

- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
 - [The Basics](#)
 - [Vision and Mission](#)
 - [Guiding Principles](#)
 - [Directors and Staff](#)
 - [Contributors](#)
 - [Podcast Music](#)
 - [Sitemap](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Community](#)
 - [Community Standards and Participation Guidelines](#)
 - [Discussions](#)
 - [Events](#)
 - [Social Circle](#)
 - [Partner Sites](#)
 - [Meetup Group Guidelines](#)
- [Resources](#)
 - [Books](#)
 - [Quotes](#)
 - [Practice Centers](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Comments](#)
- [Posts](#)

Navigate to ...



A natural, pragmatic approach to early Buddhist teachings and practice

- [Podcasts](#)
- [Articles](#)
- [Meditation Support](#)
 - [Basic Meditation Instructions](#)
 - [Guided Meditations](#)
 - [Practice Circle](#)
 - [Weekly Practice](#)
- [Discussions](#)
- [New to Secular Buddhism](#)
- [Enter Search Terms](#)

Navigate to ...

Discussions

Note: To post to the discussions, you must register. If you already have a WordPress.org or .com account, it will **NOT** work here. You must create a new account.

Please familiarize yourself with the [Community Standards and Participation Guidelines](#) prior to posting or commenting. Offensive posts and people are subject to removal at the discretion of the moderators. We appreciate thoughtful discussions!

☒ New posts ☐ No new posts – [Mark All Read](#)

Welcome Samana Johann		Show/Hide Header
Your last visit was: June 2, 2015, 20:00 Show new topics since your last visit Edit your forum options Edit Profile Log out		
<input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Search forums"/>		

[Forum Home](#) [My Profile](#)

Forum » [Secular Buddhist Community](#) » [Secular Buddhist Association::Organization](#) » [Is this our Sangha?](#)

Pages: [1]

[Reply](#) [Subscribe](#) [RSS feed](#)

Author	Topic: Is this our Sangha?
Toyo85 Grasshopper	Is this our Sangha? on: May 28, 2014, 18:15

Posts: 8
[Permalink](#)



Quote

The Buddha talks about being part of the sangha in the 3 jewels. Is this considered a sangha? Where I live there are a few sangha, but they each seem to be filled with some sort of scandal or are a branch of Buddhism I don't necessarily follow. I promise I'm not picky or pointing fingers, but finding that community to call your sangha seems nice and I'd prefer to call my sangha an online community instead of what I have locally. Thoughts?

David S
Noone Going
Nowhere
Posts: 660
[Permalink](#)

Re: Is this our Sangha?
on: June 1, 2014, 19:30

Quote

Hi Toyo85.

I think it can be a sort of sangha, but not as intimate as a group of people meeting face to face. So I guess if you accept its limitations, it can fill some needs to connect and discuss topics, and you could join the online sitting group Mark leads online here. Will it be the same thing as going to a center or someone's home, or out for coffee? No probably not.

Mark-
Knickelbin-
e
Administrator
Posts: 706
[Permalink](#)



Re: Is this our Sangha?
on: June 2, 2014, 08:07

Quote

Toyo --

I agree with David that gathering physically with other people to share your practice is very important. It is not possible for many people and so we do offer this community to provide what support we can -- the lack of a physical practice center does not mean that you cannot practice or that it won't be of tremendous benefit to you.

As far as Sangha is concerned: I try to understand the concept within the insight that awakening is always a social process. I practice because of the countless generations of people who sought wisdom and passed on what they learned. I practice because of all the teachers in my life and my fellow students who had the courage to show up and share their practice with me. I practice because I have this wonderful opportunity to help build a community to support other people on their journey. I practice because I understand more and more that my life is something I share with everyone I meet, that the world is full of helping bodhisattvas and that even difficult people offer an opportunity for growth and insight. So while it's good to have like-minded people to sit and talk with, ultimately my sangha is everybody. All beings everywhere, as the saying goes. Wherever I am my sangha is all around me and my awakening is part of theirs, and vice versa. I guess what I'm trying to say is we don't ever lack anything we need to wake up.

Toyo85
Grasshopper
Posts: 8
[Permalink](#)



Re: Is this our Sangha?
on: June 2, 2014, 08:39

Quote

Thank you Mark, that was very well said. I think the most comforting thought is that we already have what we need right here and I often forget that.

Samana-
Johann
Noone Going
Nowhere
Posts: 168
[Permalink](#)

Re: Is this our Sangha?
on: May 21, 2015, 08:54

Quote

Edit

Quote from Toyo85 on May 28, 2014, 18:15

The Buddha talks about being part of the sangha in the 3 jewels. Is this considered a sangha? Where I live there are a few sangha, but they each seem to be filled with some sort of scandal or are a branch of Buddhism I don't necessarily follow. I promise I'm not picky or pointing fingers, but finding that community to call your sangha seems nice and I'd prefer to call my sangha an online community instead of what I have locally. Thoughts?

Mr. Toyo85, maybe Mr. Toyo85 is referring to what is called "parisā". Sangha is 1. the community of Monks or Nuns or 2. the 4 pairs. And it's not our, it's the Buddhas. Parisā might be somebody else one, "ours".

On the conventional (*sammati*) level, this term denotes the communities of Buddhist monks and nuns; on the ideal (*ariya*) level, it denotes those followers of the Buddha, lay or ordained, who have attained at least stream-entry (see *sotāpanna*), the first of the transcendent paths (see *magga*) culminating in *nibbāna*. Recently, particularly in the West, the term "sangha" has been popularly adapted to mean the wider sense of "community of followers on the Buddhist path," although this usage finds no basis in the Pali canon. The term "*parisā*" may be more appropriate for this much broader meaning. [\[more\]](#)

antiquebud-
dhas
Grasshopper

Re: Is this our Sangha?
on: May 24, 2015, 03:05

Posts: 23
[Permalink](#)



Quote

Greeting Toyo85,

As you mentioned, Online community which you want to call Sangha, is actually cannot be called Sangha. The community you mentioned only for increasing your theoretical knowledge. You can't reach anywhere with only theoretical knowledge. You have to own that knowledge through practical action, meditation, etc.

the sangha are the companions or community that supports us along the way

Walking on the path left by Buddha with your companion is what Sangha taught us. Helping each other, guiding each other, helping other to realize about their mistakes and taking help from companion to realize own mistake is what we call taking refuge in Sangha.

The sangha is like the nurse who helps us along the way.

<http://www.burmese-art.com>

Samana-Johann
Noone Going
Nowhere
Posts: 168
[Permalink](#)

Re: Is this our Sangha?
on: May 24, 2015, 10:00

Quote

Edit

Quote from antiquebuddhas on May 24, 2015, 03:05

Greeting Toyo85,

As you mentioned, Online community which you want to call Sangha, is actually cannot be called Sangha. The community you mentioned only for increasing your theoretical knowledge. You can't reach anywhere with only theoretical knowledge.

You have to own that knowledge through practical action, meditation, etc.

Atma does not agree with that, Mr/Mrs. antiquebuddhas. One acts here as well as somewhere else, and spoken of speech for example, there is much to learn in a practical way. Kamma and practising does not end when someone enters internet and acts and interacts there.

And of cause one can find admirable friends, even members of the Sangha which we refer to when we take refuge, the 8 persons which have reached an amount of "saintliness" (have realized Nibbana for a while or totally).

the sangha are the companions or community that supports us along the way

Walking on the path left by Buddha with your companion is what Sangha taught us. Helping each other, guiding each other, helping other to realize about their mistakes and taking help from companion to realize own mistake is what we call taking refuge in Sangha.

The sangha is like the nurse who helps us along the way.

Actually there is no such task give, even not for monks and nuns, to "help" each other. There is "just" a pointing on helping sick members of the community and of cause there are tasks between disciple an teacher, but beside of that, such tasks to help others can not be found.

There is no such as a laypeople community have been build up be the Buddha. This is just a modern appearance. Aside of the Sangha, the Buddha did not lay down any community "rules"

In regard of "help", maybe this in addition: [Educating Compassion](#)

Linda
Noone Going
Nowhere
Posts: 847
[Permalink](#)



Re: Is this our Sangha?
on: May 25, 2015, 21:21

Quote

My online sangha knows more about me, is more supportive of me, than my local group is. But my local group is still only a few years old -- we'll see what develops.

Linda Blanchard
Buddhist History/Pali Nerd

Samana-Johann
Noone Going
Nowhere
Posts: 168
[Permalink](#)

Re: Is this our Sangha?
on: May 25, 2015, 22:38

Quote

Edit

It's a interesting phenomena, valued Mrs Linda, isn't it? Is it the kind of realm or the kind of people? Is it the different sensation of being able to control what "I am" about and with it the appearance for others? Did Mrs Linda invite here offline community to join and vici versa?

Nick

Re: Is this our Sangha?

Noone Going
Nowhere
Posts: 344
[Permalink](#)

 on: June 5, 2015, 16:52

 [Quote](#)

Quote from Samana Johann on May 24, 2015, 10:00

As you mentioned, Online community which you want to call Sangha, is actually cannot be called Sangha. The community you mentioned only for increasing your theoretical knowledge. You can't reach anywhere with only theoretical knowledge.

Yes, this community is a Sangha because there are members here that can explain how to enter the Noble Path.

As for your criticism of 'theoretical knowledge', this is incorrect & unwise. *Samma ditthi* (right view), the 1st factor of the Noble Eightfold Path, is essentially theoretical knowledge the 1st time it is actually employed by right mindfulness. 😊

In the same way, monks, when association with worthy people prevails, listening to the True Teaching will prevail. When listening to the True Teaching prevails, faith will prevail. When faith prevails, wise attention/reflection will prevail. When wise attention/reflection prevails, mindfulness and clear comprehension will prevail. When mindfulness and clear comprehension prevail, sense-control will prevail. When sense-control prevails, the three ways of good conduct will prevail. When the three ways of good conduct prevail, the four foundations of mindfulness will prevail. When the four foundations of mindfulness prevail, the seven factors of enlightenment will prevail. When the seven factors of enlightenment prevail, liberation by supreme knowledge will prevail. Such is the nutriment of that liberation by supreme knowledge, and so it prevails."

— AN 10.61 & 62

One is mindful to abandon wrong view & to enter & remain in right view: This is one's right mindfulness.[2]
Thus these three qualities — right view, right effort & right mindfulness — run & circle around right view.

MN 117

Samana-
Johann
Noone Going
Nowhere
Posts: 168
[Permalink](#)

 **Re: Is this our Sangha?**
on: June 5, 2015, 17:05

 [Quote](#)

 [Edit](#)

Not at all Mr/Mrs. Nick, this can be maybe called "parisā". *Sangha* in a "physical" manner refers to the community of Monks. Of cause you could find admirable friends also without the Sangha, as they are important to develop right view, the entrance into Dhamma. And how to enter the path:

Cause for the development of skillful qualities

"With regard to external factors, I don't envision any other single factor like friendship with admirable people as doing so much for a monk in training, who has not attained the heart's goal but remains intent on the unsurpassed safety from bondage. A monk who is a friend with admirable people abandons what is unskillful and develops what is skillful."

Nick
Noone Going
Nowhere
Posts: 344
[Permalink](#)

 **Re: Is this our Sangha?**
on: June 5, 2015, 17:14

 [Quote](#)

Quote from Samana Johann on June 5, 2015, 17:05

Not at all Mr/Mrs. Nick, this can be maybe called "parisā". *Sangha* in a "physical" manner refers to the community of Monks. Of cause you could find admirable friends also without the Sangha, as they are important to develop right view, the entrance into Dhamma. And how to enter the path:

Cause for the development of skillful qualities

"With regard to external factors, I don't envision any other single factor like friendship with admirable people as doing so much for a monk in training, who has not attained the heart's goal but remains intent on the unsurpassed safety from bondage. A monk who is a friend with admirable people abandons what is unskillful and develops what is skillful."

Friend. Your posts on this forum have given no impression that your mind is stream-entry. Instead, your posts give the impression of a faith follower. Your posts on this forum are indicative of *puttujjana* and *sīlabbata-parāmāsa*. It is obvious you have not generated any faith in the community here, who continue to criticise your conduct. This is because you continue to preach morality dhamma for children & sinners. If you posted on this forum what is lofty & inspiring, you may receive the hospitality & reverential salutation reserved for the Noble Sangha. The Buddha said:

In the course of the future there will be monks who won't listen when discourses that are words of the Tathagata — deep, deep in their meaning, transcendent, connected with emptiness — are being recited. They won't lend ear, won't set their hearts on knowing them, won't regard these teachings as worth grasping or mastering.

Thus you should train yourselves: 'We will listen when discourses that are words of the Tathagata — deep, deep in their meaning, transcendent, connected with emptiness — are being recited. We will lend ear, will set

our hearts on knowing them, will regard these teachings as worth grasping & mastering.' That's how you should train yourselves."

<http://www.accesstoinsight.org/tipitaka/sn/sn20/sn20.007.than.html>

In the scriptures, the Buddha gave instruction to monks and then the monks departed and practised in solitude. The Noble Sangha is defined by realisation and not by the "physical".


For example, in the Upali Sutta, the layman Upali gained stream-entry, became independent of a teacher & requested to depart from the Lord Buddha, to which the Lord Buddha consented.

The Buddha said:

Enough, Vakkali! What is there to see in this vile [physical] body? He who sees Dhamma, Vakkali, sees me; he who sees me sees Dhamma. Truly seeing Dhamma, one sees me; seeing me one sees Dhamma."

The Sangha of the Blessed One's disciples has entered on the good way; the Sangha of the Blessed One's disciples has entered on the straight way; the Sangha of the Blessed One's disciples has entered on the proper way, that is to say; the Four Pairs of Men, the Eight Types of Persons; the Sangha of the Blessed One's disciples is fit for gifts, fit for hospitality, fit for offerings, and fit for reverential salutation, as the incomparable field of merit for the world.

Samana-Johann
Noone Going
Nowhere
Posts: 168
[Permalink](#)

 **Re: Is this our Sangha?**
on: June 5, 2015, 17:33

 **Quote**

 **Edit**

Quote from Nick on June 5, 2015, 17:14

Quote from Samana Johann on June 5, 2015, 17:05

Not at all Mr/Mrs. Nick, this can be maybe called "parisā". **Sangha** in a "physical" manner refers to the community of Monks. Of cause you could find **admirable friends** also without the Sangha, as they are important to develop right view, the entrance into Dhamma. And how to enter the path:

Cause for the development of skillful qualities

"With regard to external factors, I don't envision any other single factor like friendship with admirable people as doing so much for a monk in training, who has not attained the heart's goal but remains intent on the unsurpassed safety from bondage. A monk who is a friend with admirable people abandons what is unskillful and develops what is skillful."

Friend. Your mind is not stream-entry therefore is it unfitting for you to comment on stream-entry. Your posts on this forum are indicative of *puttujana* and *sīlabbata-parāmāsa*. It is obvious you have not generated any faith in the community here, who continue to criticise your conduct. This is because you continue to preach morality dhamma for children.

So you are a stream-entry and know, Mr.Mrs. Nick?
And you should not call somebody friend, if it is not honest.

In the scriptures, the Buddha gave instruction to monks and then the monks departed and practised in solitude. The Sangha is defined by realisation and not by the "physical".

No, you might talk about the Sangha one goes for refuge, but the Sangha to maintain the tradition to give the surrounding for training is the monastic. No such a lay or mixed community is laid down by the Buddha.

The Buddha said:

Enough, Vakkali! What is there to see in this vile [physical] body? He who sees Dhamma, Vakkali, sees me; he who sees me sees Dhamma. Truly seeing Dhamma, one sees me; seeing me one sees Dhamma."

So far on topic...

The Sangha of the Blessed One's disciples has entered on the good way; the Sangha of the Blessed One's disciples has entered on the straight way; the Sangha of the Blessed One's disciples has entered on the proper way, that is to say; the Four Pairs of Men, the Eight Types of Persons; the Sangha of the Blessed One's disciples is fit for gifts, fit for hospitality, fit for offerings, and fit for reverential salutation, as the incomparable field of merit for the world.

Of course. If we talk about Sangha in regard of the eight persons, than it could be that there are also laypeople behind. But you would not know.

Maybe that is a good help: [Paṭisalla Sutta: Seclusion](#)

This western "lay Sangha" idea, is simply an advertising of people who makes an unrighteous livelihood with the label Sangha to get people and donations and of cause it is a tool to make much group identification but really not righteous and correct. Its stealing form the Sangha at least. You would such even as a heavy offense if you are on the Bodhisatta path,

look at Bodhisattva vows: [Taking offerings intended for the Triple Gem](#)

So if somebody goes on an "advertises" with a label that is not his, here "Sangha", the "owner" would have even in wordily means the right to sue him and call him/her a thief. Sangha would not do, but members of it would warn you, since it is also if not called for reputation a heavy unskillful deed with results. So don't use the image of Sangha, if you make a community aside of Buddhas founded Sangha.

Do not use this label and its better to see it as an object of respect than an object of "my, me, we" and making it ones own. No need to be part of "Noble" as well, as such would be just a sign of heavy conceit.

Quick Reply:



Submit Quick Reply

Pages: [1]

[Reply](#) [Subscribe](#) [RSS feed](#)

Mingle Forum by [cartpauj](#)
Version: 1.0.34 ; Page loaded in: 0.387 seconds.

[Secular Buddhist Association](#)

© 2015 Secular Buddhist Association. All rights reserved. [Theme by Solostream](#).