

The Place of Imagination, Beauty, and Ritual in the Spiritual Life

Objectives for week 6:

- Appreciation of Sangharakshita, the poet (as distinct from Sangharakshita the monk)
- Communication of the Dharma through the poetic language of symbols, images, & metaphor

The Place of Imagination, Beauty, and Ritual in the Spiritual Life (Handout 6.1)

Week six

The Dharma in Poetry

Selection of poems by Sangharakshita, from ***Complete Poems 1941 – 1994***

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|------------------------------|------|
| 1. Advent | p57 |
| 2. The Unseen Flower | p95 |
| 3. The Root Speaks | p125 |
| 4. 'I want to break out ...' | p264 |
| 5. The Time Has Come ... | p283 |
| 6. Life is King | p285 |
| 7. Four Gifts | p299 |

Questions for Week Six

The suggestion is to read through the poems twice, ideally aloud. You might like to try reading one or more before meditating, and noticing the effect they have on you.

1. What is the poem trying to communicate?
2. What is your response?
3. Do you think poetry is able to communicate the mystery of Enlightenment, Compassion, the Truth more effectively than prose? How does it do this?
4. What qualities do you perceive in Sangharakshita through his poetry?

The Place of Imagination, Beauty, and Ritual in the Spiritual Life (Handout 6.2)

The Dharma in Poetry

Optional further reading for week 6:

1. **On the five aspects of the poet's experience of life, 'Advice to a Young Poet'**, pp126-140 *The Religion of Art* Sangharakshita
2. **On Sangharakshita I and Sangharakshita II**, p436-437, *The Rainbow Road* Sangharakshita
3. **On the Dharma in Western Poetry**, p471 *Facing Mount Kanchenjunga* Sangharakshita
4. **On the arising of the poetic state**, p173-174, *Travel Letters* Sangharakshita
5. **'The Veil of Stars'**, p417 *Complete Poems* Sangharakshita + **Introduction to 'The Veil of Stars'**, Lama Govinda, p495 *Complete Poems*