

## Meditation Master JinBodhi's Dharma Teachings

# Educate with Love

Yesterday evening, I had tea in a restaurant. At the next table, I saw a family of four with a son around twelve and a daughter around seven. The parents were eating. The son wanted to go to the washroom and left the table by himself. I heard his mom count, "One..." I wondered if she was counting. "Two..."

The kid ran back, saying, "Mom, I want to urinate."

The mom even questioned her son on that! It is hard to tell if he is faking or not. Her son said, "If you don't believe me, come with me?"

The mom said, "Go ahead. But you must come back in five minutes."

If he urinated too much, he would get in trouble for being late. Such discipline is more strict than the mafia's. How we conduct ourselves can be seen from small things. Do we as parents have compassion and gentleness? No. This was the mother talking. What about fathers? They can be worse. Fathers are not good at talking and use a rod. It is cruel. It is as if the son were born into the mafia or as a slave. With such discipline from a young age, can the child grow to be compassionate and gentle or love his parents?

As soon as we are born, we start to develop the concept of good or bad, good or evil. Some parents confine their children and make unreasonable demands, while some parents and teachers are gentle and effective. Smiling and disciplining with loving care can make children grow more compassionate, creative, and grateful to others, society, and their parents. The children's knowledge is more extensive.

Otherwise, our child will become distant as they grow older. When becoming adults, they will become the enemies of their parents. What about his behaviors? I believe they will not be good. Growing up in a suppressed environment, their emotions and opinions will be distorted. If we want to become good people, please consider how we educate our children, especially our attitude. Our methods or attitudes may not be proper.

Some say: Spare the rod, spoil the child. I believe only those who use the rod say this. If you use the rod when they are young, they will use it when you are old. You will say, "They're unfilial and I'll sue them." Right? But your children are young and they cannot sue you. They would lose their parents and become orphans after telling the police. Cultivate children's compassion when they are young. Start with being gentle and smiling. Let's together cultivate a child full of love towards society, the country, and humanity, and with morality and extensive knowledge. Such a child is promising and will show filial piety towards their parents.