



THE FIRST ZEN INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

113 East 30th Street New York, NY 10016 212-686-2520 www.firstzen.org

會協禪一第國美

Film Series

Anathapindika (Sudatta): Buddhist Benefactor Bhadda Kundalakesa: The Debating Ascetic

July 12, 2026



Anathapindika (Sudatta)

Anathapindika (Sudatta): Foremost Male Benefactor – Hajime Nakamura was a professor at Tokyo University whose academic specialty was the life of the historical Buddha. In his book “Gotama Buddha” he relates that Sudatta was probably a real historical person, although the stories told about him are perhaps not fully accurate. The monastery at the Jetavana grove in the city of Sāvattḥī in ancient India is reputed to have been the central, core founding monastery of the Buddhist tradition. Sudatta is said to have purchased the Jetavana grove from prince Jeta by laying out a quantity of gold so large that the gold coins physically covered the entire surface of the ground. Whether historically true or not, it makes for an interesting story.

Bhadda Kundalakesa – The Debating Ascetic – This is a story of a woman in ancient India who becomes proficient in debate, and is able to out-debate all of the non-Buddhist philosophers of her day.

“Anathapindika Foremost Male Benefactor” and “Bhadda Kundalakesa” are both animated Buddhist films produced by the San Fran Dhammaram Temple, “Wat San Fran,” a Thai Buddhist temple located in San Francisco. They are being screened at the First Zen Institute courtesy of the San Fran Dhammaram Temple.

The two films will take approximately 90 Minutes. To be screened at 1:00 PM on Sunday, July 12. Take the #6 train to 28th Street. 113 East 30th Street is between Park and Lexington.

Admission is free.