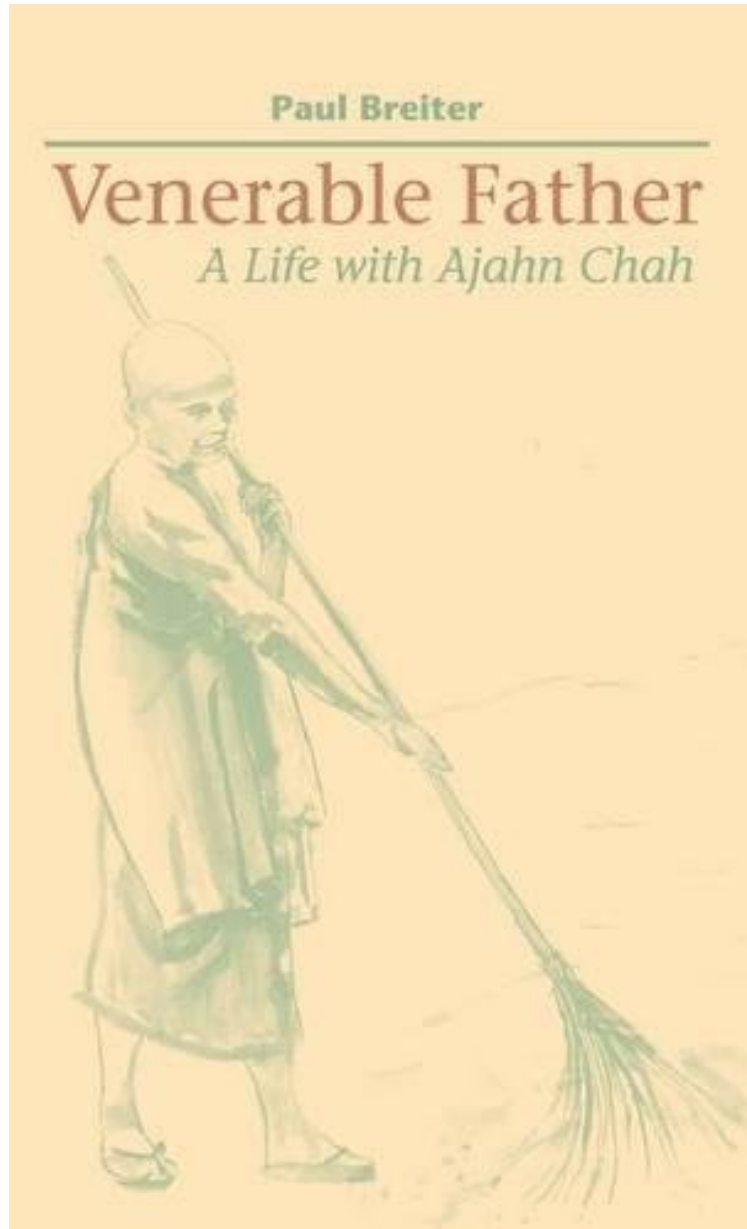


(Free pdf) Venerable Father

Venerable Father

Paul Breiter

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Paul Breiter : Venerable Father before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Venerable Father:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very interestingBy Donna RichesonI got interested in learning more about Buddhism after a recent trip to Burma. I started with some basic books about The Four Noble Truths and The

Eightfold Path along with some others. By-the-way, I found the books by Bhikkhu Bodhi superb in communicating the teachings. Somehow, I stumbled across the teachings of Ajahn Chah -- a Thai Forest monk/abbot in northeastern Thailand. I spotted this book, *Venerable Father*, in relation to Ajahn Chah. Paul Breiter, the author, became one of the early western monks who practiced under the teacher Ajahn Chah. I found it fascinating to read about the personal life and practice of a young Buddhist monk. I found Breiter's writing engaging -- a memoir style. He had a rough go of it, and he readily confesses to his struggles and complaints. Through one person's journey you get some of the cultural feel for the life of a monk -- and a Thai Forest monk at that -- much more ascetic apparently. I found the book engaging and recommend it if you are curious and interested about a monk's life and the challenges of a young western monk trying to decide if this is the life for him. 22 of 24 people found the following review helpful. A moving tribute -- and a guide to life as it might be lived. By Sean Hoade I've bought and read both *Being Dharma* and *Still Forest Pool*, and enjoyed them very much. But *Venerable Father* is far superior to them in giving this soft American a real idea of what it was like studying under and living with Ajahn Chah. I both envy Paul Breiter for his experience, and am really glad it was him rather than me going through it! :) But seriously, this humble yet assured voice resonates throughout the book. Yes, it is the skill and compassion of Luang Por that is responsible for the quality of much of the book, but truly Breiter's frank evaluations of his experiences during and after life as a forest monk makes this much different from other, more traditional memoirs that I have read. I'm not saying that he's enlightened with a capital E, but during the course of the book the training (when fully followed, as Ajahn Chah taught) seems to automatically make the monks into more awake, more compassionate, less suffering people. The importance of even trivial-sounding Vinaya rules becomes apparent, and thus Chah's way is illuminated. The sections of the book after he disrobes are even better. You can take the monk out of the forest (and his robes), but you can't take the forest out of the monk. These chapters were poignant and in some cases very funny indeed. Ajahn Chah's total intuitive understanding, and effortlessly devastating criticism, of Mahayana double-talk was especially amusing. For instance, to the Mahayana claim that we don't need to do anything to improve because our nature is originally perfect, when he says that's like saying if you put sh*t on a silver platter, you don't need to clean it before eating from it because the platter was originally clean! But all the time he is understanding totally how Mahayana, for all its linguistic troubles and even theological difficulties, is as dedicated to the path of freedom and compassion in its own very different way as is the Forest School. This book is a gift. It gives us the feeling of sitting at Luang Por's feet -- the wonder and the horror of it, a highly (even totally) awakened master teaching each student to match his or her understanding, and a mischievous old man pushing his monks to the very edge of sanity, or a little beyond. I know I wouldn't want him tugging on my robes and laughing while I was trying to give a first Dhamma talk in Thai, but it would have been amazing to know and love this man. *Venerable Father* is as close as any of us will come to Ajahn Chah, and we have Paul Breiter to thank for it. I'm incredibly inspired to ordain, even more than before. Scared, too, of course, but living under the Vinaya sounds like a pure and productive way to live. If you want to read Luang Por's words and get even more inspired, buy and read *Being Dharma* and *Still Forest Pool*, too! NOTE: Be sure to buy this book in the Paraview edition. There are other, unauthorized reprints out there, and this is a beautiful volume. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Sadhu! By Jonathan Sintigo This is really a beautiful book, I nearly stayed up all night reading it. You here often times about books that the author really makes it feel like you're actually there, but wow - this one really made it felt like you were there, as Ajahn Chah as your own personal teacher. With witty humor, the author made Ajahn really come alive and touch the hearts of his readers. I definitely recommend this book, to followers of Ajahn Chah, to Buddhists, to beginners and to those who have never before touched dhamma in their lives - this piece is truly a gem!

Available until now only in limited editions, "*Venerable Father*" has become an underground classic among Buddhists, especially those practicing the Thai tradition. It details the joys and struggles of Paul Breiter's years with Ajahn Chah, who was perhaps Thailand's best-known and most-loved Buddhist master. Breiter describes Ajahn Chah as a figure who is at once human yet extraordinary, an orthodox yet unconventional teacher whose remarkable skill, patience, and compassion in training disciples flowed naturally from his deep and joyous realization of the truth. Breiter also explains, quite vividly, the life of a Westerner in a Thai forest monastery and the unique spiritual lessons to be learned there. PAUL BREITER ordained in the Theravada Buddhist tradition in Thailand in 1970 and soon thereafter met Ajahn Chah. He became one of Ajahn Chah's favorite disciples and his translator, and stayed with him until disrobing in 1977. Since then, he has maintained close ties to Ajahn Chah's lineage while studying Zen and Tibetan Buddhism, and he has continued to translate Ajahn Chah's teachings, which appear in "*Still Forest Pool: The Insight Meditation of Achaan Chaa*" (with Jack Kornfield) and "*Being Dharma: The Essence of the Buddhas Teachings*".

"Paul has produced a real treasure. Many here felt that they got the message of Ajahn Chah's presence." -- Ajahn Amaro, Amaravati Buddhist Monastery "We are obliged to Paul Breiter for giving us *A Still Forest Pool*. This book will be a useful companion." -- The Middle Way From the Inside Flap "Paul has produced a real treasure. Many here felt that they got the message of Ajahn Chah's presence for the first time." - Ajahn Amaro, Amaravati Buddhist

Monastery "We are already obliged to Paul Breiter, along with Jack Kornfield, for giving us A Still Forest Pool. This book will be a useful companion." - The Middle Way "Pauls depictions of life at Wat Pah Pong in the early seventies were delightful and helped us develop a sense of the origins of many of the modes of practices and training that are carried on today. Also, Pauls sense of humor and numerous experiences with Ajahn Chahs fierce training were greatly enjoyed." - Fearless Mountain, Abhayagiri Buddhist Monastery newsletter

About the Author PAUL BREITER ordained in the Theravada Buddhist tradition in Thailand in 1970 and soon thereafter met Ajahn Chah. He became one of Ajahn Chahs favorite disciples and his translator, and stayed with him until disrobing in 1977. Since then, he has maintained close ties to Ajahn Chahs lineage while studying Zen and Tibetan Buddhism, and he has continued to translate Ajahn Chahs teachings, which appear in Still Forest Pool: The Insight Meditation of Achaan Chaa (with Jack Kornfield) and Being Dharma: The Essence of the Buddhas Teachings.