

# Editorial

(CJBS #7, 2011)

This issue of *Canadian Journal of Buddhist Studies* (#7) begins with a Memorial to the late Prof. **Leslie Sumio Kawamura** (1935-2011). In an appreciation, Sarah Haynes, a student of his at University of Calgary, writes, “I think the most important thing about Leslie is the compassion he showed to his students. It was more than the time and effort he put into ensuring his students’ academic success, but the concern he showed for their overall wellbeing” (p. 8). That should speak volumes in our day and age of individualism, and an often cold academy. This quality of Prof. Kawamura is something I can attest to personally as well. In a visit to the University of Calgary, as part of my effort to link up Nalanda with Canadian universities, Prof. Kawamura did everything possible to make my stay both functional and fruitful; he even invited me to teach his class.

Opening the *Pariyatti* section is a regular contributor to these pages, namely, **Bhikkhu Anālayo** of the University of Hamburg. In his paper on “Right View and the Scheme of the Four Truths in Early Buddhism”, he seeks to establish how an intellectual comprehension of the Right View serves as the basis for the realization of Stream-entry and Nibbana, through “direct perception” (p. 12). This is done on a comparative basis of Pali, Chinese and Sanskrit renderings of the relevant texts.

Another familiar name in these pages is **Bryan Levman** of the University of Toronto. Writing on the “Muṇḍa / Muṇḍaka Crux”, he seeks to find an answer to the question “What does it mean?” Exploring the terms in their various occurrences in diverse contexts in Pali and Hybrid Sanskrit, he concludes that it is of non-Aryan origins. If one takes the terms as “an ethnic or tribal cognomen”, many of the heretofore-unexplained meanings come to be explainable, “although the precise meaning still eludes us”.

Opening the *Paṭipatti* section is **Janet McLellan** of Wilfred Laurier University, writing on the “Shifts in Diasporic and Buddhist Identities Among Second Generation Cambodians in Ontario”. Even though their lives in North America entailed “an incredible range of family and social disruption”, what is emerging in the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation is “a positive diasporic Buddhist identity.”

In his Essay “‘Asoulity’ as Translation of *Anattā*: Absence, not Negation”, **Suwanda H J Sugunasiri** approaches the subject not from a philosophical or a soteriological point of view but from a straightforward linguistics one. Exploring why the Buddha opted for the prefix *a-* in *anattā*, he introduces a concept of ‘zero-seme’. The paper ends with a discussion of two related issues: first, why Western scholars of Buddhism steer clear of using the word ‘soul’ in their translations of *anattā*; and second, he takes issue with using Sanskrit in discussing early Buddhism, instead of Pali, the language of the only complete Tripiṭaka in an Indic language.

Writing in the *Paṭivedha* section is **Giuliana Martini** of Dharma Drum College, Taiwan, on “The Meditative Dynamics of the Early Buddhist *Appamāṇas*”. While these “boundless states”—*Mettā*, *Karuṇā*, *Muditā* and *Upekkhā*—undoubtedly have their “beneficial relational and social effects”, she points out how, in the early Buddhist soteriological scheme, they were “a prescription” to develop *Appamāṇas* as a potential for unfolding the spiritual path.

In the Book Reviews Section, *Wild Geese* is reviewed by Brian Somers and Kaitlyn Evers of Brock University.

The *News and Views: Buddhist Studies in Canada* gives us an overview of the status of Buddhist studies in Canada; the reports come from Brock University, McMaster University, Simon Fraser University and University of Toronto.

In conclusion, it is my pleasure to thank Bhikkhu Analayo and Bryan Levman in particular for their continuing confidence in the *Canadian Journal of Buddhist Studies*, each of them contributing yet another article. And we are indeed fortunate to have the well-known Canadian Buddhist sociologist Janet McLellan publish with us in this issue. It is hoped that more of our Canadian scholars will share their research through these pages. A most welcome addition in this issue is Giuliana Martini, contributing all the way from Taiwan. To Paul Crowe goes my thanks for soliciting the material for the News and Views Roundup.

It is to **Michael Berman** that I owe a big thanks for all the hours he has had to pour in to bring out this issue. The task of a Managing Editor is a most time consuming responsibility, and I know that Michael has

always delivered the goods under severe time constraints. So, thank you, Michael.

**Ryan Moir**, Master's student at Brock University, deserves our thanks for undertaking the copy-editing of all the papers.

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In Metta!

Suwanda H J Sugunasiri

Editor

