

The Ordination Of The Buddhist Monks In Thailand: A Sacred Journey



Thailand, a country known for its rich cultural heritage, is home to countless Buddhist temples. These temples serve as sanctuaries for both locals and tourists seeking spiritual enlightenment, tranquility, and a deeper understanding of Buddhism. One of the most significant events that take place in these sacred grounds is the ordination of Buddhist monks.

The ordination process is a sacred and revered tradition that dates back thousands of years. It marks the beginning of a journey for young Thai men, as they step into the world of Buddhism to learn and follow the teachings of the

Buddha. This article aims to explore the intricacies and significance of the ordination ceremony in Thailand.



The Ordination of the Buddhist Monks: in Thailand

by Mark DeNote(Kindle Edition)

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The Path to Becoming a Buddhist Monk

Before embarking on the path to monkhood, candidates must prepare themselves mentally, physically, and spiritually. In Thailand, young men are encouraged to join the monks for short periods to gain insight into monastic life and contemplate their dedication to the path. This experience allows them to understand the responsibilities, discipline, and sacrifices that being a monk entails.

Once a decision has been made to commit to the monastic life, candidates must seek permission from their families and receive their support. This step is crucial as it reflects the deep respect for familial relationships ingrained in Thai culture. Once permission is obtained, preparations for the ordination ceremony begin.

The Ordination Ceremony



The ordination ceremony itself is a grand affair filled with symbolism and spirituality. It typically takes place within the temple grounds, with the presence of eminent monks and the community. The ceremony signifies the relinquishment of worldly desires and the commitment to follow the teachings of the Buddha.

Before the ceremony commences, the candidates shave their heads as a symbol of renunciation and detachment from worldly attachments. This act represents the shedding of ego and superficial identity to embrace a simpler, humble life. The shaving process is done in a meticulous manner, emphasizing the gravity of the decision to become a monk.

Following the shaving, the candidates then don white robes, symbolizing purity, and begin the ceremonial walk to the ordination hall. This procession serves as a

public declaration of their intent to devote themselves to a higher purpose and seek spiritual enlightenment.

Once in the ordination hall, the candidates undertake various rituals under the guidance of senior monks. These rituals include taking vows, receiving spiritual teachings, and partaking in symbolic acts that signify their commitment to the monastic life. The duration of the ordination ceremony may vary, ranging from a few days to several weeks, depending on the temple and tradition.

The Role of the Community

Ordination ceremonies are deeply communal events, with the local community playing a crucial role in providing support and guidance. The community is responsible for various aspects of the ceremony, including providing requisites, such as robes and alms bowls, and offering food to the monks during their early morning alms rounds. These acts of generosity and support allow the community to actively participate in the spiritual growth and development of the ordained monks.

Moreover, community members often attend the ordination ceremony, offering blessings and well-wishes to the candidates. The presence of the community during this significant milestone provides encouragement and serves as a reminder of the interconnectedness and communal spirit that Buddhism emphasizes.

The Significance of the Ordination Ceremony

For the candidates, the ordination ceremony signifies a turning point in their lives. It is a transformative experience that marks the beginning of their spiritual journey towards attaining enlightenment. The ceremony serves as a formal initiation into

the monastic community and grants them the authority to uphold Buddhist rituals, recite sacred texts, and serve as guides for others seeking spiritual guidance.

Beyond the individual significance, the ordination ceremony holds immense importance for Thai society as a whole. Thailand has a deeply ingrained reverence for Buddhism, and the ordination of monks reaffirms the country's commitment to preserving its cultural and religious heritage. The continued presence of ordained monks in Thai society serves as a reminder to uphold moral values, promote compassion, and lead a virtuous life.

The Impact of Ordination on the Monkhood



Once the ordination ceremony concludes, the newly ordained monks embark on a lifelong journey of spiritual growth and self-discovery. Monastic life in Thailand

provides a structured environment centered around meditation, study, and service to the community.

Monks devote their time to learning and contemplating Buddhist scriptures, engaging in daily rituals, and practicing mindfulness to cultivate inner peace. They also participate in various community activities, providing guidance, conducting religious ceremonies, and offering counseling to those seeking solace.

By leading a simple, disciplined life, the monks serve as role models for others and inspire reverence. Their presence is seen as a source of spiritual strength and stability, fostering a deep sense of tranquility and faith within the communities they serve.

The ordination of Buddhist monks in Thailand is a sacred journey that signifies a deep commitment to spiritual growth and the preservation of cultural heritage. This ancient tradition highlights the importance of community support, the renunciation of worldly desires, and the pursuit of a virtuous life.

Through the ordination ceremony, young Thai men embark on a transformative journey towards enlightenment, dedicating their lives to the teachings of the Buddha. Their presence as ordained monks serves as a reminder of the values of compassion, mindfulness, and interconnectedness that lie at the heart of Buddhism.

As we immerse ourselves in the rich tapestry of Thai culture, let us honor and respect the ordination ceremony and the profound impact it has on the lives of those who choose the path of the Buddhist monk.



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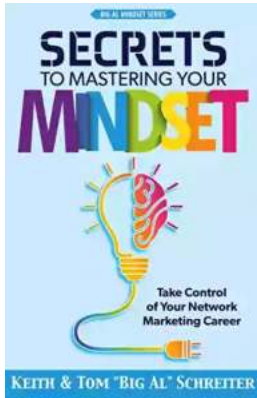
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The ordination of the Buddhist Monks is rituals & practice. In Thailand are monks for life and while some the majority will serve only a temporary or short-term Buddhist monk ordination. This can be days, weeks, months or years and at some period during their lives most Thai men will serve as a monk in ordination. After completing their term they then return to 'laity' in normal life. A popular period for temporary ordination is the Thai summer holidays between April and June a period where the number of monks in Thailand can double and up. Through Buddhist teachings and meditation short-term monks will be prepared to fill their future roles as good citizens. For this photo I follow the process as my little brother is ordained in Chang Rai, Thailand.

The ordination is considered to substitute the grace of parenting and ignore everything to learn in Dharma more.



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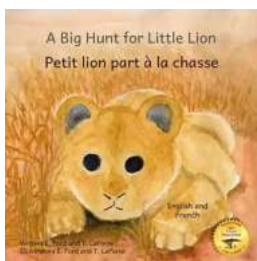
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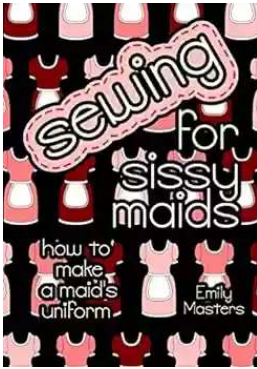
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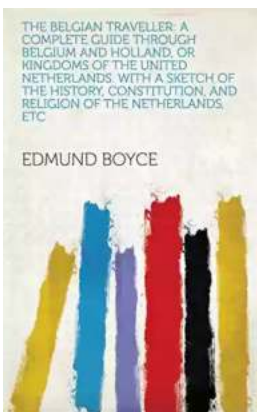
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