

Winter Clothing Festival and 10 Questions About Ghosts

Hi everyone, this is Nancy. Today is Nov. 5th. 2021. It's Oct. 1st in lunar calendar. Today is Winter Clothing Festival, one of the three annual ghost festivals in China. It's also called Worshipping Ancestor Festival or Fall Worshipping Festival. On this day, in some places, people would burn paper clothing to send them to the ancestors and relatives in case they are cold in other worlds. Usually, colored paper clothing is for ancestors and white paper clothing is for new passed ones. Because this day also marks the first day of cold winter, in ancient China, the emperors would prepare clothing for their officials; women would prepare clothing for the family members, adults would prepare clothing for their old parents. As a Buddhist, it's always a great thing to help ancestors and family members to take refuge in the Buddha and transfer merits to them so they can be liberated forever.

Today, on this Winter Clothing Festival Day, I would like to share with you some information about the ghost realm, and here are 10 questions that people are normally interested in:

- Q1. Are there ghosts on the earth?
- A1. Yes. There are more ghosts on the earth than humans.
- Q2. Do the deceased relatives become ghosts?
- A2. Yes, they do.
- Q3. Do all the deceased relatives become ghosts?
- A3. Yes, they all do.
- Q4. Do humans really have three spiritual and seven physical souls?
- A4. Yes. Some have more than these.
- Q5. Do ghosts need clothing, food, shelter and transportation like humans?
- A5. Yes, they do.
- Q6. Do ghosts have holidays?
- A6. Yes, they do.
- Q7. Do ghosts have class and caste, kingdom and government?
- A7. Yes, they do.
- Q8. Does the ghost realm have Law?
- A8. Yes, it does.
- Q9. Do ghosts have household registration and travel restriction?
- A9. Yes, they have.
- Q10. Can ghosts receive clothing that their human relatives send to them?
- A10. Some can. Some cannot.

Amitabha! This is this week's dharma share which is supposed to be given tomorrow. Life is a continuous flowing river. Originally, we all are just the self- nature, and at the end, after experiencing all the happiness and pain, uniting and separation, love and hatred, we all will return to our original state, the self-nature. Our life is changing all the time, from one state to another, depending on our karma, resolution, will, and so on. Nice to meet you all here at this time of your life. Cherish every moment of your life. Cherish every person you meet in your life. May all the sentient beings in all the ten directions not short of food, clothing, shelter and transportation. Thank you everyone for being here. I will see you next time. Bye.