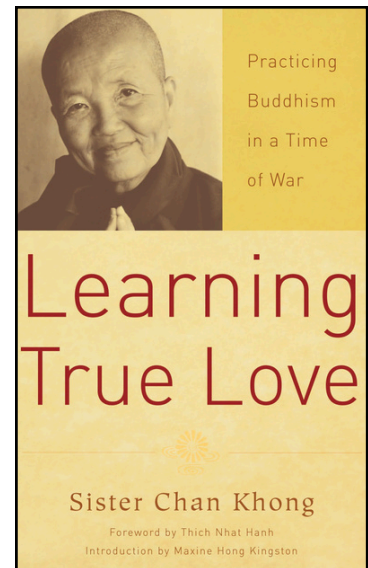


Discussion Questions: *Learning True Love* by Sister Chân Không

Section 3: The War Escalates 1966-1968

Sister Chân Không (Sư cô) details the multiple calls for peace that Vietnamese leaders, Buddhists, and students initiate as pressure and violence escalate in Vietnam. She shares about the deaths of several of her friends and colleagues working for social change and her eventual departure from Vietnam.



1. What story in this section stood out to you?
2. Sư cô shares examples of people working for a common goal (peace) that have conflicting ideas on strategy. Knowing that this is inevitable, how do you think we can navigate conflicts like these to achieve our shared goals?
3. Sư cô refuses to go against her conscience and is prepared to accept the consequences of her actions, which likely include being arrested. What do you think prepared her to act in that way, while most others were coerced? How can we build our integrity so that we are fearless in similar situations?
4. Sister Nhất Chi Mai at one point feels that fasting and self-immolation no longer wake people up, yet she ultimately decides to self-immolate and her sacrifice does result in motivating differing groups to work together for peace. How did you feel reading this chapter about her life and death?
5. How does reading Sư cô's experiences and realization that "we must resist war at any price" affect your relationship to practices of mindful living?



The SYSS staff (p.87)

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.