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## **Passing of SIMS Lineage**

By Rodney Smith

Last week I was invited to join Tuere and the other 20 or so diverse graduates from the current IMS Teachers' Training Course and celebrate the induction of this new group of Insight Meditation teachers into our lineage. In the best of times, this is not an easy four years of training, but with the added pressures of the pandemic, I was amazed that all of the participants persevered to the end.

What surprised me about the hour-long ceremony was how deeply I was affected. Each inductee was individually selected and honored by a surrounding group of elder Insight teachers who had been a part of their training. Every trainee said a few words acknowledging the honor being bestowed upon him/her. As I watched, I saw the unfolding of Buddhist Dharma; the Buddhist lineage transforming itself through the ages.

The elders were joyfully acknowledging the passing of the teaching to a new generation, and the new teachers honored the wisdom, mentorship, and seasoned wisdom of the seniors. The new teachers gave no indication of being impatient for the elders to leave the stage so they could have full voice and control, but seemed to relish the opportunity to teach alongside the older teachers in partnership, as colleagues. Each somehow needing the other for their complete presentation and voice of the Dharma. It seemed to me that was how it should be, each generation honoring what came before and after their teaching time on earth.

SIMS now has two fully trained, accredited, and recognized Guiding Teachers to lead them forward. There has been a transitioning into a more diverse teaching community, since I taught as the sole male teacher here at SIMS. This diversity is what is needed to move the teaching forward, allowing it to reach all groups. I honor this transition, and as an elder, smile in delight.

### *About Rodney Smith:*

*At the end of 2016, Rodney retired from a full-time teaching role after more than 30 years of teaching. He served as a Senior Teacher for IMS and the founding and guiding teacher of Seattle Insight Meditation. He is author of the books Lessons From the Dying, Stepping Out of Self-Deception: The Buddha's Liberating Teaching of No-Self, and Awakening: A Paradigm Shift of the Heart.*