

Ajahn Christopher Titmuss

Dharma Teacher and Author

“Wisdom, the Sangha and Democracy”

(Sub-theme: “Social and Political Perspectives” – 25 May 2017)

Abstract

This talk will be about what we can learn from the 2,600 year old tradition of the Sangha that the Buddha established. The Sangha works together to develop wisdom for application within the Sangha and for the benefit of society. The Buddha encouraged democratic processes for the Sangha and society. The talk will draw upon the teachings of Ajahn Buddhādāsa on social coherence, the application of the arts and understanding of the emptiness of “I” and “my.”

About the speaker

Ajahn Christopher Titmuss, a senior Dharma teacher in the West, offers retreats, leads pilgrimages and Dharma events worldwide. His teachings focus on insight meditation, the expansive heart and enquiry into emptiness and liberation. Ajahn Christopher was a Buddhist monk for six years in Thailand and India from 1970 to 1976, studying with two teachers: Ajahn Dhammadharo who taught him Vipassana, and Ajahn Buddhādāsa who gave him teachings on Emptiness, dependent arising, non-attachment and liberation. As a traveller, he had met Ajahn Buddhādāsa in early 1970, and became one of his first dedicated Western students/monks; he was present when, in 1972, His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited Suan Mokkh.

Poet, photographer and social critic, he is the author of numerous books including *Light on Enlightenment*, *The Mindfulness Manual*, *Poems from the Edge on Time*, and *Freedom of the Spirit* (which includes an interview with Ajahn Buddhādāsa).