

Moral Awakening

with Venerable Tathālokā Therī

Four Wednesdays
beginning 24 February 2016
at 12PM PST/2PM EST/9PM CET

*These four who are accomplished in wisdom,
who are disciplined, confident,
deeply learned, upholders of Dhamma,
and who live in accordance with Dhamma
—these four illuminate the Saṅgha.*

Which four?

A monk, a nun, a layman and a laywoman.

*Whoever is wise, disciplined and deeply learned,
Upholding Dhamma and living according to it,
They are called “Light of the Saṅgha.”*

*The monk well-possessed of virtue,
The nun who is widely learned,
Male and female disciples full of faith—
It is they who illuminate the Saṅgha.
“Light of the Saṅgha” they are called.*

— *Anguttara Nikāya 4.7*

Sessions will run 1½ hours (1 hour teaching, ½ hour questions and answer).

Participants will need to **register** to attend the lectures.

Please **download the Zoom application** in advance. You will receive an email with the link to the lecture half an hour before the event, delivered to the email that they have provided on the registration.

Please donate to the **Responsibility of the 1000 Hands** to empower SICGU’s mission of providing quality, in-depth traditional Buddhist education worldwide.

Videos will be available on the SICGU YouTube channel after the events.

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Venerable Bhikkhuni Tathāloka Theri
Dhammadharini
Founding Teacher & Preceptor

Ayya Tathaaloka was born in Washington, DC in 1968 to environmentally-minded scientist parents. She followed her mother's example by observing nature for answers and for peace, and her father's example of inquiry through scientific research and investigation.

At age 19, urgently inspired by the sudden death of someone with whom she'd been close, she left university and made her way to Europe and India, entering monastic life as an anagarika. Later she met her female mentor in Buddhist monastic life in South Korea, bhikkhuni elder Myeong Seong Sunim, under whose guidance she trained for ten years. Venerable Tathaaloka Theri received the "going forth" and took dependency (nissaya) with her bhikkhuni mentor in 1993 and undertook the samaneri precepts with the late venerable master Hae Am Sunim in 1995.

Returning to the United States in early 1996, with her bhikkhuni mentor's blessings, in 1997 in Los Angeles, with an international gathering of bhikkhus, bhikkhunis, Dharma teachers and supporters in attendance, she received bhikkhuni upasampada from the Sri Lankan bhikkhu sangha led by her preceptor (upajjhaya), the late Sangha Nayaka Thera Ven. Dr. Havanpola Ratanasara. Since then Venerable Tathaaloka has focused on meditation and on both the study and practice of Dhamma & Vinaya. She has conducted extensive research in Comparative Bhikkhuni Vinaya and World Bhikkhuni Sangha History, contributing articles on these subjects.

Recognizing the growing number of Theravadin bhikkhunis and samaneris in the United States and the true value of coming together in harmony, the Venerable Tathaaloka proposed and participated in the founding of the North American Bhikkhuni Association (NABA) in 2005. Several months later, she also participated in founding the **Dhammadharini Vihara** and the Dhammadharini Support Foundation. In 2006, she was awarded as an "Outstanding Woman in Buddhism" at the United Nations in Bangkok. In 2008, together with the assembled Bhikkhuni Sangha, she received the gift of use of coastal redwood forested land for an off-the-grid women's monastic hermitage, Aranya Bodhi.

Venerable Tathaaloka Theri is the first Western woman to be designated as Theravadan Bhikkhuni Preceptor (Pavattini/Upajjhaya), and she has contributed to the going forth and full ordination of women as bhikkhunis in the USA, Australia, India and Thailand. She also serves as a Senior Monastic Advisor to the Dhammadharini Support Foundation, the Alliance of Bhikkhunis and Sakyadhita USA.

Ven Tathaaloka currently as the in-residence sanghatheri of Dhammadharini Vihara in the Santa Rosa and the Aranya Bodhi Hermitage on the Sonoma Coast in Northern California, where she provides Dhamma and meditation teaching and guidance and monastic mentorship in conjunction with hermitage prioress and co-teacher Ven Sobhana Theri and vihara co-manager and assisting teacher Ven Suvijjana Bhikkhuni. She also teaches where invited around the greater San Francisco Bay Area, in other states, and internationally.

Ven Tathaaloka's current projects include Dhammadharini's foundation of a permanent monastery for bhikkhunis, the Bhikkhuni Vibhanga Project and SanghaDana related to the Sept 2016-Sept 2017 celebration of the 2600-year Anniversary of the global Bhikkhuni Sangha.

Go to the Teachings from the Bhikkhuni Sangha page for Dhamma talks, letters, articles and teachings from Ven. Tathaaloka Theri.

