Nuns in the Chinese Buddhist sect of Chan

Ven. Naotunne Wimalagnana

The spirit of essential Mahayana Buddhist doctrines assumes equality between male and female, although in the mundane world the position of Buddhist women is lower than that of Buddhist men. The Chinese Chan Buddhist tradition, following the egalitarian teaching of One-Mind of enlightenment, advocates nondiscriminating, universal Buddhahood accessible to every sentient being, whether male or female.

Nevertheless, women’s status and spiritual capacities have not been upheld as highly in Buddhist history as they have by the Chinese Chan School. Although the Buddha acknowledges that “women, having gone forth from home into homelessness in the Dharma and discipline proclaimed by the Truth-finder, are able

\[\text{Ven. Naotunne Wimalagnana}\]