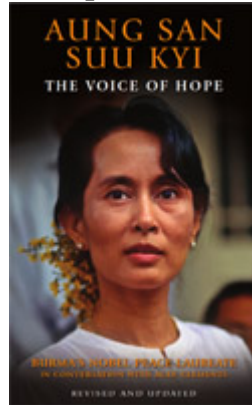


“Aung San Suu Kyi is a remarkable and courageous human being. Listen to her voice and be inspired...Burma is the next South Africa.”

Archbishop Desmond Tutu



AUNG SAN SUU KYI

THE VOICE OF HOPE

Published Electronically by World Dharma Publications

Conversations with Alan Clements

Fully revised and updated, including an interview with U Gambira –
(the imprisoned) leader of Burma's Buddhist monk-led pro-democracy uprising in 2007.

“Whatever the future of Burma, a possible future for politics itself is illuminated by these conversations.” *The London Observer*

Aung San Suu Kyi, the world's only imprisoned Nobel Peace laureate, stands alongside Mahatma Gandhi, the Dalai Lama, and Martin Luther King in the international struggle for freedom, dignity, and human rights. For the past twenty years, from the inception of Burma's nonviolent revolution in 1988, and the tragedy that soon followed, when thousands of unarmed demonstrators were gunned down by the ruling junta, Aung San Suu Kyi is and remains the voice of freedom in her native country, “a land of fifty million prisoners,” as this predominately Buddhist South Asian nation is often referred. And in late 2007, when Burma's second great uprising captivated the world's attention, Aung San Suu Kyi, gave her full support to the Buddhist monks, nuns and citizens whose peaceful protests were yet again, brutally crushed by the regime. Her determination to restore democracy has come at an immense personal cost. Under imprisonment and house arrest for most of the past 18 years, she has persevered in her position of non-violence, incessantly inviting the regime to “talk, not harm...let's heal this nation together.”

The Voice of Hope is a rare and intimate journey into the heart of the struggle – one of the most inspiring spiritually-informed political revolutions of our era. Over a period of six months, Alan Clements, the first American ordained as a Buddhist monk in Burma, met with Aung San Suu Kyi (at great personal risk) at her residence in Rangoon, and in taped conversations (that were smuggled out of the country), conversed on the core issues defining Aung San Suu Kyi's values, vision, and philosophy. Such as, the power of truth and reconciliation; the role of love, compassion, and conscience as forces in political change; the meaning of freedom and responsibility in the age of globalization; empowering dialogue over domination; bringing the feminine and womens' rights into politics; diversity as the life blood

of democracy; and a deep inquiry into engaged Buddhism - compassion and forgiveness as the basis of civilized existence.

This rare collection of candid and compelling conversations found in *The Voice of Hope* provides an extraordinary glimpse into one of the world's most fascinating women. Through her own words, we come to understand why many millions of people refer to her as "the next Nelson Mandela" and decidedly, one of the most important 'voices for freedom' the world has ever seen. This revised and updated edition of *The Voice of Hope* contains additional photographs, a new preface, an interview with U Gambira – a leader of the All-Burma Monks Alliance that organised the uprisings in 2007 – conducted just before his arrest by the regime in November, an updated chronology, and a resource list for action toward freedom and justice in Burma.

The Voice of Hope provides an unprecedented insight into the heart of one of the world's most compelling spiritual-political leaders, and offers the global community an impassioned call to action.

Aung San Suu Kyi is the daughter of the assassinated Burmese hero, Aung San, who negotiated Burma's independence from Britain. Born in 1945 and educated in Rangoon, Delhi and at Oxford University, she married Dr. Michael Aris and brought up their children in Oxford. In 1988 she returned to Burma to care for her dying mother but was caught in a national revolt against political repression. She became the leader of the democracy movement and her party won a colossal electoral victory in May 1990. In July 1989 she was placed under house arrest and has spent many years incarcerated. As the elected Prime Minister of her country, she remains the focal point of the pro-democracy movement, which rose up against the dictatorship once again in 2007. In addition to the Nobel Peace Prize, she has also been awarded the Sakharov Prize, the United States Presidential Medal of Freedom, and numerous other awards.

Alan Clements is a journalist, author, activist, an international teacher of Buddhist meditation, and a lecturer on the integration of spirituality, art, and activism. He lived in Burma for many years in the late 1970s and 80s, nearly 5 years as a monk. He is the co-founder and director of the non-profit organizations, The Burma Project USA/Canada, and the World Dharma Online Institute (which offers a year round program inspired by Aung San Suu Kyi). He has been interviewed many times by the media, including the BBC, ABC here in Australia, and by the New York Times, London Times, Time and Newsweek magazines, and has also made presentations to the Soros Foundation and Mikhail Gorbachev's State of the World Forum, and delivered a keynote speech for Amnesty International's 30th year anniversary. For more information please visit www.alanclements.com

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