ON THE PASSING OF
VEN. DR. THICH THIEN-AN
1926-1980

Our life is a simple gleam which comes and is gone,
As springtime offers blossoms to fade in the fall.
Earthly flourish and decline, O Friends, do not fear at all.
They are but a drop of dew on the grass of morn!

Ven. Dr. Thich Thien-An loved this simple verse of the 13th century Vietnamese Zen Master Van-Hanh, and, in his teaching, he always pointed to the profound beauty of its meaning.

By his very life, Ven. Thien-An taught that value is in the quality of a life, not in its length, that death is as natural as life, that each moment should be lived to its fullest.

We knew these things; we had learned to follow the finger as it pointed. We understood that we must find our own true nature within, that while our teacher gently pushed and prodded, sometimes against our obstinate deluded wills, that we had to realize the Truth. But we were so used to our teacher’s presence, to his shining example of wisdom, compassion and serenity in the face of adversities and crises, that we refused to realize that he too was vulnerable to the body’s ills. And now that he is gone, we stand, as did the beloved disciple Ananda at the Buddha’s death, weeping for the loss of his teacher and fearful that, with his passing, enlightenment could not be found.

The Blessed One, after inquiring why Ananda wept, replied, “What I have taught you is but a handful of leaves. The entire forest is out there.” And he admonished the disciples to work out their own salvation with diligence.

Ven. Dr. Thich Thien-An did not wish to leave this life. He fought hard against the ravages of disease; he remained active and serene up to his death. He died as he lived, nobly and without fear or hesitation. As he walked serenely about the Center and University compound, few knew the terrible fight that was being waged. When the end came, it was swift and with little suffering. When it became obvious that he could not win his battle, his body finally surrendered all at once with great dignity.

The hospital was very kind and gave him a private room in the intensive care unit, where, in the last few hours, disciples and devotees could pay their final respects. At his death, fifty devotees surrounded him, chanting, “Namo A-Di-Da Phat,” the great mantra to Amitabha Buddha. He was then clothed in his robes, as befitted a Buddhist monk, and we quietly paid our respects.

Our only way to repay our beloved teacher is to continue his work, to ensure that his dream never dies. Now we must prove that he taught us well and work hard to develop a strong American Buddhism, using his example as our guide.

The work of the organization is continuing under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Leo M. Pruden, President, University of Oriental Studies, Ven. Dr. Thich Man-Giac, Supreme Abbot, Vietnamese Buddhist Temple and Rev. Dr. Karuna Dharma, Abbess, International Buddhist Meditation Center. They, along with the staff of these organizations and the close disciples and devotees of Ven. Thien-An, have vowed to carry on his work of Buddhadhara, to become worthy successors to him and to never let die his dream of a strong, ecumenical Buddhist practice and education. The work which lies ahead of us is difficult, but, with your assistance, kindness and laboring with us, his dream will be realized.

The Venerable Thich Thien-An Memorial Fund has been established to help develop Enlightenment Mountain Retreat, the new desert property that Dr. Thien-An loved and where he requested that his body eventually be buried. All contributions to this memorial fund or to the University of Oriental Studies will be deeply appreciated.

In the moments of our human frailties, fear and despair, let another favorite verse of our teacher give us solace and strength.

Swallows fly in the sky;
Water reflects their shadows.
The swallows leave no traces;
The water keeps no shadows.

Huong-Hai

May all of us realize the profound nonattachment and dedication to Bodhisattva duties that Ven. Dr. Thich Thien-An so clearly exemplified.

The Reverend Karuna Dharma, Abbess

| HATHA YOGA |
| Ven. Dr. Thich Thien-Thanh |
| Mondays 6-8 pm |

Hatha yoga deals with physical exercise. It strengthens and clarifies muscles and nerves of the body.

Ven. Dr. Thich Thien-Thanh is Assistant Abbot of the Vietnamese Buddhist Temple

| MONDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION GROUP |
| Ven. Shinzen Young |
| Mondays 8-9:30 pm |

The Monday Night Discussion Group covers topics involved with meditation techniques and theories.

Ven. Shinzen Young is Associate Abbot, IBMC.

T'ai Chi Ch'uan
Br. Mitram Dharma [Dr. Ware]  
Tuesdays 6-8 pm

We learn to remain flexible in doing T'ai Chi, flexible in our ability to change thought, thrust of energy and direction.

Zen Philosophy  
Zen Practice  
Rev. Anila Dharma  
Tuesdays 8-10 pm

Zen Philosophy, Zen Practice presents the two dynamic aspects of Zen: its philosophy and its way of life -- to help the student towards a more comprehensive understanding and practice.

INSIGHT MEDITATION  
The Path of Awareness  
Rev. Akasa Maitrey 
Wednesdays 6-7 pm Beginners Instruction  
8-10 pm The Path of Awareness

To “experience,” we must be present. We must be here and now.

GESTALT & BUDDHIST THERAPY  
Dr. Edward Wortz  
Thursdays 8-10 pm

Exploration of daily problems utilizing both Gestalt and Buddhist techniques to eliminate stress.

KUNG FU  
Br. Soma Dharma  
Fridays 6-8 pm

The movements of Lyou Ho Ba Fa resemble the undulation of waves with the limbs stretching, contracting, rising up and sinking down in postures of solid and abstract forms alternately employed.

Br. Soma Dharma is a certified T'ai Chi Ch'uan instructor.

PLEASE NOTE NEW MEDITATION TIMES: Mon.-Fri. 5:30-7:30 am, 12 noon-1 pm & 7-8 pm. Saturday 5:30-7:30

STOP AND SEE  

Ven. Shinzen Young  
Friday, Jan. 23, 7:30 pm to Sunday, Jan. 25, noon

An opportunity to develop two powerful and useful skills. The first is SAMATHA, a deep relaxing of body, breath and mind. The second is VIPASSANA, heightening sensitivity, clarity and the richness of moment to moment awareness. Kindly wear loose clothing, bring blankets or sleeping bag. $35 donation includes vegetarian meals. RESERVATIONS PLEASE.
THE MONTHLY GUIDE CALENDAR JANUARY 1981

DAILY MEDITATION PRACTICE: Monday-Friday 5:30-7:30 am, 12 noon-1 pm & 7-8 pm. Saturday: 5:30-7:30 am. You may enter at the breaks, which come at 25 minute intervals. Please note change of times.

SUNDAY DHARMA TALKS & MEDITATION
4 Jan Zen Practice in Daily Life
11 am Rev. Thich An-Giao
Abbot, Monju-Ji Monastery
4 Jan 49th Day Memorial Service
11 am for Ven. Dr. Thich Thien-An
Rev. Dr. Karuna Dharma
Abbot, IBMC
18 Jan The Buddha Self and Taolam
11 am Br. Mitram Dharma
Chairman, Psychology Dept., UOS
25 Jan Stop and See
11 am Ven. Shizun Young
Associate Abbot, IBMC
EVENING DROP-IN CLASSES
NOTE: Evening Meditation 7-8 pm

Mondays
6:00-8:00 Hatha Yoga
Ven. Dr. Thich Thien-Thanh
8:00-9:30 Monday Night Discussion Group
Ven. Shizun Young
8:00-10:00 Buddhist Study Group
Rev. Akasa Maitreya

Tuesdays
6:00-8:00 'T'ai Chi Ch'uan $5 donation
Br. Mitram Dharma (Dr. Ware)
8:00-10:00 Zen Philosophy, Zen Practice
Rev. Anila Dharma

Wednesdays
6:00-7:00 Beginner's Insight Meditation
Rev. Akasa Maitreya
8:00-10:00 Meditation: The Path of Awareness
Rev. Akasa Maitreya

Thursdays
6:00-8:00 Karate $5 donation
Jerry Kiser
8:00-10:00 Gestalt, Awareness & Zen
Dr. Edward Wertz

Fridays
6:00-8:00 Kung Fu $4 donation
Br. Soma Dharma

WORKSHOPS & RETREATS 384-0850
17 Jan One Day Refresher
8 am-6 pm Vipassana Insight Meditation
Rev. Akasa Maitreya
$15 donation. Reservations please.
23-25 Jan Stop and See
Fri Vipassana Insight Meditation
7:30 pm-35 donation.
Sun noon Reservations please.
31 Jan Rebirth & Death: Understanding
6 pm Transition
Rev. Akasa Maitreya
$20 donation.
Preregistration necessary.

NOTES: Please offer a $3 contribution per drop-in class or single event unless otherwise specified.
Our teachers and speakers are available for groups/schools. Please inquire.
Rooms available for quiet, calm & contemplative single individuals.

We Respectfully Announce a One-Day Workshop on January 31st

REBIRTH & DEATH: UNDERSTANDING TRANSITION
Guided Meditations, Talks & Discussions with Rev. Akasa Maitreya
8:30 am to 6:00 pm January 31, Saturday Donation $20

The only thing certain about life is the inevitability of death. But ours is a death-denying society -- Death: fearful, frightening, agonizing -- Rebirth: too esoteric or just plain ridiculous. Taboo. But other cultures and religions have more successfully integrated the reality of death and the possibility of rebirth into their understanding of constructive living than we seem to have done. The death/rebirth transition can be useful and wholesome transformed into a highly creative force. The highest spiritual values of life can originate from the contemplation and study of "Death" and "Rebirth" -- so go beyond these beyond words intellectually and become involved in the feelings these words evoke for you. A challenge to face death squarely and skillfully with newly discovered understanding.

Early Registration is Advised - Phone or send form below - Bring bag lunch & Blanket

- ONE-DAY "REFRESHER" Mini-Retreat: January 17, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm for all Vipassana students who’ve formerly done weekend retreats or weekly “Path of Awareness” classes. Bring bag lunch & blanket, Donation $15

- VIPASSANA INSIGHT MEDITATION RETREAT - Early Notice: Holiday Weekend February 13 thru 16, please plan ahead now.

International Buddhist Meditation Center
928 South New Hampshire Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90006
Telephone (213) 384-0850

Dated Material January 1981
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

SUPPORT ENLIGHTENMENT MOUNTAIN
To benefit the spiritual growth of myself and others, I wish to pledge the following for the maintenance and development of IBMC’s Enlightenment Mountain Retreat:

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Pre-Registration Form • Please Print

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