

Poetry Addendum To the Moneyya Chronicles

The poems and musings in this addendum have been added to the current edition of the Moneyya Chronicles to include a major portion of the author's more recent literary works.

Ode to Bernie Sanders

Speak your heart, Bernie,
Let your words flow from the fountain of truth.
Never sacrifice your values for a cheap success.
Be strong, but willing to bend –
Remember, peace is the greatest victory.

Don't be afraid, Bernie,
To stand up to graft and tyranny.
Raise your banner high,
So all can see the flame of hope,
Blazing through its stars and stripes.
Walk your talk, Bernie –
Be the example of what you would have others become.

Fight the good fight, Bernie,
Don't be swayed
By those who slander you.
Walk tall, but be willing to stoop
As you pass through the door.

Strive for union, Bernie, but respect diversity.
Put America first, but don't impose our will on other nations.
Show the world America's greatness,
But understand that true greatness encompasses far more
Than carrying a big stick or a big bank account.
Work for the benefit of all, Bernie;
At the same time, remember that the all is nothing
But the plurality of the individual.
Be a man for all seasons –
Go with the flow, Bernie,
But be prepared for nature's unexpected wrath.

Open your heart, Bernie,
And feel the suffering of the multitudes.
Empty the vessel of all dross

And fill it with living waters.
Lay down your life, Bernie,
For the glory of God and man,
But seek not glory for yourself.

Be not eager, Bernie,
For the laurels of the highest office,
For beneath its glossy foliage,
Lies a crown of thorns,
Ready to pierce you at every turn of the path.

What comes will come, Bernie.
You need only do your part,
And after all is said and done,
It matters not what others say,
For earth will be your witness, Bernie,
And posterity your advocate on judgment day.

Sanur, Bali
February 2016

Photo: Bombing of Gaza



*Gaza City's Tuffa neighborhood is hit by IDF bombardment, July 29, 2014.
Photo from the New Statesman.*

Tears

To Lubna

Tears quenched in the firebombed ghetto,
Evaporating on the singed cheekbone of a skeletal coastline.
Cries from the fledgling nest,
The hawk swooping down with outstretched talon.
Again and again, the angel of death¹ passes over their home,
The lamb's blood² nowhere to be found.
Sh'ma Yisrael Adonai eloheinu³ –
Hear, oh Gaza,
The Lord our God,
The Lord is One.

Sanur, Bali
October 2018

Hear O Israel

O Israel, your path is no longer a path of peace.
You worship a golden calf with horns of iron and trade in false gods that belch fire and
brimstone.
Having broken God's Covenant, you have become a nation of warmongers, stiff-necked and
hardhearted, unscrupulous and vengeful.
Intoxicated by greed and lust for power, you have forgotten the sufferings of others: the
disenfranchised, the homeless, the wounded, the hungry, and the sick.
Spurning the teachings of the prophets, you no longer respect the righteous, the wise, the
meek, and the humble.
Blinded by pride and arrogance, you have sold your children into bondage.
Lost in the desert of ignorance, they wander aimlessly without a leader, no longer bound for
Zion.
O Israel, how can you expect your children to remember what you yourself have forgotten?

¹ **Angel of death**: a reference to the tenth plague that God inflicted on the Egyptians, when he sent the angel of death to kill their firstborn sons. See Jewish festival of Passover – ten plagues.

² **Lamb's blood**: a reference to the smearing of lamb's blood on the doorposts of the Israelite houses in Egypt. In this way the angel of death would know to 'pass over' their houses and refrain from killing the firstborn of the Israelites.

³ **"Sh'ma Yisrael Adonai eloheinu"**: the first part of a well-known Jewish prayer, considered by many to be the most important prayer in Judaism. The English translation of the entire Sh'ma reads: "Hear, oh Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is One."

And the prophets speak of a time, O Israel, when your children, no longer bound by God's Covenant, will fall under the influence of the evil one and become little more than beasts of prey, consuming one another like beasts, fornicating like beasts, and producing beasts as their offspring.

Pawing the earth and braying like asses, they will enter the holy places and desecrate God's Tabernacle.

And God will see in Israel an abomination, as when Cain killed Abel, for the children of Israel will have become like unto the children of Sodom and Gomorrah, and God's wrath will be very great indeed.

And it will come to pass that a mighty destructive power will rise up and engulf the nation of Israel in flames.

And there will be moaning and wailing, and the gnashing of teeth, but none will come to their aid, because the children of Israel have forgotten God's Commandments.

O Israel, this is the prophecy, but it can be averted if you change your ways.

O Israel, open your heart to your brothers and sisters, who suffer on your account.

Let flow the milk of compassion in what was once the land of milk and honey.

Show the world, O Israel, what it means to be chosen.

O Israel, why can you not comprehend this simple truth: do unto others as you would have them do unto you?

And now I say to you: do unto others as you would have God do unto you, for God abides in others as surely as he abides in oneself.

Listen to this ancient verse: Hear, O Israel, the Lord thy God, the Lord is one.

Fear God, O Israel, for God knows the evil in your heart, even though you may hide it from others, and His retribution, when it comes, will be swift and mighty.

Turn back, O Israel, before it is too late.

2018

True Greatness

To Tulsi

According to the Buddha,

A woman may turn out better than a man.⁴

She may become the better parent or the better person,

The mother of a great leader

Or the mother of a great nation.

Like the earth, upholding the many,

She who would become a mother

Thinks only of the unborn child

⁴ A quote from the *Samyutta Nikaya* 3.16.

That she carries in her womb.

Freely, she gives the gift of life,
Asking nothing in return,
Begrudging nothing but the small-mindedness of a hardened heart.

The Buddha proclaimed:
“Just as a mother would risk her own life
To protect her only child,
Even so toward all living beings,
One should cultivate a boundless heart.

“One should cultivate for all the world
A heart of boundless loving kindness,
Above, below, and all around,
Unobstructed, without hatred or resentment.

“Whether standing, walking, or sitting;
Lying down or whenever awake,
One should develop this mindfulness:
This is called divinely dwelling here.”⁵

Blessed is she who takes these words to heart,
For her light grows ever brighter.
Blessed is she who gives to the hungry,
The homeless, the sick, and the destitute,
Who surrenders herself through serving others.
Blessed is she, who goes forth out of compassion for the world
And the happiness of the many⁶ –
She, who would become the mother of a greater truth,
Giving birth to what she would become,
For in that truth,
The message and the messenger are one.

Sanur, Bali
June 2019

⁵ A quote from the *Karanīyametta Sutta*, *Sutta Nipāta* 1.8.

⁶ “Go forth... for the happiness of the many, out of compassion for the world...”: a quote from the Buddha, found in the *Khandhaka, Vinaya Pitaka* 1.8.

Brothers

To Don on his 70th

Cain killed Abel, but who is to blame?
No one but karma, impermanence and pain.

Cain killed Abel, but where does it end?
Not with an eye or a tooth,
But a life for a life,
For as is the cause,
So the effect,
And as the effect,
So is the end.

Cain killed Abel, but how can we know?
I hear the endless cries of ghosts in the night,
Vowing vengeance,
Brother upon brother,
Son upon father,
Father upon son.
And yet, within my own heart and the heart of my brother,
Those voices have been stilled.

Who is the victor, and who is the vanquished?
Whom do we love if not ourselves?
Extending metta⁷ outward to encompass the universe,
We bestow the gift of friendship on friend and foe alike.

And who would know more of friendship than the Good Friend to all?⁸
For when Ānanda⁹ stated that good friendship was the half of the holy life,
He quickly replied:

“Not so, Ānanda! Not so! Good friendship is the whole of the holy life...
For when a bhikkhu has a good friend...
It is to be expected that he will develop and cultivate
The Noble Eightfold Path.”¹⁰

And so, when brothers are friends, they show to the world
The error of Cain,
The wisdom of Buddha,

⁷ **Metta:** loving-kindness.

⁸ **Good Friend to all:** a reference to the Buddha.

⁹ **Ānanda:** the Buddha’s devoted personal attendant and cousin.

¹⁰ **Noble Eightfold Path:** the path that leads to enlightenment and Nibbāna (the cessation of suffering), consisting of (1) Right View, (2) Right Intention, (3) Right Speech, (4) Right Action, (5) Right Livelihood, (6) Right Effort, (7) Right Mindfulness and (8) Right Concentration; for quote, see SN.45.2.

And reap the praise of gods and men.

Batubulan, Bali
January 2021

The Jabberblog



Artwork by Ni Komang Atmi Kristiadewi

The Jabberblog

(Based on the poem “Jabberwocky” by Lewis Carroll)

‘Twas Brandon¹¹ and his slimegrebbled bros
Did gyre and gimble in the DC glade;
All fake and mimsy were the media schmos,

¹¹ **Brandon:** a reference to US President Joe Biden.

And the lobby rats outpaid.

Beware the Jab-ber-blog, my son!
The deadly prick, the toxic bite;
The slithy troves of words that glim
And virtue-signal through the night.

Beware the Jubjub tube,
That blows your lungs apart,
And shun the frumious Prion-snatch,
That eats your brain and heart.

With vorpal phone in hand,
Long time the Faucian foe our hero sought.
He searched through archives of the dead,
Of data lost and silence bought.

And in the forest of his veins,
He spiked upon a protein park,
That luminesced and grew like snod
Into a human fetal-zombie snark.

The snark came wiffing through the woods,
Upon the wings of Wuhan bats,
And as it came, it burbled out a Faucian fart,
Whose stench was worse than ten dead rats.

Snick-snack, snick-snick! His vorpal phone cut off the 5G head
Of that evil Jab-ber-blog,
But sad to say, the brimstone stench of Fauci's fart
Left millions dead and millions more without a job.

"Hast thou slain the Jab-ber-blog, my son?
Oh, come to my arms, my beamish boy!
O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!"
The father chortled in his joy.

And then he died
Of cytokines and comorbidities, all double-jabbed and double-blind –
Another victim of the Great Reset,

Who blindly bought the party line.

"Let's go, Brandon!"¹² that's what they say,
And when Big Pharma speaks, we listen to their schlock;
And yet, it seems our honored president had something else to say...
But Brandon just forgot.

Batubulan, Bali
December 2021

For comparison, here's the original poem by Lewis Carroll:

Jabberwocky
by Lewis Carroll

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.

"Beware the Jabberwock, my son!
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun
The frumious Bandersnatch!"

He took his vorpal sword in hand;
Long time the manxome foe he sought –
So rested he by the Tumtum tree
And stood awhile in thought.

And, as in uffish thought he stood,
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,
Came whiffing through the tulgey wood,
And burbled as it came!

One, two! One, two! And through and through
The vorpal blade went snicker-snack!
He left it dead, and with its head
He went galumphing back.

"And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?
Come to my arms, my beamish boy!"

¹² "Let's go, Brandon": a popular meme at the time of writing this poem.

O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!"
He chortled in his joy.

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.

1871

A New Year's Poem

First comes cause,
Then comes effect.
Caught in a web,
Spun of desire –
Due to our thirst,
The web is spun.
What is the effect of so much spinning?
From one, comes many,
From many, comes one –
A silken thread so easily broken,
A stream of verse so easily formed.
From birth comes death.
From death and destruction,
A new life arises –
At the end of the year,
A new year is born.

Batibulan Bali
January 2022

Seeking Union

Let us seek for union in the void,
Beyond samsāra's deadly grasp,
Beyond the sway of birth and death,
Beyond this realm so gross and crass.

Eternal bliss beyond the senses,
Greed, hatred and delusion rooted out,
An end to strife and peace sublime,
Upon the other shore, we'll meet,

Beyond this futile puppet show of time.

No longer bound by me or my,
Within the Law, we'll find safe harbor.
Swayed no more by pain or pleasure,
With wisdom's eye, we now can see
The final goal of all our ardor.

And from the lips of sages past,
A lion's roar then shakes the ground,
"Oh, Free at last" –
A lineage passed down
From those who know and see.¹³

And now we too can know and see
A truth that liberates
And leads this mortal mind to dissolution –
A timeless truth
That was,
And is,
And evermore will be.

Batubulan, Bali
March 2022

Fear of the Lord

"I will teach you the fear of the Lord...
Turn from evil and do good;"¹⁴
Fear the foolish friend and the foolish word;
Fear cause as you would fear effect;
Fear to go where angels fear to tread;
Fear the motive, for that will make you bleed;
Fear the heart as you fear the head;
Fear karma for where it will lead;
Fear being born as you fear being dead.

Batubulan, Bali
June 2022

¹³ **Know and see:** a Buddhist phrase that connotes the practice that leads to the destruction of ignorance.

¹⁴ **"I will teach you...":** Psalm 34:11, 14.

A Christmas Carol

To Wislawa Szymborska

Frozen at the moment of death,
The body lies in permanent state,
Preserved in all its cryogenic splendor –
A snapshot of impermanence etched into the annals of time.

The funeral is long over,
However, for the body's caretakers, it never ends,
At least, not until some final industrial revolution,
When mankind discovers the on switch for consciousness;
Plus, there's the cost of rental space,
Which is why only a few can afford the privilege of eternal life.

In the meantime, the scientists are hard at work,
Paid in advance for a thousand years of research,
Striving to unravel the mystery of our DNA
And reprogram the cloud of mankind's future existence,
Our hopes and dreams condensed into a single geobyte.

Before they died,
These frozen ones also had their hopes and dreams,
Wishing to create a perfect world through perfect order.
They strove for dominance,
Using digital currencies, carbon footprint scores,
Bioengineering, censorship and color revolutions to gain control,
For how could they create order without first establishing control?

So great was their power of "thou shalt" and "thou shalt not"
That they soon became the gatekeepers of a new world order,
Whose goal was to forge from their strongest and brightest a transhumanist species
And ultimately unfreeze the frozen, that they might one day return
As the leaders of a new generation,
Brought back from the dead,
Born in the binary womb of AI.

And yet, little old me –
Walking barefoot on the beach
With nowhere to go,
Controlling nothing but my own mind –
I, who see order in all things,
Have but a few brief questions for these mavens of technocracy:

Which is greater –

A moment of truth
Or an aeon of falsehood?
A tear of compassion
Or an ocean of wrong?
A Christmas ghost¹⁵ without a friend
Or peace on Earth, good will to men?
As they choose, so shall they be chosen.

Batubulan, Bali
Christmas Day
December 25, 2022

Reply to Dylan Thomas

"Do not go gentle into that good night... Rage, rage against the dying of the light." - Dylan Thomas

May my brothers and sisters all give ear:
A tranquil mind, a heart that's pure,
At peace with man and beast is truly dear.
And so, with words by virtue blessed,
In metered verse, might I redress
The threat of man's most primal fear:
Why not go gentle into that good night?
From Cupid's bow, why not avoid the poisoned arrow's wanton flight?
Why not let go the strings of hate's most passionate cry
Or set aside the yearning for a greener grass? – just let it die;
For every yearning forms a cloud that taints the sky,
And from it rains a never-ending trail of tears
That fall from every newborn's eye.
And thus, old age should cease to burn at close of day,
The rage that once did fester to the heart's dismay;
Rage not therefore against time's bloodied scythe,
But summon forth within its stead
A light more brilliant than the sun at peak of day,
More lovely than the full moon's starry flight –
A light that cannot die.

March 2024

¹⁵ A reference to the ghost of Ebenezer Scrooge's former business partner in Charles Dickens' popular novella "A Christmas Carol."

A Modern-Day Nursery Rhyme

John and Larry up in a tree, K-I-S-S-I-N-G. First comes love, then comes marriage, then comes Larissa with a baby carriage.

January 2024

Yin and Yang

Look up or you'll bump your head –
Look down or you'll stub your toe.
Above, the heavenly pleasures –
Below, the gates of hell.
Within, the yin and the yang,
Mixing and blending endlessly –
The yin seeking the yang,
The yang seeking the yin.
Round and round they go,
Driven by the law of attraction.
Some people call it "free energy" –
Others say that nothing in this world is really free.
Two sides of the same coin –
Yin and yang.

January 2025

Trumpty Dumpty

Trumpty Dumpty sat on a wall.
Trumpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the King's forces and all MAGA's men
Couldn't put Trumpty together again.

Trumpty Dumpty started a war.
Trumpty Dumpty became Israel's whore.
All the King's forces and all MAGA's men
Couldn't put Trumpty together again.

Trumpty Dumpty got caught in a lie,
Yet Trumpty Dumpty couldn't figure out why
All the King's forces and all MAGA's men
Didn't want to put Trumpty together again.

June 2025

Nibbana

“There is, monks, an unborn, unbecome, unmade, uncompounded.” – Udana 8.3

Nibbana is not a place, nor is it a frequency or a dimension.
In Nibbana, there is nothing to see, nothing to hear,
No self and other, no birth and death, no time or space.

Nibbana is neither here nor there nor anywhere.
It is not the source, since from it nothing ever issues forth;
It is not the fabric of reality, since from it nothing can be woven;
It is not a thing since it has no form;
It has no name since words cannot describe it.

Nibbana was never created or destroyed,
Nor did it ever give rise to creation or destruction.
It has no cause and no effect,
No beginning or end, no coming or going,
No sin of commission or sin of omission.

Nibbana is free of all polarities,
Unswayed by yin or yang,
Unattached to anyone or anything.
Within its timeless void,
There is no up or down, no gain or loss, no love or hate,
No male or female, no in or out, no curved or straight,
No mother or father, no one or many, no day or night,
No heaven or hell, no good or bad, no wrong or right.

Although Nibbana is the final goal, it has no goalposts or goalkeeper –
Its attainment thwarted only by the latent evil,
Concealed within the heart.

For the greater good and the welfare of the many,
One with wisdom should strive for this attainment,
For in that striving, lies the greatness of its merit.

And yet, in that attainment,
There is no striving, no merit and no attainment,
For in Nibbana, there is nothing to attain
And no one to attain it.

September 2025

At a Meditation Retreat

“With ignorance as condition, volitional formations¹⁶ [come to be]; with volitional formations as condition, consciousness; with consciousness as condition, mentality-materiality . . .”

– Excerpt from Dependent Origination

We are the criminals who must escape from prison.
Our crime is ignorance and our prison is this body and mind.

July 2026

The Kung Fu of Emptiness

"Empty your mind, be formless, shapeless, like water." – Bruce Lee

He strikes a blow, but leaves no mark,
Competes, but sees no opposition –
Even before engaging, the kung fu warrior has already won.

His eye is always on the target,
His finger pointing to the moon.
If the mind does not waver,
Success is sure to come.

Without a war,
The soldiers won't go into battle;
Without contestants,
The contest can't begin.
It is said he flows like water,
Yet his faith remains unshaken like a mountain.

Empty-handed in his quest for truth,
He opens doors where deeds bear fruit.
Unattached to gain or loss, he transcends fame and profit.
Nothing seems beyond his power, and yet there's more to do –
For the kung fu warrior has yet to realize the inner emptiness of Shaolin kung fu.

¹⁶ Volitional formations: in this context, the active aspect of forming, namely karma, which comprises the wholesome and unwholesome volitional actions of body, speech and mind that condition the future states of living beings.

In sooth, the time will come when he will see that all is empty,
Like an empty hand.

August 2026

Some More Musings

X. Bali

- Some people can see the tree, but not the forest. Some people can see the forest, but not the tree. A few can see both, but most see neither.
- “Who controls the food supply controls the people; who controls the energy can control whole continents; who controls money can control the world.”¹⁷ And yet, one who controls the world cannot even control his own mind, for such a one is ruled by the desire for control.
- In unity there is strength, but in strength there is not always unity.
- There are basically two kinds of strength: strength with wisdom and strength without wisdom, but without wisdom, how can we know the difference between the two?
- Gay pride cometh before a gay fall.
- My two best friends at Stanford were gay, although you would never know it by looking at them or speaking with them. The older one, Jim, was especially fond of me and treated me like a mother would treat her son. He was always respectful and never tried to take advantage of the situation; nor was he ever controlling or pushy or so deluded as to think that an XY-chromosome man could actually become a biological woman and have babies. Jim never tried to be something that he wasn’t. I will always remember him for his honesty, kindness and humility, which became the bedrock of our friendship. However, when the relationship between two people is based on confusion, pretense, falsehood and a fundamental delusion about who and what we are, how can there be honesty and humility? Of course, everyone deserves to be treated equal, but nowadays, in this age of identity politics, it seems that some consider themselves to be “more equal than others,”¹⁸ and are all too willing to express that sentiment in public. When repeated often enough, this type of behavior comes off as a sense of entitlement. Look around you and tell me: where is the humility?
- A story in the Vinaya¹⁹ describes a monk who cut off his penis because he was plagued by lust. When the Buddha was told about this, he replied: “This foolish man has cut off one thing when he should have cut off another.” What do you think the Buddha was referring

¹⁷ “... who controls money can control the world”: Henry Kissinger, 1973.

¹⁸ “More equal than others...”: a partial quote from “Animal Farm,” a novel by George Orwell.

¹⁹ Vinaya (II,110): the section about conduct in the Buddhist scriptures.

to by “another”? Do you think the Buddha would have recommended hormone blockers or surgery for children?

- Suffer the little children, that they might not be led astray by prostitutes and groomers, for those who serve the flesh are an abomination to the Lord and the enemy of those who serve the spirit. Verily, no man can serve two masters.²⁰
- When morality is replaced by bestiality, men will live and die like animals, confusion and conflict will reign, and the true teaching will disappear.
- All gays are sick. All lesbians are sick. All non-binary persons are sick. All blacks are sick. All whites are sick. All straights are sick. All men are sick. All women are sick. All humanity is sick. Even the earth itself is sick. Sickness is everywhere. Impermanence is everywhere. Show me a person who is not sick and I will show you a person who is free from suffering.²¹
- Gender Reassignment:
 - A cisgendered²² male: “Vive la différence!”
 - An agendered,²³ non-binary²⁴ social justice warrior: “I find the toxic masculinity of your statement to be highly offensive.”
 - The cis male: “Oh shit, here come another strike!”
- The happiness of the non-binary monk lies in his being able to enter a state of deep uninterrupted concentration (samadhi in Pāli), which transcends male and female, as well as the five senses. No computer can mimic this state, since it does not rely on zeroes and ones.
- Once upon a time, long, long ago, in the far-distant past, there was a nation called “the land of the free and the home of the brave.”²⁵ It wasn’t perfect there – everyone knows that – but they had a great king, and his name was Customer.
- The greatness of the US lies in its freedom of expression and the rule of law, as applied in a democratic society. Its mediocrity lies in the loss of that freedom and the rule of law, applied by the few over the many. Nikola Tesla, through his open-mindedness, creativity and vision, demonstrated our country’s greatness. In contrast, J.P. Morgan, through his

²⁰ Based on two Bible quotes: “Suffer the little children...” (Matthew 19:14) and “No man can serve two masters...” (Matthew 6:24).

²¹ In Christianity, this sickness (and its concurrent suffering) is said to arise from the original sin; in Buddhism, the cause is craving and ignorance, also described as the three poisons of greed, hatred and delusion. For more detail, please refer to the Four Noble Truths (see p. xviii for a brief description).

²² **Cisgendered**: identifying with one’s birth gender – what used to be called heterosexual or straight.

²³ **Agendered**: not having a gender.

²⁴ **Non-binary**: literally “not two”; in this context, denoting a gender or sexual identity that is not defined in terms of traditional binary oppositions, such as male and female or homosexual and heterosexual. Non-binary people may identify as being of multiple genders, no gender, or a third gender.

²⁵ **“The land of the free...”**: a quote from the US National Anthem.

small-mindedness, greed and lack of vision, demonstrated our country's mediocrity. If we think about it, perhaps we can understand the sorrow and depression that went through Nikola Tesla's mind due to his betrayal by J.P. Morgan, for it was not only a personal betrayal but also a betrayal of our country's greatness.

Here are some quotes from the writings of Nikola Tesla:

- "The perfect purity of the air, the unequaled beauty of the sky, the imposing sight of a high mountain range, the quiet and restfulness of the place – all around contributed to making the conditions for scientific observation ideal."
- "I have hundreds of inventions which I could not take the patents of, on account of my misfortune."
- "We build but to tear down. Most of our work and resource is squandered. Our onward march is marked by devastation. Everywhere there is an appalling loss of time, effort and life. A cheerless view, but true."
- "Most certainly, some planets are not inhabited, but others are, and among these there must exist life under all conditions and phases of development."
- "Of all the frictional resistances, the one that most retards human movement is ignorance – what Buddha called 'the greatest evil in the world.' The friction which results from ignorance can be reduced only by the spread of knowledge and the unification of the heterogeneous elements of humanity. No effort could be better spent."

Happy Year of the Tiger – 2022



Artwork by Ni Komang Atmi Kristiadewi

- The tiger loves the tigress, but in the world of the tigress, her babies come first.
- One who is at peace with nature has a happy mind, for such a one is at peace with himself.
- People think they can get away with murder so long as they don't get caught. This is due to a fundamental misunderstanding of karma – not knowing that when the fruit of a particular thought or action ripens, the result will be either painful or pleasant, depending solely on the moral quality of that thought or action. Karma and karma result are simply a matter of cause and effect; as the saying goes, "Whatsoever a man soweth, that he shall also reap."²⁶
- If a tree is healthy, has deep roots and a strong core, with numerous scented flowers, and if it comes from a good seed, planted and protected by a wise and compassionate caretaker, such a tree will be long-lived. Its fruit will be sweet and abundant, and its stock will be good for many generations. Glory to that tree, for it will beautify the land and

²⁶ **Whatsoever a man soweth, that he shall also reap:** a quote from the Bible, Galatians 6:7. Note that even the Abrahamic religions teach an attenuated version of karma.

provide shelter and nourishment to its inhabitants, but the greater glory goes to the caretaker, for it is he who planted the seed.

- In the Bible, Jesus teaches that faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains;²⁷ if so, would that not imply that such faith could also move one's karma? And the answer is yes, since faith is itself karma, which can change not only our personal circumstances – including our future thoughts and actions – but even the world around us. Besides, the point here is not to question Jesus's statement but rather to make sure that we choose the object of our faith wisely, so that when faith does arise, we don't end up moving the wrong mountain.
- The meek shall inherit the earth, but they must first cross the wilderness of Sinai.²⁸
- The wise have no desire to inherit the earth, but seek only the kingdom of heaven within.

February – December 2022

- Not even the God of Israel can save his people from the results of their own actions.
- Money can't buy you love, my friend, but it can certainly buy you enemies.
- There can be no freedom without morality. What we call sexual liberation is actually sexual enslavement. What most people call pleasure is actually suffering. Everything we see is upside down because our minds are upside down. How can we expect to escape from birth and death when our goal is enslavement?
- Drugs are the portal to other dimensions. Nibbana is the portal to the dimensionless. To liberate the mind, it must be trained – don't expect a free ride to Nibbana on the coattails of another.
- Look before you leap. Pray before you sleep. You can pray while you look, but don't try to sleep while you leap.
- He sees the tail and knows it's an ox, but the monkey-mind forgets it's an ox, the lion-mind eats the ox, and the ox-mind becomes the ox.
- Forgive and forget, except when it comes to the Devil.
- The Devil is the enemy of mankind; light is the antithesis of darkness; man is the nemesis of himself. A Buddha has no enemies; he is filled with light, yet does not fear darkness; he has compassion for the many, but does not attach to anyone or anything. Having transcended all dualities, such a one is no longer bound to any state of existence.
- Better the carrot than the whip, for the carrot begets the carrot, but the whip begets the whip.

²⁷ **Faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains:** based on a quote from the Bible, Matthew 17:20.

²⁸ **Sinai:** the desert that the Israelites wandered in for forty years, after Moses led them out of Egypt.

- From the words of his mouth issue the thoughts in his heart, and in those thoughts lie the seeds of his future actions.
- Speak loudly and carry a big shtick.
- The end may justify the means, but do the means justify the end?

January 2025

- Illusion stems from delusion; without ignorance, Maya would not arise.
- While eating lunch, I keep reminding myself: “When you eat, just eat . . . When you eat, just eat.”
- Every lie is the physical manifestation of an ulterior motive – what you hide from others, you manifest in your own heart. Every lie is a trap – a single lie leads to a second lie, a second to a third, and so on. He who lies repeatedly becomes a prisoner to his own words – every time he lies, his wisdom grows weaker and his world becomes smaller. Such a person can never reach the final goal, for his truth is based on a lie. Cease to lie, and the truth shall set you free.
- Question: Which came first, the macrocosm or the microcosm?
Answer: Karma came first.

September 2025

- One man’s meat is the same man’s poison.
- According to the Buddha, “Morality makes wisdom shine, and wisdom makes morality shine”²⁹ – one brings the other to fruition. Together, wisdom and morality make civilization shine. These two qualities are primarily responsible for the ultimate success or failure of any society or culture.
- The person who takes a bribe and the person who gives that bribe are like a husband and wife – when the time comes for a divorce, there’s bound to be misgivings.

June 2026

- How can there be world peace without inner peace, and how can there be inner peace if the wandering mind has not yet been brought to rest? If you want world peace, go to live in a Brahma realm;³⁰ if you want inner peace, don’t go anywhere.

²⁹ *Digha Nikaya 4*

³⁰ Brahma realm: one of the higher deva realms, where the beings observe perfect morality.

- What is the use of honoring one's ancestors if one does not believe in karma and rebirth? According to the Buddha,³¹ incalculable beings are linked together through countless past lives. From that point of view, we at one time were our own ancestors, and our ancestors will one day become our own children and family members. To see this truth clearly, according to the law of moral causation, is to endow one with an imperturbable sense of right and wrong and an unshakable confidence in the sanctity of life.
- Whoever wins AI loses.

September 2026

15 Questions and answers

- 1) Q: What is the stickiest thing in the world?
A: Karma
- 2) Q: What is God's greatest gift to humanity?
A: Wise attention
- 3) Q: What is the calmest thing in the world?
A: Samadhi
- 4) Q: What is the most wonderful thing in the world?
A: Freedom
- 5) Q: What quality makes a woman more beautiful?
A: Modesty
- 6) Q: What is the antidote to hatred?
A: Loving-kindness
- 7) Q: What could prevent all the wars in the world?
A: An understanding of karma
- 8) Q: What is it that helps one to achieve his goals?
A: Determination
- 9) Q: What are the two qualities that make a person easy to live with?
A: Contentment and tolerance
- 10) Q: What is the most resilient thing in the world?
A: Emptiness
- 11) Q: What can travel from one end of the universe to the other in a single moment?
A: A concentrated mind
- 12) Q: What is the trickiest thing in the world?
A: Delusion
- 13) Q: What is the biggest thing in the world?
A: An open heart

³¹ "It is not easy, monks, to find a being who in this long course has not previously been your mother, your father, your brother, your sister, your son, or your daughter." (SN15.14-19)

14) Q: What is the smallest thing in the world?

A: A single thought

15) Q: What is greater than all the pleasures of this world?

A: Abstention

November 2024