

Ven. Dhammajaya

Venerable's lay name is Neeranuch Laohapornchaiyapan, she is one of the oldest bhikkhunis born in 1944. She is from Nakhonsidhammaraj which is a major province in southern part of Thailand. She was married with two sons, her husband died in an accident so she was forced to continue his work in the rubber business, which including traveling to Malaysia on occasion. Venerable received education in home economics and handled business in Suratthani, in southern Thailand.

In 2008, her grandson fell seriously ill with kidney disease and she made a promise that if he recovered, she would be ordained.

At first, when she came to the monastery, Ven. Dhammananda urged her to come as a layperson and lead a lay life in a monastic setting for a while. She received ordination as samaneri but planned to stay only for a vassa (3 months). However, after ordination, she realised that this path was the right one and she has been at the monastery ever since.

She was fully ordained as bhikkhuni in Sri Lanka in 2012. Her preceptor was Ven. Dhammametta and her pavattini was Ven. Sumitra.

As an elder member, she helps oversee the management in the all-purpose building and sometimes assists at the front desk.

In her meditation she focusses on anapanasati (mindfulness of breathing).

Even at her age, Ven. Dhammananda still encourages her to come out and be part of the monastic community.