

SANGHARAKSHITA IN SEMINAR

THE FIRST CONVENTION OF THE WESTERN BUDDHIST ORDER - 1974

CONTENTS

- 2 First session: 'The spiritual development of the Individual Order member'
- 3 Can one develop without meditating?
- 4 Confused 'Definitions' of "Meditation"
Signs for measuring growth - constant awareness
- 4 Success and growth in meditation
- 5-16 Work, labour and employment
- 6 Are there less alienating forms of work than others?
The scattered energy of young children
- 6-7 Earning more money than one needs
- 8-11 'Alternatives' to earning money
- 9-11 Vocations and jobs
- 13-14 Pooling of financial resources and communal living
- 14-15 Parasitism and symbiosis in relation to the society
- 16-17 Dealing with scattered energy
- 17-20 Too much self doubt of the wrong kind
- 19 Most organizations and groups are kept going by neurotic energy
- 19-23 Speaking out and not remaining silent or complaining afterwards
-
- 21 People often more afraid of their own feelings than others' reactions
Disagreement means you belong to a different group
- 23 'Creative listening'
Extra facilities that those present wanted to see to assist the spiritual development of Order members
- 23-24 Definition of terms - 'Retreat', 'Sesshin', 'Seminar'
- 25 The possibility of retreats for Order members only
Solitary retreats
- 26 Places for solitary retreats at the time of the session (1974)
- 27 Solitary retreats in the city?
- 28 The danger of stagnating in the country and the city being much better for spiritual life
- 29 The ideal length for a solitary retreat
- 29-34 The arts as a way of promoting spiritual development?
- 35 Distinguishing between momentary enthusiasm and solid interest and determination
- 36-38 Sharing one's personal interests with the Order - is it necessary?
-
- 38-40 Bhante's feeling even more connected with Order members when being physically separated from them
- 38 Next Session - 'Communication within the Order'
- 40-41 Being in communication with everybody in the Order?
- 41 'Friendliness', 'closeness', 'fellowship' and 'chumminess'
- 42 Being brought closer through being part of the Sangha
- 43 Ten minutes is often enough for meaningful communication - more time doesn't necessarily mean more communication
- 43-45 Knowing people as opposed to knowing about them
- 45 Bhante's spiritual contact with Order members
- 46-49 Bhante's first suggestion of practising the Order Metta Bhavana and trying to organize when it could be done regularly - full and new moon significance - once a month ...
- 49-51 Ways of doing the Order Metta Bhavana
- 52 Factual telepathy
- 53-54 The Order news-sheet and its function
- 55-56 Giving the Order News-sheet a name - vacana, ghosha, antaravani, vak - Shabda!
- 57 Should Order members write to Bhante?
- 58-59 Correspondence and visiting Order members outside London
- 59-61 The newly introduced Kalyana Mitra system - Preparing people for ordination who do not know Bhante

62 Having at least one of the two Kalyana Mitras of the same sex
63-65 Not judging just by personality when 'assessing' potential Order members. Having people of different types in the Order.
66-67 Getting to know people who are similar rather than dissimilar
68 Every talent is to be appreciated in the Order

69 Contacting 'lapsed' Order members
When to remove Order members from the Order List
69-70 What constitutes resignation from the Order?
When people resign from the Order the spiritual connection persists
71-74 Keeping in touch with specific out of contact Order members
75 'Active' and 'inactive' order members - nonsense expressions
76-77 Payment towards the potential retreat centre mortgage - £7.00 per week!
78 Next Session - 'The Order and the World'
78-82 Prison visiting by Buddhists
80 Visiting psychiatric hospitals
82-84 Carrying Buddhist/Order identity cards Informing officialdom of the existence of Buddhists
85 The 'Seal' of the Order - The Nalanda Seal
85-87 The need to go out more to spread the Dharma - not preaching to the converted
88-91 Trade Unions, the working class and the Dharma
Getting more involved in working class activities
89-96 Getting the Dharma into schools
92-93 Warnings against inter-faith meetings
97-102 Teaching at adult education institutes and universities
101 Courses being prepared by Order members for use by other Order members
102-104 Feeling overwhelmed (and inspired) by all the possible things to do as a result of these convention sessions
104 Next Session - 'The Functioning of the Order'.
105 Creating new 'Office-bearers' - Order registrar - Order convenor - librarian/archivist - Master/Mistress of ceremonies - editor/compiler of Shabda
105-107 The compiler/'editor' of Shabda and the Order Registrar
108 The Order Convenor (responsible for meetings, retreats and conventions)
109 The Librarian and Archivist
110 The Master of Ceremonies
111 The status of the Order
112 Legally changing one's name and use of order or secular names
111 Concessions for 'ministers' Conscription, Jury Service
Acknowledging Buddhist festivals as holidays by the wider society
114 Using Order names
115-116 Traditional Buddhist Festivals and their dates
117 Links with Padmasambhava and with Chinese Buddhism for the WBO
118 The fat 'laughing Buddha' - Maitreya
119 [break in recording] - what do bhikkhus wear under their robes?!
120-128 Wearing robes - An Order robe - them and us?
121 Over importance given to external things such as dress
122 Why Bhante didn't always wear his robes when first in the UK
123 Different approaches within the FWBO - ritual, meditation, talks with different emphases at different times - the religious and the non-religious approaches
125 The history of the kesa in the WBO
126 People being wary of ritual, pujas, robes etc.
129 The history of the Buddha image and the vajra
131 Peoples reactions to robes, clergymen, religiosity etc.
132 Ritual that has to be explained is not ritual
Defining ritual
133 Uniform and public respect for the Salvation Army
134-135 Why the robe discussion was the most emotive!
136 Planning of specific study groups at that time
137-138 Systematic study and the use of these seminars rather than just miscellaneous reading
Recommended texts by Bhante
Bhante's plans for his seminars - filling a gap in the total life of the Order??