

Letter to my children,

Here, and over there,

Sung Phuc Temple, Hanoi, 27 April 2007

Yesterday while lying in the hammock by the hut, Thay saw clearly that you are continuing Thay, wherever you are; in one way or another, at the same time. Wherever you are sitting, Thay is sitting there. Wherever you are breathing, Thay is breathing there. Wherever you are walking, Thay is walking there. Wherever you are smiling, Thay is smiling there.

Everyone on this trip with Thay is practising and working whole-heartedly. Thay is also doing the same. Though at times, we are tired, lack sleep and rest, but everyone can see that throughout all this, the energy of the Sangha is protecting and supporting us.

During the Requiem ceremonies, the whole-hearted support and prayer of each one of us moved the spirits, the sky and the earth. Hanoi became cooler in the past few days because of the nectar of compassion raining down after the Requiem ceremonies at Soc Son. All beings are refreshed and live in peace and happiness.

Last night, we held a public talk in English at Melia Hotel in Hanoi. The abbot of Sung Phuc Temple, and the monastics of Prajna, Tu Hieu, and Dieu Nghiem temple were invited to join and support. Melia is a luxurious five-star hotel, and the listeners were all foreigners. It was quite a different setting from what the abbot and the monastics are used to. Perhaps they felt puzzled that the practice can also enter such a place.

Thay knows that wherever you are, almost daily, you are following this trip and the talks. Thay is receiving your energy of support. This trip is like a boost of vitamin that penetrates the body of the nation. The vitamin permeates slowly into each cell of the body. We can feel the vitamin's effect, and the nourishment and transformation from it.

A week from now, Blue Cliff monastery in New York will open. Thay believes that this centre will bring great happiness to us, and to the lay friends of the North-eastern regions. The ambience of this practice centre is very beautiful and warm. This is a happy news for all of us.

Right now, we are like baby chicks that have freshly cracked through the shell. For the first time, we touch the air and see the light outside. Chirping, we call to each other. We know clearly that none of us wish to return to old life inside the shell. Many of us are still so young and naive, but we will grow quickly. Around the world, we are chirping, and calling to each other. We know that no matter where we are, we already have each other.

Each one of us represents all of us, because we are not separate selves, but of one sangha body. Thay knows that whatever you are doing this morning, it is dedicated to the merit of the Sangha. Thay has faith in all of you. Thay is walking with your feet, breathing with your lungs, and Thay knows that you are also walking and breathing for Thay.

This is a wonderful moment! Don't miss this moment or it would be a great pity. Thay sends all of Thay's faith and love to you.

Nhat Hanh