

## **Studying the Buddha-dharma by means of the Buddha-dharma : A Methodology with a spiritual dimension\***

Bhikkhu KL Dhammajoti

### **1.0 Introduction**

There are various approaches for the study of Buddhism - historical, doctrinal, textual, anthropological, etc. While not intending to depreciate the values of these modern approaches, I believe that in some cases at least, they could result in misinterpretations and even distortion of Buddhist doctrines and system.

On this occasion celebrating the thirty years of the existence of our Postgraduate Institute of Pali and Buddhists, I wish to introduce, mainly to our students who consider themselves practising Buddhists, an approach or methodology that practicing Buddhists, should find meaningful. This approach, known as "studying the Buddha-dharma by means of the Buddha-dharma" was formulated by the late Ven. Dr. Yin Shun. Its most important feature is that without contradicting or neglecting the Modern scientific methodologies as valuable research tools, it bestows meaning and a spiritual dimension to a scholarly practicing Buddhist. Through this methodology, he can - at least ideally - be at once doing Buddhist research and practicing the Dharma !

---

\* This article is based on the paper read at the seminar held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2005 at the BMICH to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Postgraduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya.