



V I D Y A L O K E

PRIVATE TEACHINGS

HIS HOLINESS THE 14TH DALAI LAMA

DECEMBER 8TH - 9TH, 2017

MUMBAI, INDIA

In collaboration with

SOMAIYA VIDYAVIHAR





V I D Y A L O K E

AN INTRODUCTION TO VIDYALOKE

India, will one day, be remembered as the land where the most sublime wisdom arose. Wisdom which elucidates the preciousness of human rebirth and its spiritual potential. Wisdom that established the profound teachings on shunyata and pratityasamutpada. In this land where the Buddha Shakyamuni walked, there flourished a tradition of study, contemplation and practice, rooted in discipline and courage.

Our wisdom and traditions flourished outside, forming the foundation of several Asian cultures. While in India, they were conquered, diluted, broken or mentally exiled, creating a vacuum in our own identity. Millennia ago, sages prophesised that the greatest misfortune of this degenerate era will be the elusiveness of true wisdom. That the mind would be trapped by obscurity, overwhelmed by habit and unaware of its own ignorance.

Vidyaloके means wisdom and light. Our vision is to revive Indian Wisdom in contemporary India. Not as a spiritual organisation or movement or philosophy – but as a facilitator for those seeking the greatest living teachers of ancient Indian wisdom. Through teachings, talks, interactions and virtual resources we aspire to provide shishyas the opportunity to study and learn from the greatest teachers of our time. Drawing from the teachings of the Buddha Shakyamuni and from sacred sutras and texts, we will focus on wisdom that is authentic, revered and at least 2000 years old.

The Buddha was born a prince, named Siddhartha Gautama. As a young man, he chose to find a solution to suffering for the benefit of all beings. He studied, contemplated and practiced inexhaustibly till he reached enlightenment. He then taught the truth in many ways to suit the capacities of all beings. His wisdom and life became an inextricable part of India's wisdom, beyond the notions of form, space and time.

While the wisdom of India subtly found its way into the fabric of everyday life, there is a palpable need to revive the tradition of its study and practice. We live in an era marked by uncertainty, negative emotions and false views. We fall prey to the seduction of savvy imports plagiarised from our own wisdom traditions. We allow ourselves to become trapped in blind devotion born out of desperation or greed. We despair in the apparent pointlessness and fatality of our existence, causing suffering to ourselves and others. Seeking to go beyond

such phenomena, Vidyaloke is an Indian Wisdom initiative for the curious, the confused, the courageous, the committed, the ordinary, the extraordinary and the romantic.

Vidyaloke will only make teaching requests to gurus of lineage, accountable to a legacy and with the highest levels of personal practice and accomplishment. Beyond the opportunities that Vidyaloke provides, each shishya must chart out a journey. While each shishya's journey might be unique, it is essential to know that the mind deludes itself, projecting what it wishes to see, think and feel. There is no replacing the guru to point out the truth, to pull the rug from underneath one's feet and to do what books cannot do. This understanding is the basis of the guru-shishya parampara and must provoke a careful search of whom we might see as our guide.

All wisdom traditions also stress the importance of sangha, to help encourage our practice and efface egocentrism. It is our hope that through Vidyaloke, shishyas find their own sangha and the support that it provides.

We believe in living a full and eclectic life but ask interested shishyas to have genuine commitment to their own journey and practice. This includes study before teachings, attending activities in their entirety and putting in effort afterwards. It is said that selfless devotion to all sentient beings is the only way to find happiness for oneself, therefore genuine motivation to benefit others is highly encouraged.

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama is Vidyaloke's first torchbearer, for which we will be forever indebted. His boundless compassion, concern for India and her legacy, motivate him to give us his invaluable time. The Buddha's teachings have been preserved and practised outside India by great practitioners, sublime teachers and accomplished scholars. We are blessed to have the karmic opportunity to once again be a place of confluence for the greatest living teachers of this wisdom. It is now time for Indians to awaken!

Vidyaloke believes it must focus on the relatively young. Private Teachings are intended for those between 16 and 40 years of age, however Public Talks and other Vidyaloke formats are open to all ages. While one's spiritual journey is independent of age, we feel there is a heightened need to spiritually nourish India's youth.

Our ambition is to organise teachings and talks with increasing frequency and in different places across India. Vidyaloke will eventually need to be supported by shishyas themselves, as part of their own evolving journey and in service to those making new beginnings.

We feel that personal motivation to develop a more enlightened view and an understanding of our spiritual interdependence might be India's only avenue to peace and happiness, one that it might some day offer to the world. So as it is written in the Prajnaparamita Hridaya Sutra, "Go, go beyond, go still further and establish your enlightenment."

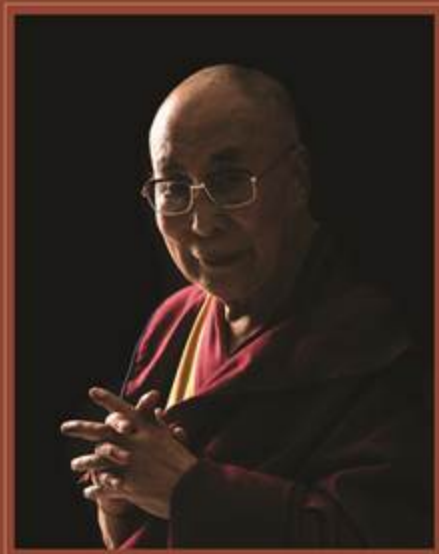
HIS HOLINESS THE 14TH DALAI LAMA

His Holiness often speaks of our legacy of wisdom and the need for its revival, by Indians, especially young Indians. Once the source of the greatest teachers, scholars and students in the spiritual and intellectual world, His Holiness credits his own knowledge to India, as far back as to the era of Shakyamuni Buddha.

As one of the greatest living scholars of wisdom rooted in India, he is perhaps also its greatest practitioner and teacher. Giving his precious time and energy to Vidyaloke so generously, his only aspiration is for us to study ancient Indian knowledge and to develop a mind that investigates, experiments and generates compassion for all beings.

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, describes himself as a simple Buddhist monk. He is the spiritual leader of Tibet. He was born on 6th July, 1935 in north-eastern Tibet and at the very young age of two, he was recognised as the reincarnation of the 13th Dalai Lama, Thubten Gyatso.

His Holiness is a man of peace, having consistently advocated policies of non-violence even in the face of extreme aggression. He also won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989.



May the light in one's mind grow steadily brighter,
the darkness of unknowing be fearlessly removed.

May the beauty of compassion find its place within,
the mind's horizon forever expanding.

May this be my greatest prayer,
that wisdom's flame be kindled for all.

A journey so irreversible may I find,
till I reside simply in emptiness.

Vidyaloke's Inaugural Private Teachings in New Delhi, February 2017

Vidyaloke's Inaugural Private Teachings with His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama took place on the 3rd and 4th of February, 2017 in New Delhi, India. We feel extremely blessed to have shared those precious days with His Holiness and offer our deepest gratitude and respect to him for provoking us on this journey, and for his precious teachings and time.

The teaching was held for an intimate group of 333 Shishyas in a contemporary rendition of the guru-shishya parampara. Our intent was to make the most sublime wisdom accessible and directly relevant to the youth of India today as they undertake their personal, spiritual journey.

His Holiness covered topics on science of mind, emotional hygiene, sixteen attributes of the four noble truths, amongst others. He also answered many questions from the Shishyas. The teaching was then followed by a review session with Venerable Geshe Lhakdor and Yangten Rinpoche and their light-hearted yet perceptive approach helped the participants to understand the teaching better. The afternoon session also witnessed Shishyas and Scholars divided into groups of 10 to discuss relevant aspects of reviving Indian wisdom and knowledge in the current day.



VIDYALOKE PRIVATE TEACHINGS 8TH - 9TH DECEMBER, 2017 SOMAIYA VIDYAVIHAR CAMPUS, MUMBAI

The full teaching schedule will be announced soon. Teachings will begin in the morning on both the days and continue till lunch with a chai break in between.

This will then be followed by a review session and Shishya group discussions.

It is mandatory to attend both days and all parts of the program. Private teachings are open to those between 16 and 40 years of age.

Salient Points to Note

Vidyaloکہ's Private Teachings are by invitation only and for those who want to commit to a long term journey of inner development, study and practice.

These teachings are for those aged between 16 and 40

The teachings require commitment; therefore it is mandatory to participate in entirety on both days.

The teachings on 8th and 9th of December, 2017 will conclude no later than 4:00 pm

There will also be a Vidyaloکہ Public Talk by His Holiness on the 10th of December, 2017.

The Public Talk is open for everyone who is 10 years and above.

For more information, please visit www.vidyaloke.in.

How to Register for the Teachings and Talk

If you are within the above age limit and interested to attend the teachings, please write to us at teachings@vidyaloke.in for next steps.

To attend the talk, please email us with your full name and postal address to talks@vidyaloke.in.

Vana Foundation

Vana Foundation draws from Vana's vision to be of service and enhance wellbeing.

The foundation's mission is to focus on the areas of Indian wisdom, Indian farming and Indian culture. Its activities hope to benefit all beings with a focus on India and its youth.

Vidyaloکہ, an initiative of Vana Foundation, is an endeavour to 'Revive Indian Wisdom in Contemporary India'.

Vana Foundation is also proud to have been part of the founding team of the Siddhartha Festival. Its first edition in 2016 was also Vana Foundation's first activity.

Another landmark project being spearheaded by Siddhartha's Intent India and Vana Foundation, with support from Khyentse Foundation, is the Mahabodhi Temple Lighting Project.

Vana Foundation has also begun work on Vana Krishi, an initiative to create farmer networks of natural, organic and traditional methods of farming.



WWW.VIDYALOKE.IN

Vidyaloکہ is an initiative by Vana Foundation with the blessings of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama and patronage from Anajit Singh & Family.