

THE LIVING WORD OF THE BUDDHA

The Buddha's Teachings in the Oldest Texts

Translations, essays and notes by Piya Tan ©2008, 3rd rev 2009

Sutta Discovery Volume 40b

Piya's 5th Cycle Special Edition

How Buddhism Became Chinese

A reflection on the (Ahitāya) Thera Sutta (A 5.88/3:114-116)

THE MERE BUDDHIST VISION

We aspire to learn, teach and practise mere Dharma, or “non-religious Buddhism,” that is, Buddhism as simply as possible, so that it is open to all who seek true stillness and liberating wisdom. We aspire to joyfully proclaim the possibility and necessity of gaining spiritual liberation in this life itself (at least as a streamwinner, with or without dhyana), in keeping with the teachings of the **Okkanti Samyutta** (S 25).

Mere Buddhism is easy: live it and be free.

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We should not change Buddhism; we should change ourselves.

Sutta translations & study website: <http://dharmafarer.net>

Meditation, therapy & other courses: <http://themindingcentre.googlepages.com>

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The Minding Centre, based in Singapore, is part of Piya Tan’s Dharma ministry. It was founded in 2006 to provide Dharma-based non-religious service to those in need of counsel and solace. It also serves as a haven and hub for those seeking Dharma by way of meditation and education, Sutta study and translation, and spiritual experience. The Centre also supports and promotes Piya Tan in his full-time Buddhist and related work.

The Sutta Discovery Series is part of the Living Word of the Buddha project which aspires to encourage and facilitate Buddhist Studies, both in a Dharma-inspired and academic manner for personal development as well as outreach work on a local and global scale. The Minding Centre and the Living Word of the Buddha project are motivated and guided by the vision of mere Buddhism.

The mere Buddhist vision. We aspire to learn, teach and practise mere Dharma, or “non-religious Buddhism,” that is, Buddhism as simple as possible, as the Buddha Dharma, so that it is open to all who seek true stillness and liberating wisdom. We aspire to compassionately and joyfully proclaim the possibility, necessity and urgency of gaining spiritual liberation in this life itself—at least as a streamwinner, with or without dhyana—in keeping with the Okkanti Saṃyutta (S 25). *Mere Buddhism is easy: live it and be free.*

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Venue: The Minding Centre

Bukit Batok Central, #01-68 (2nd flr), Singapore 650644. hp: 8211 0879

Website: <http://dharmafarer.googlepages.com>

Every 2nd & 4th Sunday @ 11.00 am-12.00 pm

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Every 3rd Sunday @ 1.15-2.45 pm

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ALL ARE WELCOME

to join this on-going class. No registration required.

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The Pali suttas are the most authentic, clear and effective teachings of the Buddha for meditation and living a Dharma-inspired life, and attaining awakening in this life itself.

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The Sutta Discovery (SD) series started with **the NUS Buddhist Society** weekly Sutta Study Group (SSG) classes (with its own website) in February 2002, and **the Buddhist Fellowship** SD series started in February 2003. This is the longest running Buddhist class in Singapore. The SD volumes are also archived in the National Library.

Piya Tan, who works on these Suttas and notes, and teaches them, was a former **Theravada monk** of 20 years. Today he is a full time lay Dharma teacher specializing in early Buddhism. He was consultant and regular lecturer to the Buddhist Studies Team (BUDS) that successfully introduced **Buddhist Studies in Singapore Secondary Schools** in the 1980s.

After that, Piya was invited as a visiting scholar to **the University of California at Berkeley, USA**. He has written many ground-breaking and educational books on Buddhism (such as *Total Buddhist Work*) and social surveys (such as *Buddhist Currents* and *Charisma in Buddhism*).

Piya is a **full-time Dharma teacher** who runs regular Buddhist, Sutta and Pali classes like the basic Pali course series, the Sutta Study Group (NUSBS), Dharma courses (the Singapore Buddhist Federation), Sutta Discovery classes (Buddhist Fellowship and elsewhere), and Sutta-based (including meditation) courses (Brahm Education Centre), besides running his own full-time **Pali translation and research project**, the Pali Centre, and doing a comparative study of the Pali Nikāyas and the Chinese Āgamas.

As a Theravāda monk, he learned the insight method from **Mahasi Sayadaw** himself in the 1980s. As a lay teacher, he learned the forest method from the **Ajahn Brahmavamsa** himself. Since 1980s, he has been running **meditation courses**

and retreats for students and adults (incl non-Buddhists). In 1992, he taught meditation at the University of California at Berkeley, USA. He has taught at BP, JP Morgan, the Defence Science Organization, GMO, HP, SIA and schools. He is doing all this for the love of Dharma and of his wife Ratna and their 2 children.

KEEPING BUDDHISM CENTRED

Website: dharmafarer.googlepages.com

As people today become more aware of Buddhism, many seek the simple original teachings of the Buddha. For over two decades now, Piya Tan has been inspired by this ideal. In this connection, he has set up the Minding Centre (Bukit Batok) and Pali House (Jurong East).

The Minding Centre

A still centre in life's storms

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For further info, please email us: dharmafarer@gmail.com.

The Minding Centre is only possible through the generosity of Dharma friends and supporters like yourself. We need your continuing support for the Centre to continue.

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Pali House

On Vesak Day, 12th May, 2006, Pali House was born, fulfilling Piya's long-time dream for premises spacious, quiet and conducive for his Dharma work.

- Pali House has one of the most complete set of early Buddhist scripture (texts and translations).
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Pali House is possible through the generosity of the Buddhist community and various individuals (like yourself) who have generously and regularly contributed to Piya Tan's work. He is doing full-time Dharma work (that is, without any salary). As such, your continued support will help his Dharma work tremendously.

To donate, please make your cheque payable to "**The Minding Centre**" & mail it to:

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How you can help

- Support for Piya Tan's full time Buddhist work (especially the Sutta Translation project).
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- Encourage relatives and friends to offer dāna together for merit of happy togetherness.
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*May this merit bring my mind peace and wisdom.
May I enter the path of stream-winning in this life itself.*

[To join our classes and activities, please email us at dharmafarer@gmail.com.]

WORKS OF PIYA TAN

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Please support PALI HOUSE (where this translation work is done).