

Purpose of our Cultivation

Mục đích của tu dưỡng
(theo Hoa Nghiêm)

2020

- To start our new year **2020**,
i'd like to invite you to review
the **purpose** of our cultivation!
it may look deceptively simple,
yet it is profound and penetrating!
enjoy!
Thầy

Purpose

Mục đích

- Practice the bodhisattva's path
 - to become a bodhisattva.
 - Thực tu đạo Bồ Tát
 - Trở thành Bồ Tát
- altruistic

Why?
Tại Sao?

Who are bodhisattvas?
Ai là bồ tát?

Why?
Tại sao?

Definitions of Bodhisattvas Định nghĩa về Bồ Tát

- 3 grades of Bodhisattvas

- Có 3 cấp bồ tát

1 - Good friends - Thiên Hữu

2 - Great friends - Thiên Hữu

3 - Bodhi friends - Thiên Trí Thực

1. Good friend 善友

- who cares for you and your feelings, thus he/she doesn't gossip, back-bite, sabotage, or slander you directly or indirectly
- who doesn't betray you; knows how to sustain meaningful and fruitful friendship

- is there whenever you need him/her
- Truly cares for your welfare
- spends time listening to you
- gives good and timely advices
- uplifts you when you're down
- protects you when you're attacked
- stands up for you, and stand with you
- can cry and laugh with you

2. Great Friend 賢友

- is essentially a very good friend, plus:
 - Nurture your goodness for a long stretch of time
 - Believe in your potentials and thus help you stay focused to unfold it

- is willing to sacrifice for you
- cultivates to eradicate your karma on your behalf
- gives you more than receives from you; yet he/she never asks anything in return nor asks for any recognition
- Never turns her/his back on you no matter how bad you become

3. Bodhi friend 善知識

(or bodhisattva friends)

- is essentially a **great friend** , plus :

- dedicated his/her life to develop the complete unfoldment of goodness, compassion, wisdom, and skills-in-means in people, including you!

- is wise, knowledgeable, emotionally and spiritually mature
 - Emotionally mature = being kind, compassionate, selfless, forgiving, responsible, reliable, trustworthy...
 - Spiritually mature = being wise, comprehensive (vision), humble, knowledgeable (holistic),...

- being knowledgeable of untying karmic and emotional entanglements is a must-have skill of a bodhi-friend
- being able to coach, teach, nurture, consummate, enlighten, and mature everyone's bodhicitta.
- at the level of Selfless or Non-Dualistic Consciousness

Non-Dualistic True Mind

Selfless consciousness

Altruistic consciousness

Ego-centric consciousness

Bodhi-friends

Great friends

Good friends