

A close-up portrait of Aung San Suu Kyi, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. Her hair is dark with some grey at the temples. She is wearing a small, round, diamond-studded earring. The background of the portrait is a mix of blue and white, with a torn-paper effect around the edges.

# UNSILENCED

AUNG SAN SUU KYI

*Conversations from a Myanmar Prison*

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A Work of Fiction by Alan Clements

*"Freedom and Democracy Are Dreams You Never Give Up."*

—AUNG SAN SUU KYI, Myanmar's Imprisoned Nobel Peace Laureate

WORLD DHARMA PUBLICATIONS

## Publisher's Synopsis

### ***UNSILENCED: Aung San Suu Kyi — Conversations from a Myanmar Prison***

#### **A work of fiction by Alan Clements — a literary act of defiance in an age of tyranny**

Silence is never neutral. It is voltage — charged with power, intent, and consequence. It can be the stillness of meditation or the instrument of tyranny, the dignity of restraint or the void of erasure. In Myanmar, silence has long been weaponized — *a choreography of domination perfected by generals*. They have silenced the press, the poets, the monks and nuns who dare to speak, and—since the coup of February 2021—the elected leader of the nation, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, now eighty years old, held in a windowless cell, denied letters, books, and the company of the living.

No one has seen her. No one has heard her. No photographs. No interviews. No proof of life. Her son, Kim Aris, says she is gravely ill — her heart weakened by neglect. The junta's denial of care is not neglect but calculation — cruelty staged as protocol, *a slow execution performed in silence*. And yet, even in that engineered silence, her presence endures — a pulse of conscience haunting the machinery of oppression.

Alan Clements' *UNSILENCED* is a radical refusal of that erasure. It imagines what Aung San Suu Kyi might say if she were free to speak once more — and in doing so, it restores the voice the generals tried to annihilate.

*“They silenced her body, not her mind. UNSILENCED gives that mind a voice—  
piercing, poetic, unforgettable.”* — Krystal Dyan, Poet, Artist and Literary Critic

This is not biography. It is a work of moral imagination — a series of fictional dialogues drawn from her words, her teachings, her spirit. In these imagined conversations, Aung San Suu Kyi reflects on dictatorship and *Dhamma*, on democracy, exile, and the fierce tenderness of nonviolence — on the sacred resilience of freedom itself. What emerges is a manifesto of conscience — *a politics of the heart* written against the tyranny of subjugation, the machinery of propaganda, and the cold calculus of those who profit from murder and name it order.

Where dictatorship speaks in monologue, *UNSILENCED* answers with dialogue — plural, human, indestructible. To write this book as conversation is itself resistance — a refusal of authoritarian syntax, an insistence that truth has more than one voice.

Dictators fear literature because it cannot be confined — it slips through walls and outlives its captors. Books cross borders without passports; whisper when speeches are forbidden; and outlive their authors. Clements writes in that lineage of literary defiance — Orwell's

clarity, Baldwin's fire, Havel's moral courage — but he wields a Buddhist instrument: awareness as rebellion, mindfulness as the antidote to fear. His resistance is political and spiritual alike — the refusal to let the inner life be colonized.

Can anyone write in Aung San Suu Kyi's voice while she remains silenced? Clements answers through moral imagination, shaped by decades of personal dialogue, her recorded words in *The Voice of Hope*, and their shared teacher, the late Venerable Sayadaw U Pandita. What emerges is not imitation but resurrection — her cadence, her pragmatism, her conscience reborn through art.

*“This is not mere fiction. It is a reckoning — a cry from the soul of Burma and the conscience of the world.”* — Krystal Dyan, Poet, Artist and Literary Critic

At its core, *UNSILENCED* is about the revolution of the spirit. “Free because my mind, my heart, my soul remain unbroken. That is the freedom no dictator can take away.” Her imagined words recall Mandela's endurance and King's faith — freedom as the refusal to hate. Each dialogue becomes an act of *satyagraha* — *truth as resistance, empathy as weapon, love as insurgency*.

Clements writes with the unmistakable authority of witness. Ordained as a Buddhist monk in Rangoon in 1979, he trained under the renowned meditation masters Mahāsi Sayadaw and Sayadaw U Pandita before being expelled in 1996 by the dictatorship for speaking truth to its brutality. He turned from robes to reportage — from monastic silence to the front lines of conscience — documenting torture, ethnic cleansing, and the moral courage of Burma's dissidents.

His books have become landmarks of moral journalism. *Burma: The Next Killing Fields?* — with a foreword by His Holiness the Dalai Lama — was among the first works to alert the world to Burma's ethnic cleansing and the genocidal persecution of its minorities. *The Voice of Hope*, co-authored with Aung San Suu Kyi, emerged from six months of secret conversations held at her home in Rangoon during her brief release from house arrest in 1995. The transcripts were smuggled out of the country, translated into more than a dozen languages, and circulated worldwide — bringing her message of conscience and nonviolence to millions.

*Burma: The Revolution of the Spirit*, co-authored with Leslie Kean, also features a foreword by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and was endorsed by eight Nobel Peace Laureates, combining photography and testimony to reveal the spiritual roots of Burma's nonviolent struggle. And *Burma's Voices of Freedom*, co-written with his long-time collaborator Fergus Harlow, is a monumental four-volume oral history of dissidents, prisoners of conscience, and underground activists — a living archive of moral resistance across generations.

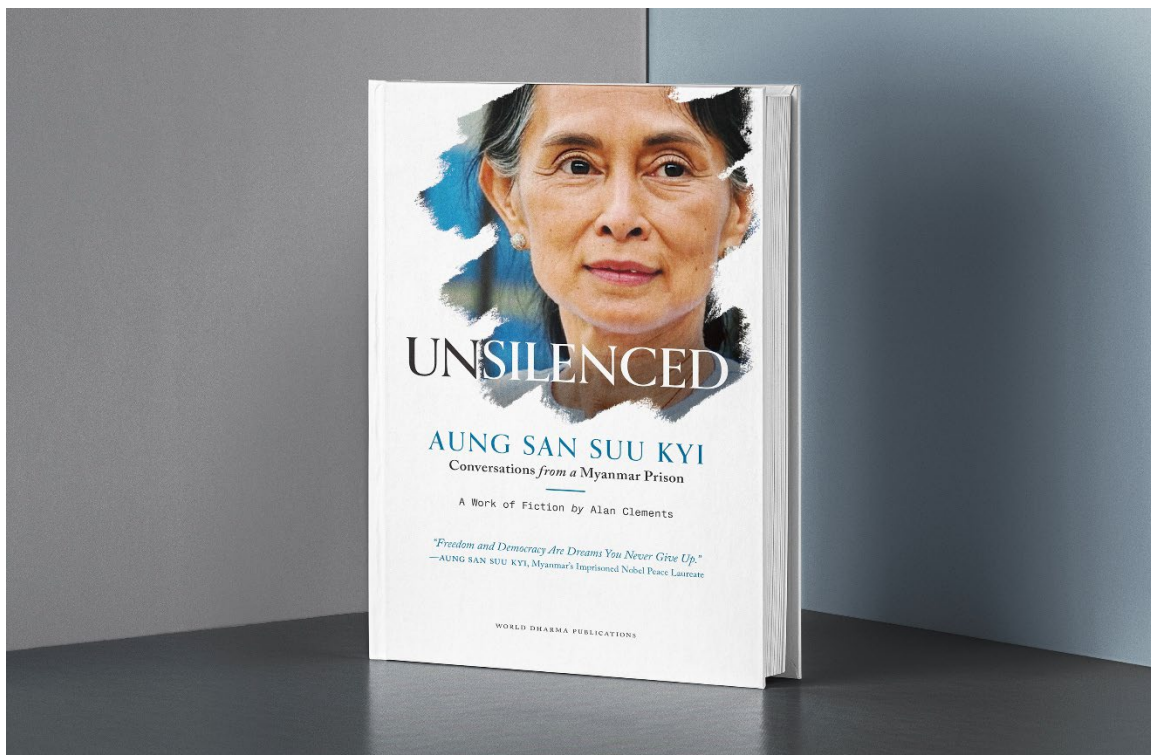
Together, these works form a canon of witness — a sustained act of literary defiance and spiritual remembrance. *UNSILENCED* is the culmination of that life's journey: speaking not for Aung San Suu Kyi but with her — across silence, across bars, across decades — in the shared language of conscience.

The style moves between liturgy and indictment — meditative, then incendiary — mirroring Aung San Suu Kyi herself: moral visionary and strategist, realist and reformer, unyielding and humane. It is not meant to soothe. Literature that resists tyranny must unsettle. *UNSILENCED* does so with grace and ferocity — the poetics of devotion fused with the precision of indictment.

The book's reach is global. Myanmar becomes a mirror of the world's democratic crisis — its prisons reflected in Ukraine's trenches, Gaza's ruins, Iran's cells. Dictatorship, Clements reminds us, is a shared contagion. Conscience must therefore become a shared discipline — a practice of global freedom, *a politics of the heart*.

*“UNSILENCED is not merely a book — it is a summons to conscience, a revolution in language, and a radiant act of defiance. It is dedicated to Aung San Suu Kyi and the courageous people of Myanmar — and to all who cherish freedom and recognize our shared humanity as a bond of love, trust, and compassion.” — Alan Clements*

To read *UNSILENCED* is to hold Burma's living conscience — a flame the junta cannot extinguish, a torch passed through generations, burning now in our hands.



**An Endorsement for the book, *UNSILENCED: Aung San Suu Kyi –  
Conversations from a Myanmar Prison* by Alan Clements  
(World Dharma Publications, November 2025)**

“As I read through the pages of *Uns silenced*, my connection with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi felt both immediate and visceral — as if time dissolved and conscience itself took form. I felt my hands reach in to trace the contours of her face — etched with courage, sacrifice, and an unyielding devotion to the freedom of her people and the soul of Myanmar. I could almost feel the pulse of her endurance, instinctively touching the raw, tender depths of her heart — a heart illuminated by wisdom, humility, and an unbroken grace.

“She became a mirror to my own hidden cells of conditioning and false belief. With diamond-clear insight, her cry for liberation became my cry — our shared human cry. My conviction was reignited — a vow to awaken, to polish the heart with courage, compassion, and a fierce, unwavering fidelity to truth.

“May Alan’s words not only find their way into the halls of power but into the inner sanctum of conscience itself. Within these imagined dialogues — sculpted with poetic precision and moral fire — Aung San Suu Kyi’s silenced voice rises again with the clarity of *Dhamma*. Though fictional, their truth transcends mere fact: each exchange shimmers with the authenticity of the awakened mind. In her fifth year of solitary confinement, her presence is reborn here — radiant, lucid, indomitable.

“May this book become essential reading for all leaders and seekers of freedom, for it dissects with fierce compassion the psychology of authoritarianism and reveals, through the lens of mindfulness, how ignorance becomes cruelty — and how conscience, rightly awakened, becomes the antidote.

“And may the piercing luminosity of these lyrical pages cast light on the machinery of control and the heartless manipulations now sweeping our world. No one is exempt from this darkness; each of us must awaken to it — now, in this living moment, before silence becomes complicity.

“May a force of unshakable solidarity rise to break the spell of indifference and misinformation — uniting us in truth, in love, in mindful action — for the immediate freedom of Aung San Suu Kyi and the thousands of prisoners who share her fate, and for the liberation of our own hearts from fear and submission. In that awakening lies our collective redemption — the courage to act, bravely, beautifully, together.”

— Krystal Dyan, Poet, Artist, Literary Critic, and Co-Producer (with Alan Clements) of the forthcoming book *Authoritarianism, Patriarchy, and the Role of the Divine Feminine: Conversations with Visionary Women* (World Dharma Publications, Spring 2026)



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# CONVERSATION WITH A DICTATOR

## A Challenge to the Authoritarian Assault

*A Fictional Dialogue with Myanmar's  
Senior General*

AN ILLUSTRATED NOVEL  
ART AS ACTIVISM

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A CALL TO FREE AUNG SAN SUU KYI

"The world will not be destroyed by those  
who do evil, but by those who watch them  
without doing anything to stop them."

—ALBERT EINSTEIN

Alan Clements

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