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.

For conventions and bibliography, see SD Guide (SD 0.1)

1 (1) Ākañkheyya Sutta (M 6)
The 1st priority of the 3 trainings in spiritual life

15 (2a) (Aṭṭhaka) Uposatha Sutta (A 8.20)
The parable of the great ocean

34 (2b) (Udāna) Uposatha Sutta (U 5.5)
The parable of the great ocean

45 (2c) Pātimokkha Ṭhapana Khandhaka (Cv 9.1-2)
The parable of the great ocean

57 (3) Anumāna Sutta (M 15) Amenability and self-counselling

74 (4) Nav’aṅ’uposatha Sutta (A 9.18)
Lovingkindness empowers moral virtue

81 (5) (Pañcaka) Niraya Sutta (A 5.145) Moral virtue defines our karma

109 (6) Partial precepts? Buddhism: academic study & text-based practice

150 (7) Cha-b,bisodhana Sutta (M 112) How to recognize an arhat

*Those who know true reality are not fooled by virtual reality.*

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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 non-religious Dharma-based services to those in need of counsel and solace. It also serves as a haven and hub for those seeking Dharma by way of critical thinking, creative feeling, meditation, sutta translation and study, spiritual experience, and sharing that light and joy. The Centre also supports and promotes Piya Tan in his full-time Buddhist and related work.

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THE SUTTA DISCOVERY SERIES is part of the Living Word of the Buddha project which aspires to present and encourage an exploration of early Buddhism, 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 a quest for the historical Buddha and a vision of mere Buddhism.

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THE MERE BUDDHIST VISION. We aspire to learn, teach and practise mere Buddha Dharma, or “non-religious Buddhism,” that is, Buddhism as simple as possible, as the teaching of the historical Buddha, 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 streamwinners, with or without dhyana—in keeping with the spirit of the Okkanta Saṁyutta (S 25). Mere Buddhism is easy: live it and be free.

Piya Tan (TAN Beng Sin), 1949-
Title: Sutta Discovery 58a. Theme: Moral virtue 1
Series: The living word of the Buddha (2002– )
First published 2021; publisher: the author

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(Aţṭha Dāna Sutta, A 8.31/4:236)
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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 of “mere Buddhism.” In this connection, he has set up the Minding Centre and Pali House.

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

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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 lay Dharma work without any salary. As such, your continued support will greatly help our Dharma work.

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Piya Tan, a former Theravada monk for 20 years, works full-time on the Suttas with new commentaries, and teaches them. As a full-time lay Dharma teacher, he specializes 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, and then, 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).

As a full-time Dharma teacher, he runs Sutta and related 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 (The Minding Centre), besides his own full-time Pali translation and research project, the Pali House, and doing a comparative study of the Pali Nikāyas and the Chinese Āgamas. As a Theravāda monk, he learned insight meditation from Mahasi Sayadaw himself in the 1980s, and forest meditation from various forest monks. He has run numerous meditation courses and retreats for students and adults (including non-Buddhists) since 1980s. In 1992, he taught meditation at the University of California at Berkeley, USA, and also to BP, JPMorgan, the Defence Science Organization, GMO, HP and SIA. He writes weekly reflections and gives daily online teachings on Facebook. All this for the love of Dharma and of Ratna and posterity.

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