

I. The Basics of Falun Gong

1. The Origin of Falun Gong Issue

In the early 1990s, Falun Gong came into emergence in China and gradually evolved into a cult.

Li Hongzhi, the founder of Falun Gong, claims Falun Gong to be the "law of universe" and the "most extraordinary science," boasting himself as the greatest scientist in history.

In fact, Falun Gong was concocted by Li Hongzhi. In 1988, Li worked as a staff member in a state-owned grain and oil supply company in Changchun, Jilin Province. He learned from others two Qigong practices: the Chanmi Gong (Practice of Zen and Tantrism) and the Jiugong Bagua Gong. Later on Li combined these two Qigong practices with some dancing movements he learned from

Thailand and created Falun Gong.

At the beginning, Li Hongzhi lured people into practicing Falun Gong in the name of "keeping fit"; then he exercised mind control over his followers by planting in ideas such as "the Doomsday," "Reaching Consummation and ascending to heaven," etc.; by and by, Falun Gong developed into a cult.

Before December 1994, Li Hongzhi portrayed himself as a Qigong master who possessed supernatural powers. He taught people Qigong and, at the same time, "sent out Gong to cure illness"—to cure diseases for patients with his "magical inner powers." The money he raked was actually a small fortune at that time.

In December 1994, Li Hongzhi published his book called *Zhuan Falun*. And it was considered the turning point in the evolution of Falun Gong.

Li Hongzhi thus transmogrified himself from a Qigong master to "the greatest Buddha of the universe." *The Introduction to Li Hongzhi* compiled by the Falun Gong organization states, "At the age of eight, Li Hongzhi learned the essence of Buddhism and attained the supernatural powers of telekinesis, the ability to mend things, controlled thinking and the ability to become invisible. He understands the truth of the universe, has insights into life and can see both the past and future."

Falun Gong thus evolved from Qigong to "universe's

Dafa" (great law) wherein, as explained by Li Hongzhi, "among all the theories in the world, it is the most intricate and extraordinary science." The practice purpose of Falun Gong followers thus elevated from within the temporal sphere of physical health to a means of escaping from earthly woes to eternal life on another plane thereafter—as Buddha, Dao and God.

In order to "reach Consummation," Li Hongzhi asked his followers to neglect life and death, "If you can let go of life and death, you're a God; if you can't let go of life and death, you're a human." Bewitched by Li's heresies, many Falun Gong practitioners rejected medical help when they became ill and some died as a result. Some even committed suicide or murder to obtain Consummation. Before the official ban on Falun Gong in July 1999, more than 1,400 people died of practicing Falun Gong.

At that time, Falun Gong simply considered itself "second to none," and was reluctant to hear any negative comments. Some press media and scholars faced endless troubles just because they had raised doubts about Falun Gong: the media were besieged, and the scholars cursed and harassed by Falun Gong practitioners. On April 25, 1999, thousands of mobbed Falun Gong practitioners even enveloped Zhongnanhai—a complex of buildings where top Chinese leaders both live and work in Beijing. The demonstration, disrupting social order and stabili-

ty, shocked the nation and the whole world.

After the founding of Falun Gong in 1992, Li Hongzhi set up the Falun Dafa Research Society in Beijing and he himself acted as president of the Society. Later on, Li set up 39 general stations nationwide with 1,900 tutorial stations under them, and 28,000 practicing spots under these tutorial stations. Thus, a complete from top to bottom organizational system of Falun Gong was formed. Although these organizations were not registered according to law at civil affairs departments, they widely spread Falun Gong fallacies and engaged in illegal activities such as cheating, swindling money out of practitioners.

In July 1999, the Chinese government, on the basis of the fact that Falun Gong violated the law, officially banned Falun Gong according to law in the interest of the mass public.

After the official ban, Li Hongzhi continues attempting to exercise remote spiritual control over his followers from overseas. And his Falun Gong organization still engages in illegal activities: they wantonly cook up and spread rumors, infringe upon public interest, and stage cultic as well as anti-China farces.

2. General Description of Falun Gong

Falun Gong is a cult that originated from some parts of China in the early 1990s. Its founder Li Hongzhi fabricated cultic heresies to exercise extreme spiritual control over his followers and committed a lot of monstrous crimes, violating laws and regulations.

Cultic fallacies are the primary means used by Li to mentally control his followers, and also are the direct causes of many atrocities committed by Falun Gong disciples.

For example, Li Hongzhi claims that the earth has been destroyed 81 times and he is the only one who can stop the destruction of the earth; that the earth is but the garbage dump of the universe, the only way out is to practice Falun Gong; that Falun Gong followers would be hampered by religions and they should not convert to any religion; that everything is pre-arranged by himself and even the Holocaust during the World War II was brought about by the change of celestial phenomena; that when the cultivators feel uncomfortable somewhere in their bodies it isn't sickness, and they should not go to see a doctor or take medicine. Li says that, to practice Falun Gong one should give up everything, "If you can let go of life and

death, you're a God," that those against cultivation are all demons, "the wretched demons just deserve to be killed"; that even if the practitioners hurt their relatives, they can repay the victims much more after ascending to Heavens in the future; that the Falun Dafa is above everything including all human laws. Li Hongzhi also demands, by intimidation or threats, that all Falun Gong practitioners recite his scriptures and obey his orders.

Killing people is the major crime committed by Falun Gong.

Under the spiritual control of Li Hongzhi, more than 1,000 Falun Gong practitioners lost their lives because they refused to take medicine or see a doctor, believing in the fallacy that Falun Gong practitioners should not take medicine when fell ill; several hundred practitioners committed suicide; and over 30 innocent people were killed by Falun Gong fanatics. A typical example is the Tian'anmen Square self-immolation incident: On January 23, 2001, seven Falun Gong practitioners set themselves on fire at the Tian'anmen Square in order to achieve "Consummation," resulting in two deaths and three disabled because of serious injuries. On September 4, 1998, Ma Jianmin, a Falun Gong practitioner from Shandong Province, killed himself by cutting open his belly in order to seek for the "wheel of law" which Li Hongzhi claimed that he had personally installed in the abdomen of each Falun Gong practitioner.

Zhang Zhiqin, a practitioner from Liaoning Province, suffered from diabetes. After practicing Falun Gong, she rejected medical treatment in the hope that her illness would be cured by reading Li Hongzhi's books and listening to his tapes. Soon Zhang's conditions worsened and died as a result. From May 25 to June 26, 2003, a Falun Gong follower named Chen Fuzhao killed 16 people by poisoning in order to "enhance his Gong powers." Of all the victims, 15 were beggars or junkmen, and one was a Buddhist.

Harming the public interest is another crime committed by Falun Gong.

Falun Gong openly tramples on the international norms, frequently attacking civil communication satellites. According to incomplete statistics, since June 2002, Falun Gong has attacked Chinese communication satellites for more than 200 times with a total time amounted to over 100 hours. Falun Gong openly instigates its members to attack public infrastructure for radio and TV broadcasting. There have been more than 100 cases so far, of which the Falun Gong members are involved in sabotaging optical fiber cables and grafting in the cultic TV programs. Instigative articles on attacking communication cables can easily be found on Falun Gong websites. They have formed special sabotaging groups such as the "fax team" and the "telephone team" etc., systematically engaged in large-scale harassment and intimidation activities. Sending out junk

e-mails is another way of harming the public interest. Falun Gong openly admits on its websites that from January to February 2004, they have made over 8 million harassing phone calls. Incomplete statistics indicate that the monthly junk e-mails sent out by Falun Gong from overseas to Mainland China amounted to over 30 million. What's more, Falun Gong is still committing these crimes up to now.

Falun Gong viciously attacks organizations and people that hold different views, infringing upon people's freedom of speech.

Before the official ban on Falun Gong, tragedies caused by the cult had already been revealed to the public by journalists, scientists, teachers as well as figures from the religious circles. They demonstrated many refutable facts that practicing Falun Gong may cause death, mental disorder as well as family breakup. Falun Gong members were thrown into a panic by these reports. They cursed scientists, besieged media organs, and frequently made harassment against those who held different views from them. According to statistics, Falun Gong staged dozens of besiegement against media and press nationwide a few years before it was outlawed. While besieging and attacking *Chongqing Daily* press, Falun Gong practitioners threatened: If the press refused to apologize, they would destroy the unit with floods or even destroy the whole

world before the due date preset by Li Hongzhi. Now readers may still come across the long list of "evil persons" on Falun Gong websites. Celebrities such as famous scientists Zhuang Fenggan and Pan Jiazheng, religious leaders such as the bishop Fu Tieshan, master Sheng Hui etc., are all blacklisted on the internet simply because they have ever criticized Falun Gong. They are systematically molested by harassing phone calls, and their personal safety under serious threatening.

Falun Gong becomes a political organization with cultic characteristics.

In recent years Falun Gong systematically puts forward political appeals, energetically stirs up troubles outside China and actively stages various kinds of anti-China activities, instigating its followers to overthrow the Chinese government. In order to tarnish the image of the People's Republic of China, Falun Gong draws in foreign politicians by trap and lies, encouraging them to speak ill of China and driving wedges between China and other countries.

The Chinese government firmly believes that most practitioners were taken in and are victims. And for them the policy of the government is to carry out persuasion, education and redemption. The Chinese government and people from all walks of life work together, helping most practitioners to shake off the spiritual shackles of Falun Gong. It reflects the Chinese government's will to protect

human rights of its citizens including most Falun Gong practitioners. The Chinese government and society at large are sincere, responsible and successful in caring and helping those indulged in Falun Gong. Under the help of the government and society for these years, most practitioners have already seen through the true color of Falun Gong, and broke away from the spiritual control of the cult, and now are living a normal life. They have established normal social and family relations, some become experts in making a fortune and some even become volunteers helping and educating people with their own experiences. According to statistics, over 98% of the practitioners have already shaken off the spiritual shackles of Falun Gong. And after converting, they are not discriminated, but have received certain favor treatments in their work and living since they have become quite vulnerable as a result of practicing Falun Gong.

Only a few Falun Gong core members have been punished according to law by the judicial organs simply because they have engaged in criminal activities violating law rather than practicing Falun Gong. The allegation of these people being persecuted is groundless.

Now to cover up the evil features of Falun Gong, a handful of Falun Gong backbones headed by Li Hongzhi are spreading rumors in the United States and other places that the Chinese government cruelly persecutes Falun

Gong practitioners. Li Hongzhi and his diehards also try to whitewash their images with new tricks: They label themselves people in pursuit of "Truthfulness, Compassion and Tolerance," and decorate their masks with "traditional Chinese culture." Yet regardless of how hard they try, no amount of sophistry can deny what Li Hongzhi has said to over two million practitioners and the crimes they committed in China. In fact, most countries as well as all the honest persons around the world maintain that Falun Gong is a cult and regard the ban on it by Chinese government as justified—except a handful of people who have ulterior motives and try to make use of the cult for their own ends.

3. China's Stance on the Issue of Falun Gong

The China government's policy towards Falun Gong is, to unify, educate and redeem the majority of Falun Gong practitioners who have been deceived by Li Hongzhi and his Falun Gong, and to punish, according to law, the few Falun Gong members who have committed crimes.

To this end, the governments at all levels show the utmost tolerance and patience, help the majority of Falun Gong practitioners to break ties with the cult without any discrimination or exclusion against them. As a result, most

of the practitioners in China are now living a normal life.

Here are some examples.

- Zhu Xiuzhi, female, was an assistant principal mistress of a primary school in Jiutai City, Jilin Province. She began to practice Falun Gong in 1997, went to Beijing twice to stir up troubles, and was sent to "reeducation through labor" camp on charges of disrupting the social order. With the kind help from the society as well as from cadres and policemen of the prison, Zhu Xiuzhi has eventually shaken off the spiritual shackles of Falun Gong. She joined the "Jilin Volunteers' Mission for Educating and Converting Falun Gong Practitioners," helping and educating other obsessed Falun Gong followers with her own experience. Now Zhu is still serving as a teacher at school.

- Chen Bin, male, was born in 1945, former director of the Shaanxi Light Industry Association Office. In June 1996, he started to practice Falun Gong with the hope of keeping fit, and took the position of counsellor at Falun Gong practicing spot in Xi'an Jiaotong University. After the official ban on Falun Gong, Chen frequently stirred up troubles illegally. In December 2000, he was sent to "reeducation through labor" camp on charges of illegally printing Falun Gong propaganda materials. In 2001, Chen Bin broke away from Falun Gong because of the kind help and effective education from society and the Party. After the converting, Chen wrote articles which amounted to

150,000 Chinese characters to expose and denounce the cult, successfully helped nearly one hundred obsessed Falun Gong practitioners breaking ties with it. And now Chen Bin has become a famous anti-cult figure in China.

- Wang Jindong, male, born in January 1951, Kaifeng City of Henan Province, began to practice Falun Gong in 1996. On January 23, 2001, Wang and several other Falun Gong practitioners went to Beijing, set themselves on fire at Tian'anmen Square, resulting in two deaths and three serious disabled. On August 17, 2001, he was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment and deprived of political rights for three years. After the self-immolation incident, the Chinese government and the Party provided Wang with medical treatment, bringing him out of danger. After long and patient persuasion, education and redemption, Wang came to realize that he was taken in by Li Hongzhi and his cult. He got out of the cultic entrapment with the help of the society, and wrote the book *Blindness, Death and Rebirth*, telling people about his nightmare story and denouncing the cult Falun Gong.

Above all, China is a law-ruled country. No one or organization is allowed to go beyond or even violate the law. A handful of Falun Gong key members are punished according to law by judicial organs simply because they have engaged in criminal activities in violation of Chinese laws rather than practicing Falun Gong.

Here are two cases.

Zhou Runjun and others sabotaged TV broadcasting facilities. On March 5, 2002, Zhou Runjun, Liu Weiming, Liang Zhenxing, Liu Chengjun, Zhang Wen and other Falun Gong diehards cut off the main cables connecting the TV networks in Changchun City and Songyuan City respectively during evening after long time plotting and investigation. They broke off the normal cable TV programs and grafted in Falun Gong propaganda contents with VCD devices. The 15 defendants concerned, including Zhou Runjun, were sentenced to 4 to 14 years imprisonment according to law, the Changchun Intermediate People's Court ruled at an open court session on September 20, 2002.

Li Xiangchun sabotaged TV broadcasting facilities. On October 22, 2002, Li Xiangchun(also named Chuck Lee, a PhD, male), an American Chinese was caught red-handed by Chinese police in Yangzhou City, Jiangsu Province. Li was set to cut in the local cable TV network and broadcast some Falun Gong programs. The policemen hunted him down and seized a complete set of graft-in devices including a peeling knife, a pair of shears, a mini cutting machine, and a set of multifunction knife and scissors. On March 21, 2003, Li Xiangchun was sentenced by the Yangzhou Intermediate People's Court to three years in jail plus banishment.

4. Why Falun Gong Is a Cult

Li Hongzhi, the founder of Falun Gong, boasts to be the sovereign Savior.

The Introduction to Li Hongzhi compiled by the Falun Gong organization states, "At the age of eight, Li Hongzhi learned the essence of Buddhism and attained the supernatural powers of telekinesis, the ability to mend things, control thinking and the ability to become invisible...He understands the truth of the universe; has insights into life and can see both the past and future." Li Hongzhi claimed in his major work *Zhuan Falun* that he has "an extremely powerful gong," called "the Great Soul-Catching Method" which "can pull out a person's whole master soul."

Li Hongzhi said, "I have truly done something that no one ever did in the past by teaching a greater fundamental Dafa of the universe." "However, as for these theories, you may have either read all the books in the world or studied all the subjects on earth, you still cannot acquire them." (*Lecture in Sydney*—Editor's notes: Quotations below all come from Li Hongzhi's works unless otherwise specified)

Li claims to be the sovereign God whose Fa powers are thousands of times stronger than that of Sakyamuni

and Jesus Christ; and Falun Gong is the only upright Fofa that can "bring people to Paradise." He said he "has done something nobody did in the past," and "has taught people the more powerful Fa of the universe," "has left man a ladder to heaven—*Zhuan Falun*."

"Right now I'm the only person in the world who is publicly spreading a true teaching. I have done something that's never been done by anyone before." (*Zhuan Falun*)

"You shouldn't call a student (a disciple) who spreads Falun Dafa 'teacher,' or 'master,' or whatnot. There's only one master (Editor's notes:Li Hongzhi) in Dafa. It doesn't matter how early on someone took up the practice, he's still a disciple." (*Zhuan Falun*)

Li Hongzhi claims that he can "remake" any species on earth and even create a new earth. "What I do today is for the purpose of rectifying humankind and the substances of the entire earth—I can do all of this." Li further explains, "How can the earth be preserved? Just as with your practice of cultivation, as your bodies are being transformed, so is the new earth being made." (*Teaching the Fa at the first Fa Conference in North America*)

Li says, "While I just sit here I can see things in Beijing, things in the United States, or things on the other side of the world. Some people can not understand all this, from the science point of view they can not understand...In that field's dimension, at a person's forehead there's a mir-

ror, and for people who don't practice Qigong it faces away from them, while for people who do practice Qigong it's turned toward them. When a person's Remote Vision is about to come out it starts spinning." (*Zhuan Falun*)

In March 2002, Li Hongzhi said in (*Touring North America to Teach the Fa*) that, "No matter how large the cosmos is, it's still not as large as I am." "Perhaps when the cosmos is no more, only I am there." "No being knows who I am; I do not know who I am." "Yet without me, the cosmos wouldn't exist."

He claimed, "I have numerous Fashen (law body) who look the same as me. They are in another dimension, so of course they can become large or small. They can become very large or very small." (*Lecture in Sydney*)

He even said, "Each word in this book (*Zhuan Falun*) has my Fashen, every word is the image of my Fashen and every word is the image of a Buddha. I have numerous Fashen, which cannot be calculated by numbers...No matter how many people there are, I can take care of all of them, and I can take care of the entire mankind." (*Lecture in Sydney*)

Li Hongzhi concocts a set of cultic doctrines to take followers in and swindles money out of them by exercising spiritual control.

At the inception, Li Hongzhi collected money by ways of teaching people Qigong and "sending out Gong to cure

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