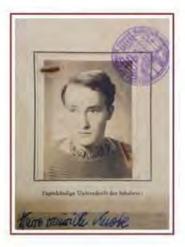


Saddhāloka bhikkhu (Heinrich Knote)

Ven. Saddhāloka Mahāthera 信光比丘 Xinguang biqiu Thích Tín Quang Venerable Saddhāloka was born in Germany in 1938. His mother passed away at his age of two; he then grew up in the loves of his father and paternal grandparents. Since childhood, he already had the character of a nature lover; he honoured the life of every creature around such as leaves, grass, and small animals like birds, livestock, and poultry. Being studious, he read a lot of books at a young age, especially the books concerning the Buddha's teachings.

Life And Works Of Venerable Saddhāloka Cuộc Đời Và Sự Nghiệp Của Hòa Thượng Thích Tín Quang

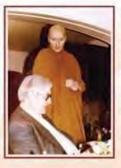
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Hòa thượng Saddhāloka sinh năm 1938 tại nước Đức. Mồ côi mẹ từ năm 2 tuổi, Ngài đã lớn lên trong tình yêu thương của cha và ông bà nội. Ngay từ bé, Ngài đã có bản tánh yêu thiên nhiên và trần trọng sự sống của từng lá cây cọng cỏ, cho đến các con thủ như chim muông và các loại gia súc, gia cầm. Có tính hiểu học, nên từ niên thiếu Ngài đã tham khảo rất nhiều sách, trong số đó Ngài rất thích tìm hiểu về giáo lý Phật Đà. Đến năm 18 tuổi, mặc dù ông bà và cha của Ngài vốn theo đạo Thiên Chúa đã phản đối rất gay gắt, song Ngài đã nhất quyết chọn cho mình con đường về với đạo Phật.



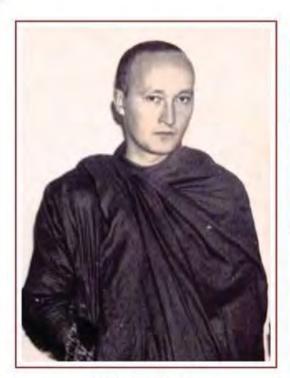
The portrait of Venerable Saddhāloka's mother. She was deceased when he was two years old. The pictrure was carefully kept with him since then. Hinh ānh mẫu thân của hòa thượng. Bà mất khi ngài được 2 tuổi. Tấm hình này được ngài giữ gin cấn thận và mang theo bên mình trong suốt hành trình cuộc đời



Venerable Saddhāloka and his father when the monk returned to Germany to visit his family. Bức ảnh chụp Hoà Thượng bên thân phụ khi ngài về Đức thăm gia dình

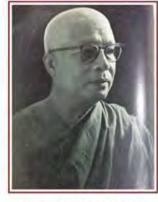
In 1964, he was officially ordained as a novice (sāmaņera) of the Theravāda tradition in the United Kingdom. His preceptor (upajjhāya) was a Sri Lankan master, Venerable Saddhātissa. He studied Buddhism in England for two years, then continued his study at Buddhist Centre in Canada for one year. Later, he went to Thailand to acquire more knowledge of Buddhist doctrine and some languages, Thai, Pāli, and Sanskrit, in order to study Buddhism directly from authentic scriptures. He also had a chance to practice meditation. He was staying in Thailand for a couple of years and was fully ordained as a bhikkhu there in 1967 with Venerable Buddhadāsa as his preceptor.

Ven. Saddhāloka Mahāthera



Novice Saddhāloka Sadi Thích Tín Quang In 1964





Venerable Saddhtissa

Venerable Buddhadāsa

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Năm 1964, Ngài chính thức thọ giới Sadi tại Anh Quốc theo hệ phải Theravāda. Thầy tế độ là Hòa thượng Saddhātissa, người Sri Lanka. Ngài đã theo học ở Anh Quốc hai năm, rồi đã chuyển sang trường Buddhist Centre ở Canada học một năm. Sau đó, Ngài đã đi đến xử Thái Lan đề trau giồi thêm về giáo lý, học thêm tiếng Thái, tiếng Pali, tiếng Sanskrit đề có khả năng nghiên cứu kinh điển từ các bản nguyên gốc. Ngài còn có cơ hội để rèn luyện về thiến tập. Ngài đã ở tại Thái Lan khoảng hai năm và Ngài đã thọ giới Tỳ Khưu tại đó vào năm 1967 với Hòa Thượng Buddhadāsa là thầy tế độ.

In 1969, he made up his decision to go to China to continue his studies, however he was not granted an entry visa at that time, so that he kept staying in Hong Kong. While being in Hong Kong, he taught Buddhism and treated patients with Chinese herbal medicines.

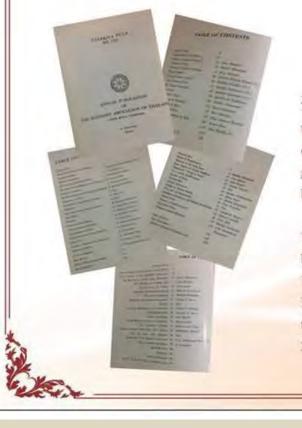
During 1970s, Venerable Saddhāloka translated Buddhist texts from Chinese language into English for a Buddhist magazine, Visakhapūjā. Some of his works are known as: The Question of Deva, The Discourse on the Foundation of Mindfulness (Chu Ching Nien), The Twelve Kings of Birth and Death: A Dialogue Between And Ha-Shan Shih-te (B.E. 2509 - 2516), v.v...

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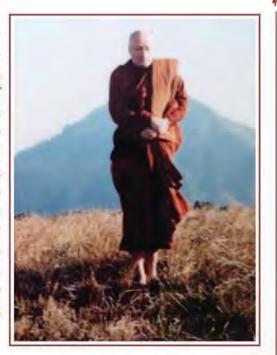
Đến năm 1969, Ngài có ý muốn sang Trung Quốc để tiếp tục theo đuổi việc học, nhưng vào thời điểm đó Ngài không được cấp thị thực nhập cảnh nên đã ở lại Hong Kong. Trong thời gian cư trú tại Hong Kong, Ngài vừa giảng dạy vừa đi chữa bệnh theo phương pháp Trung y.

Vào những năm 1970, Hòa Thượng đã tham gia dịch những bải kinh từ tiếng Trung sang tiếng Anh cho tập san Visakhapūjā với các tựa đề như sau: Đế Thích Sở Vấn, Kinh Niệm Xứ (Nien Chu Ching), Mười Hai Vua Sanh Từ – Đối thoại của Thiền Sư Ha-Shan And Shih-te (B.E. 2509 cho tới 2516), v.v...

From 1982 to 1997, Venerable Saddhāloka, having compassion for the Vietnamese boatpeople being desperate and hopeless in closed camps and detention centers, did not mind long roads going back and forth to the centers with heavy loads of foods, beverages, medicines, books, etc. Everyday he got up in the early morning at three o' clock to prepare then bring the goods to the people in needs. With bare-feet and shaved-head, on sunny or raining days, he patiently kept his routine, visiting the suffering people. In hot afternoons in summer seasons, his brown robes got wet with sweats, but his gentle smiles were always blown on his lips. For 16 years long, he was not only taking his great care of material needs for the detained refugees but also concerning about their spiritual practice, helping them learning the Buddha's teachings and preserving Vietnamese culture. Therefore, Vietnamese boatpeople in Hong Kong affectionately call him as "Thay Tay Duc."

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Từ 1982 cho dến 1997, vì thương xót những thuyền nhân Việt Nam đang sống trong các trại tỵ nạn với hoàn cảnh khốn khó đủ bề, Hòa thượng Saddhāloka đã không quản đường xá xa xôi, ngày nào cũng dậy từ ba giờ sáng để chuẩn bị đồ ăn, thức uống, thuốc men, sách vở, v.v... mang vào các trại tỵ nạn phân phát.

Đầu trần chân dất, trời nắng cũng như mưa, Hòa Thượng vẫn mang vác đều đặn mỗi ngày. Vào những buổi trưa hè nóng nực, mồ hôi ướt đẫm tấm y nâu sống, nhưng miệng Hòa thượng vẫn luôn nở nụ cười. Cứ vậy suốt 16 năm trời, Ngài không chỉ lo lắng đến thức ăn nước uống mà còn quan tâm đến món ăn tinh thần và còn giúp cho những người tỵ nạn thầu hiểu về giáo lý Phật Đà và trau dồi văn hoá Việt. Vi thế, các thuyển nhân ở các trại cấm Hong Kong đã trìu mến gọi Ngài là "Thầy Tây Đức."

After 1997, the detention centers for boat people were closed down. He rented a small place in Yuen Long, Hong Kong to gather the Vietnamese people. He continued to offer his help to the Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong settling down in the new land. Due to the language barrier, his words sometimes could not be fully understood by the Vietnamese devotees, but such obstacle had no means in making him discouraged. He still kept his enormous efforts in giving instructions in meditation sessions or in Dhammapada courses. His great personality was not such that, all his daily activities from eating not too full, sleeping not too warm on a cardboard on the floor all seasons long, taking his outer-robe for a blanket, ... to other small things in his everyday life, he cultivated many meaningful lessons to our mind, so that we realize the value of things around from waste papers to tiny plastic pieces.

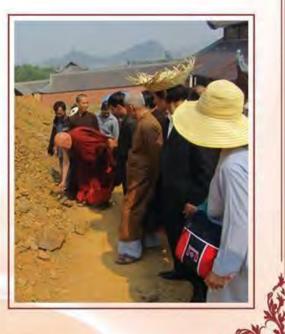
Ven. Saddhāloka Mahāthera

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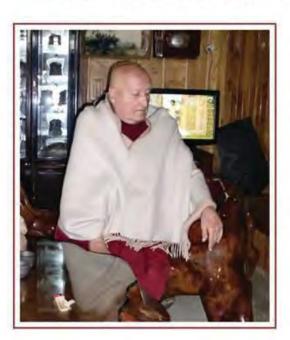
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Sau năm 1997, trại tỵ nạn đóng cửa. Hòa Thượng đã thuê một ngôi chùa nhỏ tại Yuen Long - Hong Kong để làm nơi tập hợp những người con Việt. Một lần nữa, Hòa thượng lại tiếp tục dìu dất những người tỵ nạn Việt Nam ôn định cuộc sống ở xứ người. Tuy ngôn ngữ bất đồng nên sự chỉ dạy có nhiều việc không được thông suốt, nhưng không vì thể mà Hòa thượng năn lòng. Vào những buổi học Thiền hoặc những ngày học Kinh Pháp Cú, Hòa Thượng vẫn miệt mài chỉ dẫn, tận tâm tận lực trong công việc giảng dạy. Không dừng lại ở đó, mọi hành động cử chi sinh hoạt của Hòa thượng, từ cách ăn không quá no, ngủ không quá âm, bốn mùa chỉ một tâm bìa trải đất, lấy tâm y làm mền,... cho đến những việc nhỏ nhật trong cuộc sống hàng ngày, Hòa thượng đã gieo vào ý thức của chúng con những hạt giống tốt, nhờ đó chúng con hiệu được giá trị của vạn vật xung quanh, từ mấu giấy bó đi cho đến những miếng nhựa nhỏ.



In recent years, the Venerable Saddhāloka was getting older; his physical body became thinner and weaker. He had to cope with acute bodily pains caused by illness that sometimes made him pale, sweated; but he kept being patient with the pain and refused to take drugs. Although we were taught by him that "all things are impermanent," and we knew that his endurance was extraordinary, we still were not able to hold our emotions. He was using his own body as a mean to teach us a lesson of patience and tolerance. Having gotten his holly message, but we were not able to do anything to relieve his pains; our hearts were fallen apart and our mouths burst out crying.

Ven. Saddhāloka Mahāthera



Những năm gần dây Hòa thượng tuổi đã cao, tấm thân tử đại đã yếu gầy lại phải một mình chống chọi với các cơn đau của bệnh tật nhiều khi dã làm cho Ngài phải tím tái, vã mồ hôi... Chúng con nhòa lệ, nước mất rưng rưng, nhưng Ngài vẫn kiên trì chịu dựng, không chịu dùng thuốc giảm dau. Vẫn biết vạn vật là vô thường, và thấu hiểu sức chịu dựng phi thường của Hòa thượng, nhưng chúng con vẫn không kim ném được sự xúc động. Ngài đã dùng chính xác thân của mình để làm phương tiện hóa độ chúng con bài học về sức chịu dựng và sự kham nhẫn. Hiểu được ý Hòa thượng, tim chúng con bị tràn ngập bởi lắm nỗi đau thương và miệng chúng con đã không kim hãm được bao tiếng khóc nức nở.

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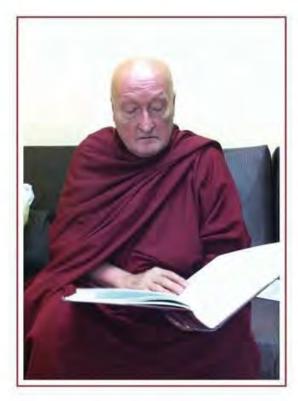


As a commissioner of Buddhism, he had learned and followed the practice of mettā (loving-kindness) and karuņā (compassion) taught by the Buddha. By his great vow to spread the Buddha's teachings and to help all other beings, Venerable Saddhāloka truly are the respectful master, the spiritual father of the Vietnamese refugees not only in Hong Kong but around the whole world as well.

This pictorial booklet is published generated from our deep gratitude to our beloved Master, Venerable Saddhāloka, in order to pass on his noble virtues to the next generations and to encourage them to follow the legacy that our Master intentionally left for his pupils.

Your Disciple, Phạm Thu Hương (Buddhist Name: Upāsika Kusalaguņa)

Ven. Saddhāloka Mahāthera



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Your Disciple, Phạm Thu Hương Buddhist Name: Upāsika Kusalaguņa

Là một sử giả của Như Lai, Hòa thượng đã học và hành theo hạnh từ bi, thương yêu mọi loài của Đức Từ Phụ Bồn Sư Thích Ca Mâu Ni. Với tinh thần và tâm nguyện hoằng khai Phật đạo, phổ độ chúng sinh, Hòa thượng thật sự là người thầy tôn kính, người cha tinh thần của những người tỵ nạn Việt Nam tại Hong Kong nói riêng và của chúng sinh nói chung.

Tập sách này đây được thực hiện xuất phát từ tấm lòng tri ân và báo ân của chúng con, ngõ hầu truyền lại cho hàng hậu tấn biết đến những đức hạnh cao quý của Ngài Hòa thượng Saddhāloka, cũng như khuyến khích việc nỗ lực ra sức học tập noi theo những công hạnh sáng ngời mà Ngài đã lưu lại.

Con: Phạm Thu Hương Pháp danh: Thiện Đức

IN GRATITUDE FOR THE LIFE OF REVEREND SADDHALOKA BHIKKHU

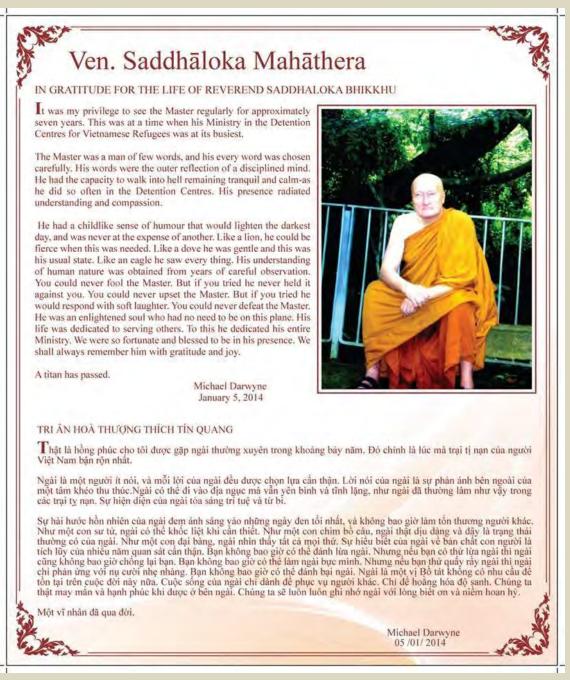
It was my privilege to see the Master regularly for approximately seven years. This was at a time when his Ministry in the Detention Centres for Vietnamese Refugees was at its busiest.

The Master was a man of few words, and his every word was chosen carefully. His words were the outer reflection of a disciplined mind. He had the capacity to walk into hell remaining tranquil and calm-as he did so often in the Detention Centres. His presence radiated understanding and compassion.

He had a childlike sense of humour that would lighten the darkest day, and was never at the expense of another. Like a lion, he could be fierce when this was needed. Like a dove he was gentle and this was his usual state. Like an eagle he saw every thing. His understanding of human nature was obtained from years of careful observation. You could never fool the Master. But if you tried he never held it against you. You could never upset the Master. But if you tried he would respond with soft laughter. You could never defeat the Master. He was an enlightened soul who had no need to be on this plane. His life was dedicated to serving others. To this he dedicated his entire Ministry. We were so fortunate and blessed to be in his presence. We shall always remember him with gratitude and joy. A titan has passed.

Michael Darwyne

, January 5, 2014

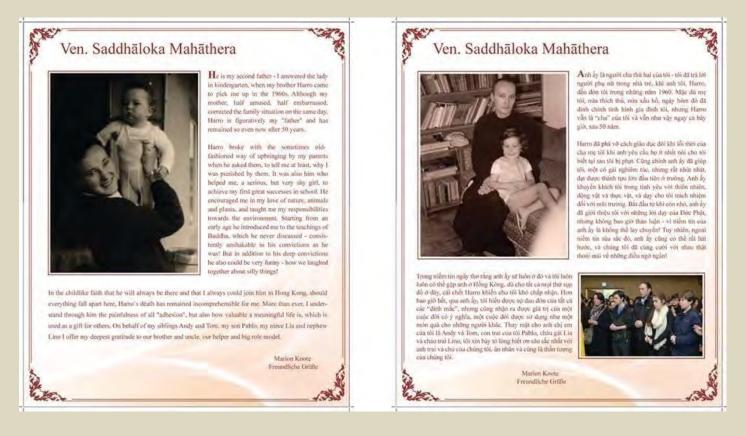


He is my second father - I answered the lady in kindergarten, when my brother Harro came to pick me up in the 1960s. Although my mother, half amused, half embarrassed, corrected the family situation on the same day, Harro is figuratively my "father" and has remained so even now after 50 years.

Harro broke with the sometimes old-fashioned way of upbringing by my parents when he asked them, to tell me at least, why I was punished by them. It was also him who helped me, a serious, but very shy girl, to achieve my first great successes in school. He encouraged me in my love of nature, animals and plants, and taught me my responsibilities towards the environment. Starting from an early age he introduced me to the teachings of Buddha, which he never discussed - consistently unshakable in his convictions as he was! But in addition to his deep convictions he also could be very funny - how we laughed together about silly things!

In the childlike faith that he will always be there and that I always could join him in Hong Kong, should everything fall apart here, Harro's death has remained incomprehensible for me. More than ever, I understand through him the painfulness of all "adhesion", but also how valuable a meaningful life is, which is used as a gift for others. On behalf of my siblings Andy and Tom, my son Pablo, my niece Lia and nephew Lino I offer my deepest gratitude to our brother and uncle, our helper and big role model.

Marion Knote Freundliche Grüße



Dear Venerable Bhikkhu Saddhaloka

You may not remember that we first met in about 1975, but the striking image of a tall European in robes striding off in to the hills somewhere in the middle of Lantau island stayed with me, and I recognized you immediately on the Star Ferry about 20 years later.

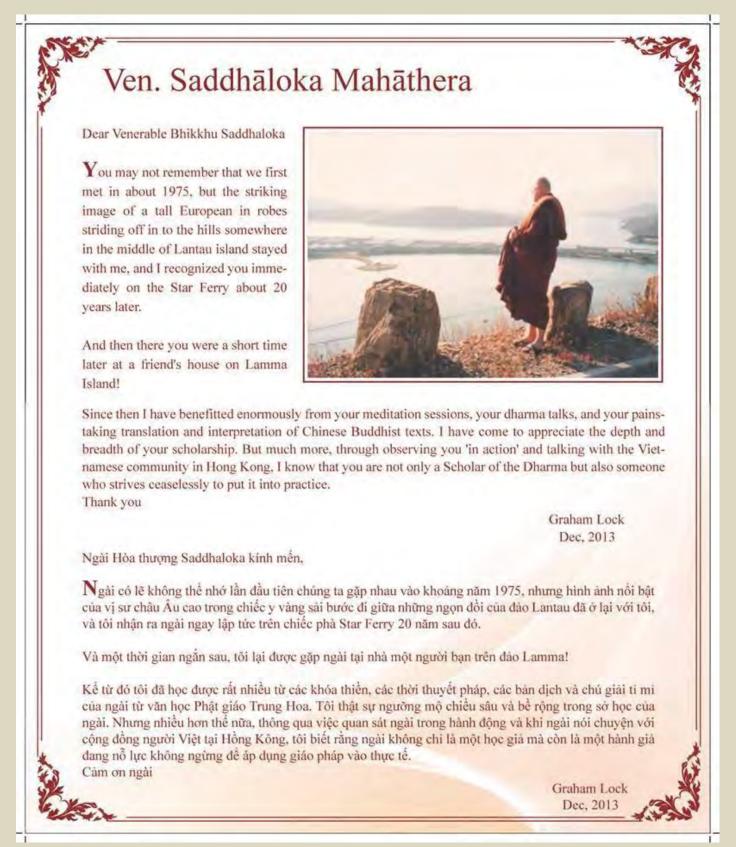
And then there you were a short time later at a friend's house on Lamma Island!

Since then I have benefitted enormously from your meditation sessions, your dharma talks, and your painstaking

translation and interpretation of Chinese Buddhist texts. I have come to appreciate the depth and breadth of your scholarship. But much more, through observing you 'in action' and talking with the Vietnamese community in Hong Kong, I know that you are not only a Scholar of the Dharma but also someone who strives ceaselessly to put it into practice.

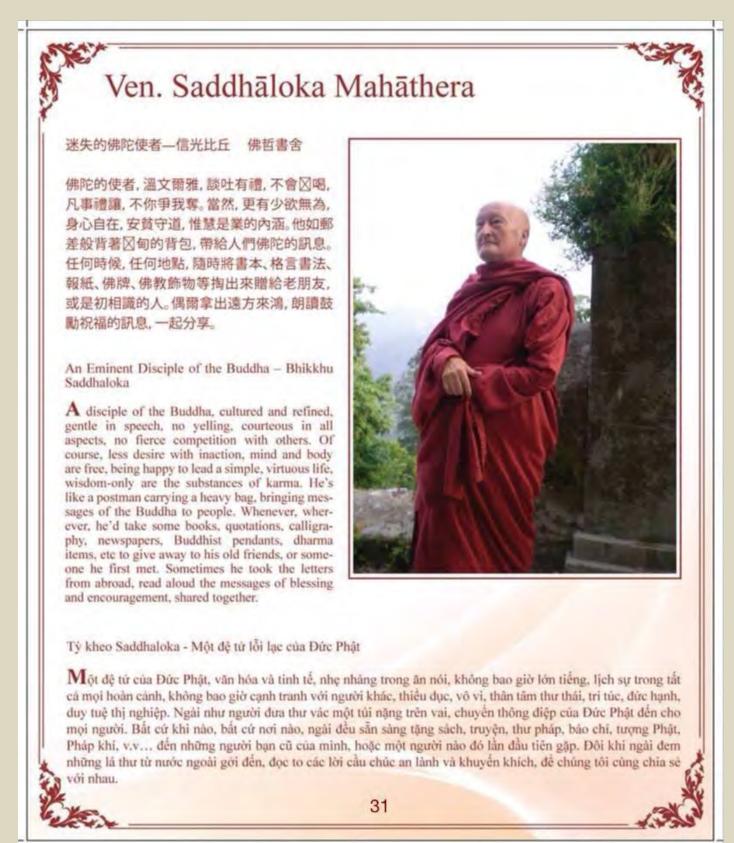
Thank you

Graham Lock Hong Kong Dec 2013



An Eminent Disciple of the Buddha – Bhikkhu Saddhāloka

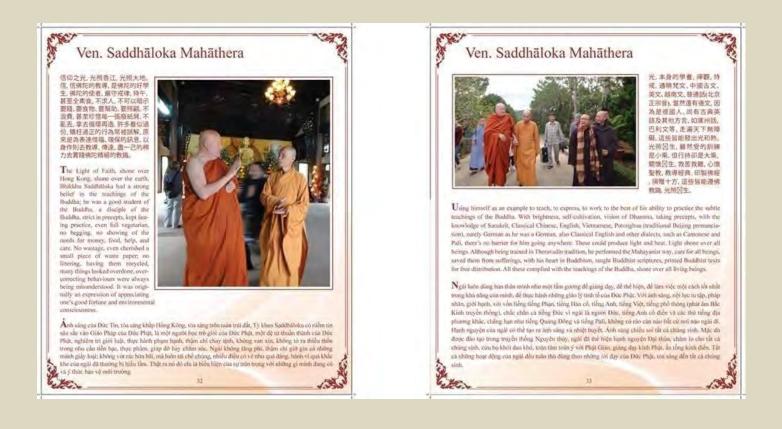
A disciple of the Buddha, cultured and refined, gentle in speech, no yelling, courteous in all aspects, no fierce competition with others. Of course, less desire with inaction, mind and body are free, being happy to lead a simple, virtuous life, wisdom-only are the substances of karma. He's like a postman carrying a heavy bag, bringing messages of the Buddha to people. Whenever, wherever, he'd take some books, quotations, calligraphy, newspapers, Buddhist pendants, dharma items, etc. to give away to his old friends, or someone he first met. Sometimes he took the letters from abroad, read aloud the messages of blessing and encouragement, shared together.



The Light of Faith, shone over Hong Kong, shone over the earth, Bhikkhu Saddhāloka had a strong belief in the teachings of the Buddha; he was a good student of the Buddha, a disciple of the Buddha, strict in precepts, kept fasting practice, even full vegetarian, no begging, no showing of the needs for money, food, help, and care. No wastage, even cherished a small piece of waste paper; no littering, having them recycled, many things looked overdone, overcorrecting behaviours were always being misunderstood. It was originally an expression of appreciating one's good fortune and environmental consciousness.

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Using himself as an example to teach, to express, to work to the best of his ability to practice the subtle teachings of the Buddha. With brightness, self-cultivation, vision of Dhamma, taking precepts, with the knowledge of Sanskrit, Classical Chinese, English, Vietnamese, Putonghua (traditional Beijing pronunciation), surely German as he was a German, also Classical English and other dialects, such as Cantonese and Pali, there's no barrier for him going anywhere. These could produce light and heat. Light shone over all beings. Although being trained in Theravadin tradition, he performed the Mahayanist way, care for all beings, saved them from sufferings, with his heart in Buddhism, taught Buddhist scriptures, printed Buddhist texts for free distribution. All these complied with the teachings of the Buddha, shone over all living beings.

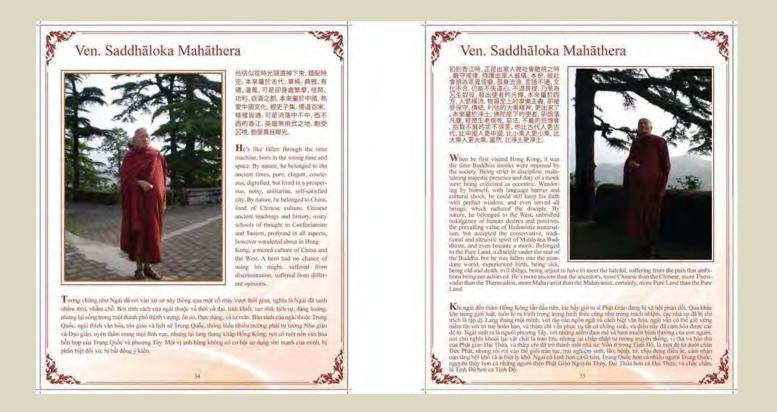


He's like fallen through the time machine, born in the wrong time and space. By nature, he belonged to the ancient times, pure, elegant, courteous, dignified, but lived in a prosperous, noisy, utilitarian, self-satisfied city. By nature, he belonged to China, fond of Chinese culture, Chinese ancient teachings and history, many schools of thought in Confucianism and Taoism, profound in all aspects, however wandered about in Hong

Kong, a mixed culture of China and the West. A hero had no chance of using his might, suffered from discrimination, suffered from different opinions.

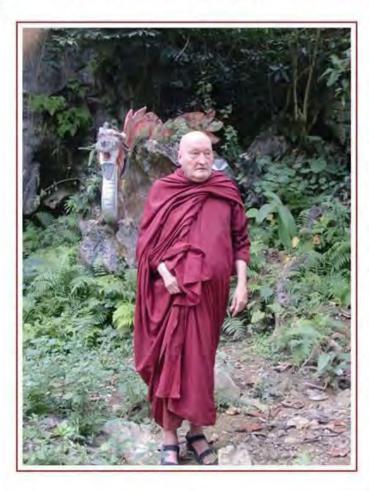
35

When he first visited Hong Kong, it was the time Buddhist monks were opposed by the society. Being strict in discipline, maintaining majestic presence and duty of a monk were being criticized as eccentric. Wandering by himself, with language barrier and cultural shock, he could still keep his faith with perfect wisdom, and even served all beings, which radiated the disciple. By nature, he belonged to the West, unbridled indulgence of human desires and passions, the prevailing value of Hedonistic materialism, but accepted the conservative, traditional and altruistic spirit of Mahāyāna Buddhism, and even became a monk. Belonged to the Pure Land, a disciple under the seat of the Buddha, but he was fallen into the mundane world, experienced birth, being sick, being old and death, evil things, being unjust to have to meet the hateful, suffering from the pain that ambitions being not achieved. He's more ancient than the ancestors, more Chinese than the Chinese, more Theravadin than the Theravadins, more Mahayanist than the Mahayanist; certainly, more Pure Land than the Pure Land.



A typical Western bhikkhu with "red beard, green eyes" running his errands out there, naturally drew sidelong glances, full of curiosity. Sometimes people sitting next to him whispered and criticized in Cantonese, they didn't expect him to understand and respond in Cantonese, which scared the critics. In all those criticisms, "Gweilo" was the title he most dissatisfied, always rectified he's not "Gwei" (Ghost), should call him a Westerner or foreigner. However, those critics had never corrected themselves after persuasion. In his old age, he mocked himself as "Gweilo".

Ven. Saddhāloka Mahāthera



一位地道的西方人比丘,「紅鬚綠眼」,在 外奔波,自然令人側目,好奇。偶有在旁以 廣府話竊竊批評,沒料到他竟通曉,以當 地語言回應,嚇⊠批評者。⊠批評中,「鬼 図」的稱號他最不滿意,常糾正他不是「鬼」,應稱作西方人,或是外國人,但批評者 屢勸不改,晚年時,他亦以「鬼⊠」自嘲。

A typical Western bhikkhu with "red beard, green eyes" running his errands out there, naturally drew sidelong glances, full of curiosity. Sometimes people sitting next to him whispered and criticized in Cantonese, they didn't expect him to understand and respond in Cantonese, which scared the critics. In all those criticisms, "Gweilo" was the title he most dissatisfied, always rectified he's not "Gwei" (Ghost), should call him a Westerner or foreigner. However, those critics had never corrected themselves after persuasion. In his old age, he mocked himself as "Gweilo".

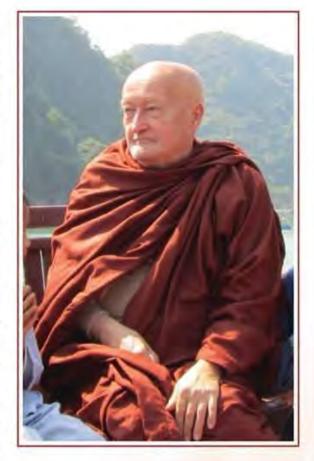
Một Tỳ-kheo phương Tây điển hình với "râu đó, mắt xanh," bươn chải khắp nơi lo công việc, tự nhiên đã thu hút những cái liếc nhìn đầy tò mò. Đôi khi những người ngồi gần ngài thì thẩm và chi trích bằng tiếng Quảng Đông, họ không ngờ ngài hiểu và trả lời bằng tiếng Quảng Đông, và điểu này khiến những người phê bình sợ hãi. Trong tất cả những lời chi trích, "gweilo" là cái danh hiệu mà ngài không hài lòng nhất, và luôn luôn dính chính rằng ngài không phải là quỳ, mà chi nên gọi ngài là một người phương Tây hoặc người nước ngoài. Tuy nhiên, những người phê bình đó đã không bao giờ sửa chữa ngay cả sau khi đã được thuyết phục. Khi về già, ngài tự chế giễu mình là "gweilo." (quấy lầu)

Once asked why a Westerner decided to become a monk at such a young age, we were expecting a legendary and complicated answer, but then his answer was only: Dharma is so sacred, of course has to be a faithful disciple of the Buddha, and so ordained. It's simple but important. Asked why he stayed in Hong Kong, originally he loved the Chinese culture and planned to study in Beijing. However his Visa wasn't approved after a long time, he had to stay in Hong Kong temporarily, but this stay was the rest of his life. Asked him whether he liked Hong Kong, he always shook his head, although he didn't say he disliked, definitely didn't like, maybe it's his deep predestination with Hong Kong.

Ven. Saddhāloka Mahāthera

曾詢問何以一個西方人,那麼年輕便出家?本期 待一個傳奇曲折的答案,那知他的答案只是:佛 法那麼殊勝,當然要作一個忠誠的佛弟子,就這 樣出家了。既簡單亦重要。問他何以在香港居留? 原來他熱愛中國文化,本擬到北京修學,可是因 為簽證遲遲未批,只得暫留香港,但這一暫留卻 是他的下半生;問他可喜歡香港?他總搖搖頭, 雖沒說不喜歡,決計不會喜愛,也許是他與香港 的深厚因緣吧。

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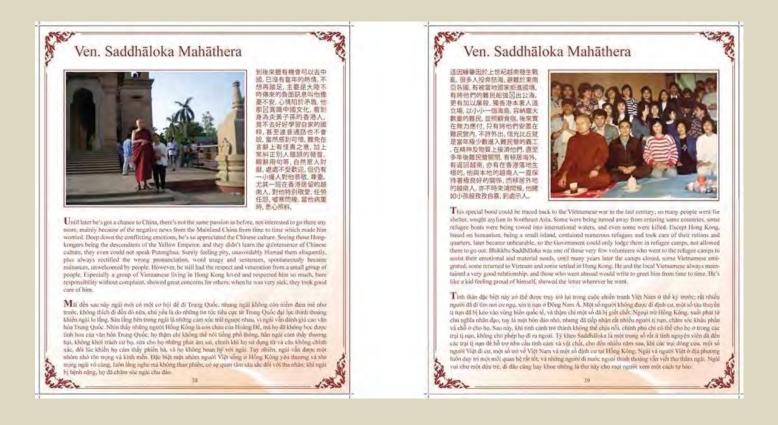


Khi được hỏi tại sao một người phương Tây quyết định trở thành một tu sĩ ở độ tuổi trẻ như vậy, chúng tôi mong đợi một câu trả lời huyển thoại và phức tạp, nhưng rồi câu trả lời đơn giản chỉ là: Giáo Pháp quả thiêng liêng, tất nhiên phải là một đệ từ thuần thành của Đức Phật, và vì vậy ngài xuất gia. Câu trả lời tuy đơn giản nhưng quan trọng. Được hỏi tại sao ngài dừng lại ở Hồng Kông, ban đầu ngài yêu văn hóa Trung Quốc và lên kế hoạch du học tại Bắc Kinh, tuy nhiên visa của ngài sau một thời gian dài vẫn không được chấp thuận, ngài phải tạm thời ở lại Hồng Kông, không ngờ thời gian tạm thời đó lại chính là cả phần đời còn lại của ngài. Hỏi ngài có thích Hồng Kông không, ngài luôn luôn lắc đầu, mặc dù ngài không nói ngài không thích, dương nhiên là không thích, có thể đó là duyên nợ sâu sắc của ngài với Hồng Kông.

Until later he's got a chance to China, there's not the same passion as before, not interested to go there any more, mainly because of the negative news from the Mainland China from time to time which made him worried. Deep down the conflicting emotions, he's so appreciated the Chinese culture. Seeing those Hongkongers being the descendants of the Yellow Emperor, and they didn't learn the quintessence of Chinese culture, they even could not speak Putonghua. Surely feeling pity, unavoidably blamed them eloquently, plus always rectified the wrong pronunciation, word usage and sentences, spontaneously became nuisances, unwelcomed by people. However, he still had the respect and veneration from a small group of people. Especially a group of Vietnamese living in Hong Kong loved and respected him so much, bore responsibility without complaint, showed great concerns for others; when he was very sick, they took good care of him.

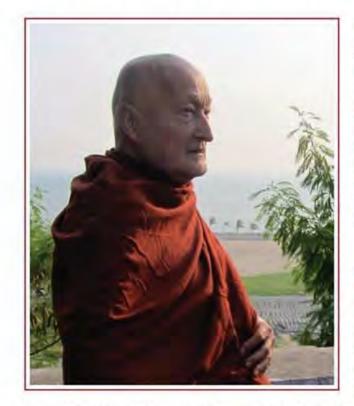
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This special bond could be traced back to the Vietnamese war in the last century; so many people went for shelter, sought asylum in Southeast Asia. Some were being turned away from entering some countries, some refugee boats were being towed into international waters, and even some were killed. Except Hong Kong, based on humanism, being a small island, contained numerous refugees and took care of their rations and quarters, later became unbearable, so the Government could only lodge them in refugee camps, not allowed them to go out. Bhikkhu Saddhāloka was one of those very few volunteers who went to the refugee camps to assist their emotional and material needs, until many years later the camps closed, some Vietnamese emigrated, some returned to Vietnam and some settled in Hong Kong. He and the local Vietnamese always maintained a very good relationship, and those who went abroad would write to greet him from time to time. He's like a kid feeling proud of himself, showed the letter wherever he went.



Although his frankness kept many people away, he gained respect from many eminent monks who praised his knowledge. This could be seen during his stay in many renowned monasteries and his deep connection with many eminent monks. Besides, to preserve the scriptures, to spread Buddhism, he used primitive methods to sort out, to print and circulate them, to give them away to the public, monasteries, and libraries and even earnestly requested the bookstores to sell the scriptures for him. He also did translations, teachings on Dharma and meditation. Underneath his stern and tough appearance was full of sympathy. Always lamented the moral degeneration of the world, the sins committed by all beings, frequent natural and human disasters, international conspiracy and disputes; for those under-privileged groups, he felt pity for them. If there's a chance, he would definitely lend them a helping hand.

Ven. Saddhāloka Mahāthera



雖然他的直率使很多人遠離,但亦有很 多高僧大德對他敬佩,讚仰他的學識, 這可見於他曾在各名寺道場掛單,與各 高僧大德深厚的因緣可知。此外,為了 保存經典,弘揚佛教,他以古老的手法, 整理經典,印行流通,送贈各界及各寺 院道場、藏經閣等,更拿到市面的書局 去,懇求代為銷售。此外,他更翻譯,授 課,指導禪修等。他外表嚴肅,硬朗,可 是充滿悲心,每慨嘆世道日下,⊠生造 罪,世間災難頻繁,國際間盡是陰謀爭 鬥,對於弱勢社羣,同情憐憫,有機會定 施以援手。

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Mặc dù sự thẳng thẳn của ngài khiến nhiều người tránh né, ngài được nhiều vị cao tăng tôn trọng và khen ngợi về kiến thức uyên bác. Điều này có thể thấy được khi ngài hay ở lại trong những tu viện nổi tiếng và có mối quan hệ thần thiết với nhiều vị cao tăng. Bên cạnh đó, để bảo tồn kinh điền, để truyền bá Phật giáo, ngài đã sử dụng phương pháp nguyên thủy để sắp xếp, để in và lưu hành chúng, để biểu tặng cho công chúng, tu viện, và các thư viện và thậm chí tha thiết yêu cầu các hiệu sách bán kinh giúp cho ngài. Ngài cũng đã phiên dịch, dạy giáo lý và dạy thiền. Bên dưới vẻ nghiêm khắc và lạnh lùng của ngài là cả sự cảm thông sâu sắc. Thường nghe người ta than thờ về sự thoái hóa đạo đức của thế giới, những tội lỗi của tất cả chúng sinh, thiên tai và tai nạn do con người, âm mưu và tranh chấp quốc tế; ngài cảm thấy thương hại cho họ, những người bị thua thiệt. Nếu có một cơ hội, ngài chắc chắn sẽ giúp họ một tay.

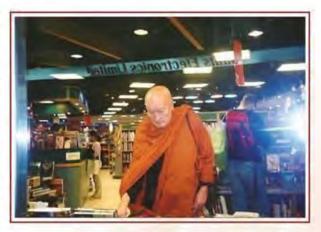
He's a very keen book lover, always carried books in his bag, enabled him to read whenever wherever and there's also a sense of intimacy. The collections at home were even more than that of a small library. Each time he must look for a big house to move that can accommodate his collections, but he had no savings, no regular income, so could only place his books in some defective industrial buildings. And he himself was busy tidying up to avoid books being affected by the rainstorms. Each relocation, he must call a lorry to move more than ten rounds. Once a removal company refused the hard work of moving so many stuffs, finally by increasing their wages, barely managed to finish the job.



Ven. Saddhāloka Mahāthera

他對書本跡近狂熱,常於背包放著書本, 方便隨時閱讀外,更有一份親切感,家中 藏書比一般小型圖書館還多;每次搬遷 必需找一所大屋,才能安置書本,可是沒 有積蓄,沒有定期收入,只能找一些年久 失修的工業大廈讓書本安居,自己卻忙 於整理書本,不讓打進來的風雨破壞。每 次搬家必需找貨車作十多次的穿梭,才 能搬完。曾有一次搬運公司嫌辛苦拒絕 搬運,最後增加工資才勉強把工作完成。

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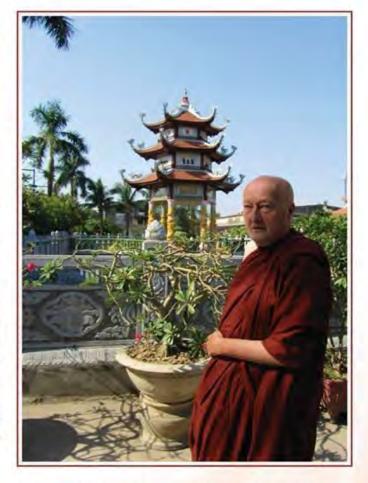
Ngài là một người rất yêu sách, trong túi ngài khi nào cũng có vài cuốn sách, để ngài có thể dọc bất cứ khi nào, bất cứ ở đâu. Các bộ sưu tập trong phòng ngài thậm chí còn nhiều hơn so với một thư viện nhỏ. Mỗi lần ngài phải tìm một ngôi nhà lớn để thể chứa các bộ sưu tập của mình, nhưng ngài không có tiền tiết kiệm, không có thu nhập thường xuyên, vì vậy chỉ có thể đặt sách của ngài trong một nhà kho cũ kỹ. Và bản thân ngài có khi phải bận rộn để tránh cho những cuốn sách khỏi bị ảnh hưởng bởi mưa bão. Mỗi lần di chuyển, ngài phải gọi một xe tái chở hơn mười chuyến. Có lần một công ty từ chối công việc khó khăn của việc di chuyển rất nhiều sách vớ, và hầu như không tài nào hoàn thành công việc, cuối cùng phải đòi tăng tiền công.

Without doubt, he had lots of unknown deeds, ordinary legends that were unfamiliar to others, but the lost disciple of the Buddha, by the irony of fate, died before the fulfillment of his ambitions. His determination was: to advocate Chinese culture, save sentient beings, spread Buddhism, preserve the scriptures; all these make us feel deep veneration for him. Seeing the disciple being lost, being discriminated, being fooled by the fortune, we felt sorry for him, wish him a quick return under the seat of the Buddha, with the aid and protection of the Buddha, in order to guide all beings.

Ven. Saddhāloka Mahāthera

當然,他還有很多「密行」,平凡的傳奇不 為人知,但迷失的佛陀使者,不免被命運 嘲弄,使永遠的壯志未酬。他的抱負:宣 揚中國文化,救苦⊠生,弘揚佛教,留存 經典,總教人肅然起敬。對迷失,被⊠視, 被命運折磨的佛陀使者,我們心有不忍, 但願快快回到佛陀座下,承佛威神,引導 ⊠生。

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Nài đã có nhiều hành động lạ lùng, những huyền thoại khác lạ với những người thường, nhưng vị đệ tử của Đức Phật, bởi sự tró trêu của số phận, đã tịch trước khi thực hiện được hoài bão của mình. Quyết tâm của ngài là: cổ xúy văn hóa Trung Quốc, cứu độ chúng sinh, hoằng dương Phật Pháp, bảo tồn kinh điển; tất cả những điều đó khiến chúng tôi cảm thấy tôn kinh sâu sắc đối với ngài. Nhìn thấy một vị đệ tử Phật bị mất mát, bị kỳ thị, bị vận may trêu đùa, chúng tôi cảm thấy tiếc cho ngài. Cầu chúc ngài nhanh chóng trở lại dưới chân Đức Phật, dưới sự hộ trì và bảo vệ của Đức Phật, để hướng dẫn tất cả chúng sinh.

> Rhyth Ko Jan. 7th, 2014

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Dear Bhante,

You said that You cannot do the work that I am doing now, and not many persons have the ability to do it. But the truth is that no one can do what you have done to boat-people in Hong Kong since 1982 although many have the ability to perform the job.

(A note written by Ven. Dr. Bhikkhu Indacanda, Pariyatti Visārada, Pali & Sanskrit Translator, Executive Editor of Bilingual Pali - Vietnam Tipitaka Project).

Ven. Saddhāloka Mahāthera



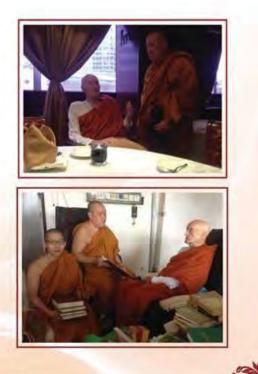
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Con người vĩ đại không phải là những người làm các công việc lớn lao bằng cái tâm nhỏ bé, mà là những người làm các công việc tưởng chừng nhỏ bé với cái tâm lớn lao. — Việc thăm nom chăm sóc các thuyển nhân bị lưu giữ ở các trại cấm tưởng chừng là công việc nhỏ nhoi, nhưng kiên nhẫn duy trì công việc nhỏ nhoi ấy gần hai thập kỳ chứng tỏ người hành trì hạnh nguyện ấy phải có một tâm từ ái vô cùng lớn lao. Ngài Saddhāloka được các Phật từ người Việt ở Hong Kong thương mến chính là vì họ cảm nhận được tấm lòng từ ái lớn lao ấy của Ngài. — Ngài Saddhāloka đúng là một con người vĩ đại.

Lời phát biểu của Tỷ Khưu Chánh Thân nhân dịp viếng thăm Hòa Thượng vào ngày 10/09/ 2013



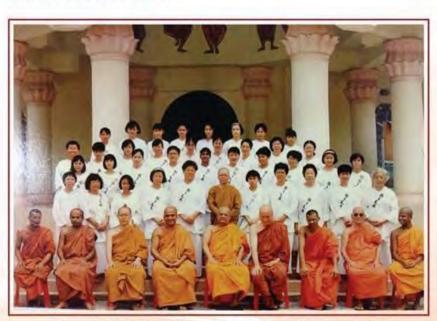
Ven. Saddhāloka Mahāthera



Hơn 50 vị sa-di tham gia Chương Trình Tu Gieo Duyên tại Tu viện Brickfields năm 1995.

The group of over 50 novices participating in the Annual Novitiate Programme at the Brickfields Temple, 1995.

Female disciples who observed 10 precepts and the monks during the novitiate programme, 1995.

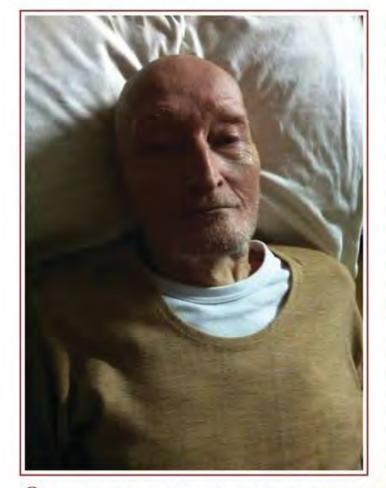


Các tu nữ thọ trì 10 giới và chư Tăng tham dự Chương Trình Tu Gieo Duyên năm 1995.

How can we forget of what we saw when we were taking care of you in those final days of your life! Lying in bed, you had to endure pains that seemed unbearable to human ablility. And just so, although the pains came out one after another and itches appeared on all parts of your body, they did not make you flinch; you calmly received them with gentle smile while nodding the head in order to encourage us. That is just because you always worried about the pains, the sufferings of sentient beings so much that you ignored your bodily pains.

You vowed to be a Bodhisattvā who received the pains, the sufferings of human beings as the pains, the sufferings of your own. Being close to you, we had chance to witness and learn those valuable lessons that deeply recorded in our mind; You truly were a Bodhisattvā who appeared to save sentient beings, to save us.

Ven. Saddhāloka Mahāthera



How can we forget of what we saw when we were taking care of you in those final days of your life! Lying in bed, you had to endure pains that seemed unbearable to human ablility. And just so, although the pains came out one after another and itches appeared on all parts of your body, they did not make you flinch; you calmly received them with gentle smile while nodding the head in order to encourage us. That is just because you always worried about the pains, the sufferings of sentient beings so much that you ignored your bodily pains.

You vowed to be a Bodhisattvā who received the pains, the sufferings of human beings as the pains, the sufferings of your own. Being close to you, we had chance to witness and learn those valuable lessons that deeply recorded in our mind; You truly were a Bodhisattvā who appeared to save sentient beings, to save us.

Quên sao được thời gian đã được hầu cận Thầy vào những ngày sau cùng ấy. Khi ở trên giường bệnh, Thầy dã phải trải qua những cơn đau tướng chừng như sức người không thể chịu nổi. Và cứ vậy, hết dợt đau này dến cơn đau khác, toàn thân mắn ngứa, nhưng không vì thế mà làm cho Thầy nao núng. Thầy vẫn an nhiên đón nhận, vẫn nụ cười hiền hoà, vẫn cái gật đầu thân thuộc để động viên chúng con. Cũng chỉ vì Thầy luôn quá lo cho cái đau, cái khổ của chúng sinh nên đã quên cái đau nơi thân xác.

Hạnh nguyện của Thầy như một vị Bồ Tát đã lấy cái đau, cái khổ của chúng sinh làm cái đau, cái khổ của chính Thầy. Gần Thầy nên chúng con đã được tận chứng những bài học quý giá đó đã ghi sâu đậm trong chúng con; Ngài quả thật là một vị Bồ Tát thị hiện để cứu giúp chúng sinh, cứu giúp chúng con.

Hong Kong 5 Dec 2013