father who has created us. Buddha is just another man. If we pay tribute to Buddha and not to God, wouldn’t our Father be angry and condemn us?” Please don’t. There is no anger in the divine Trinity, or the all-knowing Buddha. You may be the one that is possible to be angry or to blame.
6. I believe in neither Evolution nor Creation, because both are evolving at the same level of human knowledge. While the knowledge of God and Buddha are at a different level, the wisdom level or enlightenment. This is the Eternal Light and the original truth. It inherits the original wisdom, original power, and original capability – a luminance beyond all wisdom, beyond all life forms, beyond the universe, and beyond all being. It is the Creator of all beings.
7. I understand that you have no malicious intent in your letter. What you have encountered now is what we called “the obstinacy of knowledge”. All my fellow practitioners have faced it at least once. Your belief that you knew it all, while in reality you did not, caused you to pre-judge and to be biased. I wish you progress in transcending beyond knowledge to Zen and a speedy recovery.

Miao Tian

May 19, 1990