

“A Future to Believe In is the message
the world needs right now!”

~ Bill McKibben, Author of *Earth: Making a Life on a
Tough New Planet*

A FUTURE
TO BELIEVE IN

ALAN CLEMENTS

WISDOM OF MINDFULNESS

World Dharma Training Retreat Canada 2016 with Alan Clements & Special Guests

**World Dharma is the Universal Practices of Shared Freedom,
Environmental Sanity and Global Human Rights**

**The Integration of Mindfulness Training with Insight Meditation,
Yoga, Buddhist Psychology, Activism, and the Art of Being, Human**

WHEN: Friday October 7 (12 – 5 arrive) to Friday October 14, 2016 (12 noon)

WHERE: Hollyhock Retreat & Learning Center, Cortes Island, BC, Canada

World Dharma is the distillation of Alan Clements life’s work — a journey from the sacredness of monastic silence deep into the dark heart of war zones and back onto stages sharing his contemporary expression of freedom, worldwide.

World Dharma comes to life at the confluence of our inner world — consciousness and its contents — with its outer expression through creativity, mutuality and wise action — the liberating art of being true and human, finding freedom in every circumstance we face.

Alan offers a unique approach to human development, an essential spirituality common to all people — a World Dharma based on one precious human value: freedom — the liberation from fear, apathy, and ignorance, and the elevation of dignity, beauty and love.

“Alan's life is material for a legend. An intellectual artist, freedom fighter, former Buddhist monk, he shares his insights and experiences with a passion rarely seen and even more rarely lived. He'll make you think and feel in ways that challenge your entire way of being.”

~ Catherine Ingram, author of “In the Footsteps of Gandhi” & “Passionate Presence”



The World Dharma Training Retreat

INTRODUCTION

By merging the models of personal and planetary transformation found in Alan Clements' books *Instinct for Freedom: Finding Liberation Through Living*, *The Voice of Hope: Conversations with Burma's Noble Peace Laureate, Aung San Suu Kyi*, and *A Future to Believe In – 108 Reflections on the Art and Activism of Freedom*, The World Dharma Training was created as an innovative nonsectarian *Immersion Program* that serves to mindfully explore the inseparable link between one's inner world and its outer expression through creativity, mutuality, and wise action.

At the core of "*The Training*" is the Sanskrit word *Dharma*, reputedly the oldest word in use describing consciousness in relation to freedom. By combining the words *World* and *Dharma*, the umbrella concept was formed to embrace the reality of our *inherent mutuality*, and therefore empower relationships – both inner and outer – as our most sacred space for awakening. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. so famously said, "We are tied in a single garment of destiny. What affects one directly affects everyone indirectly." In other words, no one becomes free in a vacuum.

The Training, offered in a series of experiential presentations, with both silent and guided meditations, along with group forums, and creative writing explorations, delves into the theory and practices of *World Dharma*—an approach to personal transformation and creative freedom that is unique to each person and evolved through the artful fusion of one's mindful/yoga/dharma with everything, no exceptions. At the heart of the *World Dharma* vision is what Alan calls *the wisdom of mindfulness*—that of *finding liberation through living*.

Alan's teaching style, both direct and spontaneous, offers a practical approach to self-transformation by emphasizing mindfulness of direct experience. Alan interweaves scholarship and guidance in the areas of vipassana-insight meditation, mindfulness training, classical Buddhism, Eastern mythology, process-oriented Buddhist psychology, performance art, and spiritual activism, with over thirty years of formal teaching experience, leading hundreds of World Dharma retreats, workshops and trainings throughout the US, Australia and Canada.

The World Dharma Training Retreat OVERVIEW

The foundational *World Dharma Training*, grounded in the tradition of Alan's Buddhist teachers – Burma's Mahasi Sayadaw and Sayadaw U Pandita – and a trans-traditional World Dharma, elevating the universals of freedom, dignity, and love, is designed for both existing and aspiring dharma teachers and practitioners, both meditation guides and yoga teachers and their students, as well as inspired seekers from any Eastern or Western discipline, training or tradition. It is also a powerful training for artists, lovers, peacemakers, storytellers, change-agents, life coaches, as well as psychologists, mental health professionals, activists, explorers of consciousness, engaged Buddhists, social workers, body workers, and care givers, anyone really, with a love of higher human freedom, global human rights and a desire to co-create a world devoid of exploitation, violence, and environmental degradation.

The World Dharma Training includes:

- group meditations with instructions to practice awareness-based mindfulness meditation methods
- teachings with instructions in “sustained mindfulness” in all postures — sitting, walking, eating, etc
- teachings and progressive instructions integrating mindfulness in complex daily-life-circumstances
- group discussions with Q & A and dialogue to investigate making our lives a vehicle for awakening
- opportunities for both classical and contemporary World Dharma-oriented self reflections
- foundational instructions and practices for classical (process-oriented) Buddhist Psychology
- instructions in devotional paradigms & practices designed to evoke dignity, conscience and freedom
- a progressive series of short creative writing (self-life) explorations (bring a large notebook and pen)
- employing/experimenting with ethical disciplines and observances as sources of refuge and power
- self-created reflections & processes that evolve clarity of purpose & meaningful actions in the world
- guided meditations fostering specific states of consciousness, such as compassion, love and empathy
- exploring solutions for co-creating a world devoid of violence and environmental degradation
- the systematic self-designing of one's own unique expression and practice of World Dharma
- a series of daily 45 minute World Dharma talks by Alan, followed by questions and dialogue
- the talks are recorded and will be made available for order at the end of the retreat
- all must follow the retreat schedule and commit to noble silence except when speaking in the group
- all must abstain from harsh speech, back biting, and deception; when speaking, we do so respectfully
- everyone in the retreat commits themselves to co-creating a spirit of sacredness and harmony

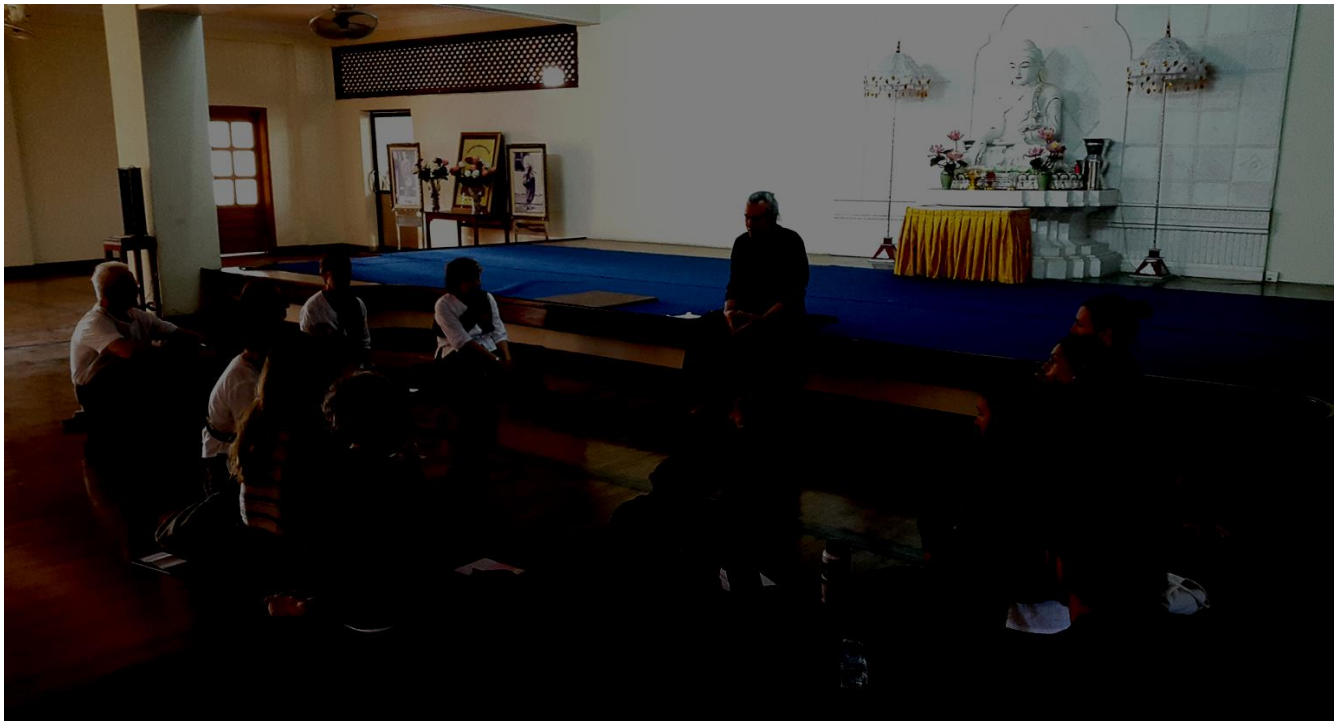
Among the foundational principles addressed in *The Training*, emphasis is placed on “ontological transparency” — examining one’s beliefs and the underlying psychological and spiritual assumptions, ideals, or expectations that animate them. Subsequently, through the “the mapping of the mind and the practice of freedom,” participants will engage in the experiential (mindful) study of perception as the architect of reality. In so doing, we will cultivate the “practice of knowing” — seeing reality rightly, thus learning how decisions — one’s thoughts, speech and actions impact self, others and the world.

In addition, a progressive set of instructions will be given to explore and refine contextual-awareness—a multi-leveled mindfulness-activated interplay of the whole mind—our thoughts, feelings, psychological patterns, and the overall flow of emotional energy in any given context or situation.

Simultaneously, through the cultivation of intuitive reflection, dharma intelligence is activated— a liberating awareness that discerns the right course of action from the wrong one — actions that expand freedom and ones that constrict it.

In summary, *the World Dharma Training* provides a dynamic environment to explore a practical theoretical framework for personal and planetary transformation, as well as a powerful methodology for its experiential application. In so doing, *The Training* offers the inspiration, guidance and practical know how for liberating relationships from fear, conflict, and confusion, while enhancing freedom, creativity and compassionate co-existence.

“Embracing *World Dharma* is a twofold awakening: on the one hand, we see ourselves as a separate being seeking to develop our own individual life, while on the other hand we are trying to understand and participate in a much greater whole. It is both an inner and an outer dance. At times more focus falls on one than the other. At other times they are inseparable.”



RETREAT SCHEDULE:

Wake and freshen:	6:00 AM
Group Meditation:	6:30 - 7:30
Yoga (with instructor):	7:30 – 8:30 (no experience needed; all levels taught simultaneously)
Breakfast & Service:	8:30 – 9:30
Group Meditation:	9:30 – 10:30 (with progressive daily instructions)
Q & A:	10:30 – 11:00 (daily creative / self-reflection writing exercise)
Tea & Coffee Break:	11:00 – 11:30
Group Discussion:	11:00 – 12:15
Walking Meditation	12:15 – 1:00
Guided Meditation:	1:00 – 1:30
Lunch & Break:	1:30 – 3:30
Group Meditation:	3:30 – 4:30
Walking Meditation	4:30 – 5:00
Group Discussion	5:00 – 5:45
Yoga	5:45 – 6:30
Dinner and Break:	6:30 – 7:30
Group Meditation:	7:30 – 8:00
World Dharma Talk	8:00 – 9:00
Tea Break & Writing	9:00 – 9:30
Meditation & Chanting:	9:30 – 10:00
Personal Time and Rest:	10:00

A Series of World Dharma talks will be given by Alan throughout retreat that include:

- Awareness: *“to see things as they are”* as central to realistic self-discovery.
- Examining the senses as portals of perception and the architect of reality.
- Empirical inquiry: *knowing* the nature of consciousness and its contents.
- Distinction between concepts and reality – ideation and ‘felt experience.’
- Examining self-generated suffering - how it arises and how it is released.
- A step-by-step approach to the application of ‘sustained mindfulness.’
- Meditation as the embodiment of our humanness, not an escape from it.
- Unbroken meditation: awareness of sitting, walking, eating and relating.
- Expanding one’s comfort to embrace a larger more complex circle of life.
- Engaging relatedness - making relationships our vehicle for awakening.
- Harmony and conscience: envisioning and creating change in the world.
- Strengthen confidence and the ability to stay present with an open heart.
- Developing a reverence for mystery as a safeguard against absolutism.
- Developing the capacity to draw strength from hardships and obstacles.
- Cultivating our most authentic, improvisational, liberating sense of self.
- Elevating authenticity to sacred art and the heart of liberating intimacy.
- Engage multiple dimensions of intelligence: union of intellect & intuition.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE TEN DAY WORLD DHARMA RETREAT TRAINING

“Awakening world dharma rests upon the recognition that 'life is never alone.' We are always in a state of relatedness. In other words, there is no place one can stand to be outside of life looking in at it, no matter how we might try. We are life. Life is us. I am my relationships. My relationships are me. We are alive within a whole universe of interrelated life. From this understanding, the central tenet of world dharma empowers relationships as the most sacred space for spiritual awakening and the evolution of higher freedom.”

“All ways and means of opening the heart prepare us for the liberating intimacy of mutual being — us right now.

“In this special retreat we will explore the nature of “interrelated presence” – the world dharma view that points to the participatory intelligence that on the one hand honors our uniqueness and on the other respects that we are in relationship to everything all the time.

“Here we will delve into the world dharma dynamics of interpersonal awakening through the wisdom of mindfulness - that of finding liberation through living in each and every circumstance we face.”

Day 1 - Module 1: World Dharma Training Part 1

The Ground of Being – Activating the Wisdom of Mindfulness
The Essential Elements of World Dharma Theory and Practice

Day 2 - Module 2: World Dharma Training Part 2

The Dharma of Self-Awakening: Sustained Mindfulness Meditation Practice and Theory
Mindfulness, Meaning and the Cultivation of Mind-Body Awareness

Day 3 - Module 3: World Dharma Training Part 3

The Art and Wisdom of Making World-Relationships Our Journey of Awakening
Liberating Mutuality: Mindfulness of Multiple-contexts - with Self, Others, World

Day 4 - Module 4: World Dharma Training Part 4

Attuning to our Instinct for Freedom

The Power of Authenticity: The Liberating Art of Being True and Human

Day 5 - Module 5: World Dharma Training Part 5

Natural Freedom – Spontaneity and Having the Courage to Be True to Oneself

Liberating Conformity, Orthodoxy, Models of Perfection and Spiritual Correctness

Day 6 - Module 6: World Dharma Training Part 6

Integrating Mindfulness and the Essentials of World Dharma into Daily Life

Reclaiming The Totality of Everyday Life and the Meaning of Hope as Unconditional Love

Day 7 - Module 7: World Dharma Training Part 7

Beauty, Kindness and Radical Authenticity

The Art, Ethics and Wisdom of Sharing Your World Dharma Training Experience

About Alan Clements

Alan Clements is an author, artist, mindfulness meditation guide, and World Dharma teacher. One of the first Westerners to become a Buddhist monk in Burma, he is now evolving a trans-religious World Dharma rooted in shared freedom, global human rights and environmental sanity, and sharing this contemporary understanding of liberation worldwide. Clements has also dedicated many years in support of Burma's non-violent "revolution of the spirit" for freedom and democracy, writing a number of books on the struggle including, *Burma: The Next Killing Fields?* (with a foreword by the Dalai Lama), *Burma's Revolution of the Spirit* – a large format photographic tribute to Burma's struggle for democracy, co-authored with Leslie Kean, with a foreword by the Dalai Lama and essays by eight Nobel Peace laureates. In addition, Clements was the script revisionist and principle adviser for *Beyond Rangoon* (Castle Rock Entertainment), a feature film depicting Burma's struggle for freedom, directed by John Boorman, and *The Voice of Hope, Conversations with Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's 1991 Nobel Peace laureate.*

Alan is also the author of a number of additional books, CDs, and films, including "Instinct for Freedom" (nominated as the Best Spiritual Teaching-Memoir in 2003 by the National Book Association), "Spiritually Incorrect: In Defense of Being, Human," "Swimming Through Stone: Entheogens as Vehicle for Awakening," "Natural Freedom: The Dharma Beyond Buddhism", and "A Future to Believe–108 Reflections on the Art and Activism of Freedom."

Clements has been interviewed for the cover of the Georgia Straight, Global National, ABC Australia, CBC Canada, CBS Nightline, Talk to America, the New York Times, Time and Newsweek magazines, Yoga Journal, Conscious Living, Utne Reader, and numerous other

media worldwide. In addition, Alan has presented at Mikhail Gorbachev's State of The World Forum, The Soros Foundation, The United Nations Association of San Francisco, and a keynote address at the John Ford Theater in L.A. for Amnesty International's 30th year anniversary. www.AlanClements.com



"The mind is a living organism that chaperons us everywhere, haloing our bodies as the biosphere does the earth. It informs us of everything we think, feel, and say. Consciousness is as central to life as the ecosystem is to the earth. We can't live without it, nor can it be escaped.

It is home. Neglect consciousness — denigrate it, violate it — and like the earth, the individual suffers, and often causes suffering, too. On the other hand, nurture consciousness — understand its nature, inhabit it wisely, and we flourish, and elevate earth and society too."

Alan Clements, "*A Future to Believe In: 108 Reflections on the Art and Activism of Freedom*"

"This book is the music of wisdom, a dance with the finest places of the human heart.

You will want to keep this timeless treasure within reach, so you can open it to any page, and let a paragraph or a line ignite you again to the truth of your own being."

~ JOANNA MACY, Buddhist Teacher, Activist, Author of *World as Lover, World As Self*.