

## WHAT IS SANGHA?

The word sangha is a Pali word most commonly translated as community or association. Traditionally (in the Pali Canon), the word sangha refers to the association of monks and nuns. In modern traditions, the word sangha includes laypeople. The sangha may be seen as the community of others on the path, and is an integral part of a healthy practice.

Sangha as a refuge is an important part of one's meditation practice. We participate in and interact with the sangha in order to grow. Taking refuge in the sangha means we find safety and strength in fellow walkers of the path. We can turn toward our community in times of need, when we need advice, or simply when it feels like a safe harbor for us. Although Buddhism is often seen as a solitary path with the image coming to mind of a person meditating alone in an isolated environment, the sangha is incredibly important. We learn from our sangha, we are supported by the sangha, and we may offer support and kindness to those around us.

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## **2023 MEMBERSHIP**

Please take a few moments to complete the attached form and return it to the temple. Cheques can be made out to The Calgary Buddhist Temple. Mailing address: 207-6th St N.E. Calgary, Alberta T2E 3Y1. Tel: (403) 263-5723. Alternately, membership fee payments can be made online through Canada Helps. (canadahelps.org/en/dn/39361) or via e-transfer (calgarybuddhisttemple@gmail.com). Just make sure to write "membership" in the message field. PDFs of completed forms can then be emailed to calgarybuddhisttemple@gmail.com.

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