



2018 · 2561

This year's Forest Sangha calendar commemorates the centenary of the birth of our teacher, Ven. Ajahn Chah. It is dedicated with gratitude and respect for the many offerings that he has made to samanās and lay people through his teachings and example. Although he passed away in 1992, his vigour, resolve, compassion and direct penetration of truth remain as our guiding light. It is because of Ajahn Chah's practical wisdom that a world-wide community comprising hundreds of monasteries and thousands of lay disciples has grown and continues to present the Way of the Buddha.

As always, this calendar arises through the cooperation of members of that community; may it help to remind us to keep the practice that he has shown us, well-lived and for the welfare of many.

This calendar has been sponsored for free distribution
by the Kataññutā group of Malaysia, Singapore and Australia.

Anumodanā to the many friends and supporters who generously make their
photographs available for use in these Sangha publications.

The monthly Dhamma reflections are adaptations of transcribed and translated teachings
contained in *The Collected Teachings of Ajahn Chah*, available for download at the links below.

e-book formats: www.fsbooks.org/ajahn-chah-teachings

audiobook format: www.fsaudio.org/ajahn-chah-teachings

LUNAR OBSERVANCE DAYS ●◐◑◒◓

These days are regularly devoted to quiet reflection at the monastery.
The dates for the lunar calendar are determined by traditional methods of calculation
and are not always on the same day as the astronomical occurrences.

THE MAJOR FULL MOON DAYS FOR 2018 / 2561

Māgha Pūjā · March 1 ('Sangha Day')

Commemorates the spontaneous gathering of 1250 arahants to whom
the Buddha gave an exhortation on the basis of the Discipline (*Ovāda Pāṭimokkha*).

Vesākha Pūjā · May 29 ('Buddha Day')

Commemorates the birth, enlightenment and passing away of the Buddha.

Āsāḷhā Pūjā · July 27 ('Dhamma Day')

Commemorates the Buddha's first discourse, given to the five *samaṇas* in the Deer Park at
Sarnath, near Varanasi. The traditional Rainy-Season Retreat (*Vassa*) begins on the next day.

Pavāraṇā Day · October 24

This marks the end of the three-month *Vassa* retreat.

During the following month the extended community of monastery supporters
traditionally offer robe material as part of a *Kaṭhina*-season alms-giving ceremony.

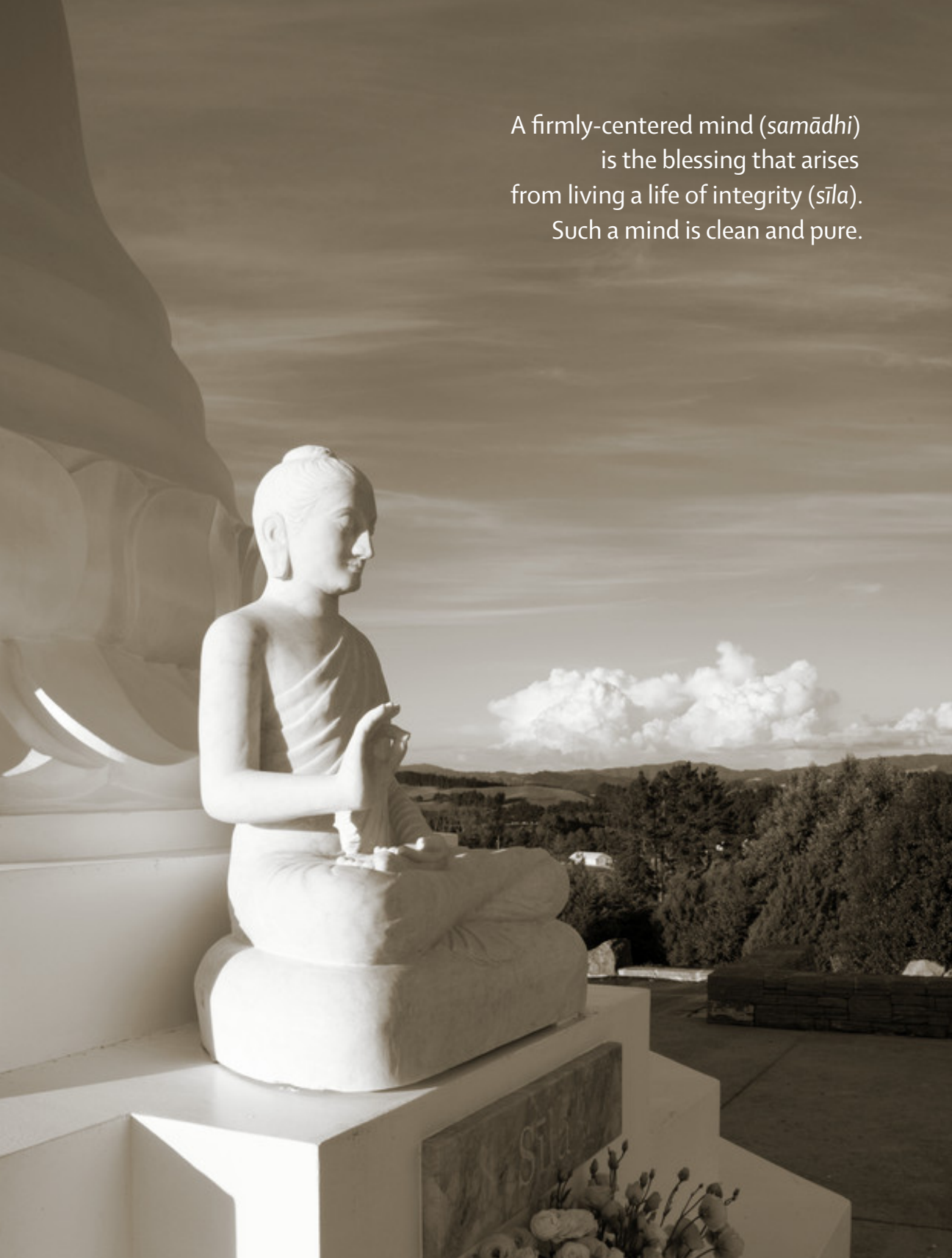
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A firmly-centered mind (*samādhi*)
 is the blessing that arises
 from living a life of integrity (*sīla*).
 Such a mind is clean and pure.



January

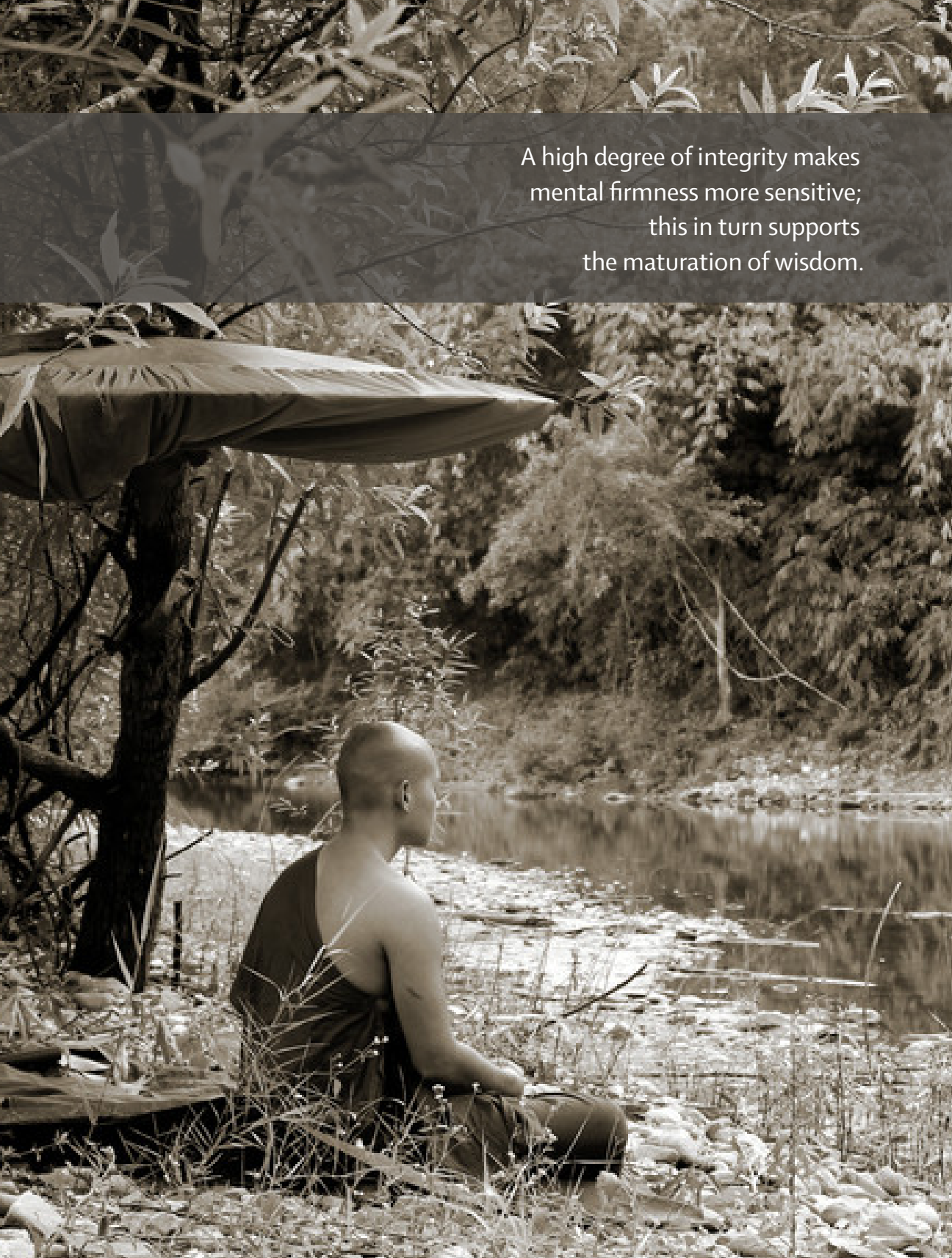
2018/2561

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 ○ 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 ◐ 10 11 12 13 14 15 ●* 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 ◑ 25 26 27 28 29 30 ○

*Jan 16: Ajahn Chah Memorial Day

Jan 1 ○ 15 days Hemanta 4/8
 Jan 16 ● 15 days Hemanta 5/8
 Jan 31 ○ 15 days Hemanta 6/8

A high degree of integrity makes
mental firmness more sensitive;
this in turn supports
the maturation of wisdom.



February

2018/2561

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Feb 14 ● 14 days Hemanta 7/8

This is the path: integrity, a firmly-centred mind and wisdom.
 Then, when wisdom is truly mature,
 your mind has the strength to transcend
 both pain and pleasure.



March

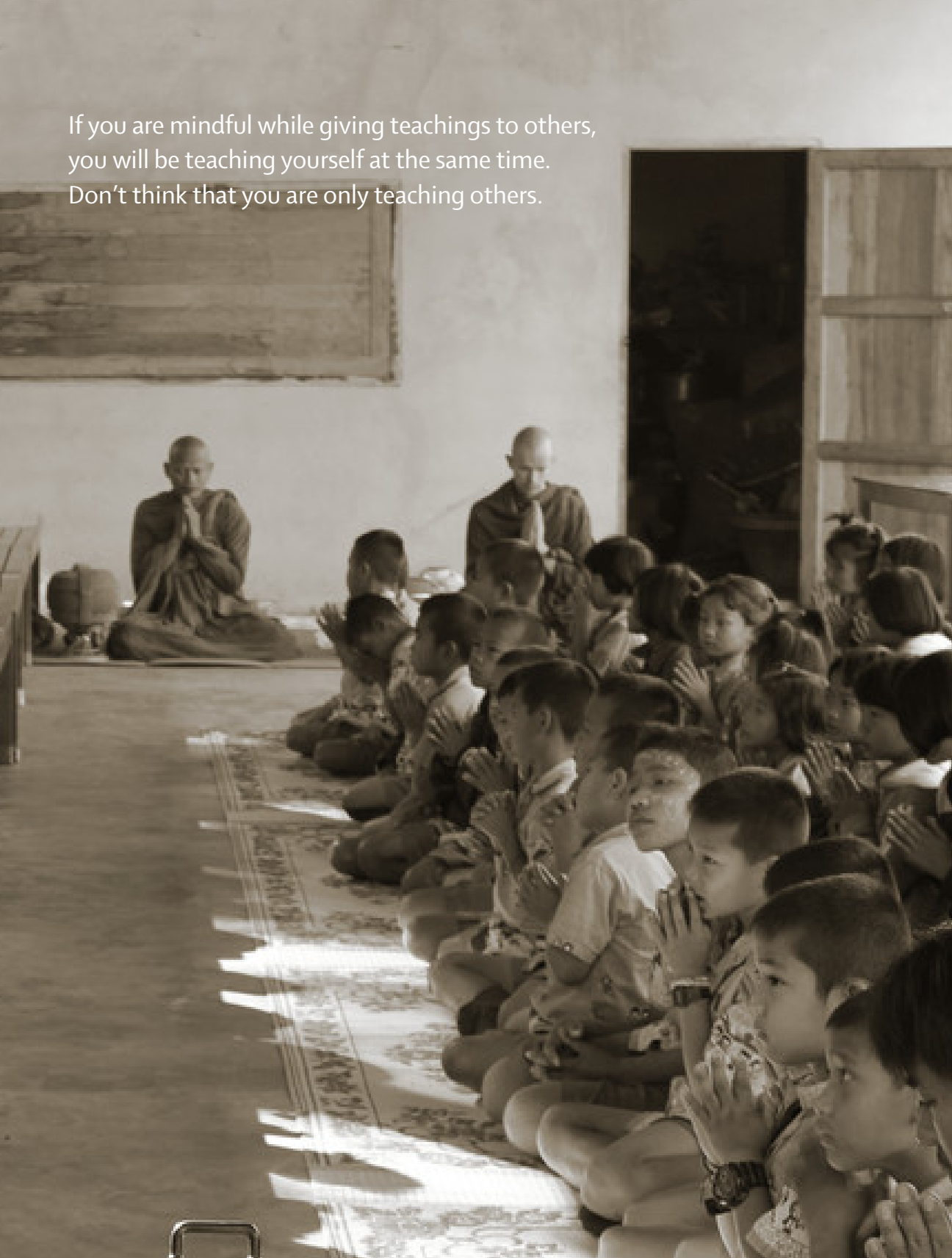
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* Mar 1: Māgha Pūjā

Mar 1 ○ 15 days Hemanta 8/8
 Mar 16 ● 15 days Gimha 1/10
 Mar 31 ○ 15 days Gimha 2/10

If you are mindful while giving teachings to others,
you will be teaching yourself at the same time.
Don't think that you are only teaching others.



April

2018/2561

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* Apr 13: Thai New Year, Songkran

Apr 14 ● 14 days Gimha 3/10
Apr 29 ○ 15 days Gimha 4/10

The way of the forest masters is the way of renunciation. Even though it will challenge you to the very core, you should not give up this way of training.



May

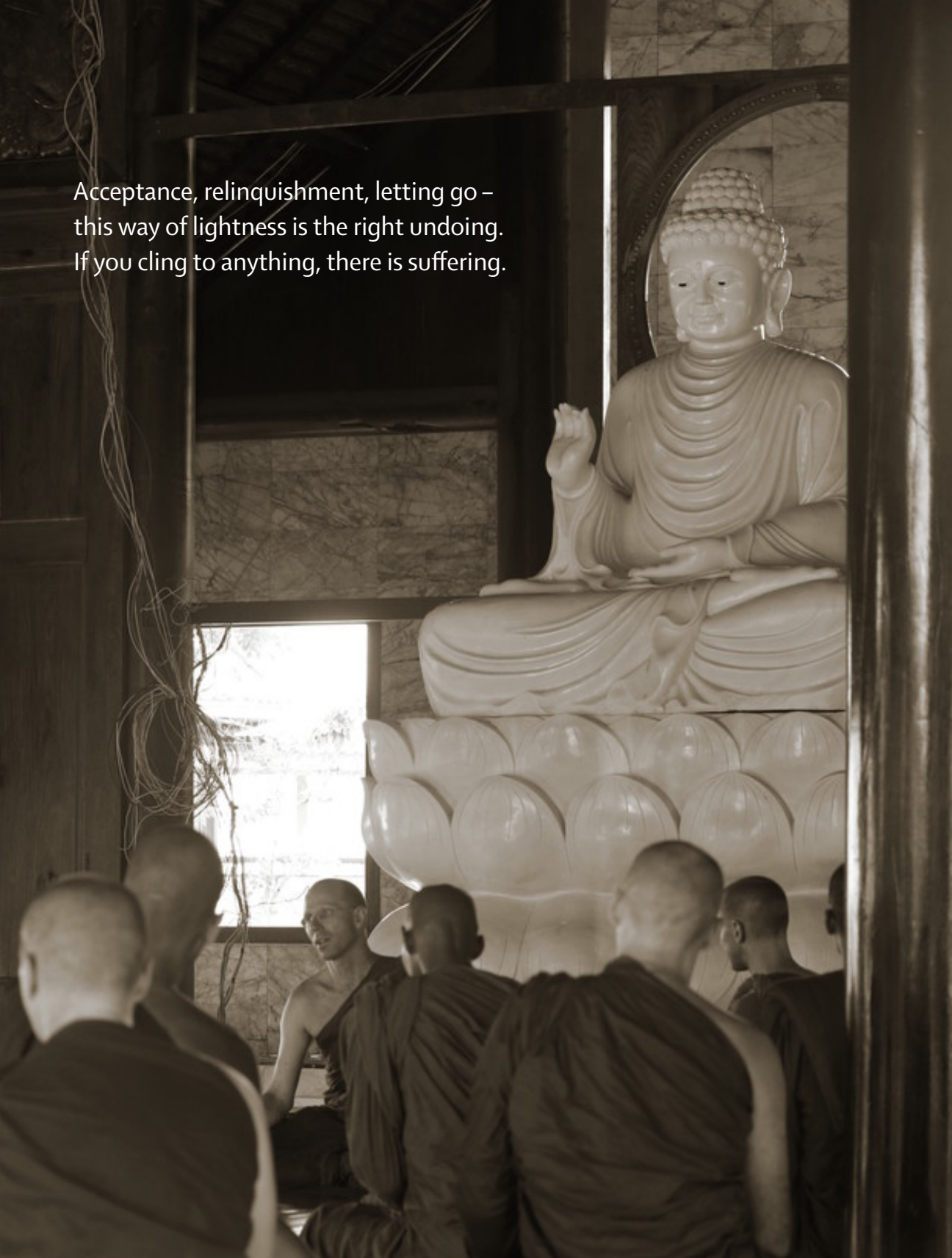
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* May 29: Vesākha Pūjā

May 14 ● 15 days Gimha 5/10
 May 29 ○ 15 days Gimha 6/10

Acceptance, relinquishment, letting go –
 this way of lightness is the right undoing.
 If you cling to anything, there is suffering.



June

2018/2561

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*Jun 17: Ajahn Chah's Birthday

Jun 12 ● 14 days Gimha 7/10
 Jun 27 ○ 15 days Gimha 8/10

If our respected elders instruct us
in what's right or wrong,
we should follow them with faith and deep respect.
We follow what they say
until we see the Dhamma in our own hearts
– until we are the Dhamma.



July

2018/2561

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* Jul 27: Āsāḷhā Pūjā

† Jul 28: First Day of Vassa

Jul 12 ● 15 days Gimha 9/10

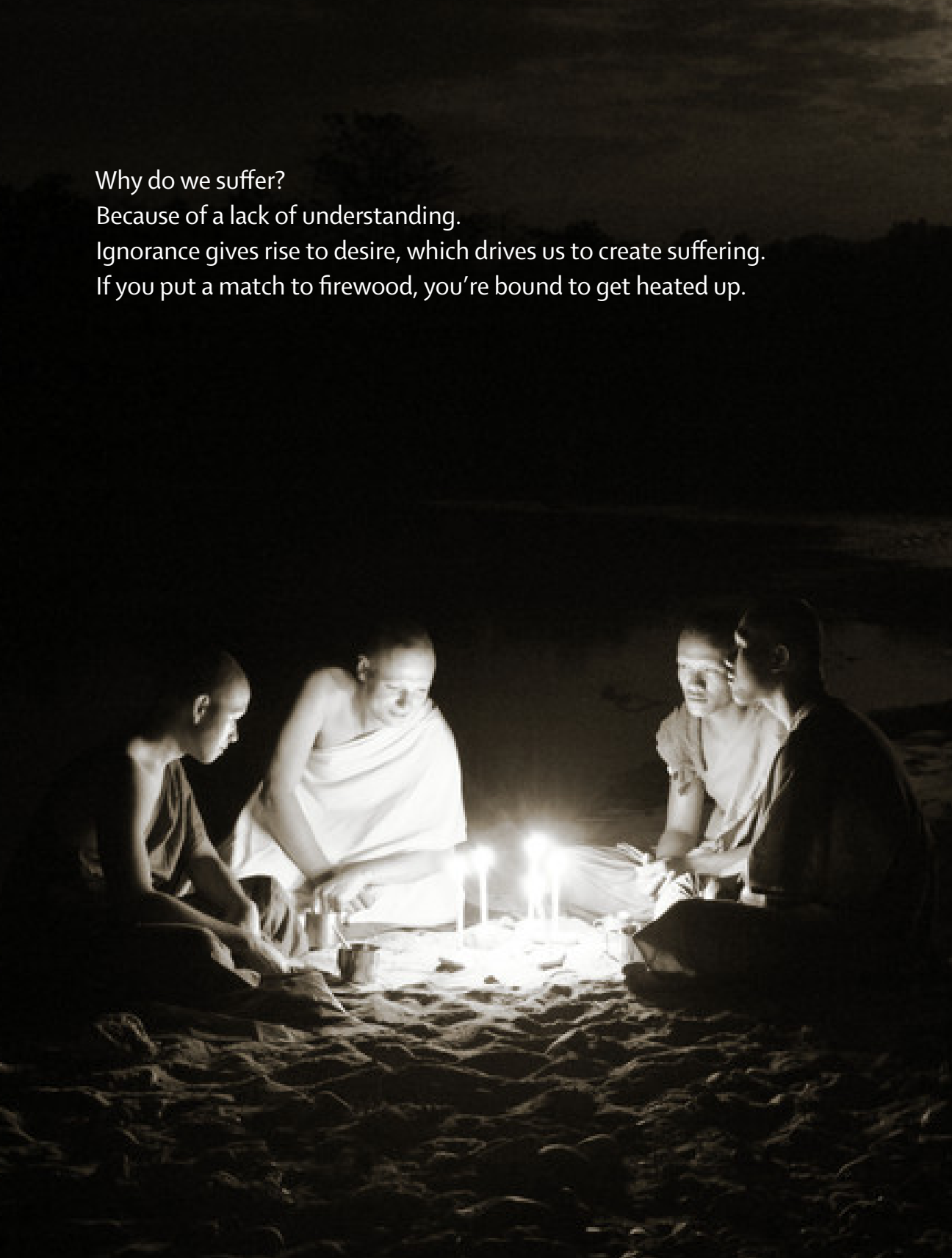
Jul 27 ○ 15 days Gimha 10/10

Why do we suffer?

Because of a lack of understanding.

Ignorance gives rise to desire, which drives us to create suffering.

If you put a match to firewood, you're bound to get heated up.



August

2018/2561

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Aug 11 ● 15 days Vassāna 1/8
Aug 26 ○ 15 days Vassāna 2/8



In cultivating generosity
we are cleansing our hearts of selfishness.
Selfish people experience extreme suffering,
they don't really care about themselves –
they don't love themselves.

September

2018/2561

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Sep 9 ● 14 days Vassāna 3/8
Sep 24 ○ 15 days Vassāna 4/8



What is *Nibbāna* anyway?
 It means letting go, not becoming anything.
 Generosity, ethics and good-will:
 such practices empty the mind of 'self' and 'other'.

October

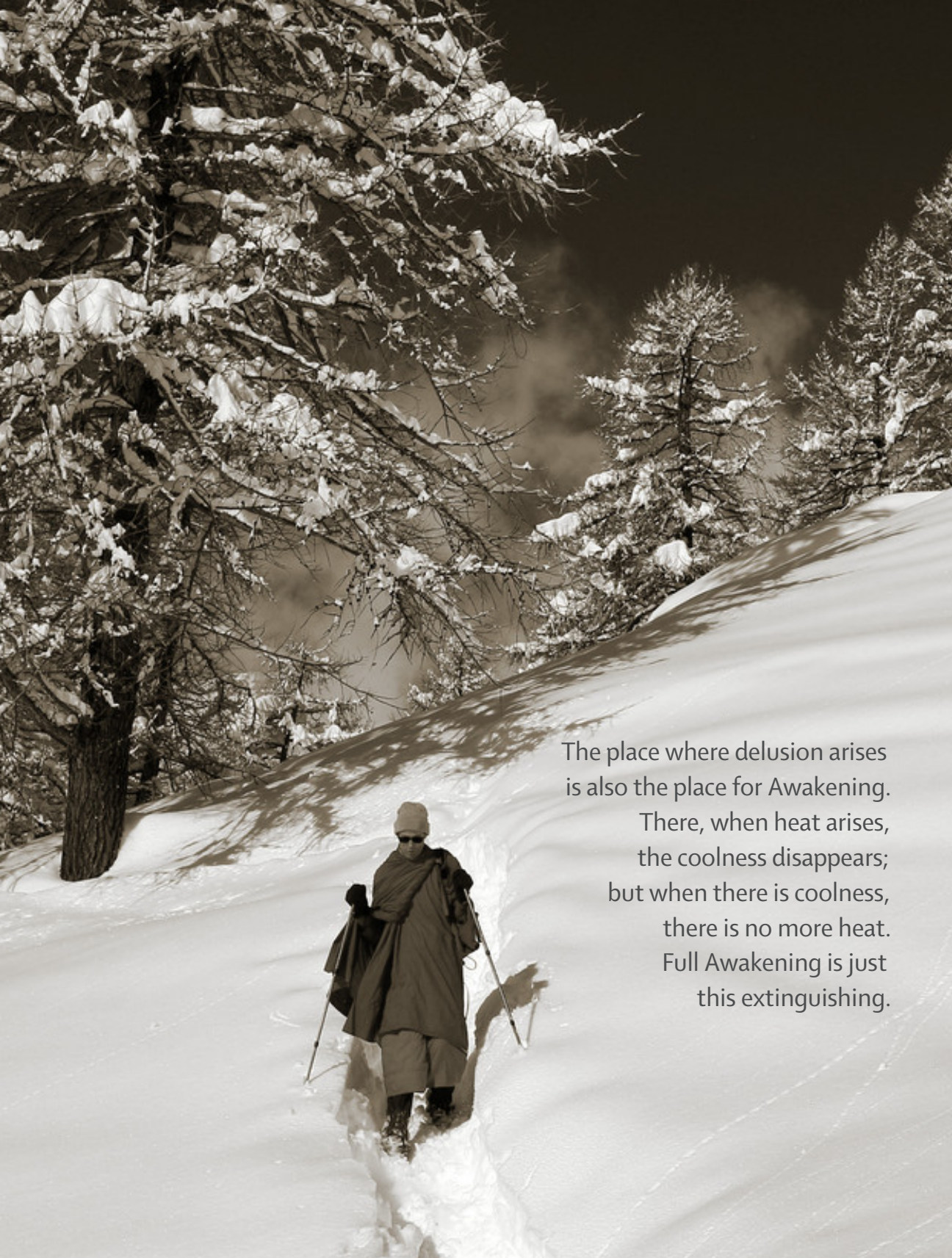
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* Oct 24: Pavāraṇā

† Oct 24: Last Day of Vassa

Oct 9 ● 15 days Vassāna 5/8
 Oct 24 ○ 15 days Vassāna 6/8



The place where delusion arises
is also the place for Awakening.
There, when heat arises,
the coolness disappears;
but when there is coolness,
there is no more heat.
Full Awakening is just
this extinguishing.

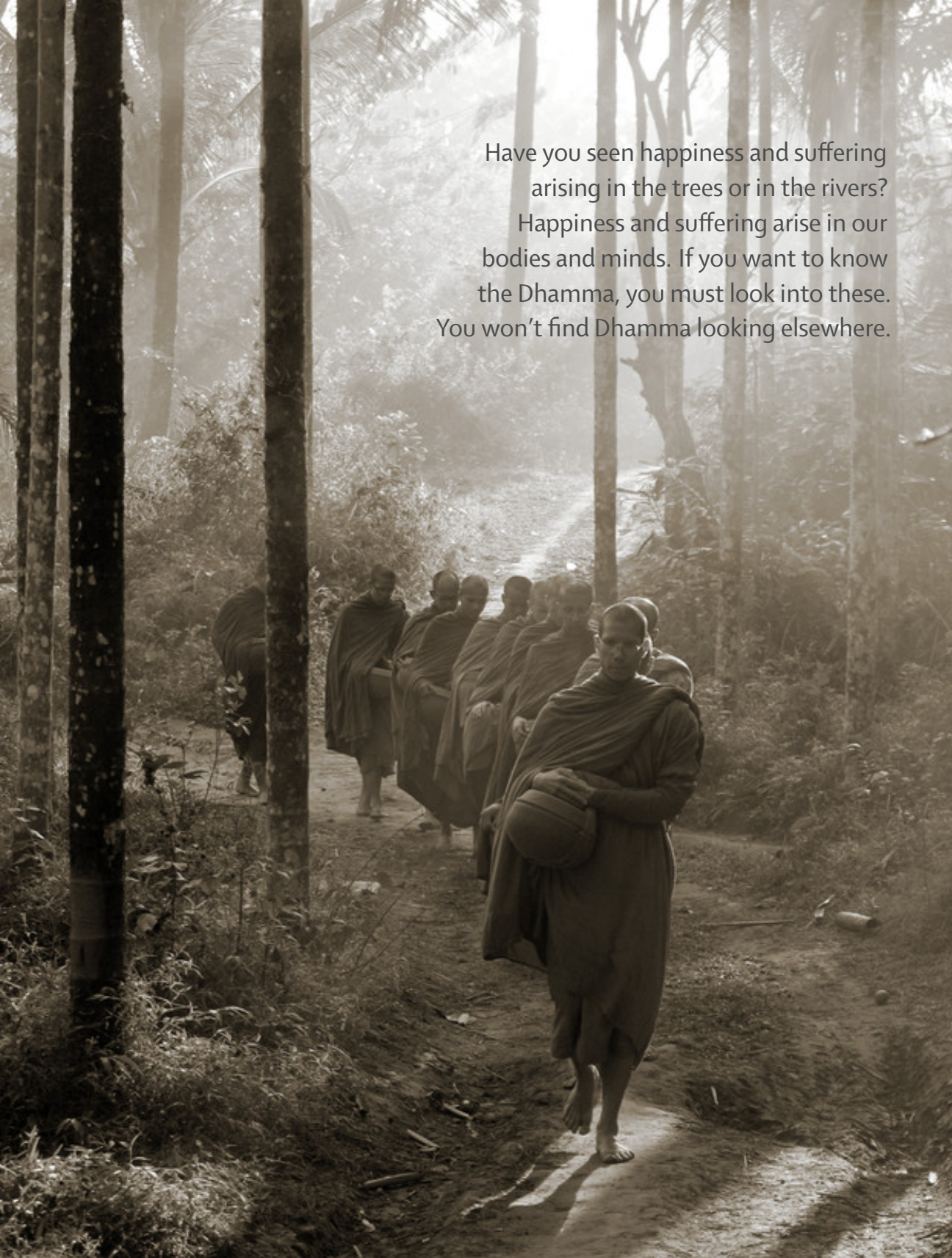
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2018/2561

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Nov 7 ● 14 days Vassāna 7/8
Nov 22 ○ 15 days Vassāna 8/8

Have you seen happiness and suffering arising in the trees or in the rivers? Happiness and suffering arise in our bodies and minds. If you want to know the Dhamma, you must look into these. You won't find Dhamma looking elsewhere.



December

2018/2561

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Dec 7 ● 15 days Hemanta 1/8
 Dec 22 ○ 15 days Hemanta 2/8

2018 / 2561

January

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February

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July

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August

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September

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October

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November

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December

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31						

¹ Jan 16: Ajahn Chah Memorial Day, ² Mar 1: Māgha Pūjā, ³ Apr 13: Thai New Year, Songkran, ⁴ May 29: Vesākha Pūjā,

⁵ Jun 17: Ajahn Chah's Birthday, ⁶ Jul 27: Āsālhā Pūjā, ⁷ Jul 28: First Day of Vassa, ⁸ Oct 24: Pavāraṇā,

⁹ Oct 24: Last Day of Vassa.

January

Vimutti Monastery,
Nr. Auckland, NZ



February

Khao Laem National Park,
Thailand



March

Pacific Hermitage, USA



April

Meal offering, Piang Luang
Sam primary school, Thailand



May

Sīladhāra ordination,
Amaravati Monastery,
Hertfordshire, UK



June

Wat Tam Saeng Phet, Thailand



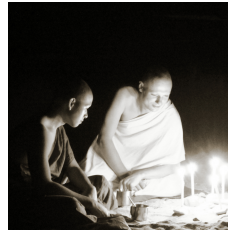
July

Luang Por Liem visiting
Temple Monastery, New
Hampshire, USA



August

Bee Khee river, Kanchanaburi,
Thailand



September

Ajahn Vimalo building,
Amaravati Monastery,
Hertfordshire, UK



October

Aruna Ratanagiri Dhamma
Hall, Northumberland, UK



November

Ajahn Chandapālo, Santaloka
Hermitage, Italy



December

Ti Rai Pah village, Tung Yai
Naresuan wildlife sanctuary,
Thailand



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