

Prof. David Loy and His Wife Visit Kandy



David Loy, a retired professor of Buddhist and comparative philosophy, a prolific writer, and a Zen teacher, and his wife, Linda, also a retired teacher, arrived in Kandy on January 6, after attending the International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB) conference in Chennai, and stayed in Anniwatte for six days. On January 7, we held a dana for nine monks, some of whom came from Colombo to meet the professor, and three nuns. Several friends and neighbors joined us for the auspicious occasion.

Before lunch, David spent about an hour with the monks and nuns discussing some of the ideas in his latest book, *Ecodharma: Buddhist Teachings for the Ecological Crisis*. In an evening session, attended by a group of activists from Kandy, he presented his concept of the "Ecosattva," focusing on the urgency for each of us to recognize our intimate relationship, our oneness, with the environment and to make a commitment to work for its protection and preservation. (Four photos below)

The next morning, David presented a lecture at The Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Peradeniya, on "Is the ecological crisis also a spiritual crisis?," one of the chapters of *Ecodharma*. (Two photos at the bottom of the page)

To learn more about Professor Loy's work and his many books on engaged Buddhism and ecology, please visit his website, <<https://www.davidloy.org/>>

During their stay in India, David and Linda had collected a lot of toiletries from various hotels. They asked whether we might be able to find a use for them. A few days later, completely by coincidence, we learned that the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Kandy was offering free dental exams. They were delighted to receive the toothbrushes and toothpaste to distribute to the patients. How serendipitous! After all, another name for Sri Lanka is *Serendib*!



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On Sunday, January 12, Professor Loy joined our ESL class with three students in person and several more via ZOOM. He led a lively discussion of some of the ideas from his book. This was particularly interesting for our students because, in recent weeks, we have been reading some of David's writing on engaged Buddhism, war, nonviolence, and the ecological crisis.



"People usually consider walking on water or in thin air a miracle. But I think the real miracle is not to walk either on water or in thin air, but to walk on earth. Every day we are engaged in a miracle which we don't even recognize: a blue sky, white clouds, green leaves, the black, curious eyes of a child—our own two eyes. All is a miracle." —Thich Nhat Hanh, *Miracle of Mindfulness*

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David and some of our neighbors helped us make sandwiches for High Tea at the Kandy Cancer Home. On the 15th of every month, we offer soup, vegetable cutlets, egg-salad sandwiches, yoghurt, and bananas to all the patients. On these occasions, we share merit those who have passed away, sick friends and relatives, and those celebrating special days. Please join us by donating and indicating with whom to share merit.



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