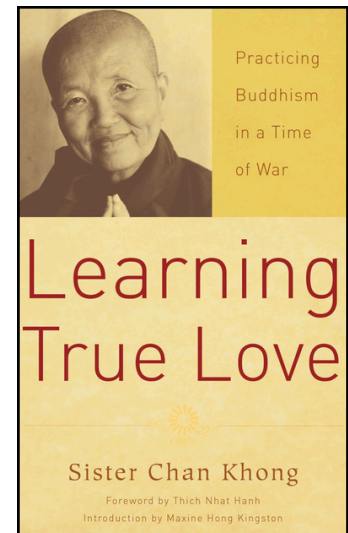


Discussion Questions: *Learning True Love* by Sister Chân Không

Section 5: Exile 1976-1988 (Chapters 17-21)

Sister Chân Không (Sư cô) shares stories of the “boat people” leaving Vietnam and the continued suffering of Vietnamese people after the end of the war, both in their homeland and in the diaspora. She details the beginnings of Plum Village in France.



1. What story in this section stood out to you?
2. Sister Chân Không explains how suffering and injustice continued in Vietnam for decades after the war ended. How familiar were you with this period? What things did you learn about this time?
3. How has your understanding of and relationship to the existence of borders, visas, war, and refugees changed over the course of your life?
4. Sister Chân Không discusses the differences between children who grow up in Vietnam among their ancestral culture, and children who grow up in other countries with different relationships to their ancestral culture. (ch. 20) How do her stories deepen your understanding of the many people in the world today who have ancestors from different places and cultures?
5. Sister Chân Không explains how “Thích Nhất Hạnh emphasizes that any teachings must be born from one’s own experience, not just by repeating the words of the Buddha or some other authority.” (p.232) Do you practice speaking only from your experience? How does this affect your interactions?



Vulture Peak, November 12, 1988

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.