

Jinananda Duncan Steen

1st August 1952–28th December 2017



Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers, and I linger on the shore,
And the individual withers, and the world is more and more.

from Locksley Hall. Alfred, Lord Tennyson

**FRIDAY 19TH JANUARY 2018 AT 12PM
WEST LONDON BUDDHIST CENTRE**

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
Jinananda Duncan Steen
and
A FAREWELL

- 11.45 Sarah Butcher plays Bach
- 12.00 Welcome by Bodhilila, chairman of the West London Buddhist Centre
- 12.03 Sarah Butcher plays *Allemande* and *Sarabande* Cello Suite No 1, Bach
- 12.10 **Arrival of Jinananda's body**
- 12.15 **Jinamitra**
- Saluting the shrine
 - A brief look at Jinananda's rich and varied life
 - Extract from '*Karma and Rebirth*' read by Jinananda
 - Avalokitesvara mantra – om mani padme hum
- Reflection by Tarapalita**
- Metta Bhavana* meditation
- Extract from Marcus Aurelius's Meditations
read by Duncan Steen (Jinananda)
- Reflection by Antoine Steen**
- Hymn** *Lord of all Hopefulness*
Jennifer Purvis, keyboard. Text at end of booklet.
- Reflection by Roddy Steen**
- 'Fear no more the Heat of the Sun'*
read by Rose Tomaszewska
- Reflection by Bodhilila**
- 'Have you not seen, O have you not seen'*
by Kukai, read by Ratnaprabha
- Reflections by Vidyadevi and Jnanasiddhi**
- 'Man that is born of a woman'*
read by Zoe Tomaszewska
- Reflection by Claudia de Campos**
- Seven-Fold Puja** led by **Bodhilila** including
- *The Buddha's teaching to Bahiya* read by Tom Greaves
 - *Root Verses from the Bardo Thodol* read by Jinamitra
 - *Padmasambhava mantra* led by Yashobodhi
- The Concluding Mantra: *Tara mantra*: om täre tuttäre ture svähä

Lord Of All Hopefulness

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
At the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,
At the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace.
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord,
At the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,
At the end of the day.

“Fear no more the heat o’ the sun”

by William Shakespeare, from *Cymbeline*

Fear no more the heat o’ the sun,
Nor the furious winter’s rages;
Thou thy worldly task hast done,
Home art gone, and ta’en thy wages:
Golden lads and girls all must,
As chimney-sweepers, come to dust.

Fear no more the frown o’ the great;
Thou art past the tyrant’s stroke;
Care no more to clothe and eat;
To thee the reed is as the oak:
The scepter, learning, physic, must
All follow this, and come to dust.

Fear no more the lightning flash,
Nor the all-dreaded thunder stone;
Fear not slander, censure rash;
Thou hast finished joy and moan:
All lovers young, all lovers must
Consign to thee, and come to dust.

No exorciser harm thee!
Nor no witchcraft charm thee!
Ghost unlaid forbear thee!
Nothing ill come near thee!
Quiet consummation have;
And renownèd be thy grave!

Have you not seen, O have you not seen

by Kukai

You ask me why I entered the mountain deep and cold,
Awesome, surrounded by steep peaks and grotesque rocks,
A place that is painful to climb and difficult to descend,
Wherein reside the gods of the mountain and the spirits of trees.

Have you not seen, O have you not seen,
The peach and plum blossoms in the royal garden?
They must be in full bloom, pink and fragrant,
Now opening in the April showers, now falling in the spring gales;
Flying high and low, all over the garden the petals scatter.
Some sprigs may be plucked by the strolling spring maidens,
And the flying petals picked by the fluttering spring orioles.

Have you not seen, O have you not seen,
The water gushing up in the divine spring of the garden?
No sooner does it arise than it flows away forever:
Thousands of shining lines flow as they come forth,
Flowing, flowing, flowing into an unfathomable abyss;
Turning, whirling again, they flow on forever,
And no one knows where they will stop.
Have you not seen, O have you not seen,

That billions have lived in China, in Japan,
None have been immortal, from time immemorial:
Ancient sage kings or tyrants, good subjects or bad,
Fair ladies and homely – who could enjoy eternal youth?
Noble men and lowly alike, without exception, die away;
They all have died, reduced to dust and ashes;
The singing halls and dancing stages have become the abodes of foxes.
Transient as dreams, bubbles or lightening, all are perpetual travelers.

Have you not seen, O have you not seen,
This has been man's fate, how can you alone live forever?
Thinking of this, my heart always feels torn;
You, too, are like the sun going down behind the western mountains,
Or a living corpse whose span of life is nearly over.

Futile would be my stay in the capital;
Away, away, I must go, I must not stay there.
Release me, for I shall be master of the great void;
A child of Shingon must not stay there.

I have never tired of watching the pine trees and the rocks at Mount Koya;
The limpid stream of the mountain is the source of my inexhaustible joy.
Discard pride in earthly gains;
Do not be scorched in the burning house, the triple world!
Discipline in the woods alone lets us soon enter the eternal Realm.

Man, that is born of a woman, hath but a short time to live

MAN, that is born of a woman, hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He cometh up, and is cut down, like a flower; he fleeth as it were a shadow, and never continueth in one stay.

Job 11





A few words from writings over the decades

By Jinananda Duncan Steen

From
JINANANDA'S BLOG

You could reduce much of Buddhism to the simple saying, 'Actions have consequences'. Consequences not only for the world around us. We imagine that we can do something and remain the same person after the act as we were before. Buddhism points out that who we are is the result not of what we experience, but of what we do, our actions, and it is being modified at every moment, through every intention we harbour. We aren't 'beings' but 'becomings'. So again traditionally, mindfulness is not just purposeful attention to the detail of our experience as it arises; it is also mindfulness of our purpose, that is, of the mind's intentions, as they arise in response to that experience. In this sense mindfulness is to recollect, to remember our purposes. It is to take responsibility for this intentional activity of the mind, and the consequences that may arise from this 'karma' (which traditionally reaches into a future rebirth).

Dying is a normal part of the normal world. There are a lot odder things going on in the world than one's own death. Dying is part of my life, a very important part of it, and it is part of yours. I don't like it much, it's not fun, but it is where I continue to live my life, and where I continue to be engaged with the world and other lives. It's coming for all of us, but we all need to enjoy life, even beneath its shadow. It's very different from the life that precedes it, but it has its own peculiar rewards. Even pleasures – you never lose the human need for pleasure.

<http://jinanandasteen.blogspot.co.uk> (2017)

From
THE ESSENTIAL ENGLISHMAN
by Duncan Steen

The English do not like to wipe their feet, take their hats off and sit attentive to their literature. Milton, literature in its Sunday best, gathers dust in its honoured place on the shelf. Shakespeare, who wrote for possibly the most disruptive and distracted of any audience, taught them to expect to be charmed,

The significant point about English literature is that its highest achievement is in the theatre – and until the reforms of David Garrick in the eighteenth century the theatre was the equivalent of a football league fixture. The Classical proprieties went unregarded. There were often a lot of corpses at the end of an Elizabethan play, but none could be less lamented than the mangled remains of the Classical unities of time, place and action, which the Elizabethan dramatists trampled jubilantly underfoot.

Ukemi Books

From the preface to
MEDITATING

Ultimately, meditation should challenge our unconsidered values and sense of meaning to allow something very different to come through. My aim in this book is to clarify the practice of meditation, but to do so in a way that makes it an exercise in not knowing, a sense that our understanding is rooted in darkness, that it draws its nourishment from where it must be in the dark. This nourishment, the meaning of things, lies all around us.

There is a line by the Australian poet Les Murray: 'Everything except language knows the meaning of existence.' I was reminded of this line on holiday in Venezuela when we had a few days in the rainforest. Our guide had learnt English, but he still belonged to the forest. As I watching him move so easily through his world, I asked him why he didn't wear shoes. I'm not sure if it was simply that he had not learnt to say 'I know this world', as we would. But what he said was, 'The forest knows me.' I think meditation is an exercise in rediscovering this basic trust, this faith in the reality of things, and making our home there.

Windhorse Publications (2012)

No flowers, but donations to the Abhayaratna Trust are welcome.
<https://abhayaratnatrust.org/donate/>



Duncan Steen Jinananda

writer, translator, editor, reader

AUDIOBOOKS

As Duncan Steen

Oedipus the King by Sophocles, translated by Duncan Steen. Full drama recorded with Michael Sheen (Oedipus), Nichola McAuliffe, Edward de Souza, Neville Jason, John Moffatt and cast. (Naxos AudioBooks 1999)

Meditations by Marcus Aurelius read by Duncan Steen (Naxos AudioBooks 2011) [A world-wide bestseller – the No 1 non-fiction title on audible.com in December 2017]

On the Genealogy of Morals, A Polemic by Friedrich Nietzsche read by Duncan Steen (Naxos AudioBooks 2013).

The Birth of Tragedy from the Spirit of Music, by Friedrich Nietzsche read by Duncan Steen (Naxos AudioBooks 2013).

The Essential Englishman – A Celebration by Duncan Steen and Nicolas Soames read by Nicholas Boulton (Ukemi Audiobooks 2017).

AUDIOBOOKS

As Jinananda

The Middle Way – The Story of Buddhism, written by Jinananda read by David Timson, Anton Lesser, Heathcote Williams (Naxos AudioBooks 1997)

Karma and Rebirth – in a Nutshell, written and read by Jinananda, (Naxos AudioBooks 2009)

Meditation – The Buddhist Way, written and read by Jinananda (Naxos AudioBooks 2010)

The Dhammapada, The Udana, The Itivuttaka, Key Texts from the Khuddaka Nikaya read by Jinananda, Ratnadhya, Patience Tomlinson. (Dharma Audiobooks 2015)

Therigāthā – Poems of the Early Buddhist Nuns, read by Jinananda and Vishvantara (Dharma Audiobooks 2015)

Who is the Buddha? by Sangharaskhita edited and read by Jinananda (Dharma Audiobooks 2015)

What is the Dharma? by Sangharaskhita edited and read by Jinananda (Dharma Audiobooks 2015)

Sutta Nipāta read by Jinananda (Dharma Audiobooks 2016)

A Concise History of Buddhism from 500 BCE-1900 BCE by Andrew Skilton read by Jinananda (Dharma Audiobooks 2016)

The Life of the Buddha by Bhikku Nanamoli read by Hayward Morse, Leighton Pugh, Nicolette McKenzie, John Foley and Jinananda (Dharma Audiobooks 2016)

BOOKS

As Duncan Steen and Robin Hamilton

The Essential Englishman by Duncan Steen and Nicolas Soames (Cassell 1989). Republished by Ukemi Books 2017 in Kindle (Amazon), paperback (Amazon) and audiobook (audible.co.uk)

Intimate Letters – Correspondence of the Heart by Robin Hamilton (Duncan Steen) and Nicolas Soames (Marginalia Press 1994) [It received a full page glowing review in the Daily Mail written by Joanna Trollope on Valentine's Day 1994]

BOOKS

As Jinananda

Meditating: A Buddhist View by Jinananda (Windhorse Publications 2000)

Warrior of Peace: The Life of the Buddha by Jinananda (Windhorse Publications 2002)

The 100-Minute Buddha by Jinananda (The 100-Minute Press 2009)

Under the Spoken Word Project for Windhorse Publications, Jinananda produced books from lectures and seminars by Urgyen Sangharakshita

Wisdom Beyond Words – Sense and Non-Sense in the Buddhist Prajnaparamita Tradition compiled and edited by Jinananda (Windhorse Publications 1993)

With Vidyadevi

Who is the Buddha?

What is the Dharma?

Know Your Mind

With Pabhodhana

The Yogi's Joy

Living with Awareness

Living with Kindness