

Discussion Questions: *Learning True Love* by Sister Chân Không

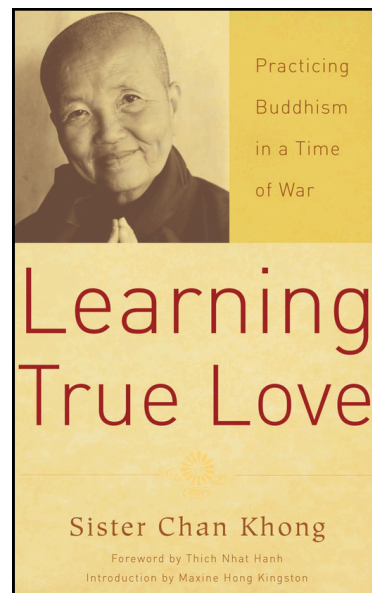
Section 1: Growing Up in the Land of Tet 1938-1961

This section covers the early life of Sister Chân Không (Sư cô) through her early 20s when she began to study with Thích Nhất Hạnh.

1. What story or quality about young Sư cô stood out to you? (Take turns sharing if you have multiple!)
2. What is something you learned about Vietnam?
3. Sư cô gives the example of the poorest people who pickpocket a few dong to survive being arrested by the police chief who pickpockets millions of dong in bribes without consequence. What is one modern example of this that you see in your own country? Do you know of modern people taking action for justice, like the judge Huỳnh Trung Chánh?
4. Did Sư cô's stories of innovative ways of helping others inspire you to think of acts that you can do?
5. How does reading about Sư cô 's earlier experiences and aspirations impact your understanding of Plum Village teachings?



Sister Chân Không (birth name Cao Ngọc Phượng) was born in a village on the Mekong River Delta in 1938. She has devoted her life to the development and practice of nonviolence grounded in the Buddhist precepts of non-killing and compassionate action. She is part of the community of Zen master Thích Nhất Hạnh and lives in Plum Village, France.



Learning True Love is the remarkable and impressive story of a very courageous woman, whose journey from an accredited biologist at the University of Paris to a Buddhist nun, gives her unique insight into life's central questions and the ability to address them in an unflinching and straightforward manner.