

April 7, 2022
For Immediate Release
A NEW BOOK
By Alan Clements

World Dharma Publications
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TONIGHT I MET A DEVA, AN ANGEL OF LOVE

ALAN E. CLEMENTS

A Children's Book for ages 7 to 12, and older
With a Foreword by H.H. 14th Dalai Lama
Illustrated by Artists at Dakini As Art

Pre-sales on Amazon worldwide with a release date of June 15, 2022

(Please use anything in this press release for your own review or announcement of the book, and reach out for an exclusive interview with the author, for print, radio, podcast or TV).
(For a PDF review copy and promo images please email us).

“This book by Alan Clements inspires people, young and old. He addresses that the reality of life can be fraught with difficulties and yet full of joy. If you have the compassion and wisdom, it's always possible to overcome whatever challenges you face. I admire Alan's determination to pass this important message onto the next generation – keeping his daughter especially in mind.”

With my prayers,
The Dalai Lama

‘**Tonight I Met A Deva, An Angel Of Love**’ tells a timeless and inspiring story delivered by a *Deva*, an Angel of love from *Tusita*, the celestial realm from the Buddhist tradition, the heaven where *Maitreya*, *Buddha-to-be*, resides. Through flowing, rhyming verses the Deva has a heartfelt conversation with a child in their dream, revealing the simple essence of Buddha's teachings: the Four Noble Truths. In few words, she reveals the true nature of life, the causes of strife, the freedom from it, and the path of living with ethical and mindful intelligence, in the language of children. This simple, yet captivating story, written for ages 7 to 12 years old, and older, is to soften the spirit, open the heart, and create an atmosphere of joy, rest and wonderment. It is designed to nurture seeds of hope and wisdom, and to evoke an intimate discussion between parent and child on the ever-evolving meaning and significance of the Buddha's Four Noble Truths, over years to come. Drawing from classical Buddhism, the story is universal in meaning, as the author, a former Buddhist monk, encourages young people, each in their own way, to discover truth, love and freedom, each and every day.

This book provides a colorful beacon of light to the young, in a world of challenges.

“Alan Clements' lovely book is pure and straight from the heart. I recommend it to every living child, to give them a true appreciation of what real life can be if the search for purity and meaning prevails.” — Helen Caldicott, pediatrician, founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility – 1985 Nobel Peace Prize

“Hold on to this precious book. Read it slowly and then read it again and again and again. Keep it close. Everything you need to know is here.” — V (formerly Eve Ensler)
American playwright, performer, feminist, and activist

BIO AND ENDORSEMENTS for Alan Clements:

Clements was among the first Westerners to ordain as a Buddhist monk in Burma, where he lived in a monastery practicing mindfulness meditation for nearly five years, before being expelled from the country in 1984 by the dictatorship, with no reason given. Leaving the monastic life, Clements returned to the West, becoming a spiritual maverick, journalist, and human rights activist engaged in Burma’s nonviolent struggle for freedom while speaking up for political prisoners worldwide.

Clements co-authored “The Voice of Hope” with Burma’s Aung San Suu Kyi, the former political prisoner and Nobel Peace Laureate. In addition, his books include, “Burma: The Next Killing Fields?” and “Revolution of the Spirit,” both with forewords by the Dalai Lama and endorsed by 8 Noble Peace Laureates, and former President Jimmy Carter. Alan has also written “Instinct for Freedom,” “Wisdom the for the World – The Requisites of Reconciliation: Alan Clements in Conversation with Venerable Sayadaw U Pandita of Burma,” “Burma's Voices of Freedom: An Unfinished Struggle for Democracy” (a four volume set of books co-authored with Fergus Harlow), a spoken word album, “Freedom: Acts of Conscience,” with music by Intext, “Extinction X-Rated – An Auto-fictional Dark Satire On Good and Evil,” and “A Future to Believe In – 108 Reflections on the Art and Activism of Freedom,” inspired by and dedicated to his daughter Sahra Bella, that has received distinguished praise from numerous leaders and activists, including Dr. Helen Caldicott, Joanna Macy, Dr. Vandana Shiva, Bill McKibben, Paul Hawkin, and Derrick Jensen (the environmental poet laureate) who wrote:

“This culture is killing the planet. If we are to have any future at all, we must unlearn everything the culture has taught us and begin to listen to the planet, to listen to life – the core intelligence of nature and the human heart. This book not only helps us with the unlearning process – the greatest challenge humankind has ever faced – it provides the essential wisdom, the spiritual intelligence, to open ourselves to finally start to hear.”

To be released in 2022 will be Alan’s additional books and film: “Tonight I Met A Deva, An Angel of Love,” a children’s’ book endorsed by the Dalai Lama, “Facing Death: Alan Clements In Conversation with Reverend Bodhi Be,” along with a book of poetry, and a satirical comedic spoken word performance film, titled, “Raw War – The Spiritual Battle of Our Life Time to Stop the Rise of Global Totalitarianism.”

Clements has been interviewed on ABC National, Talk to America, CBC, VOA, BBC, the New York Times, Time and Newsweek magazines, the Sydney Morning Herald, Utne Reader, Yoga Journal, and scores of other media worldwide. He also delivered a keynote at Amnesty International’s 30th Year Anniversary at the John Ford Theater in LA. Learn more about Alan’s work on his website at: www.AlanClements.com.

REVIEW OF THE BOOK, by Tilly Campbell-Allen

“Tonight I Met A Deva, An Angel Of Love” is a beautiful new book by Alan Clements with a foreword by H.H. 14th Dalai Lama.

In Alan Clements’ literary gem of mystical realism, Buddhism’s essential teachings – The Four Noble Truths – unfold during an enchanted encounter, though the wisdom transcends any one religion. This precious book is a road map for a profoundly healthy way of living, spoken with a poetic voice soft enough to warmly wrap around the shoulders of a sleepy young child. While Buddhist terms dance effortlessly with contemporary rhymes on pages brimming with luminous imagery set to inspire both wonder and reflection at any age. Gone are the pages of heady academic review, instead we are encouraged to slip into the magic of our heart. We are gently reminded of the nature of things and how to swim mindfully through this space called life.

Living in Myanmar (Burma), Alan Clements immersed himself in Buddhist psychology and mindfulness meditation under the late Venerable Mahasi Sayadaw and his successor, the late Venerable Sayadaw U Pandita. He was one of the first Westerners to be ordained as a monk in that ancient culture, presently undergoing a devastating military coup d’état that has ignited a nationwide civil war against the dictatorship. Since Alan left the monastic life in 1984, he went on to create a non-sectarian community called World Dharma, which marries the wisdom from both East and West in a contemporary and dynamic way. He has been a meditation retreat leader, a journalist in areas of war and ethnic cleansing, and an educator of universal human rights and essential freedom. He is the author of numerous books (some with forwards by H.H. 14th Dalai Lama), in addition to being a performing artist, satirical humorist, painter, public speaker, and a father. He has witnessed extreme human conflict and caringly listened to others, including Burma’s Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Aung San Suu Kyi, that brought forth the internationally acclaimed book, “The Voice of Hope,” one that examined both the philosophical and spiritual underpinnings of nonviolence, the psychology of totalitarianism, compassion-driven activism, and the essential role of women in roles of leadership.

As I read this book of Alan’s noble poems, it had me musing over how religion risks becoming a philosophical, almost academic debate. It is often a room of adults discussing how certain practices may help today’s society, the planet; how the historical texts should be translated and contemporarily interpreted. At worse, how dogma has rooted itself at the expense of true meaning and even used to hurt others. Religion has become many things that it should not have. It has become an excuse, an escape, a platform, even a trend. And today, many problems need healing, and we do require an astute, intelligent mind, but we need to do it with heart, with compassionate wisdom in action – religion at its best.

Our children (and adults) need to be inspired and empowered for themselves and for the world they inherit. A generation of greed may pass on a scorched earth and a woefully flickering torch, but it won’t go out if the magic within the heart is ignited and taught to illuminate rather than destroy, bringing warmth to our world, to the jagged nature of broken cultural constructs in which we tend to live. We require the ‘softening of wonderment,’ like the gentle pellucid water over rocks, and these poetic words of wisdom are like the rain.

The Four Noble Truths were noble over 2500 years ago yet never do they feel more relevant and imperative. As adults, we have a remarkable responsibility to our children to help them know the majesty of this precious life and precious planet. Read this compelling book for

yourself and read it to your young ones, and ready yourself for the blossoming, and a true transformation.

The illustrations for this book have been generously donated by a small collection of artists at Dakini As Art, who try to live consciously within the Dharma as well as attaining to paint it.

Praise for **TONIGHT I MET A DEVA, AN ANGEL OF LOVE**

“The Buddha’s Four Noble Truths are challenging to understand at a young age. In Alan Clements’ magnificent new book, “Tonight I Met A Deva, An Angel Of Love,” he presents these timeless teachings to the youth in easy to understand poetic rhyming verses – a trans-religious prayer, really, an incantation of mythical love igniting that spark of mythical adventure and supporting a new generation in finding ways to integrate that knowledge throughout their lives. May this essential book, from a man who spent many years in my native country of Burma helping my people, find its way into every household worldwide. This book is a gift to humanity meant to make our world a better place and to keep the future of freedom alive for generations to come. Thank you, Alan Clements, thank you from the bottom of my heart.” — Ma Thida, human rights activist, surgeon, writer, and former prisoner of conscience, is the recipient of the PEN Freedom to Write Award and the 'Disturbing the Peace' Award presented by the Vaclav Havel Foundation.

“Alan’s book is a heart treasure. A cascade of loving radiance, rippling blessings straight into the spirit of the future, offering a lyrical guiding Light of hope for children. May his mystical song of love invoke what it is intended to do; to serve the highest awakening of joy and beauty in us all.” — Jeannine Davies, PhD, psychologist, author, Relational Dharma

“An astonishing tale from an astonishing human being: a profound poetic utterance of the spirit; a sacred offering to the vast wonders of love and beauty. Thank you, Alan Clements, for this blessing, this Dharma delight. May the whole world bathe in its exquisite wisdom.”

— Lanny Cordova, musical artist-activist in Afghanistan for six years and Founder and Director, The Miraculous Love Kids: Girls’ Empowerment Through Music

“This beautiful little book turns out to be a big book. Written for children—and for the inner child within all of us—this enchanting story will come as a heart-warming, soul-stirring balm for anyone who encounters it. Only a master like Clements could distill the main teachings of Buddhism into a state of such melodious, artful, poetic simplicity... And yet the book doubles as a delightfully accessible universal wisdom teaching... peering playfully into the invisible... dancing gamely with the mystical... normalizing doing so... allowing certain spiritual truths to vie for their rightful place as ‘common sense.’” — Naomi Aeon, PhD Yale professor turned writer, healer, and transformational teacher

“This beautiful book, lovingly crafted, embeds the precious jewel of the Four Noble Truths and Eightfold Path in the setting of a “fairy tale” (or Deva tale) specifically designed for children.

Its practical wisdom, expressed in words both simple and profound, can guide the younger generation away from the bleak cliff of existential nihilism, down which so many youngsters fall today, and lead them toward a life rich in meaning, goodness, and deep fulfillment.

— Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi, Buddhist scholar and translator

“Alan Clements has been a global bridge of wisdom and love. In this extraordinary and magical gift for children, he holds the hands of their heart while walking them across to the ancient teachings of the Buddha. As a deeply devoted father, he finds the language that can awaken their precious curiosity. It is my honor to encourage all parents to bring their children to the endearment of Alan’s wise soul shared in this book.”

— Mitch Davidowitz, M.S.W., M.Ed., psychotherapist, global writer and educator

“‘Tonight I Met A Deva, An Angel of Love’ is a truly exquisite and luminous offering inspired by a father’s love for his beloved daughter, and in particular, all young people. In this beautifully crafted rhyming fable, Alan Clements illuminates profound and complex Buddhist insights by poetically simplifying them in a way that deeply touches and opens the heart. Don’t hesitate to get copies of this Dharma treasure to share, not only with the children in your life but also with friends, family and community. In our troubled times, Alan’s book is like pure nectar reminding us of the divine and the very best of our humanity.”

— Kittisaro & Thanissara, Authors of Listening to the Heart and founders of Dharmagiri (a Buddhist inspired retreat center in South Africa) and Sacred Mountain Sangha, California, are meditation teachers who trained as monastics, for 15 and 12 years respectively, in the Thai Forest Tradition of Ajahn Chah

“This precious book by Alan Clements is a ray of light, a transcendent story of love, hope, and what some might call magic, one that will uplift and inspire all who read it.”

— Lynn Hendee, producer of The Glorias; The Tempest; and Ender’s Game

“Alan has crafted a magical tale of wisdom and beauty that will not only touch the hearts of children, but of every adult that turns its pages as well.”

— Cheryl Richardson, New York Times bestselling author of Take Time for Your Life

“In Alan Clements’ mythical children’s book, we find a radical departure from his deft stage work as a mad satirical comedic “Spiritually Incorrect” genius, although I personally hope he returns to the stage in his next incarnation of creative magic. By way of saying, and I mean no offense to anyone, but with Alan’s book, ‘Tonight I Met A Deva, An Angel Of Love,’ he seems to have channeled his inner Buddha. With this masterpiece, he has brought forth a short modern day version of the Ram Dass classic, “Be Here Now,” not for adults, but for children, and without references to drugs, Gurus or Hindu-speak. But be forewarned, this gift of a book is filled with mystical adventure, Bible-like. If my parents had read this book to me when I was growing up, it might well have saved me from psychotherapy, charlatans, and drugs too. The amount of money and energy I could have saved thus still rankles... Parents, give your kids the gift of love and wisdom and bring this spiritual treasure home.”

— Chin Meyer, satirist, entertainer, financial-comedy-guru, husband, Dharma rebel

“Alan Clements’ book about meeting an Angel of Love is a most wondrous story, perfect to open up children’s hearts and excite their curiosity. We all want to meet ‘an Angel of Love’ and the teachings about awakening are for every age, at any time. The sooner we open up to our infinite spiritual potential, the better. I recommend this great book. Do yourself a favor and offer it to members of your family, young and old!”

— Margot Anand, author of The Art of Everyday Ecstasy, and more.

“To understand the true nature of life, all one has to do is take this exquisite journey of the Four Noble Truths, told by Alan Clements in the most lovely, poetic way. Perhaps this is exactly what the Buddha had in mind for us to understand divine illumination through the pureness of a child’s heart.” — Ora Nadrach, author of *Mindfulness and Mysticism*

“I have run a Spiritual Healing center for many years. I have facilitated so many “gurus” and “enlightened souls” from around the world. I have read all their books and learned so much from all of them. Alan’s book seems to me to be a summary of it all. A simple instruction manual to self-awareness, happiness, freedom and love. This book must be read by all.”
— Paul Margolin, Temple Byron, Australia

“I admire the purity Alan Clements shares in his deeply moving new book, ‘Tonight I Met A Deva, An Angel of Love,’ where he poetically illuminates the essence of the Buddha’s Four Noble Truths, so skillfully, in a nonsectarian, nonreligious, uplifting human way. This precious work of art is especially important during these challenging times, both for our beloved children and adults as well. On a personal note, Alan graciously accepted our invitation on two occasions to speak with the students at our Sunrise School in Bali. It was an honor to have him with us, inspiring the children and answering their questions with gentleness and compassion, and a sense of humor. He clearly touched something special in them, planting seeds of curiosity and wonderment, and that ever so rare quality of mysticism. He also offered guidance about the natural intelligence of the human heart. At the school, we are all grateful for Alan’s visits. May this treasure of a book find its way into homes and classrooms around the world. And meanwhile we, the staff, teachers and students, hold you Alan, and your beloved daughter, Bella, and all Beings in our Prayers.”
— Susanne Schattin Roziadi, Co-founder of Sunrise School, Bali, Indonesia

“There is a visual and audible beauty in Alan’s short book, ‘Tonight I Met A Deva,’ that spoke through my child’s voice as I read it. You can’t help but feel the ancient wisdom flowing through those words. I think it will awaken your inner child, as it did mine – and as I believe it will for the younger innocents around us.” — Jeff Kuhn, Professor of Physics and Astronomy, University of Hawaii and Institute for Astronomy

“This beautiful book, full of love and wisdom, is a worthy tribute to a life well lived and to life itself.” —Derrick Jensen, Poet Laureate, activist, author of *A Language Older Than Words*

“A spectacular work of wisdom art; a magical mystery tour of beauty, purity and inspiration. I have rarely been so touched by so few words that can be carried in my heart for a lifetime. I only wish I’d had this book of celestial splendor when I was growing up. Parents, buy this mystical tale of love and wonderment and be transformed, together with your entire family.”
— Brock Noyes, author of *Somatic Zen*

“For thousands of years, teachings about the inner wisdom have been transmitted through stories, myths, fairy tales, mantras, tantras, and sutras. Stories are wonderful because they bring the Dharma to life, and this enchanting book by Alan Clements, a former Buddhist monk in Burma, is a Dharma teaching in the form of a mystical story. ‘Tonight I Met A Deva, An Angel of Love’ comes from a daring explorer of the inner world who has had many adventures and

faced many obstacles, and through it all remains a courageous and creative voice for freedom, inner and outer. I wholeheartedly recommend to parents worldwide, gift you and your beloved family with this timeless gem of a book, and bring the Dharma home, and a higher love into the heart.” — Lorin Roche, meditation teacher, author of *The Radiance Sutras*

“As the mother of two young children in an increasingly curious and confusing world, it is in maintaining the small acts of quiet, the small gestures of mindfulness that teach our children that they have a Dharma more complex and beautiful than a single leader or belief could ever encapsulate. It is instilling in them the reminder that we are supported and valuable always, in all ways; these are the webs of connections that will keep them safe, expanding, and thriving during the blessed challenge of life. By way of saying, Alan Clements has utilized his voice in ways that bring dignity and illumination to the struggles of those who are suffering, uplifting and amplifying the voices of Liberation. His inspiring work of art, ‘Tonight I Met A Deva, An Angel of Love,’ is a true gift from a brilliant mind, composed during a powerful and potent time. This precious book is an opportunity for children as well as adult readers to slow down, listen, breathe, and remember the beauty, impermanence, and power of our own precious lives.”

— Summer Starr, spoken word artist, Earth Mother, and activist for the preservation of the planet and sovereignty of the Hawaiian Islands

“Alan is one of the most beautiful people I know, not because he is perfect but because of the purity of his love. Here, in his book, ‘Tonight I Met A Deva,’ he offers the reader direct insight into the path of love. A path that is more important now than perhaps ever before and the path that he has diligently sought to follow. Alan’s story is an exquisite invitation that will touch the reader’s heart, open it gently whilst reminding us all of what really matters. I urge you, dear reader, let Alan’s words resonate through your heart, marinate in them, and you will learn to live and love well.” — Gela De Brugiere, clinical psychotherapist and energy medicine practitioner

“Move over ‘Goodnight Moon,’ move over ‘The Prophet.’ Alan Clements’ fabulous new book ‘Tonight I Met A Deva, An Angel of Love,’ is sure to become an instant classic.”
— Tom Sewell, artist, Maui, Hawaii

“After a lifetime of sacred activism, Alan Clements has written a beautiful prose-poem illuminating the Buddhist path, a final gift to his daughter and children everywhere.”
— Tom Oakley, Banyen Books, Vancouver.

“Alan Clements has for decades been a consistent, respected beacon of light in the human struggle in Burma, causing thinking people with a conscience globally to look deeply, and address suffering, freedom and justice with clarity. He lives, eats and breathes Buddhism in practice in the modern world. This beautiful story, his final gift for his daughter, and all children, is a moving pith instruction. It is a magical, helpful and inspiring entry point to deepest wisdom.” — Kerry Wright, educator and humanitarian