

Brother Teoh's 4 September 2018 Tuesday Class outline Short Notes

Audio : <http://broteoh.com/wp-content/uploads/Teoh-Tue-180904.mp3>

Whiteboard : <http://broteoh.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Teoh-Tue-180904.jpg>

Reference Book: *The Buddha and His Teachings - What is Karma?* (Chapter 19, Page 354)

1. The **doer** of the deed is important: **Volition/Mental intention** of the doer give rise to karma. "**Thought**" is *neither good nor evil*, it **depends** on the **user**:
 - a. If the **user** of thought is **without wisdom**, it will give rise to **heedless thinking** or **wrong thoughts** conditioned by the **3 evil roots** of Greed, Hatred, and Fear/Delusion, leading to unwholesomeness of karma and suffering all around.
 - b. If the **user of thought** is **wise and heedful**, then **right view** will be there to *condition the right thoughts leading to wholesomeness of action, speech, and livelihood*, which can then bring about **goodness, kindness, gentleness** and **blessing** all around.
2. **Past karmic conditioning** give rise to **present karmic conditions** which then becomes the **present karmic Causes** with **Karmic potential** for **possible future karmic conditions** and **fruition**.
 - a. Karma is such - only **if there** is **condition for it to arise**, then fruition can take place.
 - b. Karmic fruition **may not be immediate** because it **depends** on which **determining thought moment** it occur. There are **7 determining thought moments** to decide the nature of Karma.
 - c. If it occur in the **1st thought moment** then if there is **no condition** for its **fruition** in *this present life* then the *karmic potential will cease to be after that life*.
 - d. If it occur on the **7th thought moment** then if there is **no condition** for its fruition in the **present life** and the **next life** then the *karmic potential will cease to be after that*.
 - e. If it occur between the **2nd and the 6th determining thought moments** then its karmic potential is forever present.
3. **Karma** is neither **fatalistic** nor **predestination** for:
 - a. "The **past condition** us, **but it does not dominate over us**."
 - b. Bro Teoh shares some examples and related life experiences to further illustrate this point.
4. Karma is **not stored** somewhere but there is a **karmic nature** that exist in nature for every living being.
 - a. **Every segmented life** of ours, *although different* (and *all not 'you'*) but they are **all connected** and **belong** to your one (1) karmic nature. Hence the consciousness of all your segmented lives belong to your same karmic nature. So there is no such thing as I do evil this life but another being takes the suffering in another future life.
 - b. Because of your **segmented lives**, the universe is the way it is and vice versa it is because of the way this universe is you are what you are, hence "**One is All, and All is One**" for they are all dependent originating according to natures prior conditions.
5. Sis Chwee's question on whether karma is stored is a special kind of memory, drawing relation from the understanding that - "**Thought is response to memory**." Brother Teoh explained to her as per item 4 a. above.

6. Living beings doesn't need any **ideology/religion** or a **belief system (rites and rituals)** to teach or guide one on how to live life. That's the reason why the Buddha **don't teach** them but **instead** the Buddha teaches the **Dharma or Truth** and **Dharma or Truth** is "*whatever that can explain the way things are.*"
 - a. So what is needed is only the understanding of **Dharma or Truth** and **not ideology**.
 - b. All of life within this conditioned world are subject to its **sets of nature's laws** (the panca niyama) as taught by the Buddha. Hence, **nature's laws** (that *operates naturally without* the need of a **Creator** or an all **mighty God**) are nature's Truths that one need to understand.
7. Law of karma is **most powerful**, so be **careful** (always **heedful**) of karma for '*you reap what you sow, do good begets good and do evil begets evil*':
 - a. So if you plant the **seed** of wholesomeness, you will **reap** the **fruit** of wholesomeness accordingly and if you plant the **seed of evil**, you will **reap the fruit of evil** accordingly too.
 - b. For "*We are all born of our karma, heir to our karma, condition and supported by our karma and we are what we are because of our karma.*"
8. Law of mind (citta niyama) explains how one's mind function or operate as a human being following the 12 links or Paticca Samuppada.
9. Law of Truth (Dhamma niyama) explains the **4 Noble Truths** (the **essence** of the Buddha's teaching) and the other truth or essence dhamma as taught by the Buddha and they are all spin off from the 4 Noble Truths.

(Above outline short notes draft was prepared by Sis. Soo Yee)