

Waltzing Matilda for the Buddha

Bhikkhu Sujato is the only living Buddhist monk I know who is truly and clearly outspoken regarding Buddhist reforms. I remember reading one of the very first versions of his solidly researched book. *A History of Mindfulness: How insight worsted tranquillity in the Satipaṭṭhāna Sutta* (2004) which was still unexpurgated.

He spoke of his struggles as a monk, something I was very familiar with when I was a monk myself in the 1970s-1990s. His clearly and passionately argued writings on the Satipaṭṭhāna Sutta deeply influenced my vision of it, as reflected in SD 13.¹

Sadly, when the official version of the book was published by the Corporate Body of the Buddha Educational Foundation (Taiwan) in 2005, the critical sections were no more there. It was a great privilege to be able to see Sujato's courageous thoughts when they were publicly available. It is always a blessing to directly know a monastic's mind when he speaks with moral courage (*vesārajja*).²

Recently, I was again pleasantly surprised by another supernova of honest criticism, this time, almost Nietzsche-like, in his blog article, "Sutta Central: designing the Dharma" (17 July 2013), he declared, "The website is dead!" He criticized websites that are all cluttered up, promoting themselves than the Dharma, and also sutta translations that do not present the suttas as they are.³ He is articulately aware of difficulties that most of us can only struggle with for most of our Buddhist lives.

Bhikkhu Sujato (Anthony Best), an Australian, left his musical career in 1994 to become a monk in Thailand in Ajahn Chah's forest lineage. Besides living for several years in forest monasteries and remote hermitages in Thailand, he spent three years in Bodhinyana Monastery (Perth) as secretary of Brahmavamso, and over a year in a cave in Ipoh, Malaysia (where his mother lives).

In May 2012, Sujato resigned his post as abbot of Santi Forest Monastery, Bundanoon (NSW, Australia), to go on a tour of Dharma teaching. He currently resides in Citta Bhavana Hermitage, Bundanoon, teaching, writing and blogging prolifically.

Early this month (September 2013), Sujato, in response to an invitation made years ago to write a Buddhist national anthem for Australia, came up with this delightful set of lyrics, to the tune of Waltzing Matilda (which, he declared, "should totally be our real national anthem!"). It is posted here with appreciative gladness for a rare renunciant and for your enjoyment.

Walk in the Dhamma (lyrics by Sujato, 2013)

*Once a jolly Buddha camped by a running stream
Under the shade of a Bodhi tree
And he sat and meditated 'till his mind was free
Who'll come and walk in the Dhamma with me?*

¹ See <http://dharmafarer.org/wordpress/sutta-discovery/sutta-discovery-vol-10-19>

² See **Piṇḍolya Sutta** (S 22.80), esp SD 28.9a (3): <http://dharmafarer.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/28.9a-Pindolya-S-s22.80-piya.pdf>

³ <http://sujato.wordpress.com/2013/07/17/suttacentral-designing-the-dhamma/>

Waltzing Matilda for the Buddha by Piya Tan

Walk in the Dhamma

Walk in the Dhamma

Who'll come and walk in the Dhamma with me?

And he sat and meditated 'till his mind was free

Who'll come and walk in the Dhamma with me?

He walked that dusty road down to Benares

To see the five monks staying in the Deer Park

And he taught the four noble truths, the Dhamma he himself had seen:

Suffering, its origin, cessation, the path.

Walk in the Dhamma

Walk in the Dhamma

Who'll come and walk in the Dhamma with me?

And he taught the four noble truths, the Dhamma he himself had seen

Who'll come and walk in the Dhamma with me?

When Kondannya heard about the middle way

The noble eightfold path that leads to peace of mind

The vision of the Dhamma arose within him clear to see

And so the Buddha said: 'Kondannya understands!'

Walk in the Dhamma

Walk in the Dhamma

Who'll come and walk in the Dhamma with me?

The vision of the Dhamma arose within him clear to see

Who'll come and walk in the Dhamma with me?

And now the Buddha's teaching has come to this big empty land

With waratah and wallabies and scribbly-bark trees

And the ghost of the Buddha may be heard inside the monasteries:

'Who'll come and walk in the Dhamma with me?'

Walk in the Dhamma

Walk in the Dhamma

Who'll come and walk in the Dhamma with me?

And the ghost of the Buddha may be heard inside the monasteries:

'Who'll come and walk in the Dhamma with me?'

sujato | September 12, 2013 at 12:57 pm | Categories: [the light side](#) | URL:

<http://wp.me/pGkVs-rE>

Music: [Slim Dusty's Waltzing Matilda](#).

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