

## 2005 - New Year's Day Dharma meeting at Segaes Temple

There is a fish called dark sleeper (*Odontobutis odontobutis interrupta*) living up in the Han River.

Dark sleepers lay their eggs among the stones and these eggs consume a huge amount of oxygen. The male dark sleeper's job is to keep the eggs safe from the enemies such as turtles and provide them with the oxygen by shaking the water with their fins.

As they do this job continuously, even without time to eat or rest, the fins got darker from the malnutrition and overwork and when the eggs finally hatch out and the Dad dark sleepers job is done, he dies.

Very profound is their love and noble is the sacrifice for their baby fish. This is the way they live their lives according to the divine providence and the natural order of things.

In the case of dolphins, when their friends or family get caught in a net, they don't leave them alone, but remain there to help them out and when an escape route cannot be found, they die together.

A dog is a very faithful animal as well. Dogs are faithful to their owners and never betray them. Dogs are also said to be respectful to the rule of coexistence and stability of their society.

Men are quite the opposite, thus there are many things we can learn from these animals.

When you blame others and point finger at them, you should realize that three other fingers are pointing at you. Before criticizing others, you should check yourself first and be three times more attentive about your faults than about others'.

When you hear other people praise or criticize you, remain calm just like a rock that keeps its silence and dignity whether it be rainy, windy or snowy.

You should think ten times before you say something. You should think carefully whether your words would hurt other's feelings and make a bad karmic tie with them and ruin all the merits you have accumulated.

Thus when you say something, say what please others' hearts and not their ears.