

The meaning of “Food offering ceremony”

Food offering ceremony is an important Buddhism ritual similar to western’s concept of releasing souls from purgatory – (also called Chao Do purge in Chinese). However nowadays its’ symbolic meaning is purge or remove our obstacles and sufferings.

All of us are encountering many obstacles that steer us away from the right direction to reach the full enlightenment. This ceremony is to help remove them and pave a smooth path for us to move forward toward our destination.

What are these obstacles?

There are generally three categories:

- **Frustration.** (mental obstacle)
- **Illness and Disease.** (body obstacle)
- **Death.**

There is nothing more important than getting rid of the obstacles in our mind and body. The campfire in a food offering ceremony is a symbolic way to burn out (purge) our obstacles.

Actually obstacles and sufferings (or we call them evils) are inside of us not outside. Just like we need a strong campfire to burn things, to remove our mind and body obstacles, we need great energy or ‘fire’ to burn and eliminate them completely from our life.



「大蒙山」的意義？

蒙山是用來做超度的，那什麼是“超度”？

我們也叫拔度。它的意思是，我們人生的過程裡有很多障礙，這些障礙我要把它拔掉，然後我要到對岸去，這個叫拔度。拔掉我的障礙，讓我順利地到達對岸。

你的障礙有哪些呢？我們大概分四大類。

第一個就是煩惱。

第二個是病苦。就是我們的身體很不自在，這也是一個魔，所以我們叫病魔。

第三個就是生死。透過蒙山，把它燒掉，把煩惱燒掉。

我們知道人生中有許多這種障礙，使我們不能前進。

所以最終需要的就是我們要把身體和心理上的這些障礙給除掉。

這些障礙是造成我們的痛苦，我們需要把它燒掉。

煩惱痛苦那些餓鬼，那些餓鬼不在外面，都在你的心裡。

那你要怎麼把它除掉？

你要用向它全身放火一樣把它燒掉。煩惱它會隨著時間的轉移，它會一直變化。

煩惱是無窮盡的，所以你看那個後面就無窮無盡了。

所以我們要有很大的能量 Power，把這些煩惱都給燒掉了。

它不是修外密的，它是修我們裡面的。

希望各位來，能夠得到自己身心靈的改善，這才是我們「大蒙山」的意義。

