

**Tiểu sử**  
**Venerable Abhinyana**  
**(Michael Houghton)**

18 August 1946 – 14 April 2008



Buddhist affairs in the Phillipines Refugee Processing Centre, which held some 18,000 refugees. Moved by the plight of the Vietnamese boat people, Ven. Abhinyana stayed for four years, helping maintain two Buddhist temples, distributing supplies and administering to the spiritual needs of the people. He encouraged the Vietnamese to stand up to the Christian missionaries working at the camps, to be proud of their religion, and to use their unfortunate circumstances as an opportunity to understand the Buddha’s teachings more deeply.



Venerable Abhinyana was born in England on August 18, 1946. He was raised as a Christian, but left the religion when he left high school.

Michael Houghton, as he was then known, began his extensive world travels at the age of eighteen. His travels led him through Europe, the Middle East and eventually India, where he had an experience which convinced him to become a Buddhist monk. Shortly afterwards, Ven. Abhinyana met Venerable Dhammika in Delhi, and was left with a strong impression of kindness, humility and concern for others. He resolved to be ordained by Ven. Dhammika after travelling to Australia to inform his parents of his decision.

From Australia, he travelled as far as Malaysia before circumstances prevailed which led to his ordination. He was ordained on the first Sunday in May, 1972 in the Theravada tradition at Wat Chayamangalarum – the main Thai temple in Penang, Malaysia. He took the name Abhinyano, which was the first and last part of his teacher’s name: Abhi-dhamma-pala-nyano. Later he changed his Pali name, Abhinyano to the Sri Lankan form, Abhinyana in 1976. The same year, while in Singapore, he asked the abbot of Phor Kark Temple if he could take Chinese robes as a reflection of his vegetarianism, and of his desire to be a non-sectarian monk. Ven. Hong Choon granted him permission to do so on the conditions that he maintained his vegetarianism and was active in propagating the Dharma. This being so, he was given the additional name: Seck Kong Hui, a rough translation of Abhinyano.

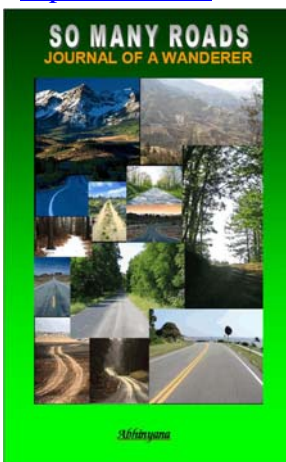
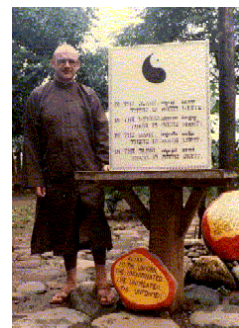


In 1978, Ven. Abhinyana travelled to the Phillipines where he applied to visit Manila City Jail to bring the Dhamma to the inmates. After two years, he travelled to Bataan where he became active with the Vietnamese refugees in the refugee processing centres. He stayed there as the Monk in Charge of

‘I had little choice but to oppose such proselytisation, and encourage the Buddhists to keep their religion, and most of my talks in the Camps were given for this purpose.’

‘...I felt an attempt should be made to show some of them how it [suffering] can be turned around and something gained, otherwise, it would be an even greater tragedy than the suffering itself.’ (Not this, not that, Abhinyana p. 12).

As a result of his experiences working with refugees in Malaysia, Ven. Abhinayana wrote his first book, titled *Keys for Refugees*. This was well received, and translated into Vietnamese. To date, he has written fifteen books, all of which can be found at <http://anatta.info/>.



In the ‘80s and ‘90s Ven. Abhinyana travelled around Malaysia giving talks in every state. He also spent several years in Australia giving talks, and later on travelled to the United States and Canada.

On 19 August 2006, Ven. Abhinyana celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in Malaysia, using the opportunity to launch his first book of memoirs, titled

*So Many Roads: Journal of a Wanderer.*

Ven. Abhinyana was diagnosed with cancer on 13 November 2007 while in East Malaysia. Following his diagnosis he returned to Australia, and continued to give Dhamma talks until finally passing away on 14 April 2008 in Queensland, Australia.

**Kim Lâm sư tử tâm**  
 (từ <http://anatta.info/>)

