

*“Let go of the past, let go of the future, let go of the present.  
With a heart that is free, cross over to that shore  
which is beyond all suffering.”*

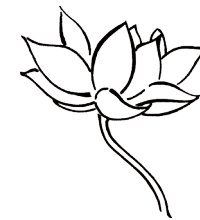
—Dhammapāda 348



The cover depicts a scene from the life of the enlightened bhikkhuni Bhadda Kundalakesi Theri, one of the Buddha’s foremost bhikkhuni disciples, who was “First in Speed to Gain Nibbāna.” This painting is a detail from the murals of Great Women Disciples in the Hall of the Reclining Buddha of Wat Pho, Bangkok.



# *Bhikkhuni Ordination*



Monday, October 17, 2011

Spirit Rock Meditation Center  
Woodacre, California

## 1 PM Ordination Ceremony

### Welcome

Jack Kornfield, Spirit Rock Meditation Center

### Ordination (See page 3)

### Dhamma Reflections

Ven. Bhikkhunī Tathālokā Therī

### Congratulatory Address (Audio recording)

Ven. Bhante Bodhi Mahāthera, Chuang Yen Monastery, NY

### Reflections

Ven. Bhikkhu Anālayo, Center for Buddhist Studies, Germany

### Blessing for the New Bhikkhunīs from the Dual Sangha

### Sangha Dāna

Offering of requisites for the ordaining sangha

### Anumodanā

### Presentation

Spirit Rock Meditation Center

### Words of Blessing

Ruth Denison, Dhamma Dena Desert Vipassana Center, CA

### Sharing the Vision

Jill Boone, President, Saranāloka Foundation, SF Bay Area

### Announcements

Mindy Zlotnick, Event Organizer

### Closing

Thanissara, Dharmagiri Buddhist Hermitage, South Africa

### "Reflections on Sharing Blessings" Chant (See page 7)

The newly ordained bhikkhunīs will remain to greet guests.

4 PM **Tea** (Available in the dining hall)

5 PM **All Depart**

## Reflections on Sharing Blessings

(Now let us chant the verses of sharing and aspiration.)

Through the goodness that arises from my practice,  
May my spiritual teachers and guides of great virtue,  
My mother, my father, and my relatives,  
The Sun and the Moon,

And all virtuous leaders of the world,  
May the highest devas and evil forces,  
Celestial beings, guardian spirits of the Earth, and the Lord of Death,  
May those who are friendly, indifferent, or hostile,  
May all beings receive the blessings of my life.  
May they soon attain the threefold bliss and realize the Deathless.  
Through the goodness that arises from my practice,  
And through this act of sharing,  
May all desires and attachments quickly cease  
And all harmful states of mind.  
Until I realize Nibbāna,  
In every kind of birth, may I have an upright mind,  
With mindfulness and wisdom, austerity and vigor.  
May the forces of delusion not take hold nor weaken my resolve.  
The Buddha is my excellent refuge,  
Unsurpassed is the protection of the Dhamma,  
The Solitary Buddha is my noble guide,  
The Sangha is my supreme support.  
Through the supreme power of all these,  
May darkness and delusion be dispelled.

## The Buddha's Advice to Gotamī

On one occasion the Blessed One was dwelling at Vesālī in the hall with the peaked roof in the Great Wood. Then Mahāpajāpati Gotamī approached the Blessed One, paid homage to him, stood to one side, and said to him: “Bhante, it would be good if the Blessed One would teach me the Dhamma in brief, so that, having heard the Dhamma from the Blessed One, I might dwell alone, withdrawn, heedful, ardent, and resolute.”

“Gotamī, those things of which you might know: ‘These things lead to passion, not to dispassion; to bondage, not to detachment; to building up, not to dismantling; to strong desires, not to fewness of desires; to noncontentment, not to contentment; to company, not to solitude; to laziness, not to the arousing of energy; to being difficult to support, not to being easy to support,’ you should definitely recognize: ‘This is not the Dhamma; this is not the discipline; this is not the teaching of the Teacher.’

“But, Gotamī, those things of which you might know: ‘These things lead to dispassion, not to passion; to detachment, not to bondage; to dismantling, not to building up; to fewness of desires, not to strong desires; to contentment, not to noncontentment; to solitude, not to company; to the arousing of energy, not to laziness; to being easy to support, not to being difficult to support,’ you should definitely recognize: ‘This is the Dhamma; this is the discipline; this is the teaching of the Teacher.’”

(Anguttara Nikāya 8.53, translation by Bhikkhu Bodhi)

## Explanation of the Ordination Ceremony

On this day, three women will request their *upasampada* (full ordination) by an act of the Dual Sangha, consisting of a quorum of Theravāda bhikkhunīs led by Ayyā Tathālokā Therī as the preceptor (*pavattinī* or *upajjhā*) and a quorum of Theravāda bhikkhus led by Bhante Pallewela Rāhula Mahāthera as *ovadakacāriya*. Several elder monastics of the Mahāyāna schools will also be present as special guests, offering their support and witness to the ordination.

The ceremony begins with each *samanerī* entering the *sīmā* (ordination boundary), asking for forgiveness and requesting dependence on her pavattinī, Ayyā Tathālokā Therī, who ensures that the candidate's five robes and bowl are complete.

Standing at the edge of the hall, the reciting bhikkhunīs (*kammavācārinīs*) prepare each candidate for her full ordination.

One by one, each candidate reenters the *sīmā* and requests full ordination from her pavattinī, who asks the Bhikkhunī Sangha to question each candidate to ensure that she is free from obstructions to ordination. In the midst of the Bhikkhunī Sangha, the reciting bhikkhunīs question her and, finding her free from obstructions, request the Bhikkhunī Sangha three times to confer ordination. Consent is given in silence, and the candidate becomes a “one-sided bhikkhunī.”

Once all three candidates have received ordination on the bhikkhunī side, they approach the Bhikkhu Sangha, together with the reciting bhikkhunīs, to receive confirmation of their *upasampada*. The reciting bhikkhus (*kammavācāriyas*) request the Bhikkhu Sangha three times to confirm the ordination. Then, with consent given in silence, it is announced that they have agreed. The ordination is now complete.

The pavattinī next explains the Three Requisites (alms food, robes, and medicine); the Eight Things Never to Be Done (actions that would defeat the purpose of the renunciant life); and the Threefold Training (ethics/*sīla*, concentration/*samādhi*, and wisdom/*paññā*).

## Bhikkhunī Candidates

From Āloka Vihāra, San Francisco, California:

Samaṇerī Ānandabodhī (Wales) will ordain as Ānandabodhī Bhikkhunī  
Samaṇerī Santacittā (Austria), will ordain as Santacittā Bhikkhunī

From Sati Sārāṇiya Hermitage, Ontario, Canada:

Samaṇerī Nimmalā (Canada) will ordain as Nimmalā Bhikkhunī

## Ordaining Bhikkhunī Sangha

Ven. Bhikkhunī Tathālokā Therī, Pavattinī (Upajjhā)  
Ven. Bhikkhunī Sudinnā Therī, Kammavācācarinī  
Ven. Bhikkhunī Sudhammā, Assisting Kammavācācarinī  
Ven. Bhikkhunī Guṇasārī, Supporting Kammācarinī  
Ven. Bhikkhunī Sobhanā, Supporting Kammācarinī  
Ven. Bhikkhunī Satimā, Supporting Kammācarinī

Witnessing Bhikkhunīs:

Ven. Bhikṣunī Thubten Chödrön Mahāsthavirī  
Ven. Bhikkhunī Metteyyā Therī  
Ven. Bhikṣunī Tenzin Kacho Sthavirī  
Ven. Bhikṣunī Losang Drimay Sthavirī  
Ven. Bhikkhunī Thich-nu Hue Tri Sthavirī  
Ven. Bhikkhunī Medhānandī  
Ven. Bhikṣunī Tharpa  
Ven. Bhikkhunī Ṭhanasanti  
Ven. Bhikkhunī Adhimuttā  
Ven. Bhikkhunī Suvijjanā  
Ven. Bhikkhunī Phalañānī

## Confirming Bhikkhu Sangha

Ven. Bhikkhu Pallewela Rāhula Mahāthera, Ovadakaṇḍariya  
Ven. Bhikkhu Tekewe Śanṭharakṣita Mahāthera, Kammavācācarīya  
Ven. Bhikkhu Kahanda Amarabuddhi Mahāthera, Kammavācācarīya

Witnessing Bhikkhus:

Ven. Bhikkhu Gousse Puññananda Mahāthera  
Ven. Bhikṣu Jian Hu Sthavira  
Ven. Bhikkhu Brahmāli Thera  
Ven. Bhikkhu Wimalaratana Thera  
Ven. Bhikkhu Khemaratana  
Ven. Bhikkhu Jaganātha  
Ven. Bhikkhu Anālayo  
Ven. Bhikkhu Cintita

## Robe Sponsors

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## In Gratitude

Today's auspicious occasion is the fruit of the conjoined efforts of many:  
Our hosts, the staff and teachers of Spirit Rock Meditation Center;  
The Sangha of Aranya Bodhi Hermitage and the Bodhi House,  
supported by Dhammadharini;  
The community of Āloka Vihāra, supported by Saranāloka Foundation;  
The community of Sati Sārāṇiya Hermitage; and  
The members of the Fourfold Sangha, who have come from near and far.