From: Anita Singh <<u>anisinghus@gmail.com</u>>
Sent: 11 December 2022 12:50
To: teohkiankoon@hotmail.com <teohkiankoon@hotmail.com>
Subject: My thoughts and gratitude

Dear Bro Teoh,

Greetings!!

I am writing to you from India I have been watching your videos on YouTube for the past few months. I have been practicing meditation trying mind cultivation for some years now following nondual teachings. I follow **no particular path** but just by **direct knowledge** and **observation** have gathered information from reading philosophy books listening discourses by JK, nondual teachings, Buddhist traditions etc. However, I never could understand jhana, Samadhi, nimita, mindfulness etc.

Listening to your lessons has given me a clear understanding of Buddhist concepts differentiating mundane mind vs true mind, 5 aggregates, truth about mindfulness awareness and practice methods many many thanks for that. I listen to your videos over and over again, it's a daily activity for me.

As I remember I had the very first glimpse of open silent aware thoughtless state at a very young age of 7 or 8. At that time obviously had no idea at all. After that had thoughtless aware state on many occasions but I had no idea what it was, there was something nudging wanting me to turn direction. However, as life progressed got lost in the mundane mind gripped by thoughts and suffered with confusion, anxiety, loss, disappointments, rejection, major health problems, relationship issues etc. Things turned around, when I was 40 years old, I was diagnosed with **cancer** and needed surgery; this was a turning point everything changed. I started reading spiritual books, listening to dharma talks. Initially it was all so confusing I didn't understand anything, but I continued listening, meditating and contemplating. I was also working full time, had responsibilities and was taking care of my mother. When I turned 52, my mother was diagnosed with cancer and same time I was diagnosed with heart disease. It was a most difficult and challenging time. Mother passed away and I had a major surgery. I am 58 now, since 6 years ago I have been meditating daily and practicing, such as loving kindness, tonglen, brahmaviharas, nondual meditation and vipassana, open awareness etc. Noting and labelling meditation was too tedious (lifting pushing dropping) and cumbersome.

Anyway, mind cultivation and purification began to happen I could see the mind clearing, **thoughts** were **reducing with** the **open field of clear awareness**. But I was not sure because thoughts were reducing. Now I could relate to childhood experiences and state of mind. Never understand the jhana states but several times spontaneously would get into deep absorption like being sucked into a vacuum being absolutely firm still and very faint breathing.

However, I continued regular meditation and realized periods of silent awareness without thoughts during and after formal sitting. Then, just about 3 months ago I came across your channel, and it is surely some good karma causes and conditions which brought me there. Now I listen to your talks over and over again several times, then contemplate, I understand and relate to most of your teaching as it is aligned to my insights and experiences. Now I have a good understanding of jhana, aggregates, mindfulness, daily practices etc. I am practicing daily mindfulness as Samadhi and per your guidance awareness-based meditation and walking meditation is much easier now. I can see the difference between awareness meditation, samadhi and jhanas. I understand the "background awareness": silent observation of things that arise and pass, mind behavior and reactiveness, the 3 basic principles of impermanence, dissatisfaction and no self is very clear now. In daily meditation mundane thoughts are now random, mind is clear unstained- as surface of a mirror and still balanced equanimous. Can also see activities of mind like perception grasping clinging stirring and proliferation of narratives and story formation. All I, me, mine arising spontaneously on conditions and dissolving (no permanent I). Sense consciousness like smell taste pass without verbal thoughts. Mind is free clear aware and thoughtless during most of the times in the daily living but sometimes becomes heedless gets carried away by mundane mind especially when I am outside while interacting with others. Soon becomes heedful due to constant mindfulness.

A minimalist leading a very simple life, most of the worldliness, desires, activities, relationships interactions etc have fallen away spontaneously. My teachers are life circumstances, authors of all the dharma talks and books, divine grace and now your guidance!! I created my own daily ritual, daily bowing, chanting Shantideva aspiration bodhisattva prayer and Eight Verses for Training the Mind. Kindly advise.

There is an escalation in progress since repeated listening and contemplating your lessons. Please accept my sincere heartfelt gratitude. This is an introductory email, have lots more to share. Look forward to your teachings and support. (Hope I have successfully conveyed the message with correct terminology). May your grace always be upon all aspirants!!

Thankyou 🙏 🙏 Anita

From: Teoh Kian Koon <<u>teohkiankoon@hotmail.com</u>>
Sent: 12 December 2022 02:03
To: Anita Singh <<u>anisinghus@gmail.com</u>>
Subject: Re: My thoughts and gratitude

Dear Anita,

Sadhu!x3. Thank u so much for your **kind thoughts and gratitude expressed.** My **nature** truly rejoices with your **good progress** and **understanding** of the cultivation, just 3 months **after coming across and listening attentively** and **diligently** to my u-tube

DHAMMA sharing channel.

You should now also go to my website at <u>https://broteoh.com</u> (Bro. Teoh's Kalyanamittas - A Repository of Dhamma Material) and look

Bro. Teoh's Kalyanamittas - A Repository Of Dharma Material

A Repository Of Dharma Material. Enclose below are the 9 Aug 2022 Tuesday classes (Lesson 54 of the Wonderful dharma lotus flower sutra) and Thursday class 11 Aug 2022 recordings for sharing by all:4

broteoh.com

for the book by me - Heart Sutra second edition with this link <u>https://broteoh.com/wp-content/uploads/Heart-Sutra-Short-Notes-2nd-Edition-2020.pdf</u>

HEART SUTRA - Bro. Teoh

Heart Sutra cum Meditation Classes Short Notes Compiled from the weekly Sunday Heart Sutra cum Meditation Classes conducted by: Bro. Teoh Kian Koon

broteoh.com

and read through it **attentively** to **stabilise** your **spiritual understanding** further, then u will understand and progress much faster.

Regarding your:

There is an escalation in progress since repeated listening and contemplating your lessons. - Good do keep it up and yes repeated listening and contemplate on what I had shared are very important steps to develop true progress.

Please accept my sincere heartfelt gratitude. - Sure, my nature truly rejoices with your rather sincere heartfelt gratitude and you are more than welcome.

This is an introductory email, have lots more to share. - Yes, looking forward to your further sharing A A

Look forward to your teachings and support. - Sure, no problem.

(Hope I have successfully conveyed the message with correct terminology). - Yes u have and Sadhu! x3

So do Keep up with your **good progress** and understanding, but **Do not** be **complacent**. Strive on with Heedfulness...... A A A

With Metta always, Bro Teoh

SukhiHotu, BroTeoh.

Thank you for this above email sharing. It's such an **uplifting** and **delighting joy** to receive such beautiful understanding and expression of gratitude from a diligent cultivator.

This nature too understands Bro Teoh 's advice especially on: ** So do Keep up with your **good progress** and understanding, but **Do not** be **complacent**. Strive on with Heedfulness......

With metta and joyous gratitude, EngBee AAA

Thank U, Bro Teoh for yr great sharing 👗 🙏

Thank U, Chin How for your kind efforts in recording & posting in the Youtube Bro Teoh's Dhamma sharing. Without these conditions, Anita & myself will never be able to savour the greatness of Buddha's Teaching, i wish many more Kalyanamittas can & will come across Bro Teoh's unique Dhamma sharing.

Bro. TK Chan (from Singapore)