

Clearwisdom Review

An Update on Falun Dafa Worldwide

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 5 FEBRUARY 12, 2009

"Phenomenal," Says Deputy Speaker of the NJ General Assembly

(Clearwisdom.net) NEWARK, N.J. -- Deputy Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly, Upendra J. Chivukula, attended the Chinese New Year Spectacular 2009 World Tour performance on January 26 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark.



Mr. Upendra J. Chivukula

During the intermission, Mr. Chivukula described his reaction to the show. "This is magnificent--the colors, the scenery, the choreography and the photography [digital backdrops] is outstanding!"

"And so educational," he continued. "I learned so much about the 5000-year-old Chinese culture--and how the whole thing happened. It was very nicely explained."

"The culture is very rich and there is so much we and the world can learn from that. The Buddha symbolizes peace and talking about how life is eternal and is a gift from God and so we have to cherish it and also try to co-exist and try to help each other out. In terms of someone who is not spiritual, I think we are able to understand [spirituality] through the show. Especially in the dance about the flower that blooms only once every 3,000 years."

The dance to which Mr. Chivukula refers is called "The Udumbara's Bloom." An ancient Buddhist legend tells about this miniature flower and how it only blooms once every 3,000 years, its blossoming announcing the arrival on earth of a great sage or enlightened one. The Udumbara flower has been seen recently in many parts of the world.

Mr. Chivukula was also very impressed by the vocalists. "The soprano and the tenor were just fantastic!" he said.

Mr. Chivukula also said that he learned a lot from the dance, "The Legend of the Brush." This piece is set in the early years of Chinese antiquity where, deep in the mountains, a group of scholars labor and toil to carve records upon bamboo scrolls. The early Chinese believed that, not only was humanity created by divine beings, but also that tools and other inventions were given to them by deities from heaven, when the time was right. In this soul-stirring dance-drama, a Taoist deity comes down from the heavens to deliver the brush. "I think in terms of the writing and how it started with the chiseling of the bamboo and how we developed to write with a pen--that was phenomenal--very interesting, I learned a lot about that."

Mr. Chivukula left with these words: "I loved the show and I would love to come again next year!"

Introduction to Falun Dafa

Falun Dafa, also known as Falun Gong, is a practice for benefiting physical health and elevating the mind. Introduced by Mr. Li Hongzhi in China, the practice consists of five gentle exercises including meditation, and diligent effort on the part of practitioners to follow the universal principles of Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance in daily life. Falun Gong is not only beneficial to one's own health and well-being, it also benefits others. Although the practice originated in China, today it is practiced throughout the world by people of all races and walks of life. In the face of the most brutal and vicious persecution perpetrated on them by the Chinese Communist Party, Falun Gong practitioners have found the spiritual strength to resist peacefully and tirelessly by upholding the principles of Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance.



About Clearwisdom

Clearwisdom.net is the most authoritative source of information about the practice of Falun Gong and about the persecution of Falun Gong in China, reporting timely news and events happening inside China as well as from the more than 70 countries around the world where Falun Gong is practiced. Clearwisdom responsibly publishes the experiences and understandings of practitioners themselves, who submit the majority of the articles.

From Beneficiary to Practitioner

(Clearwisdom.net) Mr. Li is a Falun Gong practitioner in China. His youngest son experienced a common situation among families of Falun Gong practitioners: "When one member practices, the entire family benefits." The young man was an electrician by trade. One day he was holding a drill in one hand while climbing a ladder to reach the second floor. As he stepped up to the second floor, the ladder fell, and he was knocked unconscious after hitting the ground. His co-workers took him to the hospital, where he was treated for a concussion. He was unconscious for the entire afternoon. When he left the hospital, he actually felt better than he did before the accident. He became much more open-minded, and his friends felt that he had even become more clear-minded and rational.

Prior to his accident, he had very particular tastes, especially about food. Now he is completely open and flexible. Furthermore, his migraine headaches disappeared. He realized that he was a beneficiary of Falun Dafa, and decided to become a practitioner himself. His wife did not have a good impression of Dafa, because her brother-in-law and father-in-law, who both practice Falun Gong, were arrested several times and had their homes ransacked. After she witnessed the positive changes in her husband, and how nicely she was treated by other Dafa practitioners, she gradually changed her views. Then she, too, decided to become a practitioner.



Mr. Jin Youfeng Dies after Five Years of Imprisonment

(Clearwisdom.net) Mr. Jin Youfeng was a physical education teacher. After he appealed for justice for Falun Dafa in September 1999, he was fired and sentenced to three years of forced labor, which he served in the Mudanjiang City Forced Labor Camp. His wife, Ms. Jiang Chunmei, is also a Falun Dafa practitioner. On October 22, 2003, they were both arrested. Mr. Jin's 75-year-old mother and their two children, one 10 years old and the younger less than 15 months, were left on their own.



Mr. Jin's son in 2003, at the time of his father's arrest

Mr. Jin was tortured during detention with a torture known as the Tiger Bench. The back of the bench has two holes through which the guards pulled his hands and cuffed them with two pairs of handcuffs. The guards would suddenly pull his feet, forcing his whole body flat. They then stomped on him and pulled his hair.

Mr. Jin was sentenced to 13 years of imprisonment and placed in the Mudanjiang City Prison. On September 10, 2004, the guards locked Mr. Jin and two other practitioners in "small cells" (1) with 40-pound shackles, and "Hand Stick" cuffs (2), chained to the shackles. They were in a torturous position for 15 days. The guards roughly inserted tubes to force-feed the practitioners, intentionally causing them pain. They force-fed them large amounts of raw cornmeal and hot chili pepper powder that would choke the practitioners and cause diarrhea immediately.

Over the course of the long-term, brutal mistreatment, Mr. Jin showed symptoms of late-stage tuberculosis. Before releasing him on medical parole, the guards still tried to force him to give up his belief in Dafa. He refused. The prison administration then took him back to prison for ten more months. On June 6, 2008, when he was dying, Mr. Jin was given a one-year medical parole (to June 5, 2009). He died at 9:00 p.m. on January 21, 2009, in the Mudanjiang City Contagious Diseases Hospital.

Notes:

(1) Small cell - The detainee is locked up in a very small isolation cell. The guards handcuff practitioners with their arms behind their backs in a fixed position in which the practitioners can neither move nor lie down. The small cell is very damp and no sunlight comes in. A bucket in the cell serves as a toilet. Only half of a regular meal is served. During the night, rats run free. The stench in the small cell is so bad that it is difficult to breathe.

(2) Hand Stick - The "hand stick" torture is more cruel than a regular handcuff because there is a metal rod between the wrists instead of a chain, so the wrists are held immobile. The wrists can become injured and infected.