



Discussion Questions: *Learning True Love*

by Sister Chân Không

Section 4: Working for Peace 1969-1975

Sister Chân Không (Sư cô) details the work that she and a group of dedicated activists were doing in order to support Vietnamese orphans and to grow the peace movement. She is in her 30s and living in France with Thích Nhất Hạnh during this time. The war ends in 1975, drastically affecting their programs in Vietnam.

1. What story in this section stood out to you?
2. Sister Chân Không describes her experience of learning English in order to be accurately understood by the West. She encounters many different types of English as she travels across Europe. What is your personal relationship to English? Think of experiences you have listening to others who speak a different dialect than you, or speak English as a second language, and consider in what ways does this affect your understanding of those people?
3. A representative from “Theologians for Liberation” introduces the metaphor of the young girl and the bandit. Thích Nhất Hạnh agrees that we must support the little girl against the bandit, but invites everyone to look deeply and ask “Who is the bandit?” (p.155). How do you practice looking deeply to understand issues like war, injustice, violence, and oppression?
4. What feelings and thoughts came up for you while reading about the creation of the Sweet Potato Community in France (*Les Patates Douces*)?



Fellowship of Reconciliation
vigil for peace in the UK (p.149)

Sister Chân Không (birth name Cao Ngọc Phượng) was born in a village on the Mekong River Delta in 1938. She has devoted her life to the development and practice of nonviolence grounded in the Buddhist precepts of non-killing and compassionate action. She is part of the community of Zen Master Thích Nhất Hạnh and lives in Plum Village, France.