

The Bodhi Mirror



Presents, Sister Cintamani

Sister Cintamani was first introduced to the Buddhadharma at the age of nineteen, when her father brought her to hear the Venerable Sumhedo speak on the Dharma at the Chithurst Monastery in England. Although she was very much impressed by that first encounter, and although she was encouraged by her father, who is deeply interested in Buddhism and a practitioner of meditation, it was yet another year before she went to live at the monastery. She relates.

One weekend in September, 1981, I was staying at my grandfather's house. He had recently passed away, and during my stay there, I perceived a little of the meaning of suffering, emptiness, marklessness, and wishlessness. I could no longer hide behind my thoughts and ideas of who I thought I was. At that point, I decided to enter the monastery and seek answers to the fundamental questions that had arisen in my mind.

Arriving at the Monastery, I was graciously admitted. It was like stepping into another world. I perceived everything there to be in perfect harmony in a way that I had never known before. I listened to the teachings, and they seemed to be really true, and a way to genuine peace and liberation that was within my reach. I meditated on the teachings and could find no cause to doubt them.

From that day on, Sister Cintamani has remained at the monastery and has never thought to leave. As of March 9, 1982, she became an *anagarika* (female homeless one). In August, 1984, she and many of the other *anagarika* moved to Amavarati, where they cultivate in harmony and join in helping renovate the existing buildings at the new monastery. On July 1, 1984, Sister Cintamani received the Ten Precepts under Venerable Sumhedo.

Recently Sister Cintamani visited the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. Her report speaks of a solid training in the conduct of a left-home person, and her views reflect recognition of the Proper Path. Joining the four-fold assembly at this international Way-place, Sister Cintamani took her place among the Sangha with a natural ease. Her visit demonstrated once again the universality of the Proper Dharma.

Compiled by members of the Vajra Bodhi Sea editorial staff