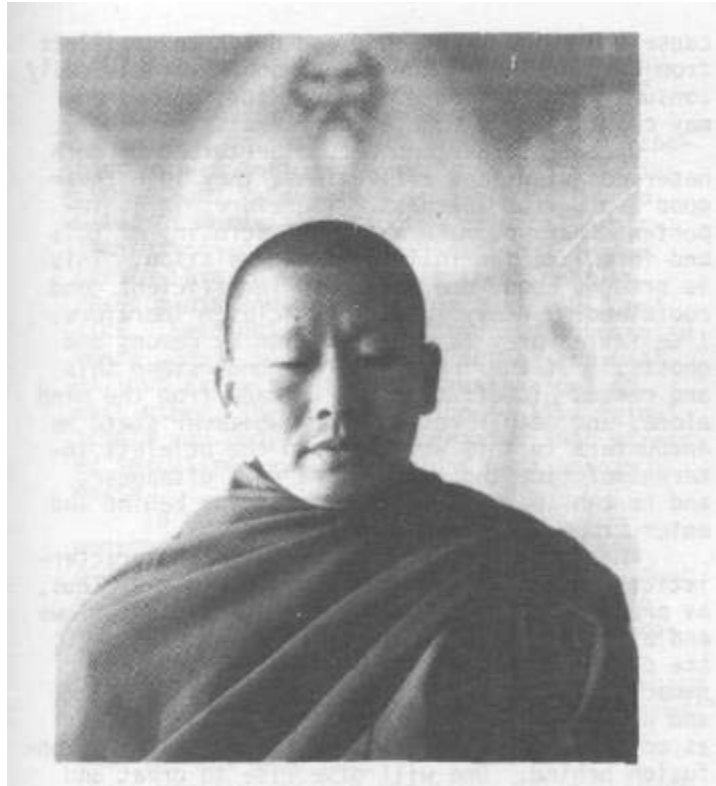


Bodhi Mirror Presents

Venerable Bhikshu Javana Panno

The Ven. Javana Panno was born Ko Sin Kia in Kelantan, Malaysia, in 1941, one of 5 children of a farming family. He left the home-life in 1963 under the Venerable Chou Khan, a Bhikshu from Thailand, and studied the Tripitaka, Pali, and Thai for four years, first at Wat Mei Suwan Kiri (Gold Hill Temple) in Kelantan and later at Narathi Wat in Thailand.



Upon completion of his studies, he began to search for a teacher, which led him eventually to a small monastery on Bachak Island in Thailand, where he studied Vipasyana with the Elder Master Acharn Boak. He later studied with the Elder Master Acharn at Lamphu, Thailand. Subsequently, following a strong preference for the quiet and solitude of the countryside, and for the peace of mind that can be found in homeless life, Venerable Javana began a career as a wondering and teaching monk, a career that continues to this day.

During the period 1967-1975, the Venerable Javana spent most of his time in Thailand wandering from village to village, accompanied by a few companions. They would stay under trees or in graveyards, and their movable dwellings consisted of an umbrella and a mosquito net. They would instruct villagers in Vipasyana, staying in one place for no

more than seven days. Living in the open they encountered many unusual states and experiences.

At one village, in 1976, they were advised to go no further up the jungle path, which led up Bukit Besi (Iron Mountain). The villagers warned them that tigers lived on the mountain. Venerable Javana was determined to continue, however, and to test out for himself the teaching that tigers--and other dangerous animals--are very sensitive to people's mind states. If people's minds are good, then animals are no danger. That evening, three tigers approached the Venerable Javana's tent and the tents of his two companions, a Bhikshu and an Upasaka. These cultivators could hear the tigers' breaths and see their eyes in the moonlight. The cultivators did not move, and the tigers departed.

Since 1976, the Venerable Javana has continued the life of a wandering monk in Malaysia. He has visited many country districts where the villagers have had little contact with the Sangha Jewel. The Bhikshu, he says, is taught to renounce the family and go to the temple; then they are to renounce the temple and go to the jungle; and finally to renounce the jungle and go everywhere. At the request of his disciples, he is now staying at Kuala Lumpur at Wat Chetawan Thai Buddhist Temple. There and at temples, lay Buddhist associations, and villages throughout Malaysia, he continues to teach Vipasyana meditation and the wisdom teachings of various Sutra texts.

The Venerable Javana joined a delegation of Buddhist disciples from Malaysia to come to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas on October 23, and to participate in the opening ceremonies for opening the Mountain Gate, the Main Dining Hall, and he also joined the Kuan Shih Yin Bodhisattva recitation session that preceded the opening, and the Ch'an meditation session that followed it.