# 2018 Calendar text for translation

# Frontmatter, English:

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*Anumodanā* to the many friends and supporters who generously make their  
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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

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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* - (`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* - (`Buddha Day')  
Commemorates the birth, enlightenment and passing away of the Buddha.

*Āsāḷhā Pūjā* - (`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*

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.

Calendar production by Aruno Publications: Aruna Ratanagiri Buddhist Monastery, UK

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## Frontmatter, translation:

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# Dedication, English:

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 samanas 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.

## Dedication, translation:

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# Quotes:

### January

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, translation

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### February

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

### February, translation

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### March

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, translation

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### April

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, translation

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### May

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, translation

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### June

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

### June, translation

...

### July

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, translation

...

### August

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, translation

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### September

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, translation

...

### October

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, translation

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### November

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.

### November, translation

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### December

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, translation

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# Captions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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 Monasteri, 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 |
|  |  |

# Misc text:

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| Forest Sangha Calendar |  |
| days |  |
| First Day of Vassa |  |
| Last Day of Vassa |  |
| Ajahn Chah Memorial Day |  |
| Ajahn Chah's Birthday |  |
| Thai New Year, Songkran |  |
| Branch Monasteries |  |
| Western disciples of Ajahn Chah |  |
| The portal page for this community worldwide is: |  |

Country names:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| United Kingdom |  |
| Switzerland |  |
| Thailand |  |
| Australia |  |
| New Zealand |  |
| United States |  |
| Italy |  |
| Canada |  |