



A Tribute to Singapore's Founding Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew

"A visionary thinker.

A respected leader.

A remarkable statesman.

There is a plethora of descriptions extolling the virtues of Mr Lee Kuan Yew. But surely no amount of words can fully express our utmost gratitude and respect for a man with a presence so monumental that the world ranks him among the titans today.

Widely credited as being Singapore's founding father, Mr Lee transformed Singapore from a British colony into an independent nation that is today one of the most developed countries in the world. Yet what deeply touches the heart is far beyond the material success of Singapore. It was Mr Lee Kuan Yew's vision of one people and one nation living harmoniously in a multi-racial country that motivated good men to work towards peace in the tumultuous world we live in.

It was Mr Lee Kuan Yew's determination to build a safe country for all men and women to live and thrive, that inspired people of faith to strive towards religious harmony and the equal treatment for all religions, regardless of the size of the congregation of each one.

In 1971, Shinnyo-en's Founding Master Shinjo Ito planted the seeds of Shakamuni Buddha's last teachings here with the hope of kindling a light for world peace. To be formally registered as a Buddhist society in Singapore was a precious opportunity for us to fulfill the sacred wish of the buddhas and the bodhisattvas. It was also Mr Lee Kuan Yew's belief in the rule of law that provided the right conditions for this spark to grow. For this, Shinnyo-en is eternally grateful.

Master Shinjo has taught us: "Never forget what others have done for you, even if you forget what you have done for them."

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It was not merely intellect nor political astuteness that created Singapore. It was compassion and wisdom that has fuelled Mr Lee's tireless effort to watch over the growth of this nation.

An excerpt from the Mahaparinirvana Sutra says, "A candle burns away with each passing moment. Yet, within these moments, it dispels the darkness. Those who aspire to master the way should be like the candle."

Once in a long while in the history of a people, there comes a man of great courage. To us, Mr Lee is a bodhisattva who gave of himself like a candle emitting rays of light into the darkness.

In Shinnyo-en, we honour the teachings of the buddhas by embodying the Nirvana spirit to act selflessly for the community. Mr Lee's meritorious work has lit an undying flame in our hearts to uphold the legacy of our founding fathers.

In the buddhas' realm, all is infinite compassion amidst permanence, bliss, self and purity. Mr Lee Kuan Yew, you are among the brightest stars in the sky. Please watch over us as we strive towards harmony amidst diversity, so that we may extend the world of friendship, starting from this little island that is so dear to you.

Thank you very much, Mr Lee. You will be fondly remembered by all of us in Shinnyo-en Singapore."

Representing Shinnyo-en Singapore

March 28, 2015

"Remembering Mr Lee Kuan Yew"

Kampong Kembangan Community Club