

ATTEMPTED MURDER OF A BUDDHIST MONK

TALES AND TRIALS OF PLANTING DHAMMA SEEDS IN AFRICA



BY VEN. BHIKKHU BUDDHARAKKHITA
FOREWORD BY VEN. BHIKKHU BODHI

Praise for Attempted Murder of A Buddhist Monk

" A fine book with vivid drawings and rather suspenseful story. It was a narrow escape, close call To me, this incidence was a "real " experience that would steer Bhante for striving harder for the benefit of all by continuing spreading the Dhamma seeds all over the world. I wished I was there to assist you during " your ordeal".

Tong Sen Chock,
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

"I read your book about your ordeal with great interest. You have survived the attack and your noble conduct is a very powerful example and a teaching to people in Africa and elsewhere to unclench the fist, lay down the weapon and follow Dhamma."

Amin Kabani (Jotiko),
Canada
Dear Bhante,

I was very shocked to read the ordeal you had to go through and the mystery of his madness, or delusions perhaps. It is a blessing you were unharmed, relatively speaking. I find it admirable the way you are taking your experience into the positive, into the picture book relating your story - which you even manage to make a bit humorous-sounding, if I might say so, even though the horrible experience stands out. Especially inspirational is the forgiveness prayers you included. Thanks for the beautiful book, you are a bit of a miracle worker! I wish you all well-being and strength in dealing with the aftermath of your attack.

Much peace to you,
Jiske Foppe, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Bhante,

Wow! I am most grateful that you share this book with me and how fast you work Bhante!

Did you draw it yourself? Horrifying and hopeful story all at once. You are brave!

With metta,
Mona Wolven,
Stockholm, Sweden.

Dear Bhante Buddharakkhita,

Thank you for sharing your latest book with me. I apologize for not responding sooner! I only just had a chance to read the entire book this morning. I "love" it! It contains the good Dhamma, kind but honest, and it is rendered in such a unique and contemporary manner.

The images and story really drew me in and when you tied in Dhamma teachings...just lovely. You turned a bad experience (the shooting) into a good one (the book), and shared it with us all to learn from. Perhaps you and your centre had to go through one HUMUNGOUS kammic hiccup, before moving into a smoother time? I didn't know before this that your mother was a Buddhist nun...how wonderful!

May you be well and safe and may your centre be at peace and harmony in your community!

With metta,
Marcie Bath,
Secretary of Buddhist Global Relief,
New York , U.S.A

Preface

Like everyone else who is connected with him, I was shocked to learn from Venerable Buddharakkhita himself of the attempt on his life by someone who was supposed to be protecting him. It was a miracle that he escaped only with minor injuries.

The incident has created many thoughts in our minds, not least for the future of the Ugandan Buddhist Centre and the security for Venerable Buddharakkhita, his followers, volunteers and the children in his Peace School.

While we are fortunate that Venerable Buddharakkhita is still alive among us and to carry on sharing the peaceful message of the Buddha in Africa, I have the anxiety for his physical security and peace of mind.

Now, Venerable Buddharakkhita has written this pictorial book illustrating the incident for us to see and feel through. This book helps many of us greatly: we can be at least reassured of his peace of mind. As a true Dhamma practitioner, he has forgiven the man who attempted to take his life as soon as he first saw him again. And, he did not cancel any teaching program either in Uganda or overseas. He sent me the first message of the incident from Uganda on 26th June 2011, two days after the incident. It reads:

Dear Ven. Dr. Dhammasami,
Dhamma greetings from Uganda! Last Friday, I was shot by our security guard at the Uganda Buddhist Centre but fortunately the bullet did not hit me! This incidence happened in the evening after meditation and chanting (Metta-sutta) at the Temple. I got a few injuries caused by broken glasses from the

entrance door where the bullet passed. My private investigators caught the man who attempted to take my life. I will keep you posted.

With Metta and respect,
Ven. Buddharakkhita.

His second message came on 9th July while co-teaching a retreat at the Spirit Rock Meditation Centre in California, U.S.A with pleasantly surprising news that he has "written a pictorial book about this incidence. I will send you e-book once it is ready. Now I have a draft". The draft was sent on 27th July from Geneva, Switzerland, Europe, with a moving foreword by one of the most respected Theravada scholar monks of our time, Venerable Bhikkhu Bodhi.

This pictorial book follows an example of how to cope with trauma; Venerable Buddharakkhita is mindful and courageous enough to acknowledge and tell us how he goes through it. Now at least I have no worry about his peace of mind!

Venerable Dr. Khammai Dhammasami, DPhil (Oxford).
Author, Mindfulness Meditation Made Easy.

Executive Secretary, International Association of Buddhist Universities & Association of Theravada Buddhist Universities,
Trustee and Fellow, Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies,
University of Oxford;

Abbot, the Oxford Buddha Vihara, United Kingdom.

28 July 2011

Foreword

Bhikkhu Buddharakkhita is a Buddhist monk with guts. A son of Uganda, he had the rare courage to cast off traditional constraints and plunge into a lifestyle full of uncertainties and challenges. He left the narrow confines of his ancestral homeland on a spiritual search that led him from Uganda to India, and from India to the United States. He left the Christian faith in which he had been raised to embrace the teachings of the Buddha. He left the intricate web of African family ties to become a celibate homeless monk. And after years of training in the U.S., he left the security of his base monastery to become an itinerant Dhamma teacher who, on any given day, might be anywhere in the world: in North America or South America, in Europe or Asia, in Africa or Australia.

Having adopted the homeless life, Bhante Buddharakkhita did not abandon his roots, and here again his courage is evident. Moved by an inner calling, in 2005 he returned to Uganda to begin the task of "planting Dhamma seeds" in African soil, particularly in the country of his birth, where he established a Buddhist temple in Entebbe. Alternating his time between Africa, the U.S., and world teaching tours, he has become one of our most popular Buddhist monks. His joy

in the Dhamma, his powerful loving-kindness, and the sincerity of his teaching have won him friends and devotees everywhere around the world.

Yet the life of a monk is not all cuddles and comfort. The ochre robe awakens in most people admiration and respect, but in certain hearts, covered by ignorance and hatred, it can arouse incomprehensible resentment. This has been the experience of monks since ancient times. The Buddha himself was subject to an attempted assassination. His own chief disciple, Moggallana, was actually killed by thugs. The scriptures tell of a monk named Punna, who wanted to go to the remote "borderlands" to teach the Dhamma. The Buddha warned him that in the border regions he might be insulted, beaten, or even killed, but Punna remained firm in his decision. The Chinese Buddhist pilgrims who travelled to India had similar experiences. In their journals, they describe how they were attacked by bandits, captured and threatened with death, and barely escaped by "the skin of their teeth." We can be sure that some didn't escape; but, of course, they didn't live to write about it.

The present book belongs to this genre of "dangerous encounters," an account written by one who has lived to

write about it. It is Bhante Buddharakkhita's own harrowing tale of the attempt on his life that occurred just a month ago, in June 2011, an attack that could well have removed him from our midst. News of the attack sent shock waves through the world Buddhist community, but also waves of relief when we learned that he emerged with only light injuries. Combining text and pictures, Bhante Buddharakkhita here tells us about that beautiful but terrible moonlit night when, as he was walking back to his temple in Entebbe, a gun was fired at him from in front of his chest. It was simply quick thinking and prudent action—and certainly the power of his merits—that saved his life.

Ironically, the attack came from the person most responsible for protecting him, his own security guard. Bhante Buddharakkhita's account raises puzzling questions about the security guard's motives. What drove him to commit such a dastardly deed? Was it a case of religious hostility? Was it envy? Was it connected with tribal affiliation? Or was it simply a case of mental instability? At the time this book goes to press, the question of motives is still unanswered. But the security guard, caught by the police, is now in prison, and Bhante Buddharakkhita remains alive and well: a consolation to his many friends, students, and devotees.

This book should give the reader a clear picture of the kind of ordeals that might be faced by a Buddhist monk in a country where the Dhamma is not well established. Though I myself was never subjected to physical attack, in my early years as a

monk back in the U.S. I was subjected to cat calls, ridicule, and insults, so I know the feeling of being a stranger in one's own land.

By the blessings of the Triple Gem, I wish Bhante Buddharakkhita long life and good health, free from any future attacks or obstructions to his noble mission.

Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi

Chuang Yen Monastery

Carmel, New York, U.S.A.

July 9, 2011

Acknowledgement

This graphic book was inspired by the many requests from people around the world who wanted to know how I survived the shooting incident and the motivation of my assailant. I am very grateful to all my teachers, students, friends, supporters and well-wishers who sent me many uplifting messages, lots of constructive advice and who expressed much kind-hearted concern for my personal safety in Uganda.

In preparing this book, I am indebted to many friends and teachers. I offer my sincere gratitude to my friend Dr. Sekagya Yahaya, for inspiring and encouraging me to write this book in pictorial form; to my Ugandan friends Frank Ntwasi, Umar Ndiwalana, Claude Muhacha, Tibyasigwa, Pablo Imani, Jacob Waisha, Ismail Mugerwa, Justine Tindyebwa, Marjorie Nanteeza, Dr. Mike Ilamyo and Dr. Juuko Ndawula for always inspiring me to spread the Dhamma. To my mentor and teacher, Bhante Gunaratana, for his inspiration and guidance and for granting me permission to use the excerpt from his paper. To my mother, Ven. Dhammakami (a.k.a. Felister Nampiima), for giving birth to me and for her kind and loving support throughout my life; to Honorable T.K. Malokweza for his support, wise advice and care; to my Ugandan helpers, Paul

Ndawula, Tom Kaboggoza and Julius Kasagama for organizing the Police patrol and coming to my rescue. To my Dhamma brothers and sisters, Gina Sharpe, Konda Manson, Larry Yang, Jack Kornfield, Joseph Goldstein and Sharon Salzberg, Ven. Y Rahula, Ajahn Sona , Ajahn Dhirapanno ,for their kind and encouraging messages. To Honorable James Mulwana, the Head of the Royal Thai Consulate in Kampala for his kind support. To Mona Wolven, Ofosu Jones-Quartey, Dora King, John Muganga, Anh Mai Tu, Tony Lenart and Dolores Watson for their friendship and comments. To Mi Khin Kin Soe, Sisi Tan, Sara Marks, Pri Peters, Dr. Mervyn Mendis and family, John Streather, Boots, Binch, Edwin Kelly, Gerry Peters, Juan Martín Valentinuzzi and John Haywood for their kind support; to H.R.H Princess Diana Teyeggala for the valuable advice and support. To Dato Chee Peck Kiat, for offering to print the book. To my Dhamma friends at the Buddhist Society of Victoria, Australia for supporting me and the Uganda Buddhist Community. To my Dhamma friends at the World Buddhist Summit, Kobe city, Japan for supporting me in propagating Buddhism in Uganda. To Arthur Athula, Luciana, Leonardo B. Neves, Beatriz, Henerik and all my Dhamma friends in Brazil

for your kind support. To Bro. Goh Seng Chai, Julie Tan, Tong Sen Chock and family, Premseri Sumanananda, Dayananda and all my Malaysian friends for your kind assistance and support. To all my Dhamma friends in Thailand, Burma, Sri Lanka, India and the rest of the world for their kind support. To Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi for his friendship and for agreeing to write a wonderful foreword for this book. To Walt Opie and Sarah Entine for their valuable suggestions, support and providing me with a wonderful home to stay in Berkeley, California. To Sayadaw U Osadha and Sayadaw U Jotalankara, Sayadaw U Sobhana and Sayadaw U Beelin, Bhante Dhammika for their encouragement and support. To Ven. Bhikkhu Nandisena for his advice and companionship in the holy life.

Special appreciation goes to:

BRANDVISION ADVERTISING UGANDA
hello@brandvision.us | www.brandvision.us

For undertaking this project.

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Finally, I dedicate this book to my late Preceptor the Most Venerable Sayadaw U Silananda who ordained and encouraged me to learn and spread the Dhamma around the world.

May all beings be well, happy and peaceful.

May all beings attain final liberation.

Venerable Bhikkhu Buddharakkhita

Uganda Buddhist Centre, Entebbe, Uganda, East Africa

July 3, 2011

Introduction

“The price of anything is the amount of life you exchanged for it.” -Henry David Thoreau

A True and Traumatic Story: Shot by My Own Security Guard!

What if I told you that my near-death experience has left me with more questions than answers? On the full moon night of June 17, 2011, I faced a near-death experience that I was lucky enough to survive with just a few scars for reminders. In other words, I lived to tell others the tale—one which I will never forget! It was about 9 pm, when I was shot at by my own security guard from very close range. The bullet narrowly missed me and hit the glass pane of the entrance door to the temple as I was opening the door. It passed on through to the far inside wall of the temple and hit the iron frame of a far window, drilling a big dent into it and finally lodging in the wall beyond it at an angle, taking out a huge chunk of wall in the process. I miraculously escaped death by a few millimetres.

Opening Pandora's Box

This rather traumatic experience has left me with many questions and lingering concerns. Why did this happen to me?

What was the motive of the security guard? Is there someone else behind this who paid the security guard, a kind of master mind, if you will? Will the truth ever come out? Why would someone who was being paid perfectly well to protect me turn against me, his employer? Was he a hired assassin? Was he mentally disturbed? Was it due to greed or hatred or delusion? Was he a religious fundamentalist? All these questions are still pending at the time of printing this book. However, I believe that it is only a question of time before the truth comes to the surface.

My assailant, Hillary Otimu, was caught a couple days after the shooting. He was brought out of jail to meet all of us including the investigators, the police and me. When he saw me, his eyes flooded with surprise at seeing that I was still alive and kicking. As I looked again into his eyes, not hate but compassion arose in me. I had no sense of revenge. But what I saw was a lot of confusion in him. I knew that he was going to suffer a lot due to this evil action.

Otimu has been interrogated a couple of times and he lied shamelessly. He said that the reason he shot me was due to my attempt to steal his rifle from him! I told the head of the police that this was not true. Why did he leave behind the rifle, three ropes and his security uniform in the tent at the Buddhist centre if this was truly the case?

Another time Otimu was interrogated, he said the reason

for shooting at me was due to my overworking him, which was another lie. The last I heard was that he told the investigator that he was trying to steal from the Temple when the shooting incident took place.

In my heart I believe that he was paid to shoot me. The investigation is still underway to find out the real motive behind this tragic attempt to kill a Buddhist monk in Uganda.

While I do not know when all of the questions are finally going to be answered, I am quite humbled by this near death experience. I have learned a lot from this in a short amount of time.

Before this incident, I believed I was protected by the Buddha as my name indicates—"Buddharakkhita" means "one who is protected by the Buddha"—but somehow I had never taken it quite so literally. After this disturbing experience, my name and life has a completely different and more literal meaning for me. Another honorific title before my name is "Bhante" which means "venerable sir." Now I would change that to "vulnerable sir," at least when I'm in Uganda!

As for my life, personally I feel it is protected by the Dhamma. There is a saying in Buddhism, "The Dhamma protects One who protects the Dhamma." Since I had just finished meditating right before the shooting took place, I feel like it did help protect me from danger.

Lessons of Patience

Whenever I share my experiences of spreading the Dhamma in Uganda with my many Dhamma friends around the world, they often ask me how I've felt amidst all these difficulties, challenges and even traumatic experiences. I tell them that I am determined to follow in the footsteps of the Buddha and his disciples. I am inspired to continue spreading Dhamma seeds in Africa and worldwide despite all of these hardships and challenges. The Buddha had a lot of challenges yet he was patient and compassionate throughout his teaching life. And the Buddha's disciples such as Venerable Punna offer fine examples of determination, endurance and patience. The Ven. Punna also showed me how to practice patience while planting Dhamma seeds in Africa. According to the Connected Discourses of the Buddha, Venerable Punna once approached the Buddha and asked a series of questions, as follows:

Punna: "Venerable sir, it is good, if you advised me in brief, so that I could live alone and secluded, zealous to dispel—diligently."

Buddha: The Buddha gave him teachings on mindfulness of six sense restraint... And said, "Punna, I have advised you in brief. Now in which State will you abide?"

P: "I will live in the Sunàparanta State"

are good, and they do not hurt me with their hands."

B: "if those people hurt you with their hands, what will you do?"

P: "Venerable sir, it will occur to me, indeed these people are good, and they do not hurt me with clods."

B: "if those people hurt you with clods, what will you do?"

P: "Venerable sir, it will occur to me, indeed these people are good, and they do not hurt me with a stick."

B: "if those people hurt you with a stick, what will you do?"

P: "Venerable sir, it will occur to me, indeed these people are good, and they do not hurt me with a weapon"

B: "if those people of hurt you with a weapon, what will you do?"

P: "Venerable sir, it will occur to me, indeed these people are good, and they do not end my life with a sharp weapon"

B: "if the people put an end to your life with a sharp weapon, what will you do?"

P: Venerable sir, it will occur to me thus. There are disciples of the Buddha, who loathing the body and life search for an assassin. Here, I have an assassin even without a search.

The Buddha said: "Good! Punna, it is possible for you to live in Sunàparanta State endowed with that kind of discipline.

"Monks, Punna is wise. He stood on his own in the teaching of the Buddha. Venerable Punna proceeded to Sunàparanta State

and having made a following a thousand male and female followers, he passed away after attaining the final enlightenment." (SN 35:88)

Certainly, in Uganda there are those who have done some physical harm to me. However, I would like to take this ordeal as a learning experience. I am deeply inspired by the Buddha and His disciples, and I plan to continue to teach the Dhamma with patience, endurance and determination there and to offer my fellow Africans plenty more opportunities to receive the teachings of the Buddha.

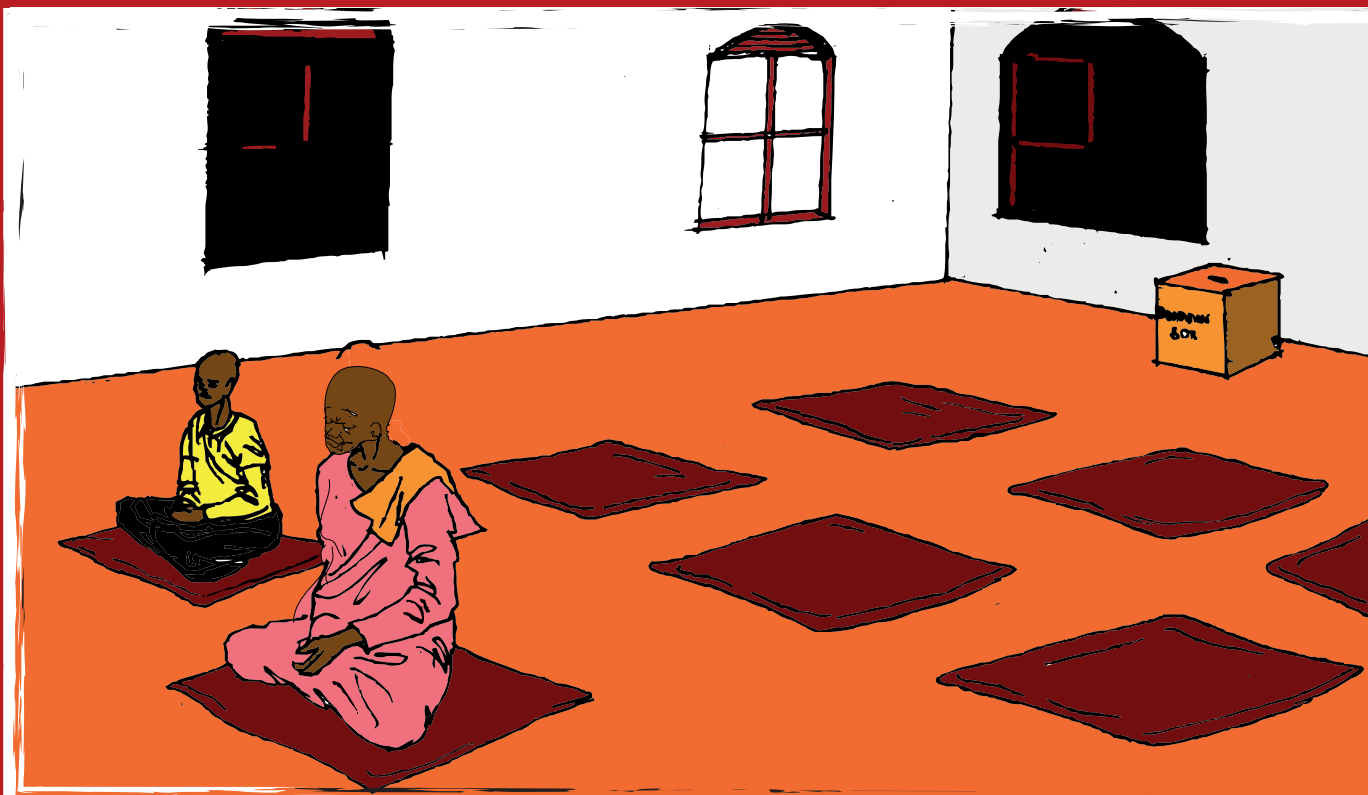
I do hope that this pictorial book will inspire and encourage you to begin or continue to practice the Dhamma. And remember more Dhamma, less Drama !

May all beings be free from suffering and causes (greed, hatred and delusion)

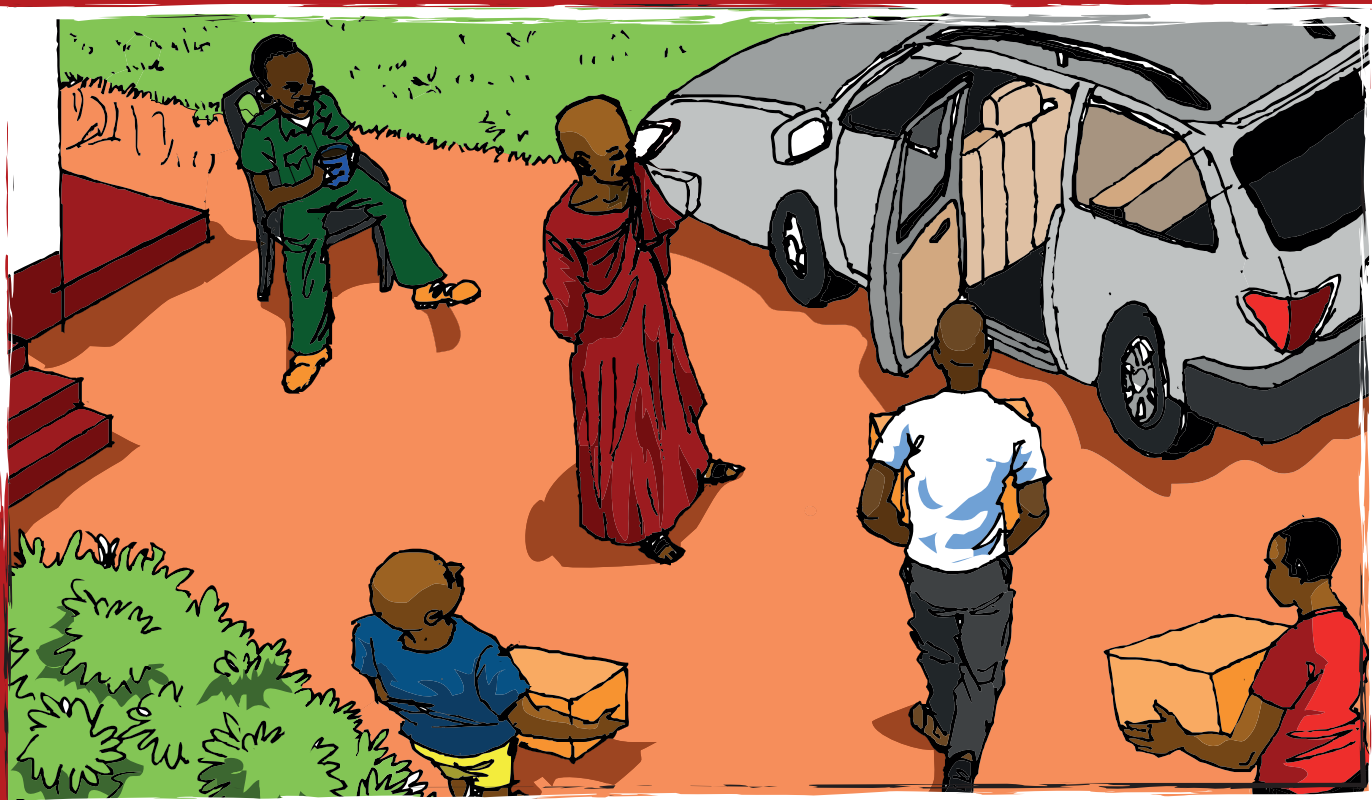
May all beings be well, happy and peaceful.

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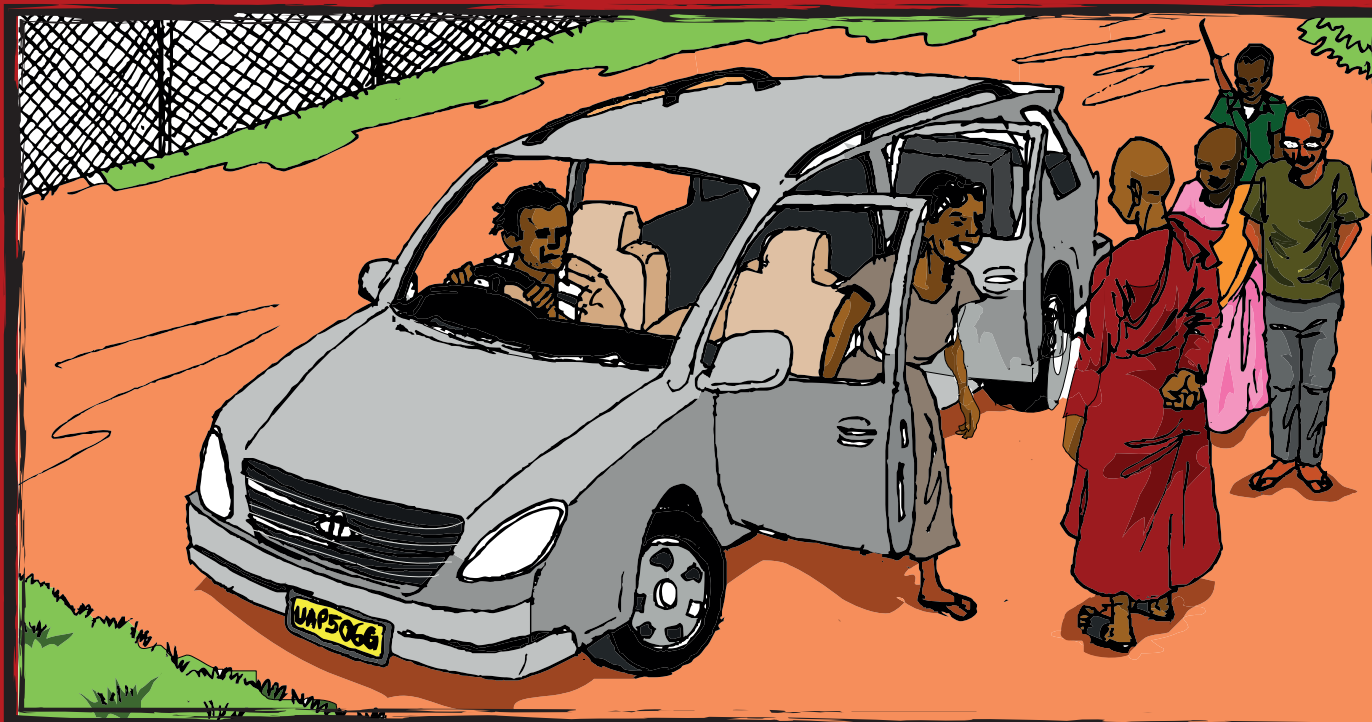
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Like always, it was a very quiet, peaceful and calm morning. Just before the break of dawn. I awakened and went ahead to meditate like I always do every morning at 6:00 am, along with my mother and my attendant. After meditation and chanting for an hour, I was offered breakfast by my devotees. Our security guard was also having his breakfast right outside the Temple before he got off his shift. Temple builders were getting ready for the day's tasks ahead.



Thereafter, I started preparing to go to Kampala to pay a visit to Her Royal Highness Princess Diana Teyeggala at the Lubiri Palace in Mengo, Kampala. During my visit with the Princess, she spontaneously expressed her keen interest to pay a visit to the Temple.



Later in the afternoon, I returned with the Princess back to the Temple where my devotees and I eagerly welcomed her. Everyone was awed by her personality and like true royalty; she was regal in speech and stature. She warmed every person with her smile and humility. It was a very beautiful day with wonderful people. The sun was approaching the horizon, with a light breeze drifting in from Lake Victoria, which seemed to hug the Temple. The birds were cheerfully chirping and the monkeys in the forest behind the Temple seemed to be a little bit more playful. I had seen beautiful days before but today seemed to have an aura about it. The perfect day to plant a tree! I hereby requested her to honour us by planting a tree on our Temple grounds to commemorate her auspicious visit. She happily accepted.



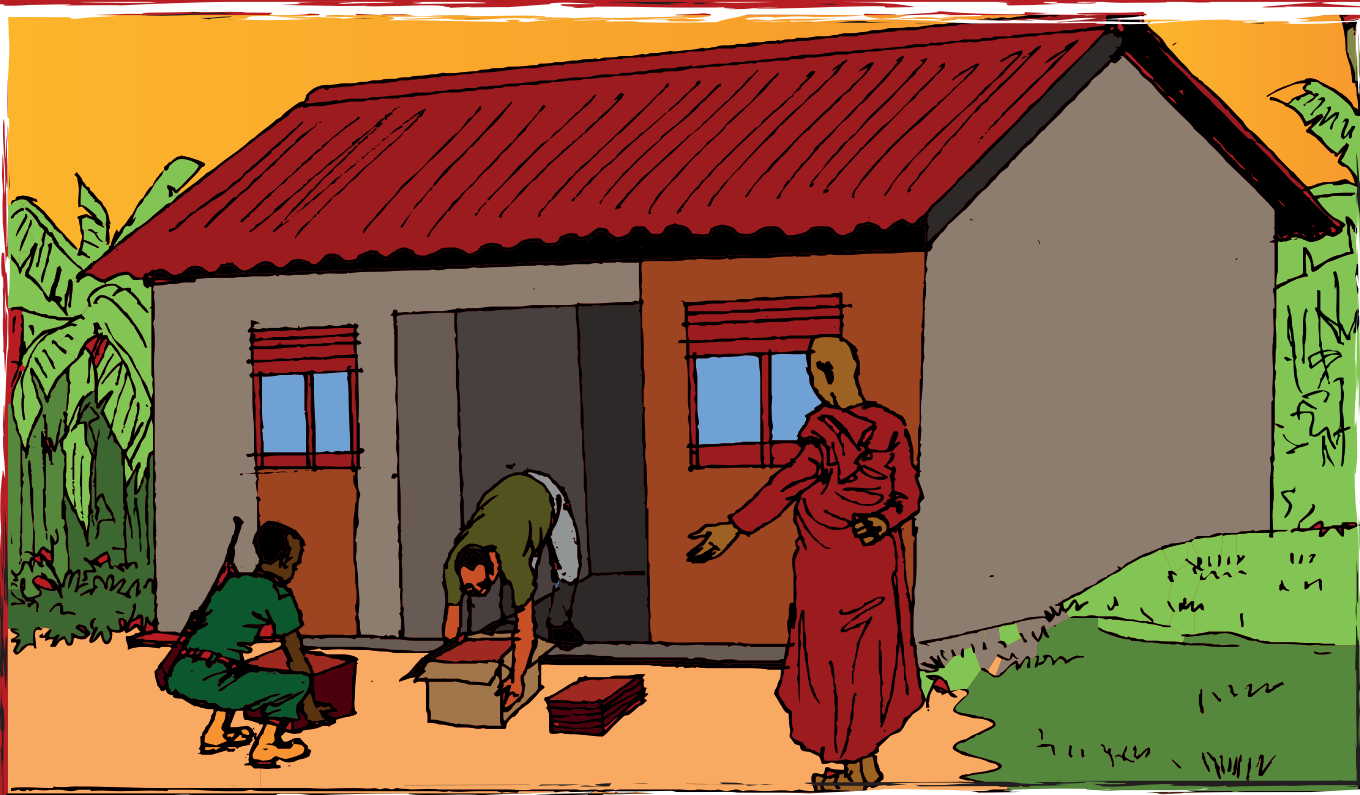
Along with our Buddhist followers, I gave the Princess a tour of the Temple and the environs. She was very impressed with our library and we later entered the Temple for blessings. Finally, we went outside for the tree planting ceremony. The photographers took endless pictures and everyone was in a very jolly mood. The Princess' charm alone lifted everyone's spirit. She interacted with everyone in a way that left him or her humbled.

All actions are led by the mind, mind is their master; mind is their maker.
Act or speak or with pure mind (generosity, loving-kindness and wisdom) and happiness
will follow, as your shadow follows you without departing.
- Dhammapada, verse 2



We chose palm trees for the Temple grounds because of the close vicinity to Lake Victoria. As the wind passes through the Palm leaves they swoosh and make a sound of calm and serenity. The Princess went on to plant and water a palm tree on the Temple grounds as everyone looked on and cheered her. It was a very memorable event and soon after, the Princess left. I had my driver take her back to her residence and I stayed at the Temple.

The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now.
-Anonymous



It was nightfall now and a slight darkness had enveloped the Temple. I could tell it was a full moon but it was only still a silhouette. So I decided to quickly inspect the construction work that was done during the day. I found some tiles that were left outside and I asked my attendant to help me move them into a store the security guard also volunteered to help.



After making sure all the construction materials had been stored away, I headed for the Temple. However, I started to develop a strange feeling that my security guard had been following me around too closely since I came back from Kampala. He did seem a bit unsettled. At around 8:00 pm; I went inside the Temple and my mother asked me to meditate along with her but I insisted on taking a shower first since it had been a long day. After my shower, I joined my mother and attendant for meditation and chanting. After which we had small chatter about how auspicious the day was and we retired for the night.



Before going off to sleep, I thought I would go outside and get some fresh air and walk around for a bit. I came outside to a very luminous sky with a full moon way over the horizon. The moon's light was dancing on the lake from afar, creating an amazing spectrum. My mother had always warned me of going outside after 9:00 pm but this sight was so breathtaking to miss. Curiosity got the best of me.



While I stood outside, taking in the night sounds and unbelievable beauty of the full moon, I called out for my security guard saying "Askari, where are you?" And he replied "I am here." We engaged in a conversation where he advised me to move the solar security light to the part of the Temple grounds that was not completely fenced off. He did have a point but I didn't think this was a good idea at that moment. So I declined to move it as I walked back to the Temple stairs.

"Enduring patience is the highest austerity. "Nibbana is supreme," say the Buddhas.
He is not a true monk who harms neither another, nor a true renunciate who oppresses others."
- Dhammapada, verse 184



While walking back to the Temple, the security guard was also walking back to his seat.

On Mindfulness of Death

Death always come a long with birth, searching for an opportunity like a murderer out to kill.

Not the least bit stoppable, always going forward. Life rushes towards its end like the rising sun to its setting.

Like light, a bubble, dew drops, or a water-line, life is destroyed; death is like a murderer after his foe, completely unrestrainable.

Due to luck of the support of life or some inner or outer misfortune, I who am dying moment after moment can die in the brink of an eye.

-The Buddha



As I approached the Temple doors, I heard fast moving footsteps and through my peripheral vision, I saw the security guard run from one side of the temple to the other, closer to where I was. I turned to look at him and what he was doing and it's at that point that he ran towards me and shouted out loud saying....."BUT YOU MAN". Then he pointed his assault rifle at me. I turned to run inside the Temple. Everything went blank!



What happened next was a phantasmagoria of horror and mystery filled with bewilderment and terror. I felt all these emotions at once. Then the security guard fired one single shot at close range as I was turning towards the Temple doors. I didn't see the gun go off but I heard the shot go off. The sound of the fired bullet was like a deafening thunder clap. As I screamed my lungs out I heard glass shattering and sharp debris flying everywhere. It was so surreal.

Eleven benefits of practicing loving-kindness meditation.

One sleeps well

One gets up well

One does not have nightmares

One becomes affectionate to human beings

One becomes affectionate to non-human beings

One is protected the deities (heavenly beings)

One is neither affected by fire nor poison nor a weapon

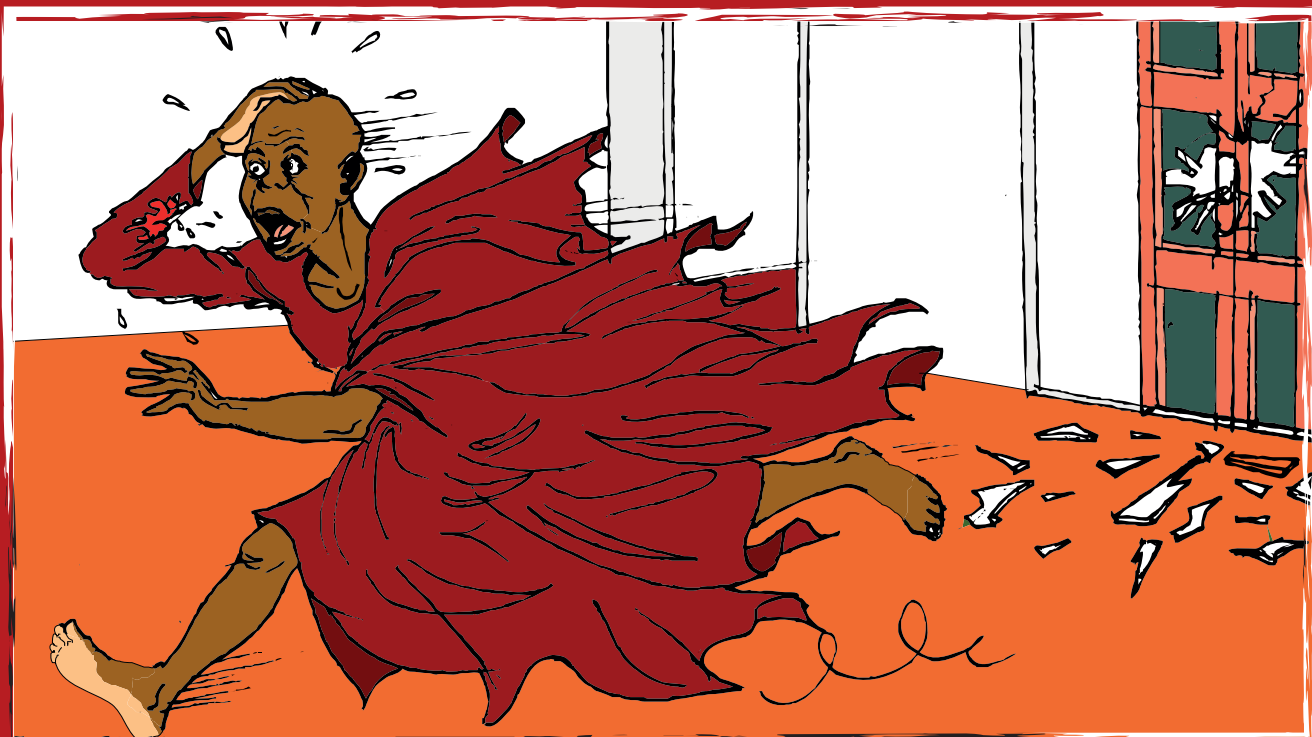
One's mind becomes calm immediately

One's complexion brightens

One dies without confusion

Beyond that, if one does not comprehend the highest, one goes to the world of the Brahmas

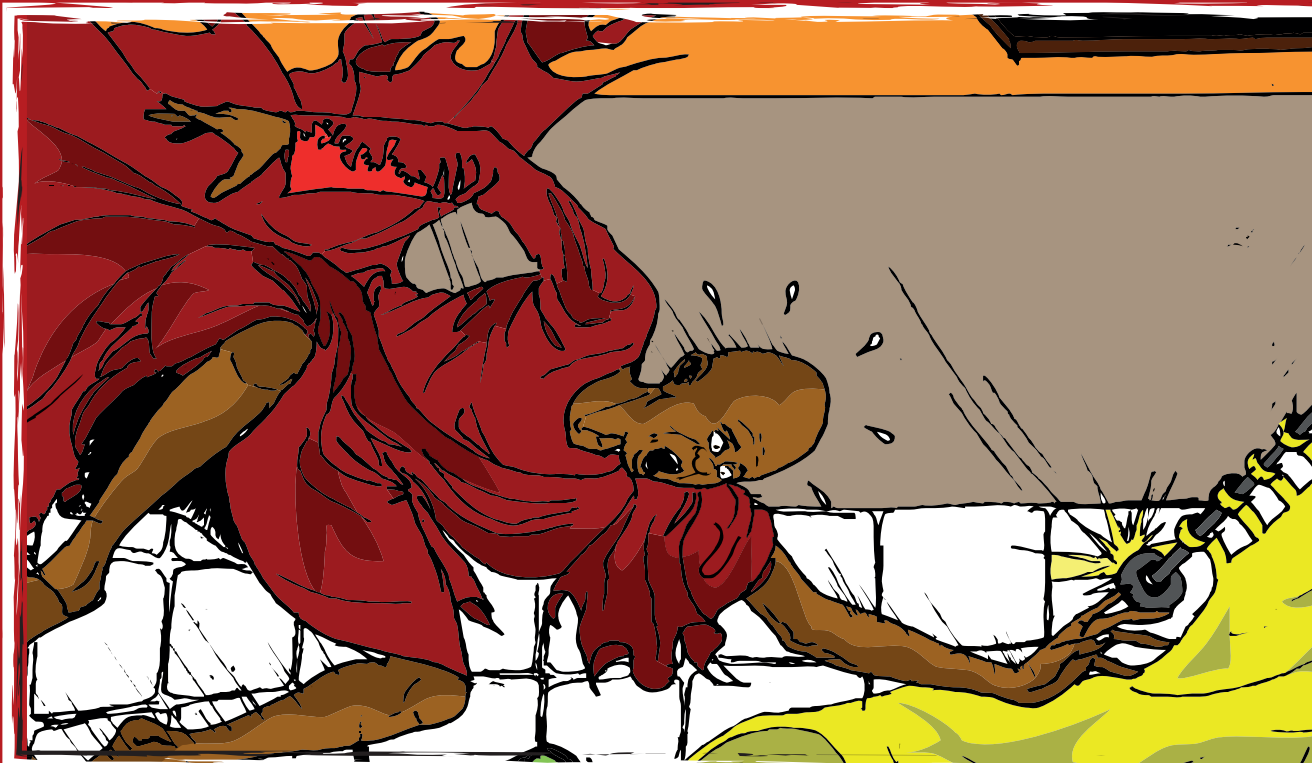
-The Buddha



I had no time to try and close the doors behind me. As soon as I was inside and out of sight from the security guard, I stood behind the wall but not for long. I needed to put more distance between the security guard and me. I needed to find a safer hiding place where he couldn't easily reach me. I was fleeing for my dear life. I couldn't think or react to what just happened. I was merely acting on impulse. I decided to make a dash for my room and all this while I'm thinking I have the bullet in me somewhere. I didn't have the time to focus on that so I reached for the door at the library area of the Temple and closed the door behind me.

More Dharma, less drama!

More Dharma, less melodrama!



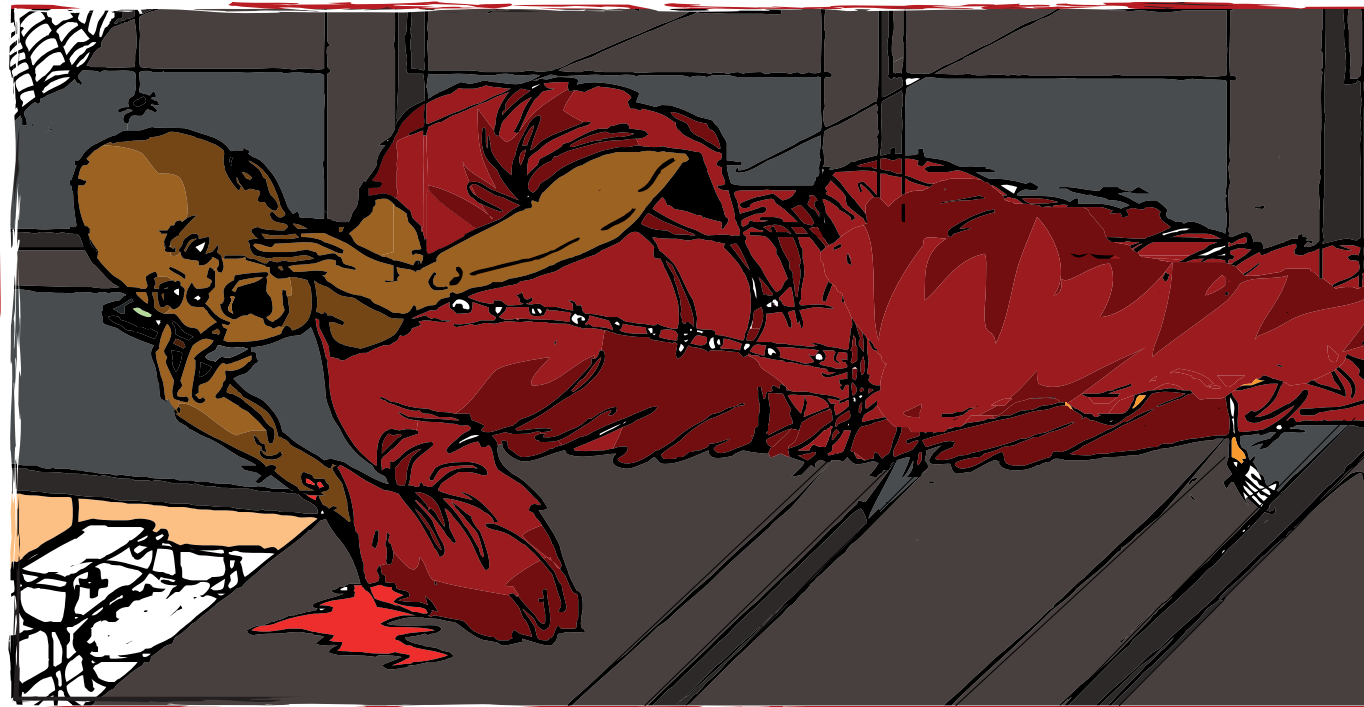
I made it to my room, closed the door behind me too and decided to hide in the ceiling. The opening to the ceiling is in the bathroom and it seemed like a very impossible angle to climb into it through a very tiny opening and with nothing to climb on top of. But I needed to find a way of getting up there if I was to stay alive this night. I stepped onto the toilet seat and onto the shower curtain rail, which came right off the wall sending me hurling to the hard tiled ground. My orange robes came off as I skidded on the slippery bathroom tiles. I had to find a way to get into the ceiling.

Our greatest glory is in never falling, but in arising every time we fall.
-Confucius



I left my outer robe on the bathroom floor. I still had to figure out a way to get up there though. I fidgeted around with trying to climb onto a high window ledge, where I scampered about and leapt for the small ceiling opening. I don't know where I got the strength to pull myself up and squeeze through that small opening. Everything happened so fast and before I knew it, I was up in the ceiling.

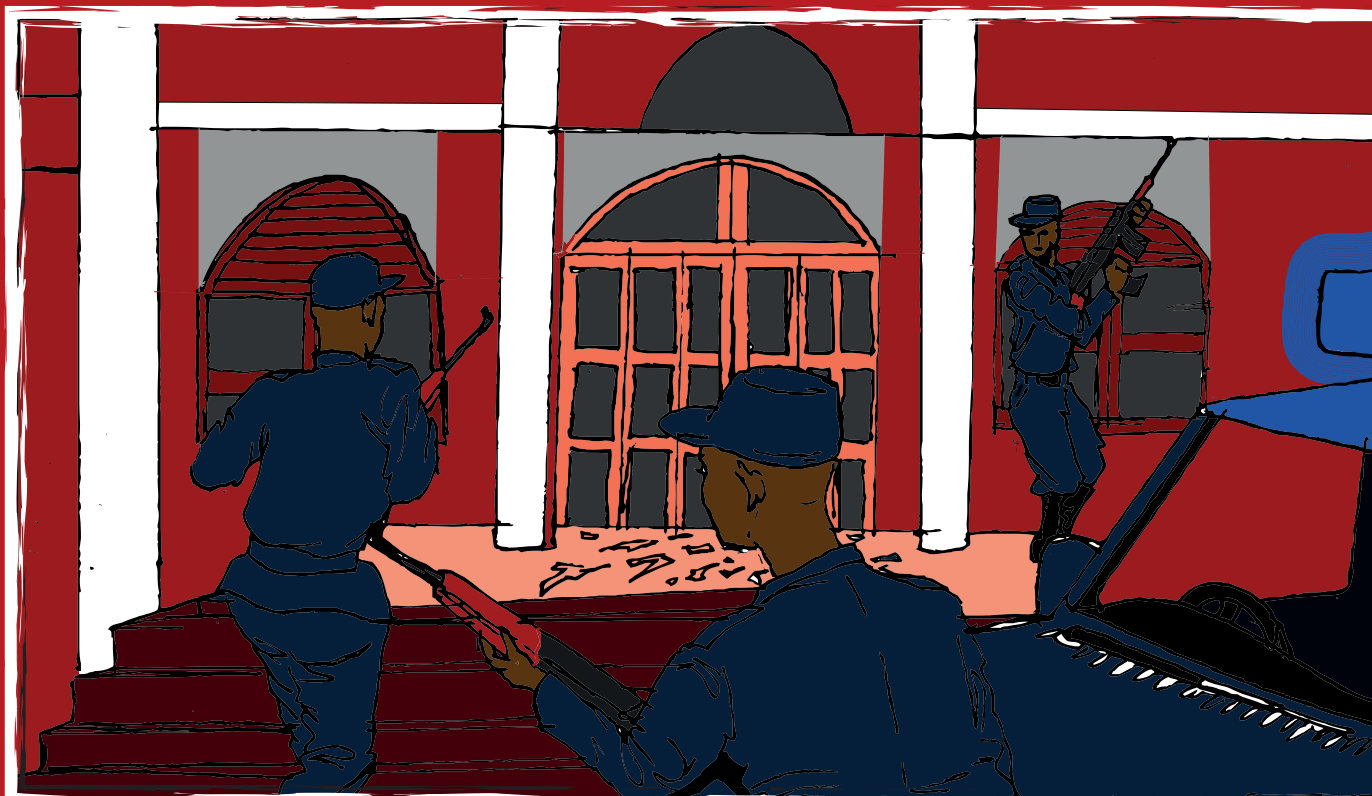
In school, you're taught the lesson and then you are given the test.
In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson.
-Tom Bodett



This seemed like a safer place to be. I was sweaty and had saliva all over me from drooling over the phone, which I had in my mouth while I was climbing up in the ceiling. Everything was dark and silent from up here. It was dusty and the air was much thicker but that was the least of my problems at this point. I fervently checked my whole body for where the bullet had gone in. I found blood on my right arm but with a small injury. I knew that's where the bullet had gone in but I couldn't find an exit wound. At this point I decided to call my driver. I told him briefly what happened and asked him to quickly alert the police to rescue me. After, the phone call, I silently waited to hear sounds of a rescue...of help...of hope.



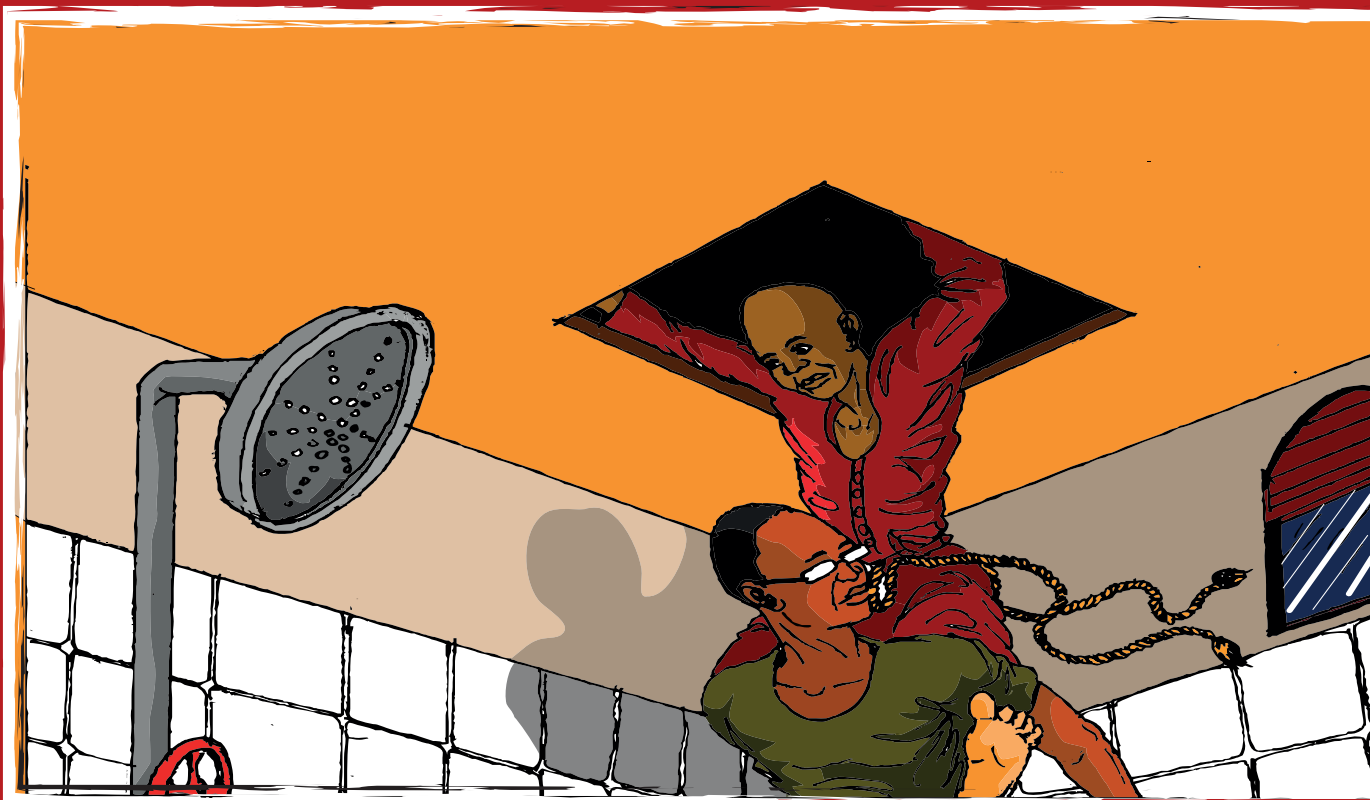
Then I could hear the distant sound of sirens but I didn't know if it was safe to come down yet. I wasn't even sure that the help was headed my way, so I stayed holed up in the ceiling till I was certain it was fine to come down.



I received a call from one of my attendants while I was still up in the ceiling that the police had arrived at the scene. By this time, I could hear sounds of people calling out my name and banging on the door outside the library area. I was still shocked and unsure but I knew help was here.



I began to calm down but I was now faced with a new dilemma. I was stranded in the ceiling. I had managed to climb into the ceiling but it was a real challenge coming down. It baffled me how I had managed to make it up here if I couldn't get myself down. So I couldn't open for the police officers since I was stuck in the ceiling. They tried to break down the door by smashing it but I stopped them and asked them to break through the window instead.



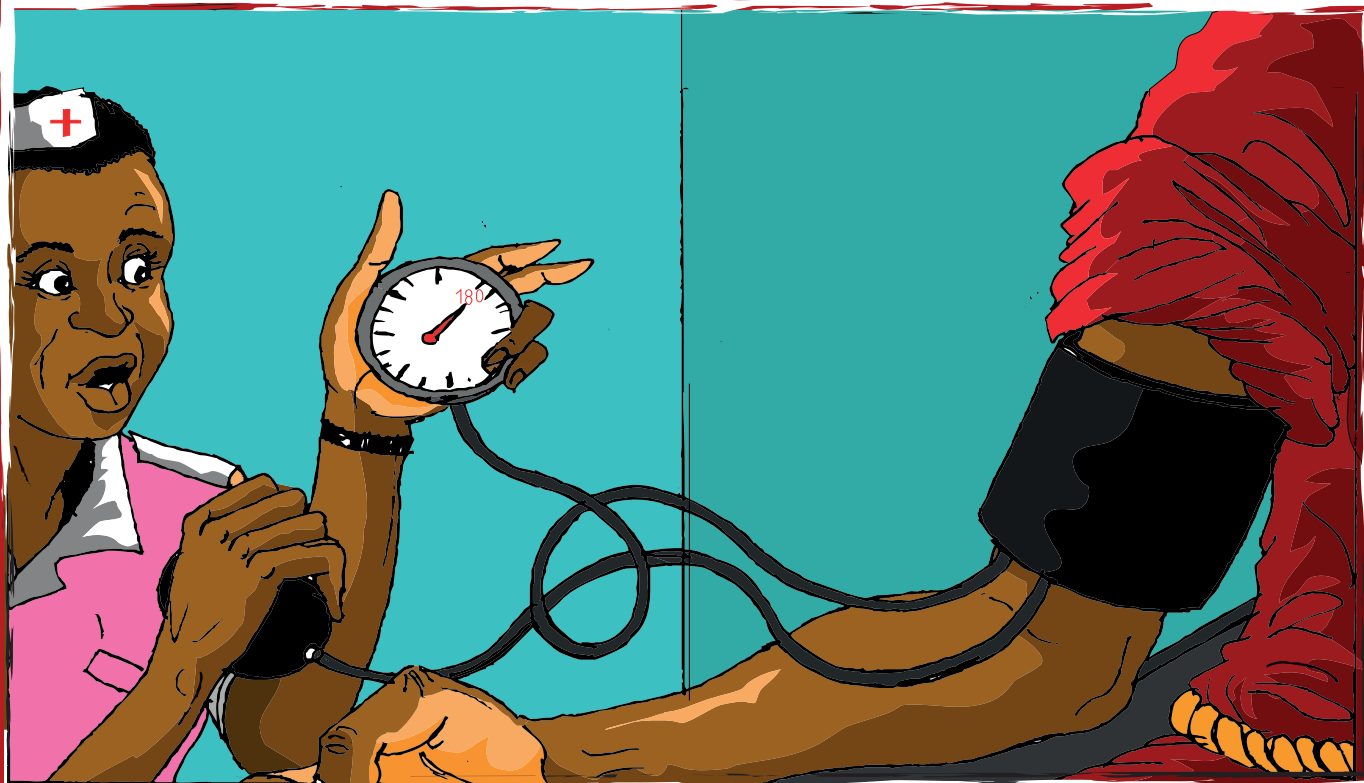
After realizing I couldn't possibly get myself to climb down from the ceiling on my own, one of my helpers offered to stand directly under the ceiling opening, where I slowly eased down onto his shoulders where he supported me as I gently lowered the rest of my body. Finally, I was out of the ceiling. I felt relieved.



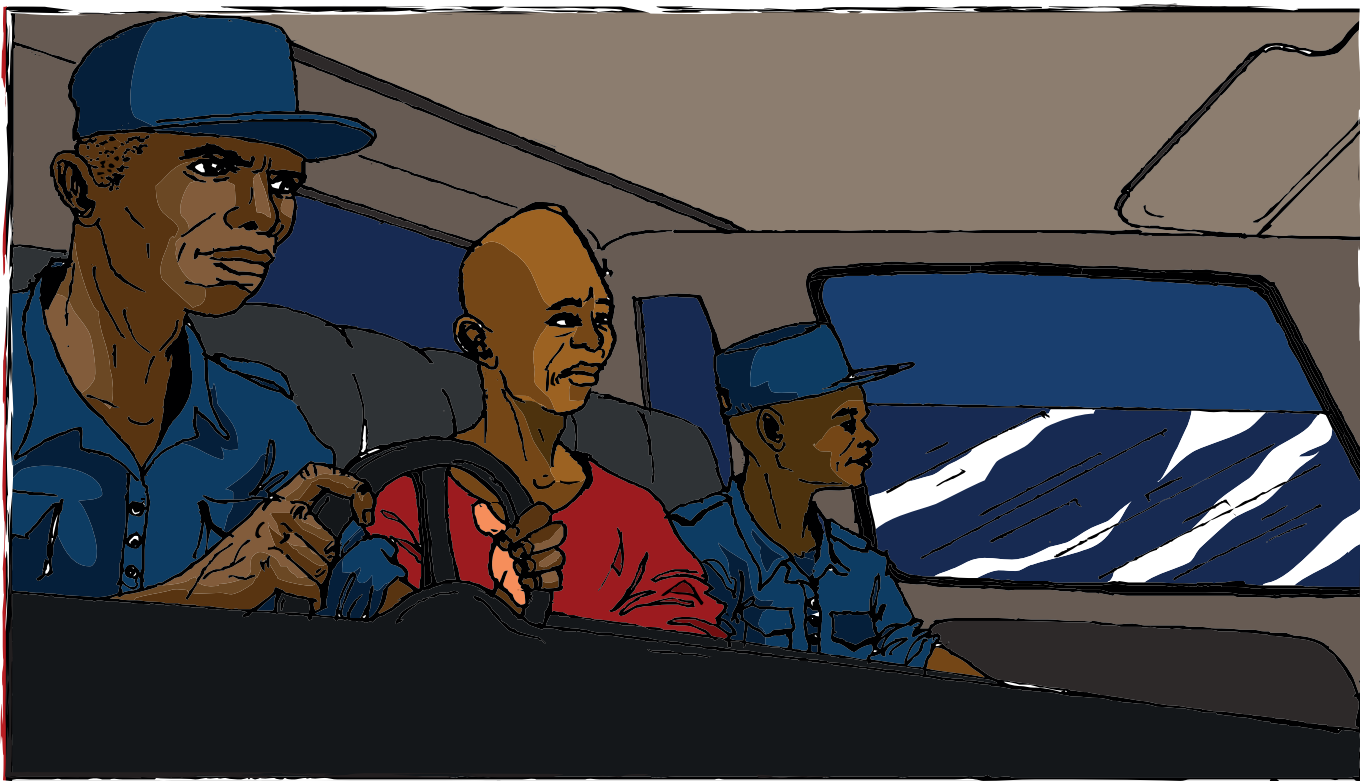
I walked into the library where I found many policemen awaiting. I was slowly coming out of shock and feeling really reassured. The security guard couldn't get to me now. I was exhausted and parched. At this point, I figured the blood from my arm and leg might be from the glass shrapnel and not the bullet but I needed immediate medical attention for a doctor to confirm.



Along with the Police officers, we left the Temple premises and headed straight to the medical centre where I could get some First Aid.



On arrival at Entebbe Grade B emergency unit, the medical officer could immediately see how distressed I was and right away had to check for my blood pressure to make sure I wasn't in any danger of a heart attack from the shock. My reading came up at 180mm Hg which is considered as Hypertensive crisis.



From the medical centre, I rode in the police patrol car to Entebbe Police station to make a statement of the events that had transpired.



At the Police Station, I made my statement to the Officer in Charge. I narrated all of the days events leading up to the point the Police officers arrived while I was in the ceiling. From the police station, I went to Victoria Clinic in Entebbe town for further medical check up. I got some medication to lower my blood pressure. There after I proceeded to a hotel for the night, as it was approaching midnight.



After a couple of days, I made a trip to Gulu, in the north of Uganda, with four other private investigators. We knew that the security guard was from Pete Division village.



On reaching Pete village, the investigators tracked down the security guard's father in a dilapidated homestead and requested for mangoes and goats. He offered them mangoes and it was during that time that they asked him about the security guard by the name Otim. He replied saying his son was a policeman in Entebbe and not a security guard. He however said he had spent a long time without seeing or hearing him, but they could try at his mother's place. While preparing to head out to his mother's place in a further distant village, we got a call from Entebbe that the security guard was spotted walking around the Entebbe Mayor's gardens.



One of the investigators we had gone with to Gulu, quickly called the Deputy Police Commander of Entebbe and informed him of the whereabouts of the security guard. A team of policemen was immediately dispatched to go and make the arrest. He was finally apprehended. With a look of horror and amazement, he saw the consequences of his actions turn to reality.

Neither in the sky nor in mid-ocean, nor by entering into mountain clefts,
nowhere in the world is there a place one may escape from the result of evil deeds.
Dhammapada, verse 127

Like fine dust thrown against the wind, evil falls back upon that fool who offends an
inoffensive, pure and guiltless person.
Dhammapada, verse 125



Behind the iron bars he had nothing left to do but wonder—what was it all for?

I returned from Gulu at 2:30pm and went straight to Entebbe police station, where Otimu was in jail. They brought him in front of us. He looked confused and ashamed but he still looked surprised that I was still alive. Inside my heart, I had no feeling of revenge but rather could only see that he was going to suffer because of his evil actions. However, in my heart, I forgive him.

All actions are led by the mind, mind is their master; mind is their maker.
Act or speak with impure mind (greed, hatred, delusion) and suffering will follow, as
the cart-wheel follows the hoofs of the ox.
Dhammapada, verse 1



Though the action was over, there were so many questions still unanswered, and many lessons yet to be learned. What drives a man to do such things? How can I forgive and move on? With such thoughts weighing heavily on my mind, I felt I needed to share my story with the world.

“One who forgives is wise”. Te Buddha

Forgiveness doesn't mean condoning others' evil behaviors; forgiveness isn't the same thing as approval. But it does mean letting go of the emotion commotion of feeling hurt and wounded. Forgiveness is not weakness, it is strength. One who forgives first is the first one to “get of” the hook !

Forgiveness practice:

Forgiveness for myself:

Just as I have caused suffering to others, there are many ways that I have hurt and harmed myself. I have betrayed or abandoned myself many times in thought, word, or deed knowingly or unknowingly.

For the ways I have hurt myself through action or inaction, out of fear, pain, greed, anger and confusion, I now extend a full and heartfelt forgiveness. I forgive myself, I forgive myself completely.

Forgiveness for those who have hurt or harmed me:

There are many ways I have been harmed or abandoned by my assailant Hillary Otimu, knowingly or unknowingly, in thought, word or deed.

I remember the many ways Hillary Otimu has hurt and wounded me, out of fear, jealousy, pain, greed, anger, and confusion. I have carried this pain in my heart and mind long enough. To the extent that I am ready, I offer you forgiveness. To those who have caused me harm, I offer my forgiveness now. I forgive you.

Forgiveness from others:

There are many ways that I have hurt and harmed others, have betrayed or abandoned them, caused them suffering, knowingly or unknowingly, out of pain, fear, greed, anger and confusion.

I ask for your forgiveness now. Please forgive me.

Messages from around the World

Dear friends,

Everyday people meet special human beings they call friends. To me, Bhante has been one such a person who not only understands me but has a huge heart for humankind.

When I had the news about a security guard attempting on his life, I asked myself, "Why would someone try to kill him? What could have been his motive?"

These questions may not be answered today or tomorrow but I believe that the answers are just amidst us. Because our minds are limited in understanding certain phenomena that occur around us, that's why we seek knowledge and answers from the Buddha, to whom all things are beautiful and wonderfully made and on the other hand, we humans think some things are right or wrong.

This is the reason why, it would not be better if things happened to people as others wished them for. There was a reason why Bhante survived this attempt and the answers will be clear in the near future.

Long Live Bhante.

Kind regards,

Dr. Ilamyo Mike

Orthopaedic officer, Mulago Hospital,

Kampala, Uganda

Dear Friends,

I was driving towards Jinja to check on the developments of a retreat garden we are currently developing and this call came in "Hello or Juuko Ndawula my security guard killed me and actually I did not die? What happened? Well, this And that...

Amidst shock, I decided to call later after an hour to understand whether it was a monk I knew who called or his spirit because I have experiences of spirits talking.

When I called after an hour, he picked up the phone and narrated to me what happened. It remained to move and see him physically which I did next day.

When he told me the whole story of how he survived, it compelled me to go to the scene where this catastrophic drama took place.

I soon visited the Temple where the monk miraculously escaped death. While I was at the scene, I experience the following:

-I was humbled and reduced to nothing.

-The life of the monk was spared because of the many duties he has to accomplish in that place.

-A lot of work is yet to be done by teaching our people to be non-violent.

-We are all interconnected.

-Nature constantly communicates to us and if we listen

we can escape many ills.

Conclusively, The monk is alive and we should not curse the country or the place where this tragedy took place. Nature must have used this episode to highlight the importance of this place, the Uganda Buddhist Centre.

Dr. Juuko Ndawula,
Kampala, Uganda.

Dear Ven. Bhante Buddharakkhita,

We are very shocked and sorry to hear that your security guard shot Your Venerable last Friday and we felt very much relieved that the bullet did not hit Bhante!!

We believe the sacred blessing of Buddha and Triple Gem protected your life. We sincerely pray that this kind of thing will never happen again at your Buddhist Centre.

At the same time, please kindly be very careful for your life since Your Venerable is a very important true Buddhist monk who truly save people in Africa with Buddha Dharma and nobody can deliver a good sermon like Your Venerable.

Sincerely yours in the Dharma,

Nori Fujii and Ven. Hiroshi Fujikura,
Secretary-General of World Buddhist Summit,
Kobe city, Japan

Re: IN SHOCK

Beloved Bhante,

I wish that what you tell me is not true. This is most horrifying news! Is there anything that you need or anything that I can do for you in this moment? Are you at the hospital? I know that you, if anyone, can keep your mind on the right path despite such an immense challenge. Despite this I still want to give you my sincere sympathy in this difficult time. Truly, truly unbelievable. How can a mind twist to do such an evil deed to such a loving person?? This is not important right now, but I read on the buddharam home page that you will conduct a retreat in Fredrika in September. I meant to sign up (along with some friends from my vipassana-center) but I guess this is not updated. Please see below. With much love, respect, hope (and sorrow)

May you be well my friend

Mona Wolven,
Stockholm, Sweden

...POEM...

A PEACE OF UGANDA
(BODHISATTVA)
(TERROR VISION)

BULLIED BEATEN BOMBED
TERROR STIRS TIME

A MONK SITS STILL
A NUN STANDS TALL
BODHISATTVA

A poem written by Patrice Lukulu Binaisa and dedicated to Venerable Buddharakkhita of the Uganda and his dear Mother, Venerable Dhammakami of Uganda.

This poem is a monument to the physical and spiritual presence of the Uganda Buddhist Centre in Uganda, Africa.

Metta, Amitofo,
Patrice Binaisa,
San Francisco, CA, U.S.A

Bhante!

That is horrible. So sorry to hear about your near death experience. I had heard from Laura and Umar that this had happened to you. Do you know what the man's motivations were. Was this just a random act? How are you recovering/processing the experience. Please keep me updated.

In peace,
Best wishes,
Kristen Porter,

Canada

Namasakara Sir,

We are shocked to learn about the shooting incident attempted for your life. It is quite alarming. Though you are not seriously hurt, we are still concerned and worried. Hope you can find out the cause or incentive of the shooting and that this threatening incident will not occur to you or towards the Buddhist Temple again. Our prayers and thoughts are with you, Sir. How was the Vesak Day ceremony in Thailand this year? And how long will you be in Uganda this time? When will you come back to the US?

We went to Washington DC for our daughter's Graduation (Master Degree) held at Corcoran College of Art and Design on 21st May. Ambassador Akrasid left DC on 24th May while I remained in DC until 20th June to be back in Warsaw. Our daughter will leave DC on 7th July to be with us in Poland until end of September. Then all of us will go back to Thailand on 1st October when Ambassador Akrasid retires from Government Services.

Please kindly keep us posted how the situation is regarding you and the Buddhist Temple. Please also take good care, Sir. I'll write again soon.

With Highest Respect,

Supasiri Amatayakul,

Residence of Ambassador of Thailand, Ul. Pelikanow 16, 02-843,

Warszawa, Republic of Poland, Europe.

Hi Bhante,
Oh dear, this sounds like quite an ordeal. I'm so sorry you have had to endure this and am glad you are not seriously hurt. Sending much metta with wishes for your speedy return to calm and ease. It must be quite traumatic to have experienced this. Many many wishes for your ease and happiness.
Many warm wishes,
Gina,
New York, U.S.A

Dear Bhante,
Look at it like this - it was a narrowly missed opportunity for instant nirvana! Not to mention a chance to do a few moments' noting!
Much love,
John Streather,
South Wales, U.K

Dear Bhante
I hope that you are well and safe from this incidence. What goes on in the mind of this person who shot? Please be careful. May all Buddhas protect you. Please let me be in touch with you, I am concerned about you. Thank you for the answer. Now: is it possible to access to bhavanga, through mindfulness and concentration?
With much metta
Arthur Athula,
Sao Paulo, Brazil

Bhante,
Heard about the e-mail and relieved to hear that you were protected by the power of your good merits.
May you be well and happy,
With metta,
Sarath,
Melbourne, Australia

Bhante,
I am sorry to hear this. But I am relieved to know that you are physically safe for the time being. But the news is disturbing - is it dislike for Buddhism or anything else? Anyhow, please do take care of yourself.
Hope everything will be fine with you!
Prof. Asanga,
University of Colombo,
Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Dear Bhante,
So sorry to hear this news. It's so sad that people are moved to violence rather than communication in the face of different views. I hope you're recovering fully from your injuries and that your great dhamma work continues. Sending many loving wishes your way.
Joseph Goldstein,
Insight Meditation Society,
Barre, MA, U.S.A

Dear Budharakkhita,

Wow! Your Metta has protected you. The question now is, do you really want to stay in a place where people might try to kill you? You are a valuable resource in the West, and there are many in the U.S. who can really benefit from your teaching and personality. It may be a better use of your life where it is deeply appreciated.

Much Metta,

Ajahn Sona,

Birken Office, *Sitavana* "Cool Forest"

British Columbia, Canada

Dear Bhante

I'm so glad that you were not injured by the bullet. I hope the glass didn't cause too much pain or discomfort. Please take care of yourself and if this affects your travel plans to the Spirit Rock People of Color retreat please let me know. May you be protected from all harm and danger.

May your injuries heal with great speed and ease.

Many blessings for all you do in the Dharma.

Larry,

San Francisco, U.S.A

Avuso,

I am very sorry to hear that. That is a very strange thing to happen. You had a bodyguard in Uganda... Was the situation that bad? Yes, please keep me posted.

Ven. Rahula,

U.S.A.

Dear Venerable Buddharakkhita,

I am so happy that you loved my poem to you and your dear Mother :) I am rushing to work, but some thoughts quickly came to me last night.

PLAN A: (MONASTIC BUDDHIST)

Plan A should be what you want to do and how you want to do it with respect to the shooting incident. I also think that you and your fellow monks and nuns like my pastor Venerable Heng Sure of U.S.A. and your dear mother Venerable Dhammakami of Uganda should privately between yourselves discuss peaceful ways of addressing this

from a Buddhist monastic perspective. Definitely share the story of this incident with any religious officials of any religion that might either learn from this incident or help the

Ugandan Buddhist community and the Ugandan religious community in general. I also personally feel that the World Parliament of Religions needs to state and continuously reiterate that "An attack on any place or worship and/or on any group of believers is an attack on all of humanity". This brings to mind something unrelated that I heard one

Hindu scholar say on television. He said that, "The world doesn't need any more Christians or more Buddhists. What the world needs are more Jesuses and more Buddhas". :)

PLAN B: (LAY BUDDHIST)

Plan B is based on my own impulses as a lay Buddhist disciple and you don't have to necessarily follow this

lay road map. This I think and feel:

a) Please feel free to come to all of us on the Poetry Reader(s) page with any issue. Please continue come to us on the Poetry Reader(s) page the way you did with any issue Venerable Buddhharakkhita. The Poetry Reader(s) are Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Agnostics, and even Atheists--the stuff that humanity is made of.

b) Ask Venerable Heng Sure to put you in touch with our common Ugandan friend Despina Namwembe of URI (United Religious Initiative).

c) Re-evaluate your Uganda trip plans--In other words, if you don't have to always be there for certain things, train multiple lay Ugandan Buddhists to carry out those functions. One of the downfalls of many leaders in government and in commerce for example is their inability to delegate responsibilities. Delegate, delegate, delegate.

d) I personally encourage martial arts training. Why Patrice?

i) It breaks the pattern of fear. I was terrified by bullies throughout my childhood, adolescent and early adult years. Don't close the Uganda Buddhist Centre because of the shooting incident and continue your work peacefully and fearlessly.

ii) You should definitely explore escape and negotiation options first, but learn how to fight when you are really left with no option other than to defend yourself from a potentially deadly attack.

iii) self-defence techniques can also be legitimately used to disarm an attacker for the purpose of making a lawful citizen's arrest to later hand that person over to the Uganda Police.

Patrice Binaisa,

San Francisco, CA, U.S.A

Dear Poetry Reader(s),

STILL STUNNED

I am still stunned by the news of the shooting at the Uganda Buddhist Centre earlier this week. I guess we'll just have to wait and see how the Ugandan authorities handle this incident. I, as an American citizen and Buddhist disciple, have the following to say. Countries should aggressively move to enshrine the right of freedom of religion in their national and local (regional or provincial) constitutions. There should also be very stiff penalties against anyone who obstructs that right. For example, if a person walks into a place of worship and urinates in the main worshipping hall, the following should happen (irrespective of whether or not the culprit is a member of the religion of that place or worship):

a) A charge for deliberately desecrating a place of worship.

b) A charge of deliberately obstructing freedom of religion.

c) A charge of deliberately urinating in an open public space.

Patrice Binaisa,

California, U.S.A

Hello Bhante,

This is really frightening and concerning. I am so glad you're fine and did not get hurt. Like Sumano, I think this means there needs to be even more visibility of African Buddhists. I wonder what his motive was. Do you know yet? Please let us know what we can do and how we can help. May you be safe and happy and at peace. I am grateful that you are well. I'm sending you lots of metta,

Dora King,

Sierra Leone, West Africa.

Oh no Bhante,

That is terrible! Are you ok? What can we do to help? Do you know what the motive was? Or is it too early to know. This makes me sad and angry. But also very happy you are safe. Your name means more today than ever!

Metta and Mangalam, Please keep us updated. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help.

Ofosu (a.k.a Sumano),

Ghana, West Africa

Dear Bhante,

I'm not sure if you check this e-mail account and if you still remember me, but I am the Dutch girl you met on the ferry to the Ssesse islands. Later I visited you at the Buddhist temple with my mother who came to visit. My colleague Proloy Barua

from Bangladesh (living in Kampala) visits your temple, and informed me you were recently attacked?! I just wanted to know if you are doing alright. I saw beautiful pictures of the temple and am glad it was completed.

Best wishes,

Floor Verbeek,

The Netherlands, Europe.

Dear Bhante,

How very alarming that such a thing should happen. It truly shows the vulnerability of your situation. I hope your injuries are healing well and that you are not too shocked by this event. Your supporters in Melbourne will be disturbed to hear of such a thing and will be glad that metta protected you. It is good news that the bathroom in the nuns' kuti has been completed. Bhante, I send much respect and much metta and best wishes for your full recovery.

Cora Thomas,

Melbourne, Australia

Bhante,

Wow, so was it on purpose? What was the reason? I am glad to hear that the bullet missed you.

Other than that how things are going with the Centre?

Best Regards,

Hugo,

Mexico, Central America

Dear Venerable,
I'm very shocked of the news. Is he against the Buddhism?
Hope the injuries are not serious. How many people were there
at that time? Did you take that man to the police? Please take
care
Mealy,
Cambodian working with UN in Ivory Coast, West Africa

Bhante,
I am so sorry to hear this! What are you doing to stay safe? I
worry about you out in Entebbe, after this experience with the
local man at the retreat, too. Are mama and the kids still with
you? At least they offer some protection. Thinking of you and
looking forward to seeing you at IMS, Barre, and U.S.A in
August.
Metta, Susana,
Peruvian American, Boston, U.S.A

Bhante,
Thank heaven you're safe. I wonder how wise it is for you to be
in Uganda if there are plainly people who wish to kill you
lurking around? Have you discovered who sent the guard to kill
you and why? The irony is that this should happen just after
chanting a metta sutta! There must be local Ugandan citizens
who could take over the running of the centre by now and thus
release you from this obviously dangerous post. My opinion is
that you should return to your mother

house in West Virginia, U.S. as soon as you can and never set
foot in Uganda again. I'm in México helping a friend write her
book - very slowly. I reckon I'll be here for at least 4 or 5 months.
The heat has been crushing but we've just had the first rain for 8
months, which has cooled things down a bit, thank goodness.
Be careful.
John Streather,
U.K

Dear Bhante Buddharakkhita,
What sad news to hear that? Why? Are they anti-Buddhists?
Thanks for the blessings Bhante is safe.
Please keep us updated.
Julie,
Malaysia, South East Asia

Sukhi hotu!!!
I received the new about you being shot by security guard. It
shocked me for a while. Now you are more qualified in the
dhammaduta because you are one of the few monks whose lives
have been attempted in the mission including our GREAT
TEACHER, the Buddha.
Hope people will awaken to make sure you are safe in future and
this incident will become an encouraging message for you and
many (few at the moment) people who need the medicine of
Dhamma. May truth of the dhamma protect you!!!
Ven. Bhikkhu Sumedha,
Sentul, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Dear Venerable Sir:

It is very sad news, and I hope with the power of the Triple Gem, you could recover soon. If you are unsafe there you could come to SIBA early, and we could make some arrangements for you here.

With best wishes,

Prof. G.A. Somaratne (Ph. D Northwestern)

Rector, Sri Lanka International Buddhist Academy (SIBA)

Pallekele, Kundasale,

Sri Lanka.

Oh my gosh dear Bhante,

I am stunned - So many questions - the most important - how are you feeling...are the injuries healing and how are you processing that someone attempted to take your life? Maybe the meditation and Metta chant somehow "saved" your life. May I ask - what this was all about? And I apologize if I am being intrusive. Yes, please do keep us posted. I send this with Much metta and blessings!

Sandra W,

New York, U.S.A

Hi Bhante,

I am so glad that the security guard was caught and I hope they get to the bottom of everything. So glad to hear that you are teaching and sharing the Dhamma so widely. I will be sending you our new website soon. It is wonderful and have you shown as our spiritual advisor. I am so appreciative of having met you, which directly led to the creation of Flowering Lotus Meditation Center. All is well. Perhaps we can talk by phone when you are in the United States. I would love that.

Much Metta,

Dolores Watson,

New Orleans, U.S.A

Dear Bhante,

I am very sorry this thing happened to Bhante. What was his motive behind the shooting, what is his problem? Is this security guard employed by UBC or from outside? Anyway, I am glad that Bhante is safe and hope Bhante recovers soon. Hope that this incident would make Bhante more determine to spread the Dhamma in Uganda- Africa. I believed that if we are sincere, honest and try our best in spreading the Dhamma, Buddha & Devas would be protective of us. Bhante, may you recover and be well soon.

With Metta,

Chock, Malaysia.

Dear Bhante B

I have just this minute seen your email and am shocked...and horrified, at what happened... I am so relieved that you were not hit and hope you were not too badly hurt .Why? Have you any idea what motivated this act? What are your plans now? Thank you very much for keeping me posted

With Metta,
June Chanmugan,
Maryland, U.S.A

Dear Bhante,

We are surprised and are sad to hear that someone has attempted to assassinate Bhante. I believe Bhante has harmed no one and is doing Dhamma work for the benefits of the poor and less privileged. Since the culprit was caught, what is his intention to harm Bhante? Is he of different religion? Take good care and may the blessing and protection of the Triple Gem be with Bhante always.

With Metta,
Dato Chee,
Malaysia, S.E Asia

Dear Abbot

Sorry what happening and thank the invisible for saving your life and thank you in the name of our ancestor for wonderful and excellent works of saving the lives of majority through promotion, protect and restore the origin art of spirituality

thank you very much and I am sure there are trillion of people and spirits who would like to join me in saying "thank you" for great inputs! Thank you! You are glory to the promotion of traditional medicine in its totality... May spirits of Africa, world and your land bless, protect and guide you!

Kind regards from

Umar Ndiwalana,

Spiritual healer by Birth, Herbalist by training, Adult and community educator by professional.

Prometra,

Kampala, Uganda.

Dear Ven. Buddharakkhita,

It is sad to hear that you were a target of such an attack. I wish you the best and a speedy recovery. It does sound like the development of the first Buddhist Centre in Uganda is progressing quite well, however. I hope your courage and spirit is strengthened and that you remain safe.

Kindest Regards,

Dinushi Weerakoon,

Melbourne, Australia

Bhante

I am so sorry to hear about your trouble. Please do let us know that you are ok now---why don't you come back to West Virginia? We need you here-we still talk of the wonderful Dhamma talk you gave under the hanging tree

Sharon Salzberg,
Barre, MA, U.S.A

Hi Bhante,
Hope you are ok. Just got copy of your story of near miss.
Clearly " Dharma protects one who practices the Dharma! "
You have maybe exhausted a karmic debt - a few years ago, I'm
telling you , a huge junk-yard dog jumped up and bit my arm
which needed stitches-either I exhausted a karmic debt or was
just in the wrong place at the wrong time! Recently I enjoyed
attending H.H The Dalai Lama in Melbourne, teachings along
with 1000s others. We hope to see you soon, yours in Dharma.
P.s It was full moon around when the gun went off so maybe
that triggered off some psychotic episode in the security
guard?
Thanks again,
Gary Dellora,
Melbourne, Australia

Dear Ven. Buddharakkhita,
That is terrible. You are really lucky that you came out with
only injuries from the broken glass. Why did your own
security guard shoot you? Is he a fanatical follower of some
other religion hostile to Buddhism? Or was he dissatisfied
with his pay or working conditions? Or just crazy? I wonder if
it is safe for you to continue with the Buddhist centre there?
But then I think of Punna in Majjhima no. 145, who went to
the frontier regions (Sunaparanta) to teach the Dhamma and
was not afraid even if the people there would strike him with a

knife. Now it seems that you are following in his footsteps.
Please take care of yourself.
With much Metta and blessings,
Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi,
Chuang Yen Monastery, 2020 Route 301
Carmel, New York 10512, U.S.A.

Dear Bhante,
We heard about what happened in UBC. It must be quite
frightening for you. We hope everything has settled down. It
takes time for things to be realised, so as you said we hold fire
for a while. I have just returned from a 10 days break in
Singapore.
Do keep us updated. May Bhante be well, happy and peaceful.
Sadhu x3.
With Metta,
T. F Chan,
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Oh no Bhante!
What were his motives?
Was it your security guard who attempted to take your life, or
was it someone else?
Shalin Busnayake,
Washington D.C, U.S.A

Hello dear Bhante,

What in the world is going on? I'm so glad you're safe. Did your security guards find out why you were shot at? Who would think that after all you've done there that someone would try to shoot? Maybe they were just having target practice. We all in Vermont are very well and wishing we could see you one of these days. There are a couple of Buddhist retreats in the area. Angela and Tig will be here in July and who know when we'll see John again.

We send you all good wishes and positive thoughts and love
Boots (and Binch, of course),
Vermont, U.S.A

Dear Bhante,

I wish you perfect health and a long, long life in nirvana. I also hope that you can figure out a way to keep yourself better protected and also to figure out why someone wanted to shoot you, so you can avoid the problems in the future.

David Shapiro,
U.S.A

Dear Bhante,

I have read your email with great shock, I am very sorry about the incident. I pray that all will be well and that the guard be brought to justice. I am looking forward to hearing about your progress.

Warm Regards,

Sitawa Wafula,

Kenya, East Africa

Our beloved Bhante

This is strange and dreadful and we are glad to hear you are fine .Why?? Our prayers and love are with you and you are very welcome to come here for a time of convalescence if you wish. I have just returned from Italy where I met Doju and went to a Japanese Buddhist ceremony it was wonderful.

Thinking of you.

Kuki Gallman,

Gallmann Foundation, Kenya.

Dear Bhante

Buddha bless you. May you be safe! What happened to your life there. Can you explain more if you have time and if you can share with me. I want to help you. I want to offer my spiritual support. When will you come back to the USA? Thanks.

Dr. Handy Inthisan,

Wat Thai D.C.,

13440 Layhill Rd.

Silver Spring, MD 20906

U.S.A

Dear Bhante,

I am very shocked to hear this! And I really sorry and worried that you have come under attack. Do you know the motive? And that it should be from your security guard. This is deeply disturbing. I am sorry you have also been hurt, I hope you recover soon. I am sorry for the shock to you and your community. The world is becoming so much more crazy and violent. Please keep us updated with what is happening. And know you always have a refuge at Dharmagiri should you need one while in Africa,

Sending much Metta from both Kittisaro and me,
Thanissara, Dharmagiri, South Africa

Dhamma Greetings Bhante Buddharakkhita,
It has been a long time since I've heard from you last. All the sudden when I heard from you "You were shot "!!!!!! Why did he attempt to take your life?!

Best regards,
Vilai,
Bangkok, Thailand

Omg,
What do they want? So sorry to hear about this. Please be safe!
With Metta,
Azara Turaki,

Bhante Buddharakkhita!

Dhammasami passed me your note! I'm at a loss for words - but am SO VERY HAPPY that you are OK! --and additionally glad that the culprit was captured. I ponder if there would be any way to have an assistant be able to contact all of us, if a more serious tragedy occurred.

We'd perhaps never learn. Do you have a trained assistant? The abstract is due on the 30th. Let me know if you need more time. Take pictures of the broken glass, e.t.c... And your injuries - put them into your paper about teaching Dhamma in new lands. This is something that we need, also, to learn about - what do we do for protection... nothing? Fate/Kamma?

Very Respectfully,
Dr. Dion Peoples,
U.S.A

Dear Ven. Buddharakkhita,
So sorry and shocked to hear this. We are so worried for you now. Can you send us your bank account no so that we can send you some money. Doing paritta chanting for you now. Metta,
Ven.Dhammasami,
Oxford Buddhist Vihara,
London, U.K

Dear Ven.Buddharakkhita,
How about now ? Please take care.
Yours in the Dhamma,
P. Sawai,
Bangkok, Thailand

Dear Bhante Buddharakkhita,
Good Day! Sorry to hear the incident that happened to you.
IBC wish you recover soon and may you walk the Buddha's
Path peacefully.
Metta,
International Buddhist College, Administration Office,
Bangkok, Thailand

Bhante,
Your security guard wanted to take your life? What is that
about?? I just can't believe this! I am so glad that you are safe.
I'm sure the Metta sutta protected you from any real harm.
May you continue to be safe and protected. Please explain why
this man wanted to take your life. Will you still come to the
POC retreat? Sending you Metta,
Konda Manson,
Oakland, CA, U.S.A

Oh, my goodness! We are so concerned about your security. Is
he your security guard? Oh, what is the real cause? Is it the
money? Or grudge against you? Or jealous? It may be religious

discrimination. Any way, you still survive. It is very good to
send Metta mainly focusing on him; this is the only way to solve
the problem in Buddhist way. Also you'd better to take more
cautions wherever you go or whatever you do at every time.

With Metta,
U Osadha,
Half-moon Bay, CA, U.S.A

Hi Bhante B,
Wow, I'm very sorry to hear about this crazy, misguided man
who tried to shoot you! I'm so glad you were not too badly hurt
and that your private investigators caught him. Please let me
know if we can do anything to help you out. It amazes me that
anybody would want to harm a Buddhist monk, especially you,
my good friend!! Sarah (my partner who you met when you
stayed with us and did the house blessing) says she is also very
sorry to hear about this. I guess you are now more like the
Buddha than ever--didn't somebody also try to take his life by
rolling a big rock down a hill at him? How bad were you cut or
hurt, by the way? Did you get stitches? I hope this doesn't keep
you from coming to Spirit Rock this summer for the POC
retreat. Please let me know if you need a ride from the airport or
a place to stay or anything else.
Much metta and many blessings,

Walt Opie,
Communications Editor
Spirit Rock Meditation Center, San Francisco, CA, U.S.A

Dear Bhante,
I'm so terribly sorry to hear about this awful event. I hope you are feeling safe and ok now. I expect the chanting and meditating helped to protect you in some way. I have your book on my desk here and would love to catch up with you. I fly to Portugal on Wednesday at 4am so if you are in Kampala over the next few days let me know and I will take a taxi to meet you with the book. My cell was stolen so here is my new one: 0790-866-673. Talk to you soon,
Laura Ell,
Canadian working with USAID in Uganda.

Dearest Buddharakkhita,
We are so relieved that you are ok despite some injuries. How could this have happened? It is the grace and merit that walks with you that keeps you safe to continue all your good work. You are much in our thoughts and we are planning a big gathering at the land of Kuki Gallmann in March of 2012. Of course, we are hoping that you will be there. It will be from March 2-7th, 2012. I had the opportunity to recently visit Kenya and visit the tree that you ordained there. As we sat in the vehicle we could see a mother and baby elephant were standing by this tree. It was a moving experience. Thank you

for letting us know about this and please keep us updated. We pray for your long life and safety.

With metta,
Marianne Marstrand,
Global Peace Initiative of Women, New York, U.S.A

Dear Bhante,
I am so glad that you are okay. What a strange twist. Was this an accident? It may have been the prayers and meditation that spared you! I have been meaning to be in touch to let you know about our big gathering in Kenya next March. But that can wait until you fully recover. Please let us know if you are coming to the US anytime soon. It would be great to see you. And take good care of yourself!
With metta,
Dena Merriam,
Global Peace Initiative of Women, New York, U.S.A

Dear Bhante Buddharakkhita,
I was quite surprised by what you told us. Fortunately, you are all right. Have they found out what happened? Why would someone try to hurt you? Here in Belo Horizonte, everything is fine. Are you still in Uganda? I hope this email finds you all right.
Best wishes,
Luciana,
Belo Horizonte, Brazil, South America

To:

The most Ven. Bhante Buddharakkitha,

Heard the sad news that occurred at the vihara. The goodness that u possess, Bhante has saved u. Such are the powers of the three refuges and the metta sutta. May u be safe and happy. May the people who are behind this realise their mistake and be well and happy. May you be able to make these deluded and blind people see the light of dhamma. Through the blessings of the Noble Triple Gem may u not be harmed by anyone. May all the devas around the vihara protect u. I pray for your safety daily when I do my chanting.

With Metta,

Manel Wickremasinghe,

Melbourne, Australia

Dear Bhante Buddharakkhita,

How are you now? Can't wait for your long story, why and what happened? Out of jealous? Out of hatred? Out of peace? Just like a jigsaw puzzle in my mind. What benefit they have to attack a monk like you? Regards with Metta,

Julie Tan,

KL, Malaysia

Dear Bhante,

Thank goodness you survived from getting shot but got injured caused by broken glasses. Reminds me when Devadatta tried to kill the Buddha by pushing down a rock boulder, it did not hit the Buddha but some splinters did injure the Buddha's foot. Your miraculous escape is just like the Buddha's and we pray for your speedy recovery. I have copied aunty Rupa of Bhante's email and will follow up with her as well.

Mettana cittena

Premseri Sumanananda,

KL, Malaysia

Dear Bhante,

We were shocked to hear the news of the shooting at your centre. More so to learn that it was your security guard who was responsible. We know that the Dhamma will always protect you and keep you safe. Theruwan Sarana!

Mervyn Mendis,

Melbourne, Australia.

Dear Members,

Following e-mail that was received from Ven. Buddharakkhita is forwarded below for your kind information. It appears teaching Dhamma in Uganda is not for the faint hearted, perhaps it is the power of kindness that protected the Venerable Dhamma Teacher. May you be well and happy

Dear Bhante,

Wow! We are glad that you did not get seriously hurt. How did the conflict happen? Will you be in Uganda permanently now? How stable is the political situation? I should not ask, no place in the world is stable now! We are in Portland. Ajahn Pasanno sent the monks here and they just relocated to a permanent place.

With respect,

Dr. Nee,

Bangkok, Thailand

My Dearest Bhante,

I am jolted and dismayed to learn that you have had such an harrowing experience. The implied intention of the security guard is quite troubling. I am so very, very relieved to learn that the bullet missed you! One of my professors once told me that it is only when the work you are doing is having real impact that those who may be threatened respond with active resistance and "push back". While I believe there to be truth in what I was told, I must say it was of little relief to me at the time! Again, I am so very glad that the bullets missed you and hope that your body will heal well from injuries sustained by the broken glass that made contact. I hope that you will be able to come to California in early July for the POC Retreat and have some time to recuperate from the experience. I plan to attend this year. I appreciate that you thought to be in touch

with me. Please do keep me posted. Would it be of support to be in contact with teachers here who can be of assistance? I will, as always, hold you in my thoughts. Until we see each other next, may you be safe and free from harm.

Peace & blessings,

Alem Makonnen,

Ethiopian-American,

San Francisco, CA, U.S.A

Dear Ven. Buddharakkhita,

We from Seremban Sudhamma will chant metta sutta for your speedy recovery. The Dhamma protecting devas are at work to protect you. In everything you do there is bound to be a lot of challenges. Hope you will send me the link to Dhamma class for our sunday school children.

with metta,

Dr Oo Swee Khoon,

KL, Malaysia

My Dear Buddhist Brothers and Sisters,

1. It is with regret that I share the attached e-mail news with you and request that you radiate metta for Bhante's speedy recovery and continued Dhammadutta work.

2. If you recall, Ven. Buddharakkhita was at the Suddhamma Buddhist Society Seremban last month to deliver two Dhamma Talks and distribute autographed copies of his first book, "Planting Dhamma Seeds."

Sincerely,

Daya,

Malaysia

Dear All,

Truly sad news indeed.....there has been an attempt on the life of Ven U. Buddharakkhita at his temple in Uganda Buddhist Centre. The Venerable is currently the only native African Theravada monk, who has studied the Buddha Dhamma and meditation for more than 8 years under the guidance of Bhante Dr. Henepola Gunaratana Nayaka Maha Thera of the Bhavana Center in Virginia, USA. Ven Buddharakkhita was recently in Malaysia on a Dhammadutta tour and for 3 months had been conducting meditation retreats in Australia.

The attempt on the Venerable reminds us of the attempt of Devadatta on the life of the Buddha. In the case of Devadatta, his attempt to dislodge a rock boulder up a cliff so that it

would roll and down and kill the Buddha failed. The rock broke into many small pieces and one of it hit the Buddha's foot. The shot at Ven Buddharakkhita missed, but the broken glass from the door resulting from the shot has injured the Venerable. We hope and pray for the recovery of the Venerable whose mother has recently been ordained as a Buddhist nun.

This is not the first time Buddhist monks have become targets in hostile environments. In 2005, a Sri Lankan monk who was actively performing humanitarian work in Eastern Sri Lanka among the Tamil community, who were victims of the December 2004 Tsunami, was targeted for assassination by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The shot missed but unfortunately maimed the Venerable's assistant, a Tamil volunteer who eagerly helped the Venerable in his humanitarian work. In Southern Thailand, several monks have been assassinated while on pindapatta in the ongoing separatist violence there. Several Buddhist monks too died in the protests in Myanmar led by the Sangha on behalf of the people. Several monks too have been assassinated in Sri Lanka by the LTTE in the course of their violent struggle. In North Eastern India last year, more than 140 monks undergoing training were ordered out of their monastery building which

Katonda Wange! (My God)!

Dear Baaba (Brother) Buddharakkita,

I am shocked to receive this news from you. Please let me know how I can be of assistance. It is a blessing that you are usually in good health and are quite agile. I'm sure this helped you to escape with fewer injuries. Perhaps the meditation and Metta saved your life. Thank God! (I forgot, some Buddhists don't believe in God.) What good karma that you escaped with your very precious human life and that the culprit has been detained.

I am in New Jersey with my mother and do not have regular access to the Internet while I'm here. I will probably return to Virginia the beginning of next week around July 3rd, 4th or 5th.

Hope you recover swiftly and completely from the injuries. Please keep me posted about your health and your travels. Am looking forward to seeing you later this summer. Will let James Shaheen of Tricycle know that you're interested in doing the interview. Please contact me when you arrive in the States.

P.S. I pray for your protection and offer a flower to the Buddha's lotus feet

Peace & love,
Satyani,

Dear Venerable brother,

I would let you know that Kuki shared with me what happen about you.... and I'm so sorry! I'm just happy to know you are fine and alive! I pray for you and also for who did the action against your body, I hope was an incidence totally without negative intentions. So sorry indeed. Dear Bhante, I'm sure Enlightened Beings protects you and this incidence was some past negative karma that had to manifest and like this to dissolve it.

You are doing a great good work in Uganda and other places in the world and sure you are blessed.

Anyhow, please take care and also take some rest to care you now, please. Paying for you and asking Lord Buddha to bless you,

With Metta,

Your sister Doju,

Italy, Europe

Dear Bhante

I hope you are safe and well. We were shocked to hear that you had been attacked by the temple security guard. I and my family were quite shocked to hear of this and we hope you are quite well and have recovered from the shock and the injury of this attack.

Please do update us on how you are getting on.

With metta

Amalka,

Melbourne, Australia.

Namassakarn Ven Buddharakkhita,
I never thought that this kind of incident would happen to you. I am relieved that the man was caught. I do not know the situation, but I really hope that this is it. I am concerned for your safety. Please be cautious and take a very good care. I do not know what I can do to help but please let me know if I can be a help in anyway.
Namassakarn, Top (Kantawat Makarasara),
United Kingdom

Bhante,
Come to Sri Lanka if you need, we will look after you until you sort out things. Be very careful but be brave as Buddha. Remember nalagiri, and other ways devadatta tried to kill Buddha. You cannot be touched until you have Buddha in your heart. Getting shot is big. Don't let them try again. You must protect yourself to be a Buddharakkhita.
With much metta,
I will chant for your protection and sit.
Let me know how you are doing, and what else I can do!
Dhammaruwan,
Kandy, Sri Lanka.

Dear Bhante B.
Sorry to listen to such a bad news. Fortunately you are well ... I would not imagine that someone will have such bad kamma... Keep doing your wonderful dhamma. But at the same time, look after some sort of police protection for you and your dhamma pupils!
Leonardo,
Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Dear Bhante,
Sorry for the very late response. I am deeply sad and troubled to learn about the attempt at your life. Hope that everything else is fine and that this attempt at your life is a consequence of the growing success of Buddhism in Uganda. I am curious to know what motivated the shooter? Was it mandated by someone else or did he act on his own? If he did act on his own, what for?

Malick Diallo,
Senegal, West Africa

Dear Bhante,
Do you know why the man tried to shoot you? Was it in an effort to scare you from the place? Or to steal or was he afraid of your teachings. It seems too crazy to imagine in such a peaceful spot such insane behavior... I am so sorry for you. Will you be coming back to Uganda? I just send you so much love and courage. You are safe and well and that is the main thing precious.

Thinking of you,
With much love,
Naomi Swan,
United Kingdom.

Namo Buddhaya.

Meritorious Bhante,

Please do contact us once the unrest is settled and tranquillity is attained at your monastery. We are very sorry hear about the incident. As the followers of Gautama Supreme Buddha all we can do is Spread Loving Kindness, that's our ultimate weapon. We collected invaluable amounts of merits by displaying Supreme Buddha's hair relics to the Canadian community; we also collected merits by cleaning up (Shrama Dhana) our monastery. I would like to share all the merits that we collected with Bhante not only for the speedy recovery but also to realize of Four Noble Truths in Gautama Buddha's Dispensation. All these sorrows, problems and lamentation due to this birth, may we all be able to eradicate this cause. For the time being may Devas protect you.

With Metta,

Noble Friends of Toronto, Canada.

Dear Bhante Buddharakkhita,

That was really a close shave. Divine intervention must have diverted the bullet! Thank goodness you are well. Wonder why he did it, the security guard. What was he thinking? Yes, do hope to hear from you for updates.

Marjorie cheiw,

Journalist of The Stars newspaper,
Malaysia

Bhante,

WHAT???? Was this an accident or intentional? Was he employed by UBC - you said it was the UBC security guard. I am puzzled. But my prayers and best wishes are with you. If there is ANYTHING I can do, please let me know and please keep me posted as to your progress. My number in INDIA is 91 9805934662.

With metta,

Lucy Fazziono,

U.S.A

Dearest Friend,

I am so deeply sad to hear of your ordeal and will hold you in my prayers and I am sending you all hope and encouragement. It is when people try to kill you, that you know your work is really working. So trust yourself and put yourself into the protection of the Dharma. Sorry for the delay I was teaching in Chartres France till this past Friday.

Love and big hug my friend

Andrew Harvey,

Founder of the Institute of Sacred Activism in Oak Park ,
Illinois, Chicago, U.S.A

Dear Bhante Buddharakkhita:

I am very happy to know that you are well and that your assailant is in jail.

I read your book about your ordeal with great interest.

You have survived the attack and your noble conduct is a very powerful example and a teaching to people in Africa and elsewhere to unclench the fist, lay down the weapon and follow Dhamma. A deep bow to you. One of these days i will be able to pay you my respects in person.

From the quality of the book I can see that you have strong and talented group of local supporters. Please pass on my congratulations to them. I am looking forward to the sequel. May I print a few copies for free distribution here at Birken? Can I forword the pdf copy to others?

I agree with Bhikkhu Bodhi's comment. You might be in saranapunta but I think the longterm outcome of this incident will be very positive for yourself, your family and the temple.

With Metta,

Amin (a.k.a Jotiko)

Birken monastery,

British Columbia, Canada

Hello Venerable Buddharakkhita,

I was very surprised to learn what happened to you recently in your monastery in Uganda and I am very glad to know that you are fine. I keep asking myself about the mental states you must have experienced in this situation. I am looking forward to meet you soon

somewhere in the world. Next November-December I will be attending the Global Buddhist Congregation 2011 in India as an observer. I hope you are coming there too so we can meet again.

With metta,

Juan Martín Valentinuzzi,

Argentina, South America

Dear Ven. Buddharakkhita,

I am glad that you are doing well. When I heard that you were attacked I did not believe it. I thought it was one of those fake e-mails. But when I heard from several people that it was real, I was shocked. Why should somebody shoot you? You are doing remarkable Dhamma work. I think purely because of your Dhamma work the bullet did not hit you. One who protects Dhamma is protected by the Dhamma just as one who protects an umbrella is protected by the umbrella. Keep up doing what you are doing. The world needs people like you who could set examples to the world.

I hope your retreat in Spirit Rock go well.

With Metta,

Bhante Gunaratana,

High View, U.S.A

Questions and Answers

Question 1: I keep wondering what you must have been thinking at the moment of shooting?

A: My mind went blank at once!

Question 2: Why would anyone want to kill a peaceful Buddhist monk? What motivated this shooting by the security guard (Hillary Otimu)?

A: Hillary Otimu has been interrogated a couple of times by police. He alleged that the reason he shot me was due to my attempt to steal his rifle from him. I told the head of the police that this was not true. Another time he (Otimu) said his reason for shooting at me was due to my overworking him, which was also untrue. The investigator said Otimu told him he was trying to steal from the Temple when the shooting incident took place. The investigation is still underway to find out the real motive behind this tragic attempt to kill a Buddhist monk. I have observed people telling many lies. The ability to tell a lie is a liability! Liars have to spend a lot of time and mental energy in order to come up with another lie to cover the older lie.

Question 3: Why did you need to employ a security guard at the Uganda Buddhist Temple?

A: During the recent national election in February 2011, there was a lot of political instability in Kampala (the capital city) and

other regions of Uganda. There were many riots and other violent activities. Since the Temple had no fence, except on one side of the land, it was prudent to have a temporary security guard in order to protect the Temple and its dwellers.

Question 4: Is the would-be assassin of a different religious background? And where is he now?

A: Certainly, Otimu is from a different religion. He told me that he used to work with a fundamentalist religious sect known as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). He is now in prison.

Question 5: Do people in Uganda understand Buddhism? What are the people's reactions like regarding Buddhism in Uganda?

A: Well, some do understand Buddhism and others do not. Many educated people appreciate the teachings of the Buddha. Of course, there are many other people who are utterly confused and perhaps threatened by our presence. Recently, we put five sign posts on the road in order to direct our visitors to the temple. Unfortunately, two of them are missing!

There was an incident where someone broke into our temple in 2006. The President of Uganda had come

to visit the Vice President's house, which is only one kilometre from our Temple. One day before The President's arrival, soldiers were sent to our village (Bulega) for security reasons. Some of the soldiers heard a rumor that a fictitious kidnapped baby was being kept inside the small house on our property. Lo and behold, the soldiers came searching for this imaginary baby. They broke in through the front door and anxiously searched all over the premises, trying to rescue the rumored "baby in captivity." To their dismay, they failed to find any baby. All they found was a Buddha statue. Disappointed, they sat on the porch drinking beer the whole night until the next morning when they finally left. I had to repair the door.

According to Arthur Schopenhauer, "All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident..."

It seems that the Uganda Buddhist Centre is now at the second stage, heading toward the third stage.

Question 6: Is there a security guard at the Temple now, after the shooting incident?

A: There is no security guard at the moment. I think it is better to be guarded by the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha.

Question 7: How is your mother doing now? Is she in a safe

A: She is fine now. Unfortunately, a few days after the shooting incident, thieves came to my mother's kuti (dwelling hut for nuns) and attempted to break in. . Before they could break in, my attendant made a loud noise which scared the thieves and they ran away. I called the police to check on her. Since then we have rented a place for her outside the Temple until the dust settles down. She is safe and secure.

Question 8: Who is taking care of the Temple while you aren't in Uganda?

A: My attendant is looking after the Temple. Sometimes my mother takes care of the Temple. I have put together a committee of five persons to handle Temple affairs during this transition. Each person has certain responsibilities such as operations, maintenance and meditation activities. We have an African yoga teacher on the committee.

Question 9: Is the caretaker safe?

A: Yes, he is safe at the moment. Unfortunately, after the shooting incident unknown thieves attacked him at the Temple. They threw a piece of brick at him. Luckily, it did not hit him. Then they threw a spear, which hit his feet. He sustained an injury and had several stitches. Now he is fine. The police are still investigating this attack and hopefully will uncover the cause during their investigation.

Question 10: Did they take anything from the Temple?

A: Fortunately, so far nothing was stolen from the Temple, despite in all three attacks. It seems that the thieves are only interested in taking life, not property!

Question 11: How are you coping with this traumatic experience?

A: First, I had to go somewhere safe to recuperate. Lately, I have been travelling in the U.S., The Netherlands, Switzerland and France where it is relatively peaceful and safe for me. Second, I have been practicing mindfulness of the body, feelings, thoughts and emotions. That has greatly helped me to heal with this terrible and traumatic ordeal. Third, I have been teaching meditation in Geneva and Lenzburg near Zurich in Switzerland, and in the U.S. During my Dhamma talks, I have often shared with the congregation about the benefits of meditation and my traumatic drama in Uganda.

There are many things I have found to be very beneficial. Taking walks in nature has been quite rejuvenating. Reading books about overcoming trauma has been very helpful. Reading the many uplifting messages which I received from kind friends around the world has been quite inspiring and reassuring...and reminded me there are many friends who care

about my personal safety. Above all, writing this book about the shooting incident has been very therapeutic.

Question 12: After the shooting, have you dreamed about somebody shooting at you?

A: Yes, I had two dreams where someone was trying to shoot me right after the incident, but none since then.

Question 13: What do you see for the future of Buddhism in Uganda and the rest of Africa?

A: More Dhamma, less drama! It is very important to train lay people to become Dhamma leaders who will teach the Dhamma to interested Africans. We should provide opportunities for lay people who wish to become monastics, to be ordained as novices, monks and nuns. We need more friends (locally and internationally) to support the spreading of Dhamma by building Dhamma schools in Uganda and other parts of Africa that teach non-violence, mindfulness, ethics and social values.

I would like to see the Ugandan government establish a police station in the village of Bulega near our Temple in order to ensure that there is enough security in the surrounding area. Also, we need to establish another Temple in the capital city of

Mountain of Joy



By Laris Nassari- People of Color Retreat, 2011. Spirit Rock Meditation Center, California, U.S.A

AMAWULIRE...

Omukuumi mukwate

BYA MARGARET ZIRIBAGGWA

POLIISI ekutte omuserikale w'ekitongole ekikuumi agambibwa okwefutula mukama we n'amukuba essasi oluvannyuma n'asuulawo emundu ne yunifoomu n'adduka.

Hillary Otim yakwatiddwa nga yeekukumye mu kibira e Katabi ku lw'e Ntebe, oluvannyuma lw'okukuba Rev. Steven Kaboggoza amanyiddwa nga Venerable Bhikkhi Bud-dharakkhita akulira eddiini ya Buddhism mu Uganda, essasi mu mukono.

Rev. Kaboggoza agamba nti yakomyewo awaka e Garuga, Ntebe n'asanga Otim ng'ayimiridde mu lugya wabula yabadde ayingira mu kkanisa kwe kumukuba essasi ku mukono. Yatwaliddwa mu ddwaaliro lya Ntebe Grade B n'ajjanjabwa. Otim yakwatiddwa ku Lwokusatu lwa wiiki ewedde nga kati akuumirwa ku poliisi e Ntebe.



Otim

Ab'akatale ka Kisekka baabadde ku ntujjo

BYA ROBERT MUTEBI
NE JOB NANTAKIIRA

ABASUUBUZI mu katale k'ewa Kisekka batongozza ekibiina kyabwe eky'obuwangwa ekya 'Baganda Ngabo Workers' Association' (BANGAWA) okukuuma ennono za Buganda n'okwewala ebintu ebivaako obwegungu mu katale kaabwe.

Eyaliko Katikkiro wa Buganda, Dan Muliika ye yabadde omugenyi omukulu nga yayaniriziddwa Kaggw Tofiri Malokweza ne ssentebe w'abasubuzi b'akatale kano, Robert Kisembo.

Kisembo ye yakulembeddemu Muliika okumutwala mu mbuga abasubuzi gye baazimbye ne bamukolako emikolo omuli okulya em-mwaanyi, okukuma mu ekyoto n'okuwa ebigali oluvannyuma n'awanika bendera y'ekibiina kino.

Muliika yagambye nti Gavumenti esaana eveeyo erung'amy'e ku nfuja abantu gye balina okufu-



Muliika (wakati) ng'awanika bendera y'aba BANGAWA ewa Kisekka. Owokusatu ku kkono ye Kaggw Malokweza.

gibwamu. Entujjo yabaddeko embuutu, endongo n'amazina ebyakeesezza obudde.

Ssentebe w'ekibiina kya BANGAWA, Diirisa Sseruwagi yagambye nti ekigendererwa

kyabwe kwe kukuuma ennono za Buganda n'ayongerako nti bammemba b'ekibiina kino bawulize eri Gavumenti kye baavudde bavaayo ne bategeeza nga bwe bakomezza ebikolwa

eby'okwekalakaasa.

Omukolo gwetabiddwaako ssentebe wa Wakiso, Matia Bwanika ne minisita w'abavubuka e Mmengo, Florence Bagunywa Nkalubo n'abalala.

Medical Reports

ORIGINAL

UGANDA POLICE

POLICE FORM 3

MEDICAL EXAMINATION REPORT

TO: THE MEDICAL OFFICER,

C.F.No. 15/21/4/2011

ENTERRE Police Station

20-6-2011

ENTERRE GRADE-B

Please examine REV KAROGGOZA STEPHEN

who is the accused/complainant in a ATTEMPTED MURDER case and has been sent to you on the 20-6-2011 Please furnish a report as soon as possible using the reverse side of this form. The duplicate should be retained.

It is particularly requested that you should distinguish between the degree of injury which are quoted from the Penal Code (Cap. 22 section 4) as a footnote overleaf. A note as to the kind of weapon by which any injury (or injuries) may have been inflicted should be made in the case of suspected alcoholism reasons for the conclusions reached should also be given under "Remarks".

Signature [Signature]

Nature of each injury, whether cut, wound or bruise &c	On what part of the body inflicted	Size of each injury in inches (length, breadth and depth)	Classification
Fresh linear scar of abrasion, 11.5 cm of the lateral aspect of the (L) upper leg.			
Fresh scar of superficial cut wound of the lateral aspect of the upper limb of the (R) forearm.			Harm.
Multiple fresh scars of abrasions of the back of the (L) middle and (R) index fingers.			

Remarks: Consistent with assault. of the injuries noted above were sustained from a flying piece of broken glass, a fall in an attempt to flee from the scene.

1535/c

Date 24 June 2011

Signature [Signature]

Designation Consultant

Notes: "Harm" means any bodily hurt, disease or disorder, whether Permanent or temporary
 "Grievous Harm" means any harm which amounts to a maim or dangerous harm, or seriously or permanently injures health or which is likely so to injure health, or which extends to permanent disfigurement or to any permanent injury to any internal or external organ, membrane or sense.
 "Dangerous Harm" means harm endangering life.
 "Maim" means the destruction or permanent disabling of any external organ, membrane or sense.

Garuga 44ya

Police Statements

UGANDA POLICE POLICE FORM 2A

Case File No. _____

CONTINUATION OF STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT SHEET No. _____

17/06/11 23:39/C 008/POL JIN

REV. STEPHEN KABOGGORA M/A AGED 44 YRS
 OTO MUGANDA BY THREE MOON / BUDDHIST LEADER
 P/O ANZUGA IN THE WAKISO DIST TEL 0782-1599
 85.

SA REF 63/11/06/2011

STATED: The above particulars and address are mine and I do wish to state that it was on 17/06/2011 at around 2100h after my prayer that the security personnel called Hilary told me that the security lighters but I refused me to switch on the security lighters but I refused. He again directed me to switch on another but I also refused then he pointed his gun at me (aiming me) and said "naye gwe" and shot at me. So when he shot I shouted and opened the door very fast and ran outside and the bullet caught my right hand. So when I went into hiding I called Ndaula Paul informing of what happened and he came also informed my work innocent mukacha who came up to

enter the police station and he came along with the officers on up up to the scene. At the scene they came and banged the door but I was still fearing and they just smashed the windows & door and innocent entered into the house and got me still at the ceiling whereby innocent carried me down. But by time the security guard of aim security called Hilary had already run away. After I was brought to Grade 6 hospital where I was examined and given first aid and after came to Entebbe police station to make a report. That is all I can state. State's made by me read through found to be true and correct and I sign x

[Signature]

Recorded by ME 37220 DCPA BAF
 MUSAUF

STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT

DATE 16/06/11 TIME 09:30h PLACE

REV. KABOGGORA STEPHEN M/A AGED 44 YRS, MUGANDA PRESIDENT OF BUDDHIST TEMPLE, LEADER OF Bulega Green Kainsi in WAKISO DISTRICT 0782159985.

STATED: The above particulars and address are mine and I wish to state that on 17/06/2011 at in the evening I came from Kampala and reached my church at around 1700h. I talked to my friends and they were here to Kampala. After my mother called me that she needed prayers. I hoped for her and after I asked sub-Begey how was Sunday and the state he did during the day. I called Begey to show me the work of the day. He turned with Begey to show me the work. The Hilary the security guard followed us and assisted in lifting the tiles. After that, when I moved the security guard forced me which had not happened before. At around 2100h, the security guard Hilary told me to remove the security light in the compound and put it in another place. I refused to remove it and again

and I refused. By the time he was telling me all that, he was carrying ~~again~~ again. He was targeting to shoot me at the time I was removing the security light in the compound. After I moved to steps of the church and started climbing the steps to enter the church. As I was climbing the steps, Hillary bypassed me and went aside and he pointed ~~again~~ again at me. I became scared and made alarm as I opened the door of the church and jumped into the church. As I jumped into the church, he shot a bullet which passed through the glass of the door but I had already entered inside. I heard only one shot and I entered the inner room and climbed into the ceiling to safeguard my life. As I was climbing the ceiling, I fell down. I climbed in the ceiling with a phone and started calling to people informing them of this incident. People stayed along time without coming. After I heard some body hitting the door and I thought he is Hillary the

assailant and I got scared more. As they were trying to break the second door, I called them not to break my door and told them to give ~~me~~ me ladder and I came out of the ceiling. For him they thought I was dead because they did not know where I was.

Hillary the security guard is from the security organization ^{engaged} headed by ^{who} ~~who~~ came out of the ceiling. I was taken to the hospital in Santebe and after went to the police to make a report. I had not quelled with Hillary only I told him not to smoke with ~~me~~ in the church premises. I sustained injuries on my body mostly on the arm and even pressure increased because of fear and stress. That's all I can state. Statement made by me read through and found it true and correct. Signed x

Recorded by Thammy
26.2.24
D/CP Tinsukia.

Messages from the Royal Thai Embassy and ofce of the Prime Minister of Buganda Kingdom



Message of Encouragement

Growth and development of Buddhist organizations: an organic process of cooperation

Overcoming Criticism and Other Obstacles

The creation of a Buddhist organization requires an individual's vision, energy, perseverance and determination, and his or her diplomacy in connecting people. It also takes patience to tolerate all kinds of problems.

Criticism

When you first try to organize, perhaps starting with nothing but your vision, you will be criticized, because people do not know your mind and do not yet believe in you. You have to make a few people believe in you and your project. If, for example, you contact fifty people, forty-five will reject the project with suspicion, and five will believe -- so your initial task is to convince those five. Those five must convince more out of the forty-five that you are not a crook and that they have seen how you work, and so forth. Ten maybe ten people will believe. Later you will have fifteen or sixteen out of the fifty people. It may take several years before you have another twenty people.

As your project develops, there are some supporters who contribute substantially. They give their work, their money, ideas, cooperation, and sympathy. Unfortunately, there are others sitting doing nothing for your project, who negatively criticize, and try to discourage people. Of those negative people, there are one or two who do all they can to destroy the effort. They use their time, effort and money to destroy the

project. That is their enjoyment.

There may be other obstacles such as competition from other organizations, but this may not be so bad. The worst problems may be the negative individuals. They may be completely ignorant of your character and the means and goals of the project, but out of fear and jealousy they want to destroy it. Out of 50 people you will find two or three people like this. They are very detrimental. It takes only one person to drop a bomb, and they can destroy everything. They have powerful destructive force: character assassination and mudslinging, all without one iota of truth, all based on irrational suspicion.

It happens with all organizations. Even at the very start of your effort, some people's suspicions may begin. You find yourself in a very difficult position. If you try to correct everyone's wrong ideas, you blow up the problem, and cause more people to question your intentions. If you just ignore them, they get more and more frustrated, disappointed at the lack of reaction, and they become worse. As you go ahead regardless of them, they become more jealous and angry. As you begin to show success, they feel guilty, and get upset because they lose face.

There is no solution to the problem of these kinds of people. You can just consider them to be part of your project, for they are inevitable. You cannot prevent or escape them. It is said that every job takes four people: one to do the work, one to support, one to remain silent, and the other to criticize. So when you do the work and someone criticizes you can feel

good, because now you know the job is complete. You have done your job, and the criticizer has done his job. Those who take the initiative should have a vision or idea of "This is what I'm going to do," without getting disheartened by others. Just work, slowly, and gently. I have seen a log splitting machine at work. Each log goes into the machine slowly and steadily. The machine stops for nothing. Its pointed tip reaches the front end of the log, and with consistent and steady force it slowly pushes its way through, not budging for anything. It goes until -- with a great cracking noise -- it splits the log. That is the kind of charisma the leader should have: consistent, steady, and not budging for anything.

Thus, when you hear that "so and so" is upset and angry, do not get angry too! Welcome him. If he asks about the project, tell him the general information. However, do not irritate him by saying more than is necessary about your successes. Do not hold anything against the people who try to stop your good work. They will eventually lose interest. Some day they may become your supporters. Because you do not insult them and do not close the door on them, you may even have the chance to offer them great help in the future. Nothing is always smooth and rosy. To start anything good, there is rugged, dry ground to break.

Extracted from the paper given at the International Monastic Seminar in Toronto, Canada on September 29, 1998 by Ven. Dr. Henepola Gunaratana Mahathera, Chief Sangha Nayaka of The United States of America, President and Abbot of Bhavana Society, West Virginia, U.S.A

Be thankful to life...

Heavy rains remind us of challenges in life. Never ask for a lighter rain. Just pray for a better umbrella. That is attitude. When food comes, fish eat ants and when food recedes, ants eat fish! Only time matters. Just hold on, IMPERMANENCE gives opportunity to everyone! Life is not about finding the right person, but creating the right relationship, it's not how we care in the beginning, but how much we care till the very end. Some people always throw stones in your path. It depends on you what you make with them. A Wall or a Bridge? Remember you are the architect of your life. Search for a beautiful heart, but don't search for a beautiful face because beautiful things are not always good, but good things are always beautiful. It's not important to hold all the good cards in life. But it's important how well you play with the cards you hold. Often when we lose all hope and think this is the end, BE MINDFUL and says, 'relax dear it's just a bend, not the end! Have Faith and have a successful life. One of the basic differences between ENLIGHTENED being and IGNORANT being is this; an ENLIGHTENED being gives and forgives. But an IGNORANT being gets and forgets.

Be thankful in life....

From Visaka, Penang, Malaysia

Abbreviations, References and Notes

List of Abbreviations:

Dhp: Dhammapada, or word of the Doctrine, available in translation through many publishers. (Example: Dhp: 1 refers to verse number one)

SN: Samyuta Nikaya or The connected Discourses of the Buddha, available through Wisdom Publications (Example: SN: 40 refers to Sutta number 40).

Bibliography

(Bodhi, Bhikkhu. *The Connected Discourses of the Buddha: A Translation of the Samyutta Nikaya*.
Boston : Wisdom Publications, 1995, 2000.

Buddharakkhita, Acharya. *Dhammapada: A practical guide to right living*.
Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society, 2007.

GLOSSARY

Ajahn: (Tai) Teacher; (Pali) Acariya.

Bhante: Venerable Sir.

Bhavana: Meditation; development of the mind.

Bhikkhu: Buddhist monk or mendicant.

Brahma: An inhabitant of the heavenly realms of form and formlessness.

Buddha: Te awakened One. Historically, the prince Siddhattha Gotama (Pali) or Siddhartha Gautama (Sanskrit), who lived in Northern India 2600 years ago. A spiritual teacher from ancient India who founded what is currently called “Buddhism.”

Buddhist: A follower of the teaching of Buddha .

Buddharakkhita: Protected by the Buddha.

Buddha Dhamma : Teachings of the Buddha.

Buddhasattva: A being striving for Awakening; One who has vowed to become a Buddha, or attain full enlightenment for the sake of all beings. Te term is commonly used to describe the Siddhatta Gotama before He became the Buddha. Pali form: Buddhasatta.

Compassion: Te wish for someone to be free from sufering.

Deva: Literally means “shining one.” One of many diferent types of non-human beings living in heavenly realm, who share the characteristics of being more powerful, longer-lived, and, in general, enjoying great pleasures and living more contentedly than the average human being.

Dhamma: Fundamental truth; reality, the doctrine, teachings of the Buddha. Sanskrit form: Dharma.

Dhammaduta: A person who disseminates the teaching of the Buddha the transmission of Buddhism.

Devadatta: Literally, “god-given”. Te name of a cousin, brother-in-law of Siddhatta Gotama and a principal student of the Buddha who promoted schism in the order of monks, and later attempted to murder the Buddha.

Gotama: Te maternal family name, or surname, of the Prince Siddhatta.

Kamma: Volitional or Intentional action. Sanskrit form : Karma.

Meditation: Mental cultivation or development or purification.

Metta: Loving-kindness or loving-friendliness or goodwill. Universal love

Mangala: Blessings.

Mindfulness: Paying attentive awareness to the reality of things (especially of the present moment) without reacting to them.

Namo Buddhaya: Homage to the Buddha.

Nibbana: the ultimate emancipation or liberation

Pali: Te ancient Indian dialect spoken by the Buddha and his disciples.

Paritta: Protection

Triple Gem: Te three refuges that Buddhists turn to for spiritual guidance namely: the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha.

Teravada: Literally, “the speech of elders.” Te oldest form of the Buddha’s teaching based on Pali canonical scriptures.

”Southern Buddhism” commonly practiced in Myanmar (Burma), Tailand, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and now, Africa and the West.

Sanskrit: A historical Indo-Aryan language and the primary liturgical of Hinduism, Jainism and Tibetan Buddhism.

Sangha: On the ideal (noble) level, it means those followers of the Buddha, lay or ordained, who have attained at least the first level enlightenment (stream-entry). On the conventional level, it means the community of Buddhist renunciates (monks or nuns).

Sadhu: An exclamation in Buddhism usually repeated three times. It means “Well-done” or “Excellent!” or “It is well”. It is an expression showing appreciation or agreement.

Sukhi hotu: May you be happy.

Vipassana: Literally, “seeing in various and special ways” Te meditation practice of observing the true nature of mental and physical processes in their aspect of impermanence, insecurity and insubstantial (lack of independent essence or self or core)

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Thank you!***



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Website: www.ugandabuddhistcenter.org

Tradition: Theravada (also open to other spiritual and religious traditions)

Founder: Venerable Bhikkhu Buddharakkhita

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



About the author

Ven. Bhikkhu Buddhharakkhita was born and raised in Uganda, Africa. He first encountered Buddhism in 1990 while living in India, and he began practicing meditation in 1993. In June 2001, he started formal monastic training, and in November 2002 he received higher ordination under the late Venerable U Silananda at the Tathagata Meditation Centre in California, U.S. He has continued his Dhamma study and meditation practice for eight years under the guidance of Bhante Gunaratana at the Bhavana Society, West Virginia. He is the Abbot and President-Founder of the Uganda Buddhist Centre in Uganda and has been teaching meditation in Africa, Australia, Asia, Brazil, and the U.S. Besides spending time at the Buddhist Centre in Uganda, he is the spiritual advisor of Flowering Lotus Meditation Centre in Magnolia, Mississippi. He is

a spiritual adviser to the Global Buddhist Relief, New Jersey, U.S. and the representative of Uganda at the World Buddhist Summit, Kobe City, Japan. His book, *Planting Dhamma Seeds: The Emergence of Buddhism in Africa* tells the story of his religious work in Africa.

“Tis wonderful pictorial book has been written with great compassion and courage. May the reader find it as a source of inspiration, peace and joy that are the fruits of profound wisdom.”

H.R.H Princess Diana Teyeggala Rwantale Barizza, Buganda Kingdom