

## True Freedom is Obeying Disciplines

Hi everyone, this is Nancy. Today is Oct. 3rd, 2021. How are you doing? In the movie the Lion King, Simba's father Mufasa said to Simba, "Look, Simba, everything the light touches is our kingdom." Simba looked at the prairie and sighed, "Wow!"

Mufasa said, "A king's time as ruler rises and falls like the sun. One day, Simba, the sun will set on my time here and rise with you as the new king."

Simba said, "And this all be mine?"

Mufasa said, "Everything."

Simba said, "Everything the light touches! What about the shadowy place?"

Mufasa said, "That's beyond our boarder, you must never go there, Simba."

Simba said, "But I thought a king can do whatever he wants."

Mufasa said, "Oh, there's more to being a king than getting your way all the time."

In the universe, there are black holes which devour everything within their range. Nothing, including light, can escape from its capture.

In the society, there are also dark places that everyone should avoid. Drugs, gambling and sexual misconduct are some of them. In the movie, Simba did not listen to his Dad, and went to the shadowy place. For that, he paid a heavy price. He lost his Dad; he lost his prairie. Though he came back at the end, but everything had changed.

Don't go to the dark places. Yes, we are free to do and speak anything, but there is a price if disciplines are not obeyed. One is free to take something from the store, but the price might be getting caught and going to jail; one is free to be an alcoholic, but the price may be losing the harmony of their family, getting divorced, or losing wealth; one is free to smoke, but the price may be being possessed with smoking ghosts; one is free to gamble, but the price may be losing everything; one is free to not to study, but the price may be having no job and wandering on streets...

Everyone is free. But only by obeying disciplines, we don't have to pay. This applies to every being in the universe, including Buddhas and Bodhisattvas. The fact is that the higher the level of the beings, more disciplines the beings have to obey. In another word, disciplines are precepts.

One time, there was a person asking, "Can I drink alcohols?" The answer is, "Yes, anyone can chose to drink alcohol, and one just has to pay the result." If one is a monk, alcohol is forbidden because being a monk means he has chosen to uphold strict precepts. If he breaks his precepts, he is not a true monk anymore. If one is a lay disciple, one also has chosen to uphold the basic five precepts. If he drinks wine, he also destroys his precept body. If one is just a normal person who has not decided to uphold the fifth precept, it doesn't count because one has chosen to stay in the cycling of life.

We all chose our own road. There are many roads in front of each one of us, and we chose which one to take. Of course, each road leads to a different destiny.

There is a saying, "When one follows Tao, one will flourish; when one goes against Tao, one will perish." Tao is the Law, the Cosmic Law. We all should study and practice Cosmic Law for our own good. Do you think so?

Amitabha! I hope this video explains well what is true freedom and I hope it is useful for you. Thank you everyone for being here. I will see you next time.