



To Achieve a Life of Completion

Before the Chinese New Year, I visited many places to deliver Year-end Blessings. In my trips, I heard many touching stories about real lives, many of which were related to the medicine mission.

Deputy Superintendent Hsu of Taichung Tzu Chi hospital had undergone a surgery recently and experienced how other patients felt. When he was sick, he could only look at the ceiling while being pushed backward into the operation room. Superintendent Chen also added that after the surgery, Hsu was recovering at the ICU. When Hsu knew there were patients waiting for beds, he voluntarily vacated his bed and walked out of the ICU carrying his IV bag. As a doctor and patient, Hsu's compassion is very touching.

A similar story happened at Taipei Tzu Chi Hospital. Mrs. Lee was transferred to the hospital for a post-surgery examination. After detailed diagnosis and proper medication, her condition improved. After a while, complications followed, and her condition turned serious. After the care of more than eleven specialists, Lee regained her health. At Year-end Blessing, Lee's whole family visited the medical team to show their appreciation.

As human beings, we cannot avoid sickness. This is why we need a compassionate medical team to safeguard our lives. A proverb adequately says, "Doctors are like parents." When doctors are compassionate, they will not only rescue life, but also try their best to restore patients' physical as well as mental health. Medical personnel should possess a kind (tzu) and compassionate (bei) heart. "Tzu" means kindness; it means to bring joy to others, and wish for everyone's safety and happiness. This unselfish great love is like parental love, or the love of Bodhisattva. "Chi" means compassion. It is to help living beings to eradicate their suffering.

In hospitals, medical personnel labor with sincere love; they heal the illness, the people and their hearts. Not only do they take care of patients, but also comfort patients' family with wisdom. The most beautiful scene in medicine is when medical personnel have love, and patients have gratitude.

Medical workers not only care for patients, they also need to care for themselves. Well controlled temper is an expression of loving oneself. Some people are very kind, but they lose control of their temper under stress. Although they are normally respected, people are still afraid of them. So we want to be a "respected" person, not a "feared" person.

I thank all of the staff for working together in harmony, and building a warm relationship between patients and the medical team. I wish everyone in the big family of Tzu Chi would love themselves and one another. It is important that the three loves are combined as one: love oneself, love others and being loved. When this can be done, life and character will be in a state of harmony and completion.

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