

## Meditation Master JinBodhi's Short Dharma Teachings

# Why Do We Offer Light?

This mother's wish is so beautiful. I'll never forget this scene.

In front of deities and buddhas, I want to remind you to offer lights. My master said that fire could eliminate all obstacles to our cultivation. Fire represents light and survival. The illumination from fire provides the energy for all growth. Without fire, there is no light. Fire lights the world. With light comes heat that allows growth. Fire can melt or destroy rigid things such as stone or iron. Fire can bring rebirth or destruction. In our cultivation, fire doesn't destroy; it melts and eliminates all of our stubbornness and negativity. I provide the fire to illuminate your life.

A few decades ago, I saw a mother lighting oil lamps before the Buddha. I asked her why, and for whom she offered light.

She said, "For my son."

I asked, "What happened to your son?"

She said, "He left me to work in a city after graduating from high school."

She worried about her son. She lit a light in front of the Buddha, not for warmth, but for awakening his wisdom. So he could make the right decisions in moments of truth. This mother's wish is so beautiful. I'll never forget this scene. So offering light is meant to send spiritual illumination to ourselves and the people we wish to protect. These people can then do good deeds, which will truly benefit them. My view may be shallow; this just benefits ourselves and doesn't harm others. Many confused people often make a choice to harm themselves. Though they don't harm others, they suffer from their choice. So offering light before the Buddha, deities and ancestors sends ourselves and our families' compassionate, wise, warm and protective illumination. It burns away and dispels all bad karma and the dark demonic qi. Then we will have an illuminated, joyful, smooth and auspicious life. We transform misfortune into fortune.

Some people have experienced many difficulties in just one year. Right after a surgery, a car accident occurred. After that, their child was kidnapped. All these bad things happen to one person in a short time period. Everyone wants a fortunate and smooth life. That's ideal. But for many people, they might have a period of time when bad things occur frequently. Now I tell you the truth. During New Year or important holidays, let's offer light for ourselves and our families; with illumination, we become auspicious. I hope this auspicious, bright and wise light will illuminate everyone; may it bring everyone a smooth, auspicious, peaceful, healthy, long life. (Got it.) OK.