



By: Dr. Russell Jaffe

Bhante was my principle life mentor and spiritual guide to many. As he sometimes said of himself, it took him 40 years to get sick followed by 40 years to get well. Then he could get started.

He decoded a non-invasive color healing system that forms an episode in this documentation and narrative, mostly from personal experience of a remarkable life and exemplary human being. In recent years, many have told me that the few minutes that they had with Bhanté were 'life changing' in the sense of being guided to meaningful work in harmony with their highest potential and aspirations.

This is by way of introducing a man who lived a life of Buddhist qualities, touched the lives of many and, by example, mentored many in the art of living.

The arc of this narrative starts near the completion of his life. In 1996, when he was 107, he and I shared an experience starting with his being held hostage by a monk whom he had ordained. His captor wanted Bhante to sign the deed to the Ashoka Mission in the Meroli district of Delhi on land given him by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru for his service to India.

Next, I'll recount my meeting with him at his birthday celebration at the Buddhist Vihara in Oxon Hill, Maryland in 1978. From meeting to becoming an acolyte of a color healing system given by Gautama Buddha, practiced for 500 years, lost for near two millennia and decoded by Bhanté.

Another anecdote is my conversation with Rev Dr Bob Leichtman about Bhanté.

From roughly age 40 to 80 he became a Mahathera, recognized by all Buddhist major denominations, Mahayana, Hinayana, Theravade, and Zen. By 80 he felt and functioned well, followed by three decades of sage-ing, mentoring, and inspiring.

During the last season of his life, it was my privilege to attend a number of his introductory vipassina retreats. Commonweal in Bolinas, California twice and once at

Josh Reynold's family estate near Asheville, NC — each was two weeks. The instructions simply were to spend the next two weeks in silence. If you need guidance, you can talk to Bhanṭé. The simply elegant and elegantly simple structure can be described. The experiences observed personally would fill a book or make a better movie.

Among the dozens of meaningful moments with Bhanṭé included in this narrative are:

1. An introduction overview to Bhanṭé Dharmawara
2. Missing Bhanṭé at Georgetown and meeting him later
3. Bhanṭé kidnap and rescue in 1996
4. Commonweal Vipassina course 1982
5. Oriental practices certification program, SUNY Purchase
6. Buddhist ceremony, Vienna, 1983
7. HH at JFK Tu eve Elsa Rebecca Russ
8. Sky and Anna receive names
9. Bhanṭé traveling over Memorial Day weekend to LA via BWI.
10. Bhanṭé recovers from a stroke at Alan Stein's home in Potomac, Maryland
11. Bhanṭé meeting HH the Dalai Lama on Capital Hill
12. Bhanṭé founds the Institute for Buddhology
13. Bhanṭé and John Bennett, College for Continuous Education and Claymont
14. Bhanṭé and Ramamurti Mishra at AnandaBhanṭé and the Peace Weavers
15. Bhanṭé with Anna and Sky
16. Bhanṭé and his daughter in Thailand and Vancouver, Washington
17. Bhanṭé and Stockton zoning variance... cultural center
18. Bhanṭé and Judy Skutch's tooth in Tiburon
19. Bhanṭé and Buddhist ceremony in Vienna, Virginia
20. Bhanṭé and resolving to leave government service
21. Bhanṭé and languages from Sanskrit to Cambodian, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Hindi, English, Greek and Latin
22. Bhanṭé and Billie Meyer confirmed by Phobol
23. Bhanṭé in residence at Georgetown University while Phobol in graduate school
24. Bhanṭé and John Vasconcellos at Dorothy Lyton's house in San José
25. Bhanṭé and Phobol / Owen
26. Bhanṭé and my parents
27. Thanksgiving ceremony after recovery from coma
28. Bhanṭé Richard Kyle in Rochester NY
29. Bhanṭé at Holistic Health conference; Richard Rising Sun
30. Bhanṭé and Sky Rocket, peace maker
31. Bhanṭé and Anna, scholar
32. Bhanṭé and Stockton school shooting
33. Bhanṭé and Governor Jerry Brown
34. Bhanṭé and Land of 10,000 Buddhas
35. Bhanṭé and Michael Lerner at Commonweal