

PERSPECTIVE: Even a Thief Loves His Family

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Never give up!" is the cry of the Buddha and of the fictional Hollywood producer played by Dustin Hoffman in *Wag the Dog*.

"That character a Buddha?" you might cry in dismay. "He was deceiving people with lies! He was producing a war!!"

According to the mutual possession of the ten worlds, the world of Buddhahood is found in the other nine, from Hell to Bodhisattva. Even a thief loves his own family.

As Buddhists we are practicing to take everything as an opportunity for learning and growth. So I took a look at the characteristics of the Buddha found in this film.

Dustin Hoffman's character meets every deadlock in his plan with a vibrant creative spirit to "never give up!"

"You think this is hard? This is nothing!" he exclaimed again and again, even when they were stranded in a forest surrounded by the flaming wreckage of their plane and accompanied by a violent psychopath whose drugs had worn off.

"I remember standing in front of a group of producers after I'd been up all night on coke and hadn't even started to work on the treatment, and I pulled it off!" or words to that effect. "This is cake!"

With his indomitable creativity and enthusiasm he found a way toward his goal. He was invincible in his resolve.

The character played by Dustin Hoffman showed that he has used even negative experiences as a springboard for growth, as SGI President Ikeda teaches us.

Yes, the producer was lacking in wisdom and compassion, but the courage aspect he had down pat and we can learn from that.

Without divulging the ending of the film, I'll just say that he plummeted into the lower world of Hunger and his plan went awry.

So, let's create the Buddha land with creativity and enthusiasm. And never give up.

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