

# The Colloquium of Six Religious Leaders Lunar New Year message 2021

On the occasion of the beginning of the Year of the Ox (Year Xin Chou 辛丑, 2021) in the midst of prosperity and blossoming bauhinia, the Colloquium of Six Religious Leaders of Hong Kong cordially wish for all Hong Kong people good health and happiness, revival of all trades and industries and also social harmony.

For more than a year, the Coronavirus disease has ravaged the world and though as a blessed land, Hong Kong is not spared. In face of the plaque of the century, all Hong Kong people must work with one heart and one mind, uphold righteousness and benevolence, stand together through thick and thin, and jointly get over the critical situation. In view of the whole world, what we should do at the present moment is to attach importance to benevolence and wisdom and connect all mankind on earth with the great love and kindness of religion, making no distinction between one and another. We should also, with wisdom and patience of science, develop effective medicine to cure the disease and rescue the sick. If we can uphold the spirit of “establishing not merely oneself but also others; develop not merely oneself but also others”, if we can let go prejudices and work hand in hand together to establish “a community of shared future for mankind” and if we can be frank to one another and share fruits of collaboration, we firmly believe that we will survive the severe winter and welcome the arrival of spring.

For the time being, the epidemic is rampant. It is not only a challenge to our physical bodies but also a test to our souls. For instance, the various restrictions on our social life are measures to protect our health and maintain order for our daily life. They are no excuses for resentment, exclusion or discrimination. In view of the issue, we should proactively give full play to the great power of religion. The concept of the traditional philosophy of “A Gentleman stays virtuous even in adversities” is perfectly applicable to all mankind. In difficulties and adversities, we need to rely on our faith even more and abide by the true way, keep away from evils, and practice kindness. It will not only honour our deities, nourish our souls, bring us tranquility but also put our mind at ease. Only with a healthy soul can we attain a healthy body.

On the happy occasion of the start of the Chinese New Year, we, the Six Religious Leaders, once more extend our wishes: that the epidemic vanish soon and our daily life return to normal; that our country grow more prosperous and powerful and all people be happy; and that Hong Kong society enjoy social harmony, prosperity and stability.



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