

## Brief Biography

**Graham Smetham**, B.A., studied Mathematics at Essex University, England and Philosophy of Religion at Sussex University. During his time at Sussex he taught a subsidiary course for scientists on the interconnections between Western science and Eastern philosophical perspectives and it was through the investigations undertaken during the preparations for this course that he began to have the insights which later developed into wide ranging and detailed explorations contained in his first book *Quantum Buddhism: Dancing in Emptiness*. At Sussex he was also part of the Religious Studies society and at one of its meetings he met the inspirational Western Theravadin monk Ajahn Sumedho, then the abbot of Chithurst monastery, Sussex. Ajahn Sumedho electrified the audience with his joyful effervescent presence and wisdom. At the time Graham was becoming increasingly disillusioned with the Western academic practice of endless conceptual juggling with no transformational practice and the contact with the community of Chithurst monks and nuns convinced him of the need for both intellectual understanding and transformative meditation practice.

Although at that time Graham had a publisher eager to publish his Ph.D. work, illness and increasing disillusionment with Western-style academic life led him to abandon an academic career and he gave up working on the Ph.D., subsequently he began to lose contact with his intellectual and spiritual roots as he pursued other aspects, ultimately less fulfilling, of life's pathways. During this time, however, Buddhism and the philosophy of science always played a part in the background as he was always drawn to these subjects and somehow 'knew' that they were significant for him. He always had a strange feeling that something which had been left behind for the moment was still lingering in the wings.

Then, some twenty years after leaving Sussex University, at a time of extreme personal crisis, Graham returned to a serious meditation practice, something that had fallen by the wayside. During one meditation session he was astonished to have a profound meditation vision, like having a cinema screen inside his head, during which he was surrounded by an assembly of Manjushris whilst a bowl of orange nectar at his heart radiated channels of orange nectar to the hearts of the surrounding Manjushris. Graham was further astonished to come across a book a week or two later in which the vision was described as being one of a set used by Buddhist practitioner-philosophers prior to writing dharma texts. Graham subsequently joined a Buddhist community and resumed the researches that he had abandoned twenty years earlier. The result is *Quantum Buddhism: Dancing in Emptiness—Reality Revealed at the Interface of Quantum Physics and Buddhist Philosophy*.

Graham has written three more books: *The Grand Designer: Discovering the Quantum Mind Matrix of the Universe*, *Quantum Buddhist Wonders of the Universe* and *Quantum Buddhism and the Higgs Discovery: The Power of Emptiness*. Further details of these can be found at [www.shunyatapress.com](http://www.shunyatapress.com). Further details of the first book, and some free articles, can be found at [www.quantumbuddhism.com](http://www.quantumbuddhism.com).

Graham is currently working on his fifth book *Evolution: The Greatest Illusion on Earth*, the articles in the current issue are draft chapters from this work.

