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Dharma Times – Women in Buddhism

By May Yin

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With the fragrance of carnation still lingering in the air, we look into the role of women in Buddhism.

Women have long enjoyed a special place and played an important role in Buddhism. Buddhism does not consider women as being inferior to men, while accepting the biological and physical differences between the two sexes, does consider men and women to be equally useful to society.

The Buddha emphasizes the fruitful role women can play and should play as in being a wife and a good mother in making the family life a success.

In a family, both the husband and the wife are expected to share equal responsibilities and to discharge their duties with equal dedication. The husband is admonished to consider the wife a friend, a companion, and a partner.

In Buddhism, women who embodied compassionate, gentle, loving kindness have often been associated with Bodhisattvas such as Chenrenzig, (popularly known as the Goddess of Mercy, or Kuan Yin or Avalokiteshvara) and various Taras in Tibetan Buddhism.

According to the sutras, Buddha Shakyamuni used to refer to Chenrenzig as a man. In history, Chenrenzig was regarded as a male before the Tang Dynasty. During the Tang Dynasty, it was said that Chenrenzig was a princess called Miao Shan. As Chenrenzig in a feminine form is more intimate, more and more people affirmed this Bodhisattva to be female.

Moreover, in our world, women are always suppressed or even tortured, and therefore there is a strong desire to have a female Bodhisattva who is compassionate and able to salvage them from their sufferings.

"Here there is no man, there is no woman,
No self, no person, and no consciousness.
Labelling 'male' or 'female' has no essence,

But deceives the evil-minded world."

And she made the following vow:

"There are many who desire Enlightenment in a man's body, but none who work for the benefit of sentient beings in the body of a woman. Therefore, until samsara is empty, I shall work for the benefit of sentient beings in a woman's body!"

Reciting the powerful mantra of Chenrenzig daily (108 times) and dedicating the merits to all sentient beings, especially your loved ones, will calm your fears, soothe your worries and have your prayers

answered:

OM MANI PADME HUM (the most famous Mantra in the world)

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None

## **Researching Buddhism And Facts Surrounding The Popular Philosophy**

**By Marcus Grant**

Searching for Little Known Buddhism Facts

Buddhism is a popular religion and philosophy that originated thousands of years ago in Asia. The popularity of Buddhism has spread and followers from many countries are involved in this philosophy. Buddhism has an estimated three hundred million followers, and is something that many individuals are interested in learning about, but they do not necessarily know where to start. The history of and facts about Buddhism are taught in many schools around the world. However, there are additional ways to learn the facts about Buddhism. To research Buddhism, traditional methods should be followed. There is a variety of different locations and resources for obtaining information concerning the philosophy of Buddhism.

The internet is a convenient and interesting way to find alot information on every topic imaginable, including the history of Buddhism its teachings which have helped it to develop a worldwide following. With numerous online encyclopedias available, you are certain to find information and little known facts concerning Buddhism. In addition to online encyclopedias, performing an internet search is a sure fire way to produce many resources and references pertaining to Buddhism. By simply typing in

"Buddhism", you will be surprised at the number of websites and reference guides that will appear.

One of the best ways to learn about the history of, and interesting facts about, Buddhism is to visit a website that is operated by followers of Buddhism. One of the best websites to obtain general information on Buddhism and facts surrounding its history is

BuddhaNet is an online educational network for individuals who follow Buddhism or are interested in learning more about it. The BuddhaNet site is easy to navigate and designed for individuals of all ages. They have an ebook section which is completely free for all site visitors to read and use as a reference. The ebook section contains information and articles on mediation, history, teachings, and more. A large amount of information can be obtained from this website. Although this website is a great educational tool for teaching individuals about Buddhism and facts surrounding the philosophy, there are additional online resources that are just as helpful. Completing an online search is the best way to find and sort through each of them.

In addition to the internet, libraries generally offer a large amount of books or other printed materials concerning the history and teaching of buddhism. The amount of materials associated with Buddhism and facts concerning its history and practice will most likely depend on the size of the library. It usually the case that smaller libraries are limited in the number of books that they carry. If you do not find what you are looking for, do not give up. Many libraries various cities or counties are connected to a network of other libraries. Therefore, many books may be exchanged or borrowed by different library locations.

In addition to printed materials found in the library, there are number of Buddhism books that can be purchased from traditional book stores. Some of these books may be used for reference; many of the books found on today's market include titles dealing Buddhist views, beliefs, or ways that Buddhism has positively impacted a group or an individual. Many printed materials can be purchased from conventional or online book stores. Books, VHS Tapes, DVDs, or audio cassettes tapes may be purchased from many online Buddhism websites.

Learning the history of Buddhism and facts concerning the philosophy is a fairly easy process. In addition to learning useful information, you may even find yourself wishing to become a believer or follower of Buddhism

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