

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910780506203321
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Titolo	My master's robe : memories of a novice monk / / Thich Nhat Hanh ; foreword by Sister Annabel Laity
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, Calif. : , : Parallax Press, , 2002 ©2002
ISBN	1-935209-10-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiv, 109 pages) : illustrations
Disciplina	294.3/657/092 B
Soggetti	Buddhist novices - Vietnam Monastic and religious life (Buddhism) - Vietnam Buddhist priests - Vietnam
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Other Books by This Author -- Title Page -- Copyright -- Contents -- Foreword -- Cattle Tending -- Brother Duong -- The Lizard -- Auntie Tu -- The Koan -- A Drop of Nectar -- Return -- The New Year Bell -- My Master's Robe -- Humanity.
Sommario/riassunto	A collection of autobiographical stories highlighting Thich Nhat Hanh's experience as a novice monk in Vietnam. We are given a portrait of Thich Nhat Hanh as a young man testing the Buddhist teachings, planting seeds that would carry him through the ordeals of the Vietnam War and its aftermath. The simplicity and clarity of monastic life provides the background against which characters are lovingly presented: the elderly cook, the master who sews by lamplight, the lizard who dares to eat rice offered for the Buddha, the young French soldier seeking understanding, and others.