“Sri Lankan Bhikkhus to lead”,

# Guruji’s Instructions to Bikram Dandiya in August 2008

**Bikram**: If we invite bhikkhus from Sri Lanka… some have started coming also…the upper floor of my house is fully dedicated to Vipassana activity such as One Day Courses…bhikkhus can stay there. A bhikkhu had come from Sri Lanka and he did stay there! He was sitting many 10 day courses and in between he used to come and stay here. And he would go for his alms rounds (*pindapata)* into the colony where he would receive food from people who were inspired by him. People who knew nothing about vipassana but they would come and meet him at home… so this was a very nice and unique experiment for Jaipur which happened naturally; by virtue of which I felt more bhikkhus can also come. And then such bhikkhus can stay for longer periods of time and can start *Vinaya…*

**Guruji**: This can happen! The bhikkhus from other countries can come and stay there. Bhikkhus from here ...There are good bhikkhus here also, but how can we get to know who the good ones are?

**Bikram**: We will leave it to the bhikkhus to decide.

**Guruji**: Yes, if the bhikkhus are from outside India, then they will be under the control of (...). So from amongst them we can call one of their seniors/ leaders such as, for example, Ven. Ratanapala or someone like him…

**Bikram**: I feel there is a good probability of success. These days air travel has become so easy… people are coming and going…the bhikkhus who stayed at our house somehow reached my place without prior notice, so if we invite them they will certainly come! This bhikkhu was interested in coming again to India and said he would be very happy to promote such activity. When I said please keep coming he said, in response, if you keep inviting we will keep coming. He was a young 30 year old bhikkhu who took his *upasampada* at the age of 20, so he was already a *thero.* So if you encourage then we can…

**Guruji**: I would not encourage Indian bhikkhus (at this stage).

**Bikram**: We won’t encourage Indian bhikkhus.

**Guruji**: But we can encourage bhikkhus from outside India.

**Bikram**: We will encourage bhikkhus from abroad and then they can initiate Indian bhikkhus from good backgrounds over time.

**Guruji**: If they keep their control then bhikkhus can be initiated from Indian backgrounds also.

**Bikram**: They should control the process.

**Guruji**: Yes they will control the initiation, and continue to keep control such as ‘Look! We will…if you create mischief we will take your clothes off (*chivar)’* If we have someone like that; (because) we cannot have so much control on them (ourselves). A bhikkhu can of course do it. If Ven. Ratanapala, or someone like Ven. Ratanapala, comes and sits here, then he can do it.