

The Venerable Acharn Pannavaddho Thera (1925 - 2004)

(Peter J. Morgan)

Wat Pa Baan Taad, Udorn Thani

My father, J.W. Morgan, and my mother, V.M. Morgan both came from South Wales in the UK. My father was a mining engineer and went out to work in South India in the Kolar Gold fields in Mysore state (now called Karnataka).

I was born in this gold mining area on the 19th of October 1925 (2468) and stayed there for about seven years after which I went to the UK for education.

My primary education was at a school in Malvern Wells in the English midlands. When I left this school the second world war started and I went to a secondary school in Tonbridge Kent in the South East corner of the UK. After about a year I moved from this school because of the war and went to Cheltenham in the midlands. When I left Cheltenham I went to an electrical training college in London, called Faraday House. The war ended at about the time I left Faraday House and got my degree.

After this I spent two years in India working as an Electrical Engineer on the mine and then returned to the UK and got a job as an “application engineer” in Stafford where I stayed for about five years. I then got another job working for the Canadian Standards Association in London. Then after eighteen months I was ordained as a *Samanera* in London.

My *Samanera* ordination (*pabbajja*) took place in the London Buddhist Vihara which was set up by the government of Sri Lanka, and it took place on the 31st of October 1955 (2498). The *uppajjhaya* was Bhikkhu Kapilavaddho who had been ordained in Thailand.

On the 15th of December 1955 Bhikkhu Kapilavaddho, two other Samaneras and I flew to Bangkok and went to stay in Wat Paknam. On the 27th of January 1956 (2499), three of us were ordained as Bhikkhus with Mangalarajamuni (Luang Por Soth) as the *Upajjhaya*.

We did not stay long in Thailand and returned to London on the 16th of July 1956 to stay in a *Vihara* that was set up in London by a Buddhist organisation. In due course the others all returned to lay life and I was left to look after the *Vihara*.

I remained in England looking after the *Vihara* for five years, when another Bhikkhu came and took over. Then I came out to Thailand again on the

22nd of November 1961 (2504) and went to stay in Wat Cholapratana under Acharn Pannananda. My purpose in returning to Thailand was to find and stay with a Teacher who was skilled in the ways of practising the Teaching of the Buddha. Fortunately a Thai friend took me to meet the Venerable Acariya Maha Bua who had come to Bangkok on business.

After meeting Venerable Acariya Maha Bua two or three times I asked if I may go and stay at Wat Pa Baan Taad. He accepted me and I went to stay in Wat Pa Baan Taad on the 16th of February 1963 (2506). I was re-ordained in the Dhammayuta Nikaya on the 22nd of April 1965 (2508). My *upajjhaya* was Somdet Phra Yanasamwara (then abbot of Wat Bovorniwet and the present Sangharaja). My *kammavacariya* was Phra Thepyanakavi and my *anusasanacariya* was Phra Acariya Maha Bua Yanasampanno.

I have remained in Wat Pa Baan Taad since I first came here.

Bhikkhu Pannavaddho

Wat Pa Baan Taad

May 1999 (2542)

Venerable Acharn Pannavaddho Thera passed away at Wat Pa Baan Taad at 8:30 a.m. on August 18, 2004. He died of internal cancer. He was 78 years old and had been a Buddhist monk for 39 years.