

## Ven. Dhammaparipunna

Ven. Dhammaparipunna was born Sireerat Chetsumon in 1963 in Muang district, Lop Buri, Thailand into a Buddhist family. She went to primary and secondary schools in Udon Thani where her father worked for the Internal Security Operations Command Division. Her grandmother and her mother were religious Buddhists. They often took her to listen to Dhamma talks by Luang Pu Khao at Wat Tham Klong Phen and Luang Ta Maha Bua at Wat Pa Bantad. On Buddhist days, she accompanied her grandmother to stay overnight at Wat Tham Klong Phen. Her grandmother taught her how to chant and how to do breathing meditation and contemplating the four elements since she was young.

She studied agriculture at Khon Kaen University for a B.Sc. in plant science and a M.Sc. in plant breeding and farm management at Lincoln University, New Zealand for a Ph.D. She worked for Kasetsart University as an agricultural specialist for 3 years and as a lecturer for 23 years. She was also interested in playing music, gardening, and exercising.

She began her spiritual path since she was a junior student. In 1983, her parents took her and her younger sister to observe 8 precepts and have silent retreat with Luang Por Dabasa Sumano at Veruvana Hermitage, Chiang Rai. She learnt anapanasati (breathing) meditation from him. Her elder sister took her on a 7-day silent retreat at Vivatta Meditation Place in Prachuap Khiri Khan. She learnt the four foundation of mindfulness and insight meditation through practice on contemplation of the body postures in the very present moment from Ajarn Pranee Samroengraj between 2009 and 2010.

Her interest in ordaining began at end of 2012 and early 2013 during a trip with her elder sister to Bodhgaya, India. On their pilgrimage to 4 Holy Buddhist places, she was inspired by the calmness and peace of a female Mahayana monastic sitting beside her. In this trip, she had a chance to visit Vaishali the place where Queen Mahapajapati (the Buddha's aunt and stepmother) asked permission from the Buddha for her ordination. There, in front of the Buddha's Kutagara, she had a spontaneous feeling to be ordained and silently made that wish. Not long after, her wish came true when she was assisting a monk with some research on the Dhamma and she saw, for the first time, the name of the woman who would become her teacher: Bhikkhuni Dhammananda Theri name (Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chatsumarn Kabilsingh). She felt as if the Buddha had granted her her wish, so she requested to interview Bhikkhuni

Dhammananda Theri, and thus she could ask for information regarding ordination from her. She first met Ven. Dhammananda mid 2013 at Songdhammakalyani monastery.

She joined the monastery in 2017 as a samaneri, then a sikkhamana, and was ordained as a bhikkhuni by Ven. Bhikkhu Palwaththe Seewalee Thero, General Secretary of MBSI, as her Upajjhāya, and Ven. Dhammananda Theri was her Pavattinī at Wat Lao International on January 29, 2019.

At the monastery her main duties are monastic training, ordination, conference, guided meditation for visitors, 3-day meditation training for novices, 5-day silent retreat, Buddhasavika training, etc.

Her Dhamma practice is samadhi and vipassana meditation in accordance with the Paṭi canon in search of the human mind to attain enlightenment.