

Curriculum Vitae

Jeffrey S. Brooks
(Jhananda)

Great Western Vehicle

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Founder of the Great Western Vehicle, an ecumenical ecstatic contemplative tradition.
Counselor to ecstatic contemplatives.

Webmaster of oldest and largest website that is dedicated to the ecstatic contemplative, Ecstatic Buddhism, and the largest website of early Pali literature and English translations.
Meditation master of the spiritual ecstasies

Author of many essays describing the ecstatic contemplative experience.

Self trained scholar and translator of early Pali and Sanskrit literature

Accomplished ecstatic contemplative

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography. University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ. 2003

Bachelor of Arts Creative Writing. University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ. 2003

Bachelor of Arts Anthropology, minor American Indian Studies. University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ. 2003

COUNSELING AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

[Dhamma Teacher](#) A site for peer-level Dharma Teacher training and ordination

[Discourses of the Buddha](#) A sutta study group

[Ecstatic Buddhism](#) A newsletter for Ecstatic Buddhists

[Hollow Reed](#) listserve for ecstatic and contemplative poetry

[Jhana Support Group](#) A dialog support group for ecstatic Buddhist

[Kasina](#) A dialog group for the study and practice of the visual meditation object

[Kundaliniheat](#) A dialog support group for the ecstatic experience in a Yoga and Shamanic context

[Shiva Shakti](#) A support group for the loved ones of people going through kundalini

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Maintained a daily meditation practice that was informed by the religious ecstasies for over 30 years.

Sat more than 50 meditation retreats

Spent at least 2 weeks each year in contemplation in the wilderness for over 30 years

Completed 3-year retreat, 2006

MAJOR FIELDS OF STUDY

The Discourses of the Buddha, Sanskrit and the Pali languages, the writing of Christian, Sufi, Kabbalist and Hindu mystics, as well as Shamanism from Aborigine to Zuni

COURSES TAUGHT

The Practice of Ecstatic Meditation	The Psychology of Gnosis
The Buddha's Ecstatic Meditation Model	Sutta Studies
The Phenomena of Meditation	The Philosophy of Buddhism
The Literature of Ecstatic Buddhism	A Critical Analysis of Buddhism
The Literature of Enlightenment	The Ethics of Religion

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Presently working on the website for [Become Peace Initiative](#)

Presently working on the website for [Biofuels For Peace](#)

Constructed the website "[See for yourself](#), What did the Buddha Really Teach?" 2005

Constructed the [Great Western Vehicle](#) Web site, 2005

Founded the [Great Western Vehicle](#), Tucson, AZ, 2004

Founded the [Jhana Support Group](#), 2003

Began publishing the [Tucson Dharma News](#), 2003

Founded the [University of Arizona Meditation Club](#), 2002

Began publishing the [Southwest Insight E'letter](#), 2001

Secretary for the Tucson Community Meditation Center, 2001

SELECTED RECENT eZINE AND WEB-BASED ARTICLES

What is [Ecstatic Buddhism](#)? (September 19, 2004)

What is [Jhána](#)? Jhána as defined in the Buddha's Discourses (October 13, 2005)

The GWV [Jhana Resource Guide](#)

The [Fruits](#) (Phala) of the Contemplative Life (September 13, 2004)

The characteristic manifestations of absorption, [Jhana-Nimitta](#) (October 1, 2004)

[Recognizing](#) the Absorption States (jhana) (October 16, 2004)

Commitment as a Refuge, [Dark Night of the Soul](#) in Buddhism (January 1, 2003)

Some Answers to questions regarding The Personal Experience of [Ecstasy](#) (Jhana) (October 2, 2004)

The Experience of [Meditation](#) (July 23, 2004)

The Proto-Contemplative Life, Lucid Dreams and [Out-of-Body](#) Travel (August 1, 2004)

Purification within a Buddhist Context

[Abandoning the Five Hindrances](#) (nivarana) and the 10 Fetters (samyojana)

The [Language](#) of Gnosis (October 15, 04)

[A Proposed Unifying Theory for the Experience of Gnosis](#)

Understanding the [Unwholesome States](#), The Darkness of the Dark Night

[Virtue](#), Understanding What is a Wholesome State

[Jhana and the Houses of God](#), Flooding the Dark Night of the Soul with Wholesome States

the [GWV P A L I Language Resource Guide](#) for the Study of the, Tipitaka, P A L I Language and Literature

The GWV Contemplative's Pali-to-English [Dictionary](#)

Sila, Understanding [Ethics](#) In Buddhism

Understanding [Dependent Origination](#) (paticca samuppada)

Understanding the Pali terms, '[vitakka](#)' and '[vic'ra](#)' (October 10, 2004)

The [Jhanas and Addiction](#)

SELECTED TRANSLATIONS

The [Yoga Sutras of Patanjali](#),

[Ahara Sutta](#) (SN XLVI.51) "Food" (for the Factors for Awakening)

[Anapanasati](#) Sutta (MN 118) "Mindfulness of the breath"

[Aneñja-sappaya](#) Sutta (MN 106) “Conducive to the Imperturbable”

Arupa Jhana Practice Paths

[Bahiya](#) Sutta (U 1.10) “Relinquishing Cognition”

[Ganakamoggallana](#) Sutta (MN 107) Training Strategy

[Gopaka Moggallana](#) Sutta (MN 108) Ten Qualities Inspiring Confidence

[Kayagata-sati Sutta \(MN 119\)](#) “Mindfulness of the Body”

[Magga-vibhanga](#) Sutta (SN XLV.8), “Analysis of the Path”

[Mahaasaccaka](#) sutta (MN 36), On the pleasure of meditation (jhana), the fruits (phala) of the contemplative life, the Dark Night of the Soul, the Buddha’s attainment of jhana and his night of enlightenment.

[Maha-nidana](#) Sutta (DN-15) “The Larger Discourse on Causation, Dependent Origination (paticca samuppada), Seven Stations of Cognition, Eight Emancipations”

[Mahàsàropama](#) sutta (MN 3. 9) “The Major Discourse on Heartwood” Translated from the Pali by Sister Upalavanna. Edited for readability and sensitivity for the language of gnosis and cognition, August 21, 2005 by Jhanananda.

[Maha-satipatthana](#) Sutta (DN 22), “Larger Discourse on the Four Paths of Mindfulness” updated 10-27-04

[Samadhanga](#) Sutta (AN V. 28) “The Factors of Absorption”

[Samadhi Sutta \(AN IV.41\)](#) The Discourse on Absorption

[Samana-Mundika](#) Sutta (MN 78) “Mundika, the Contemplative”

[Samaññaphala Sutta \(DN 2\)](#) “The Discourse on the Fruits of the Contemplative Life”

[Samugatta](#) Sutta (AN III.100 xi-xv) “Arising” or Nimitta Sutta

[Satipatthana](#) Sutta (MN 10) “Larger Discourse on the Four Paths of Mindfulness”

[Satipatthana Samyutta](#) (SN 8) (8) “The Competent Cook,” a Discourse on the signs of absorption (Jhana-nimitta).

PEER-REVIEW ESSAYS

The Importance of [Critical Analysis](#)

The [Emergence](#) of Western Teachers of Buddhism

[The Failure of Antinomianism](#) Understanding Ethic in Buddhism

Was the Buddha an [Atheist, Nihilist or a Stoic?](#)

Dispelling the Myth of [Access Concentration](#) (upacara-samadhi)

The [Lack of Evidence](#) In Support of a ‘Dry’ Insight Practice

The [Language](#) of Gnosis (October 15, 04)

[Mahayana verses Hinayana](#)

The Myth of [Lineage](#)

How to determine an authentic [enlightened teacher](#)

The Cha’an, Son and Zen Concept of [Makyo](#) the “ghost” or “devil’s cave” as evidence of the subversion of the Buddha Dhamma.

The Emperor Has No Clothes, A Critique of neo-Advaitanism and [Adyashanti](#)

Dispelling Common [Misconceptions](#) Regarding Insight (vipassana) and Absorption (Jhana/dhyana)

[A Critique of Western Research on Meditation](#) as revealed in the article “The Lama in the Lab”

Exposing [translator bias](#) in the translation of the Pali Canon and other Asian literature (updated 11-10-04)

[Six Classes of Religious Expression](#)

MAGAZINES AND NEWSLETTERS

[Southwest Insight E'letter](#)

[Tucson Dharma News](#)

[Wilderness Retreats](#)

BOOKS

[Communion](#), a 112 page book-length collection of poetry and photography with 14 images and 28 poems.

[Rain](#), a 41 page chapbook collection of the poetry and photography on the subject of rain, with images front and back and 17 poems.

[A Stone Worn to Sand](#), a 133 page book-length collection of 67 poems

RESEARCH INTERESTS

The study of the phenomena of meditation and meditative absorption

Case Studies of ecstatic contemplatives

The Dark Night of the Soul and Meditation Induced neuroses

Meditation Induced pathologies

Religious ethics

COMMUNITY SERVICE

[4th wheel](#) Dialog on the emergence of a Western Vehicle of Buddhism

[Dharma Teacher](#) A site for peer-level Dharma Teacher empowerment and ordination

[Discourses of the Buddha](#) A dialog group dedicated to the Discourses of the Buddha

[Ecstatic Buddhism](#) A newsletter for ecstatic Buddhists

[Great Western Vehicle](#) The home for this emerging 4th Wheel Buddhist tradition

[Hollow Reed](#) A place to post for contemporary ecstatic and contemplative poets

[Jhanananda-s Journal](#) Jhanananda's personal biweekly contemplative journal

[Jhana Support Group](#) A dialog support group for ecstatic contemplatives in a Buddhist context

[Kasina](#) A dialog group for the study and practice of the visual meditation object

[Kundaliniheat](#) A dialog support group for the ecstatic experience in a Yoga and Shamanic context

[Shiva Shakti](#) A support group for the loved ones of people going through kundalini

[Southwest Insight E'letter](#) A monthly newsletter for contemplatives in the Southwestern USA

[Tucson Dharma News](#) An event calendar for contemplatives in Tucson, AZ. USA

[Wilderness Retreats](#) supporting those who meditate in the wilderness

TEACHERS, RETREATS and INFLUENCES

5-12, 2005 completed 232-day solo wilderness retreat in the Inyo National Forests.

2, 2005 Began Great Western Vehicle Web site.

9, 2004 Self-ordained as Jhanananda.

5, 2004 Left the householder's life and began a 150-day solo wilderness retreat in the Inyo, Kaibab and Coconino National Forests.

2, 2004 Attended 9-day Vipassana retreat led by Bhante Gunaratana, Riverside, CA

11, 2003 Attended and recorded weekend teachings for Dharma Kirti College

9, 2003 Attended and recorded weekend teachings for Dharma Kirti College

7-8, 2003 Attended and recorded 28-day summer teaching retreat at Garchen Institute

- 6, 2003 Attended ten-day Jhana retreat led by Leigh Brassington in Chupadero, NM
- 5, 2003 Began 3 year retreat, led daily meditation sit at the Little Chapel for the UofA
Meditation club until 5/2004
- 4-2002 Attended and recorded 5-day spring teaching retreat at Garchen Institute
- 4, 2003 Began a series of Yahoo groups in service of contemplatives
- 12-2002 Attended and recorded 10-day Mahamudra teaching retreat led by Gyalpo
Rinpoche at Garchen Institute
- 7, 2002 Attended a 10-day Goenka assistant led vipassana meditation retreat
- 2002 Founded the University of Arizona Meditation Club, through which I gained
access to valuable university facilities where I led daily meditation sits, weekly
dharma talks and a Pali canon study group, and monthly one-day meditation
retreats, as well as making these facilities available for the dharma talks of
visiting teachers.
- 2001-2003 Began an audio engineering and recording business in service of the dhamma.
Designed a recording system for Garchen Institute & Dharma Kirti College,
where I recorded numerous teaching retreats on Mahamudra and Dzogchen.
- 2000-2003 Renewed involvement with the Tucson Community Meditation Center. Elected
to the board.
- 3, 2000 Took up the discipline of celibacy
- 95-96 Attended annual Shared Heart workshops led by Joyce and Barry Vissel
- 1991 Attended a 10-day Vipassana retreat led by Shinzen Young, and continued my
involvement with the Tucson Community Meditation Center.
- 1990-2000 Studied Celtic, Native American and African Shamanic practices including
observing the Equinox and Solstice cycles, sweat lodge ceremony and African
Drumming and Dance
- 1990 Attended a 10-day Vipassana retreat led by Shinzen Young. Became actively
involved with the Tucson Community Meditation Center.
- 1985-2003 Owned a Macintosh computer business with 6 employees grossing \$350,000 a
year.
- 1985-1990 Studied with Robert and Dianna Van Arsdale doing the Beloved Work of Yo
- 1976-1986 Entered into a ten-year discipleship with Swami Amar Jyoti, from whom
Advaita Vedanta and related meditation practices were studied. During this
period began attending one 10-day retreat and three 3-5 day retreats each
year.
- 1975-1977 Worked with Roger Davis, a North American herbalist and Shaman on OOBs,
and healing studies in bodywork, herbal medicine and Astrology.
- 2/1975 Attended first 10-day Vipassana retreat, which was led by Robert Hover. From
this point on attended at least one 10-day meditation retreat per year.
- 1/75-2/75 Lived Sri Ram Ashram and studied Hatha Yoga and meditation from various
teachers
- 1974-1975 Took the beginning and advanced Silva Mind control Training from Jose Silva
and his assistant teachers.
- 1974 Studied meditation, homeopathy out-of-body with Francis Grow, an initiated
disciple of Hammed Bey of the Coptic Fellowship
- 3/74-6/74 Lived 3 months in a 3HO Ashram and studied Kundalini Yoga, Sikhism from
Yogi Bajan and his assistant teachers.
- 1973 Began a daily meditation practice of sitting 2 to 3 times a day, which is still
maintained.