

Mid-America Buddhist Association

299 Heger Ln, Augusta, MO 63332

www.maba-usa.org

The year 2026 is known as the Year of the Red Fire Horse.

“A draft horse bears heavy loads and travels a long road; an old horse in the stable still aspires to run a thousand miles.”

Among fine horses, the draft horse is especially strong and enduring. For generations it has been an essential asset in European societies for cultivation, transportation, and building homes. As cultivation begins in early 2026, proper preparation and allocation of horsepower will allow great results to be achieved with less effort.

Reflected in our personal lives and in society, this image reminds us to constantly be mindful: to temper excessive enthusiasm and restrain impulsive thoughts, so that surging energy does not become extreme or unbalanced. In this way, we can advance steadily and achieve maturity and success in our careers and studies.

The Red Fire Horse most fully embodies the spirit of the Bodhisattva. Its character is courageous and joyful, with strong initiative and great momentum, daring to charge forward. It welcomes challenges, fears no competition, and faces hardship and change directly. In times of great transformation and intense struggle, the innate Bodhisattva spirit shines forth—standing at the forefront, leading by example, persevering through hardship, and courageously assuming responsibility. This is precisely the guiding strength our times require.

In Buddhist practice, the true method that carries the Path with “powerful horsepower” is the Five Spiritual Faculties and the Five Powers.

Grounded in the Four Noble Truths, faith, effort, mindfulness, concentration, and wisdom are cultivated continuously and strengthened repeatedly, deeply purifying our wholesome aspiration, focus, deep meditative stability, insight, and liberative power. Gradually freed from the bonds of affliction and suffering, body and mind gain greater vitality and resilience, enabling us to meet life and our responsibilities with renewed clarity and effectiveness.

On the journey of life, if in every gesture and action we are able to benefit both ourselves and others, fully manifesting the practical power of the Five Faculties and Five Powers and fulfilling our life’s mission, then—for disciples of the Buddha—there is no greater “horsepower” in the human world than this. In 2026, the online Master’s program organized by the Youth Buddhist Educational Foundation (YBEF) will officially begin in March. We sincerely invite you to enroll in these courses, and also welcome your generous support and donations to the Educational Foundation. The program is conducted entirely online; all platform and teaching expenses are covered by the Foundation. Students are only responsible for the university’s registration fees.

May the courage and steadiness of the Red Fire Horse year become an important driving force for our study and practice of the Dharma, our service to society, and the accomplishment of benefit for both self and others.

With respectful best wishes for a blessed and peaceful New Year, filled with the joy of the Dharma.

Best Wishes from Abbot Jírú Bhikkhu

01/10/2026

2026 年为丙午年，亦称赤火马年。

挽马载物，任重道远；老马伏枥，志在千里。

良驹之中，“挽马”尤为健壮有力、耐力非凡，是欧洲社会长期以来赖以耕作、运输、建设家园的重要财富。2026 年开春耕作，若能预先调配好马力，必能事半功倍。

映照于人生与社会的打拼，我们亦当时时提醒自己：收敛过盛的热情，按捺冲动的心念，使澎湃的能量不过激、不失衡，方能稳中求进，令事业与学业日益成熟、有所成就。

赤火马，最具菩萨精神。其性格勇毅而喜悦，进取心强，造势力足，敢于冲锋陷阵；喜迎挑战，不畏竞争，直面艰难与变化。在巨变之年、大争之世，俱生菩萨的精神尤为彰显——走在前沿、带头实践、不惧艰苦、勇于担当，正是时代所需的引领力量。

于佛法修行而言，真正具足“强大马力”的载道之技，便是五根与五力。

以四圣谛为根基的信、进、念、定、慧，不断修习、反复增长，使我们的善法欲、专注力、深定心、智慧力与解脱力获得深刻净化，逐步脱离烦恼与苦的束缚。由此，身心更具活力，承载力更强，面对生活与使命时，展现出焕然一新的作为。

在人生旅途中，若能于举手投足之间自度度人，完整体现佛法中五根与五力的实践力量，圆满完成生命的使命，那么——对佛弟子而言，人世间最大的“马力”，莫过于此。

值此 2026 年，佛教青年教育基金会所举办的在线硕士课程将于 3 月正式开课。诚挚邀请您报名修读相关课程，同时也欢迎您随喜支持、捐助教育基金。本课程以线上方式进行，所有网络平台费用与教师教学费用，皆由基金会自行承担；学员仅需支付大学注册费用。

愿赤火马年的勇毅与稳健，成为我们修学佛法、服务社会、成就自他的重要动力。
敬祝 新年吉祥安乐 法喜充满！

Best Wishes from
Abbot Jírú Bhikkhu
(MABA & IBFA)

中美佛教会及芝加哥正覺寺住持
釋繼如 敬賀
01/10/2026

馬年吉祥、
安康！

A vertical decorative border on the left side of the image features a large, stylized white flower with gold outlines at the top and bottom. In the center, a red, spherical lantern with a gold base and a tassel hangs vertically. The background is a solid red color.

happy
chinese
new
year!

