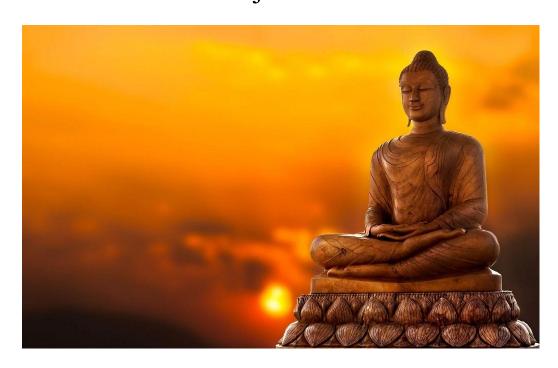
Easy Enlightenment

by the Dzogchen Lama: Jigme Gyatso inspired by Prahe Vajra's "Vast Expanse of (the) Diamond (like Strength of a) Mind (in Harmony with Mindfulness and Meditation)" 10jun25b



Easy Enlightenment

Contents

	INTRODUCTIONpg.	4
1	GETTING the most from this book	7
2	STRESS: the first of the Buddha's Four Noble Truthspg.	25
3	COMPETITION's crazy cure that exacerbates stresspg.	38
4	BUDDHA's one stop shoppingpg.	52
5	WRONG way to meditatepg.	78
6	RIGHT way to meditatepg.	
7	BENGALI crease counting and energy work pg.	
8	SECRET of our Buddha Nature	159
9	TEACHER selection	179
0	EASE of non-dualitypg.	195
1	SEVEN point posture of vairochanapg.	251
2	ICONOGRAPHY of three archetypespg.	293

Easy Enlightenment

13	SEVEN enlightenment factors pg.	336
14	VEGANISM: a key to compassion	364
15	PTSD and walking meditation pg.	379
	MINDFULNESS with breathing pg.	
18	OX and old teacher	459
19	TEACHER trainingpg.	464
	CONCLUSIONpg.	
	Appendix	
21	VERY easy meditationpg.	520
22	TWICE daily livestreamspg.	533

This is the renegade Lama: Jigme Gyatso of the Buddha Joy Meditation School

for more than thirty years
I have harnessed
my autistic special interests

and my ADHD hyper focus to spend about eight hours a day almost every day

studying, practicing, mastering, and reverse engineering

the teachings, practices and techniques of each school of meditation

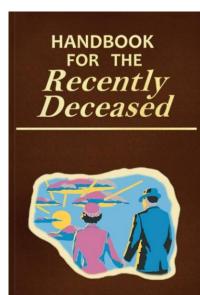
so that I could become your: nerdy, neurodivergent, guide to Nirvana. _/_

Easy Enlightenment GETTING

the most out of this meditation manual

Read this as you would a novel and you could find this is as enthralling as stereo instructions.

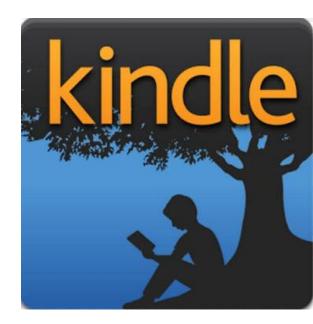
But apply the following instructions and this meditation manual could serve you well.



This FREE pdf has been formatted to be read on your smart phone while it is held in the horizontal position.



FIRST – download the FREE "Amazon Kindle" app with which to read this upon your smart phone

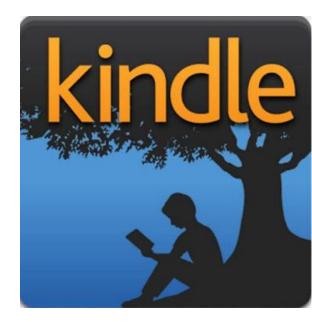


for it does a marvelous job of remembering the last page you read; as few things are as darkly ironic as losing one's mind

while reading a meditation manual because one's smartphone consistently loses one's place.



Search "Amazon Kindle" in the search bar of your smartphone's app store and download it right away.



SECOND – navigate in your browser to "MeditateLikeAJedi.org/downloads"

and tap the "pdf" link next to "Easy Enlightenment" under the heading "Meditation Manual."

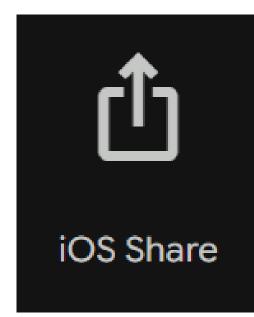




Meditation Manual Easy Enlightenment PDF

Philosophical Texts (shastras)
Prahe Vajra's "Vast Expanse of the Diamond-like Mind"

THIRD – tap the "Share" icon in the corner of your browser and then tap the "Kindle" icon.



FOURTH – if you are asked whether or not you'd like to convert the PDF into the Kindle format

tap "NO"
lest the document lose
all it's beautiful formatting
and you promptly lose your mind.



FIFTH – think of this text as less of a novel and more of a meditation manual

the recitation or transcription of a chapter of which is a preparatory practice for each meditation session.



SIXTH – if recitation floats your boat you could perform either a conversational recitation or a melodious chant.



SEVENTH – personally I prefer transcription.

If you enjoy pen and paper I would urge you NOT to use cursive writing



as there are some who feel that is the modality with which our subconscious expresses itself.

Better instead, to merely write in the printing style of children thus driving it into our mind.



I feel the BEST form of computer transcription is two-fold:

START by simply typing the chapter in its entirety, THEN return to the start of your transcribed chapter



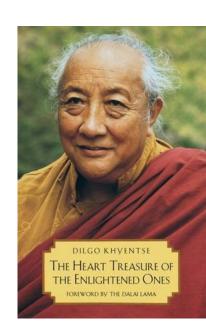
to format it not with the intention of practicing perfect grammar but to ensure perfect comprehension.

For manipulating the data, in this manner, could super-charge our comprehension.



This tried and true manner of learning was practiced by the founding fathers of my country

as well as Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche, the late, former head of the Nyingma order of Tibetan Buddhism.



EIGHTH – limit yourself to NO more than one chapter per meditation session.

Less, and you'll breed confusion; more, and you'll court overwhelm.



This is an excellent manner with which we could quickly

master the Buddha's path of mindfulness and meditation. ___



Easy Enlightenment
STRESS
the first of the buddha's four noble truths

Contrary to the ravings of a thousand and one

self-help gurus, personal coaches, and con-men,

the experience of stress is NOT an indictment.

If we asked an evolutionary biologist they could tell us: there are stressors.

Some are circumstantial, some are physical,

some are interpersonal, and some are mental.

NO, stress (or Duk-kha in Pa-li) is NOT the smoking gun

proving that: we believe in a permanent or independent self,

thát we are arrogant, cowardly, or fáithless.

Our visceral response to stress evolved as an evolutionary mechanism

in response to peril in order to keep us alive.

Tó paraphrase Doctor of Philosophy Neil deGrasse Týson,

"(it could feel like)
the universe is trying to kill us"

ánd biology has evolved mechanisms to respond to the danger appropriátely.

Fór lifeforms born without a stress résponse

týpically did NOT live long enough to reproduce and pass on their genetíc traits.

NÓ sentient being is a stranger to the stréssors

of NOT getting what we want when we want it,

NÓT keeping what we like for as long as wé please,

ánd enduring that which we do N**Ó**T want.

Bírth is stressful, illness is stressful, even dying is stréssful.

Since stress (from the petty to the existential) is more of a rule than an excéption

thé wise develop strategies to deal with it.

Thís is why the Buddha taught mindfulness and meditátion. _/_



Easy Enlightenment COMPETITION's crazy cure that exacerbates stress

If the first noble truth was the pervasive nature of suffering (or more accurately stress)

then the second noble truth is its cause (or actual exacerbation).

Evolution has gifted us with a dopamine-oriented system in our under-brain

that rewards for procreation with FLEETING feelings of pleasure that, as such, keep us coming back for more.

It also rewards for finding: warmth when it's cold, shade when it's hot,

water when we are thirsty, food when we are hungry, and rest when are weary.

Why? For all these things keep us alive long enough to pass on our genetic traits.

And that is of primary concern to our genes; the puppet master behind the scenes.

Thé religious folk sometimes describe the primarý drives

óf this dopamine-oriented reward system as pushing, pulling, and clínging.

Pérhaps we're just crass enough to prefer the six F's.

Whén exposed to any: thing, being or phenoména

déep within our viscera we seem tó ask,

"Should I Fuck with this, Feed on this, Fight against this,

Flée from this, Faint before this, or Fawn ovér this?"

Yés, this mechanism could occasionally aid in our survíval.

Bút a life defined only by survival is rather shallow and unsatisfying.

Yoù see we also have an oxytocin-oriented system in the basement of oùr brain

thát rewards cooperation with feelings of fulfillment.

Whén this system is our default mechanism life could be prettý sweet,

bút sometimes we get stuck in our competitive, dopamine oriented system and life bécomes (ás Thomas Hobbes insisted)
"...solitary, poor, nasty,
brutish, ánd short."

Ín his Third Noble Truth the Buddha offers us liberation. But liberation fr**ó**m what? Fróm that tyranny of our competitive, dopamine-oriented survival impúlses,

fréedom from its job of tyrant and instead, its relegation to the role of mére tool: hármless, benign, and (at times) even úseful.

Thís is why the Buddha taught mindfulness and meditátion. __/_



Easy Enlightenment BUDDHA's one stop shopping

How do we transcend stress' control over our choices, utterances, and deeds?

The Buddha's eight-fold path.

How do we transform our competitive, survival instincts

from being our tyrant to merely being our tool?

The Buddha's eight-fold path.

What about holy grail of enlightenment itself?

What if enlightenment was merely the mastery of the Buddha's eight-fold path?

But what is mastery?

As little children we found the tying of our shoes to be a daunting task.

But after (what seemed like) a great amount of time, and tears, and repeat instructions

wé finally got so good at tying those sneakers that we could dó so

spóntaneously, habitually, easily, and effectívely.

The same held true for potty training, dental hygiene, and even bicycle riding.

Likewise, we could so master the Buddha's eight-fold path.

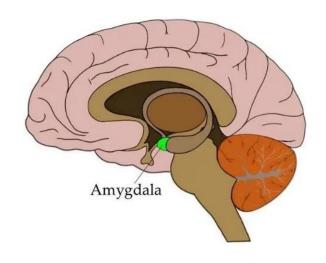
The seventh and eighth folds of the path are mindfulness as well as meditation

and when practiced correctly they are the key to the remainder of the path.

Mindfulness and meditation could be the engine that drives

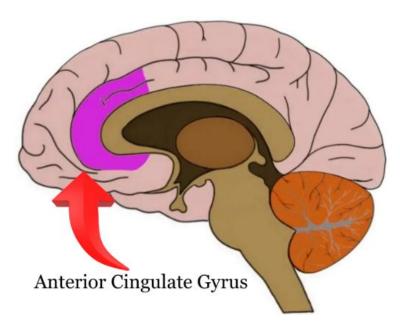
the cogs and gears of the Buddha's metaphoric enlightenment machine.

When practiced authentically mindfulness and meditation



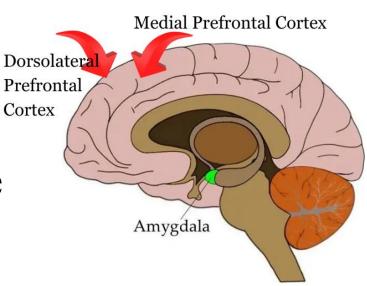
could calm our Amygdala (the seat of anxiety and aggression)

and stimulate our anterior cingulate gyrus (the seat of empathy).

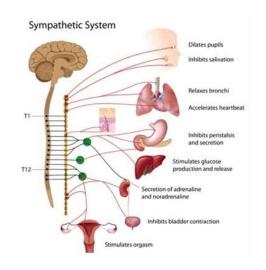


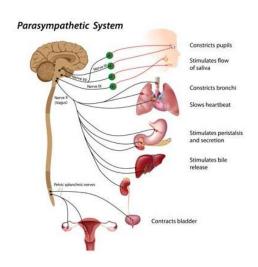
This is why the late Tulku Thondup insisted that the highest love was NOT the result of focus or analysis

but rather the spontaneous and uncontrived byproduct of mere mindfulness and **meditation**.



The significance of this cannot be overstated





for loving-kindness comprises fifty percent of the Buddha's eight-fold path:

the second fold's KIND intention, the third fold's KIND communication,

the fourth fold's KIND conduct, and the fifth fold's KIND commerce.

Persist in the consistent, enthusiastic, and correct practice of mindfulness as well as meditation

and we could find that our choices, utterances, and deeds

flow from the right (or effortless) effort

of love's centered spontaneity which is the sixth fold of the path.

But what about the first fold: the view of reality's

literal impermanence and figurative emptiness that support letting go?

We could sit in mindfulness as well as **meditation**

and strive to see permanence but find it, we shall NOT. Instead, we'll be assailed with perceptions of sights, sounds, sensations, flavors, and scents

ever shifting in a manner ranging from the subtle to the jarring.

The internal is NO different. Mindfulness and meditation rub our face in the ever-changing nature

of our emotions, intentions, thoughts, memories, and imaginings.

But what about emptiness?
Every time we relax into our exhalation whatever we noticed during our previous inhalation

could feel as non-graspable as a vast, empty void.

Any good English teacher could remind us that a simile is only as effective as it is relatable.

Therefore we have to ask the question,

"What is a real-world example of a non-graspable, vast, empty void?"

How about the illusion of the infinite, azure sky on a bright and beautiful cloudless morn;

which although tantalizing to the eye, could feel non-graspable to the hand?

Mindfulness and meditation are the keys that unlock our mastery of the Buddha's eight-fold path.

A mastery that he taught could be accomplished in as little

as: seven years, seven quarters, seven months,

seven fortnights, seven weeks, or as little as seven days.

This is why the Buddha taught mindfulness and meditation. _/_



Easy Enlightenment WRONG way to meditate

Sturgeon's law reminds us that ninety percent of everything sucks, but NOT in the fun, tingly way.

This includes humanity, even those who fancy themselves teachers of meditation.

According to some Gau-ta-ma (who was known as the Buddha)

```
Yin's Spiritual Matriarchy
Flexible,
Loving,
Rational,
Laid-back,

Egalitarian,
Lucid,
Cooperative, &
Kind
```

was rather:

flexible, loving, rational, laid-back, lucid, egalitarian, cooperative and kind.

This is why many people are enthusiastic to emulate his example.

Many people (*that is*) other than his foolish cousin De-va-dat-ta.

What was he like? De-va-dat-ta was: rigid, fearful, superstitious, controlling, elitist, cryptic, competitive, and cruel.

```
Yang's Religious Patriarchy
Rigid,
Fearful,
Superstitious,
Controlling,

Elitist,
Cryptic,
Competitive, &
Cruel
```

Gau-ta-ma's path could be described by many terms including: yin or spiritual matriarchy

and De-va-dat-ta's as yang or religious (or irreligious) patriarchy.

Statistically the majority of meditation teachers

unwittingly follow in the footsteps of the Buddha's foolish cousin.

Therefore, it could come as little surprise

that these individuals implore their students to ACTIVELY focus and analyze.

They might even use fancy labels like: analysis, contemplation, Vi-pas-sa-na,

Sa-ma-tha, concentration, focus, or even mindfulness

(even though that final term is often woefully misapplied).

The ONLY way to practice:

- •active focus,
- active analysis
- **●**(*or both*)

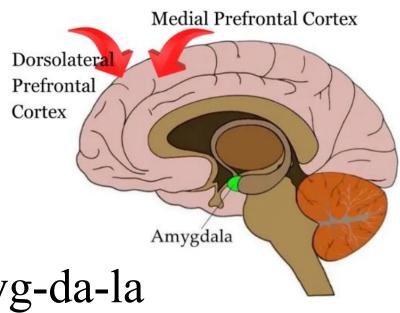
is to rely upon discrete neural pathways such as those found

Dorsolateral
Prefrontal
Cortex

Amygdala

in our medial prefrontal cortex or our dorsolateral prefrontal cortex.

Overuse of such regions could exhaust our prefrontal cortex

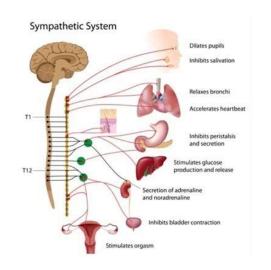


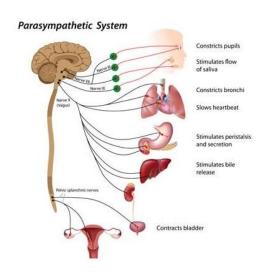
triggering our A-myg-da-la (the seat of anxiety and aggression).

This is clearly antithetical to the peace and love

that lure us into what we hope is the Buddha's path of meditation.

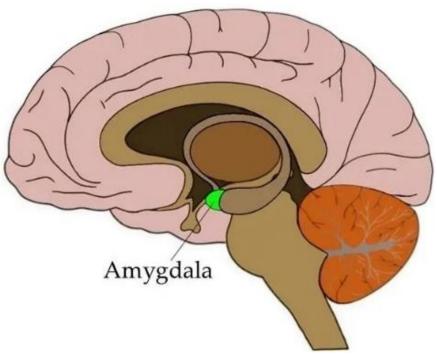
Far better it is to practice mindfulness and meditation



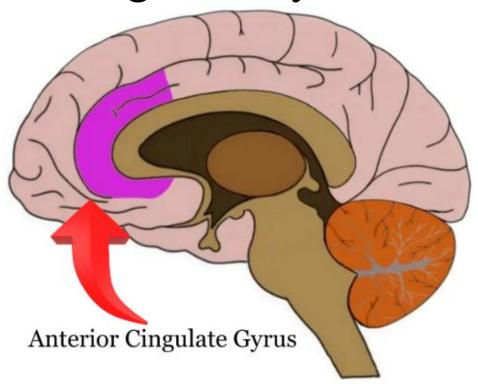


in reliance upon the two branches of our Autonomic Nervous System.

For doing so could calm the anxiety and aggression of our Amygdala



as well as excite the empathy our Anterior Cingulate Gyrus.



With consistency it could even cause our choices, utterances, and deeds

to habitually flow from the right (*or effortless*) effort of **love**'s centered spontaneity.

This is why the Buddha taught mindfulness and meditation. \(\)



Easy Enlightenment
The Right Way
to meditate

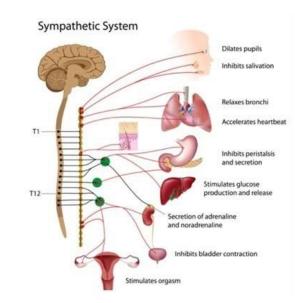
Nothing dispels the disinformation, misinformation, mythology, and superstition

surrounding mindfulness and meditation quite like neuroscience.

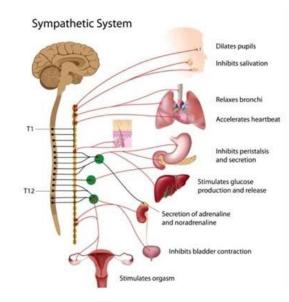
Let us begin by considering MINDFULNESS.

Every time we inhale we are wired to access the sympathetic nervous system

ensconced within the middle third of our spinal cord.



This bad boy has evolved to help us NOTICE in a very special way:



vulnerably, passively, viscerally, randomly, and fleetingly; which is quite antithetical

to the rigidity and controlling tendencies inherent to concentration.

But WHAT have we evolved to notice?

We have evolved to notice perceptions: such as seeing, hearing, feeling, tasting, smelling, and the like.

We have also evolved to notice the full spectrum of human:

emotions, intentions, cognitions, recollections, and imaginings.

If this mindfulness is the natural function of our Sympathetic Nervous System

then why do we sit down, every twelve hours or so, to formally practice?

Every time we silently and mentally recite

the demonstrative pronoun "*This*," or the verb "*Noticing*," during our inhalation

we interrupt the habit of our clever Cerebral Cortex

to compete against our Sympathetic Nervous System and instead we set space for these two to cooperate.

With each inhalation we are wired to notice all manner of thing:

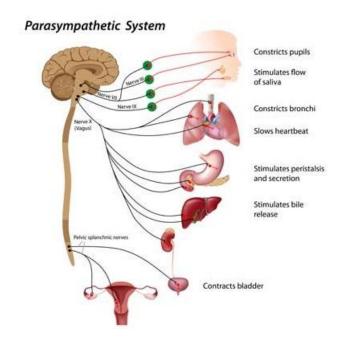
from the internal to the external, from the physical to the mental, from the pleasurable to the painful,

from the interesting to the boring, from the glorious to the grotesque.

What are we to do with all this stuff? Meditate!

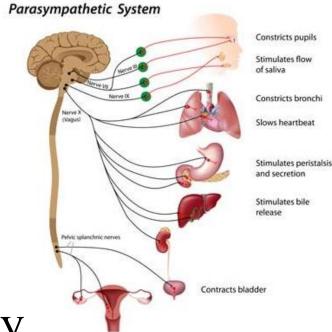
So, come let us explore the neuroscience of MEDITATION.

Each time we exhale we are wired



to effortlessly and automatically access our Parasympathetic Nervous System

which is divided between the lower third and the upper third



of that same spinal cord we mentioned previously.

This Parasympathetic Nervous System has evolved to support

our physical relaxation as well as mental release of that which we noticed during our previous inhalation to the point that,

that which we noticed could feel as non-graspable as a vast, empty void.

Now any good English teacher could remind us

that a simile is only as effective as it is relatable.

Thus we have to ask the question: "What is a real-world example

of a non-graspable, vast, empty void?"

How about the illusion of the infinite azure sky

on a bright & beautiful cloudless morn,



which although compelling to the eye,

is non-graspable to the hand?



Thus, as we could see, emptiness only makes sense

when seen through a flexible world view

that accepts that NOT all statements are literal,

requiring: superstition, blind faith, or pseudo-intellectual mental gymnastics.

One might ask, "If this relaxing and releasing

is the natural behavior of our Parasympathetic Nervous System

then why bother sitting in mindfulness and meditation every twelve hours or so?"

Each time we silently and mentally recite

the one syllable verb "ease," or the multi-syllabic verb "relax," during our exhalation

we are interrupting the habit of our clever Cerebral Cortex

to actively compete against our Parasympathetic Nervous System and instead open space for these two to cooperate in a delightfully therapeutic manner.

For some of us sitting in mindfulness and meditation

for about an hour twice daily is absolutely no problem.

However, some of us could require a more gradual or hedonistic approach.

Thus sitting in mindfulness and meditation for about five minuets

once every twelve hours or so could be a very good start.

The second week that could be lengthened to ten minutes every twelve hours

the third week that could be stretched out to fifteen minutes every twelve hours. Over the course of twelve weeks one could progress by an additional five minutes every week

and thusly condition one's body and mind to sit for an hour every twelve hours or so. One of the benefits of this incremental approach is that it could give our body, mind,

partner, pets, children, and schedule an opportunity to gently acclimate to this lifestyle enhancement. Walking in the Buddha's foot steps we too could master mindfulness and meditation. \



Easy Enlightenment BENGALI crease counting and energy work

In these days of technological terrors we can easily time our meditation

using the stopwatch app on our smart phones.

In days of yore, however, one might time one's meditation session

by burning one, two, or three sticks of incense (one after the other).

This method of crease counting however was inspired by the techniques practiced by many Bengalis.

Those of us living in countries enduring a rise of fascism

know that although cranky officials in polyester could "confiscate"

smartphones, malas, and rosaries alike, we'll most always have our hands

and by extension this means of practicing crease counting.

Those of us who have endured disabilities (numerous and life-long)

are often drawn to the energy work of Taoism as well as Tantric Buddhism.

Although we could influence our bodies' channels, winds, and drops

(or Na-di, Pra-na, and Bin-du in San-skrit) through visualization or invocation

the easiest and most therapeutic method is to use the finger gestures (or Mu-dra)

that are part and parcel of this practice of Bengali Crease Counting; consisting of:

the FIRST pillar – **inhalations** (*or repetitions*), the SECOND pillar – **sets**, and the THIRD pillar – **collections**.

Beginning with the FIRST pillar: over the span of twelve **inhalations**







we could touch the tip of our right thumb to the lowest, middling, and uppermost sets of creases upon its little finger. It could then count likewise upon its ring, middle, and then index fingers.



















Continuing with the SECOND pillar: we could count **sets**

tracking the twelve inhalations accumulated upon our right hand, with our left thumb.

To count <u>four</u> **sets** we could touch the tip of our left thumb

to the **lowest** set of creases upon the little, ring, middle, and index fingers of our left hand.









Yes, to count eight sets we could touch both

the lowest and **middling** sets of creases upon the four fingers of our left hand;









and even count twelve sets by touching the lowest, middling and uppermost sets

of the creases upon the four fingers of left hand;









but typically we'll only count the <u>eight</u> **sets** of twelve inhalations each.









Finishing with the THIRD pillar: we could gather five collections

of our left hand's four, eight, or twelve sets of our right hand's twelve inhalations

in a manner that gently, therapeutically, and sustainably influences our channels, winds, and drops.

Upon the tip of left <u>little</u> finger, we could rest our right <u>little</u> finger's first, second, or third knuckle palms up, in our lap.





Doing so could gently invite our real or imagined, subtle energies, to automatically coalesce at the **Bladder** region of our lower abdomen.



Upon the tip of left ring finger, we could rest our right ring finger's first, second, or third knuckle palms up, in our lap.





Doing so could gently invite our real or imagined, subtle energies, to automatically coalesce at the Navel region of our mid-abdomen.



Upon the tip of left middle finger, we could rest our right middle finger's first, second, or third knuckle palms up, in our lap.





Doing so could gently invite our real or imagined, subtle energies, to automatically coalesce at the **Heart** region of our chest.



Upon the tips of **each** of our **left** fingers, we could rest **each** of our **right** fingers' first, second, or third knuckles palms up, in our lap.





Doing so could gently invite our real or imagined, subtle energies, to automatically coalesce where we at times feel a lump in our the **Throat**.



Upon the tip of left index finger, we could rest our right index finger's first, second, or third knuckle palms up, in our lap.





Doing so could gently invite our real or imagined, subtle energies, to automatically coalesce at the Grown region of our head.



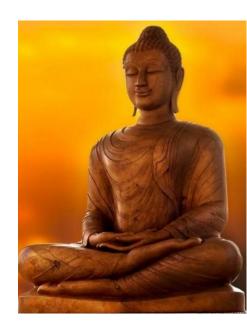
Although these actions might NOT bestow upon us

the miraculous powers a Tolkien fever dream



Easy Enlightenment

they could assist our bodies' practice of the Buddha's mindfulness and meditation. \(\Lambda\)



Easy Enlightenment SECRET of our buddha nature

A reoccurring phrase in both Ma-ha-ya-na as well as Tantric literature

is Ta-tha-ga-ta Gar-bha or Buddha Nature.

This charming iron-age turn of phrase hints that enlightenment is our birth right and easily attained,

with<u>out</u> requiring heroic effort or noble sacrifice. Sounds great! Sign me up!

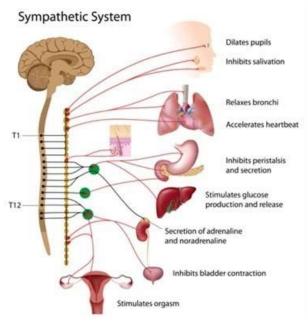
But the mystery remains, how is one to realize it?

One of the many advantages of living in this age is that medical professionals have access

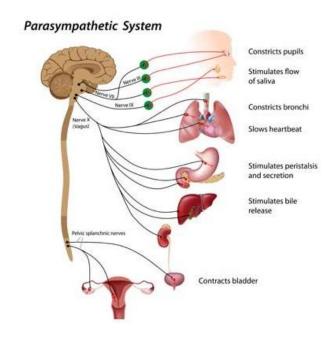
to sophisticated imaging technology of which the ancients could have never conceived.

Fúnctional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (or FMRI) studies have revéaled

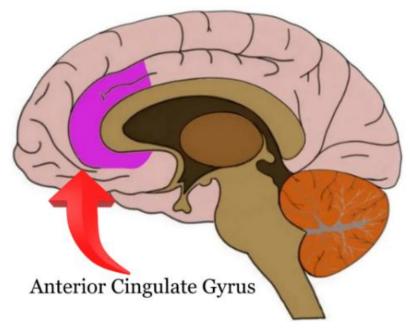
that it is our Sympathetic Nervous System that is the seat of mindfulness (or Sa-ti),



our Parasympathetic Nervous System that is the seat of meditation (or Sa-ma-dhi),



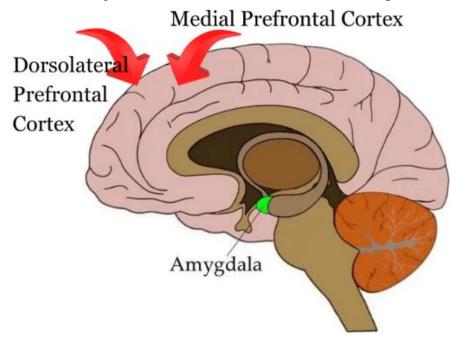
and our Anterior Cingulate Gyrus that is the seat of our loving-kindness (or Met-ta).



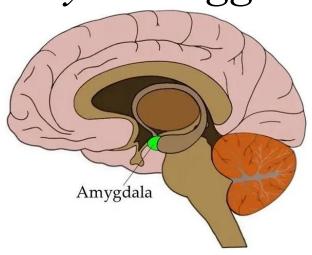
It is these three structures that comprise our Buddha nature. But a villain lurks!

Just as the Buddha's foil was his foolish cousin De-va-dat-ta,

so too is the team of our Prefrontal Cortex (the seat of analysis as well as focus)



and our Amygdala (the seat of anxiety and aggression)



the opponents to the mechanism of our Buddha Nature.

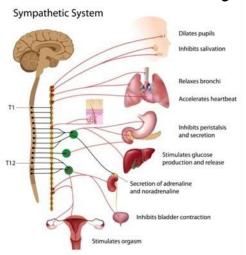
Just as Jack the Ripper taught us that a surgeon's scalpel could be used to take lives as well as save them,

so too could both the prefrontal cortex as well as the amygdala be abused as well as used.

The solution to this dilemma is two-fold.

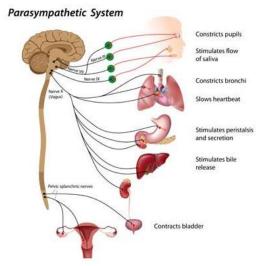
The easy method to strike the match of enlightenment already in our grasp

is to allow our Sympathetic Nervous System



to MINDFULLY do its thing during our inhalations

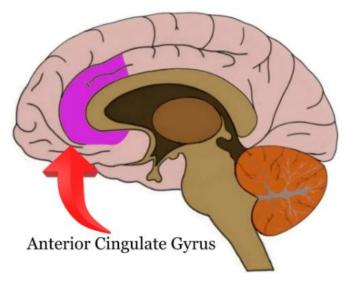
and to let our Parasympathetic Nervous System



MEDITATIVELY do its thing during our exhalations.

Thus, sitting in formal mindfulness and meditation once every twelve hours or so

we set space to live from our EMPATHETIC

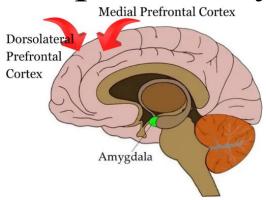


Anterior Cingulate Gyrus effortlessly and automatically.

A delightful fringe benefit of this is the manner in which

our choices, utterances, and deeds could begin to flow

from the right (or effortless) effort of love's centered spontaneity:



which is the KEY to the sustainable use of our analytical Prefrontal cortex as well as our primal Amygdala. Easy Enlightenment

This is why the Buddha taught mindfulness and meditation. \(\)



Easy Enlightenment
TEACHER
selection

With so many lamas and authors offering to teach us how to meditate

(often for a substantial fee)

how are we to know upon which teacher or technique we should rely?

Should we rely upon the teacher with the greatest:

beauty, fame, popularity, acclaim, wealth, resume, credentials, or letters of recommendation? No, no, and no!

The proof of the pudding is in the tasting

and we test the effectiveness of a teacher's guidance in the laboratory of our body and mind.

First we find a teacher (regardless of gender, age, or nationality) and request instruction.

Wé then enthusiastically practice the technique we are given

for at least five minutes, once every twelve hours or so, for seven consecutive days.

NÓTE – if we're not up to the task of practicing thúsly

thén the selection of a teacher is simply NOT our biggest próblem.

After the conclusion of the second practice, on the seventh day,

we vulnerably gaze within and ask, "Has this week of practice increased my peace and love?"

If yes, then mazel tov, you've found a teacher from whom you could benefit.

If NOT then follow up with that teacher. If they won't or can't help you then to hell with them!

Find a better teacher for you at this time.

No, the test of a teacher's wisdom is NOT whether their teachings

align with either our preconceptions or what we've been previously taught.

For such a metric will only ensure we will never grow beyond where we are at right now!

And for goodness' sake let us not put ourselves in the hands

of a greedy fool who would sell the Buddha's teachings.

For although TRULY optional donations could be lovely

the greatest offering we could make is simply the enthusiastic application of teacher's instructions. If we wish to follow in the footsteps of the Buddha (be he real or merely archetypical)

then we must bring a scientist's curiosity and enthusiasm to be methodical into our spiritual journey.

If it sounds inconvenient and maybe even a little scary,

there is probably a very good reason for that. But is it worth the inconvenience?

The Buddha thought so, this is why Gau-ta-ma devoted

his talents and time to teaching mindfulness and meditation. _/_



Easy Enlightenment EASE of NON-duality

It's NOT our fault if we've only been exposed to weak-minded teachers and authors

who could NOT instruct themselves out of a wet paper bag.

It's NOT an indictment against our wisdom or spirituality if the feckless or the elitist

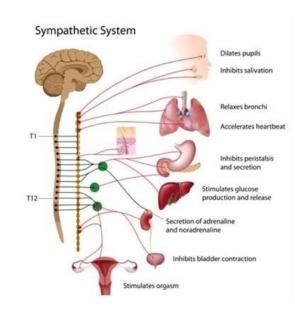
could NOT or would NOT spell out for us duality as well as its transcendence.

Let us begin remedying that with a review.

Level ONE – each time we silently and mentally recite

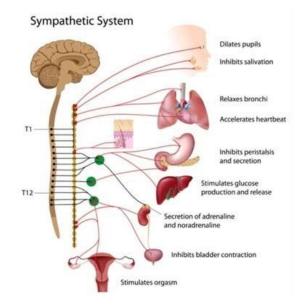
the demonstrative pronoun "*This*" (or the verb "*Noticing*") during our inhalation

our Sympathetic Nervous System wires us



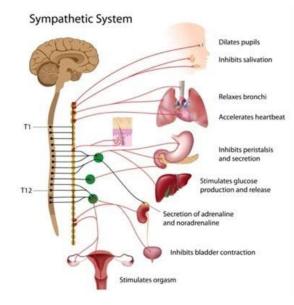
to:

- •vulnerably,
- passively,
- •viscerally,
- •randomly, and
- fleetingly



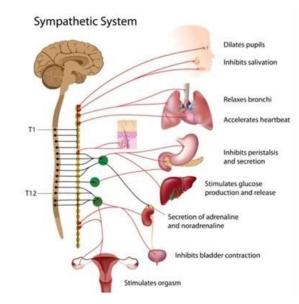
notice perceptions such as:

- •sights,
- •sounds,
- •sensations,
- •flavors, and
- •scents.



Level TWO – we could also spontaneously notice the full spectrum of human:

- •emotions,
- •intentions,
- •cognitions,
- •recollections, and
- •imaginings.



Level THREE – we could spontaneously notice many things:

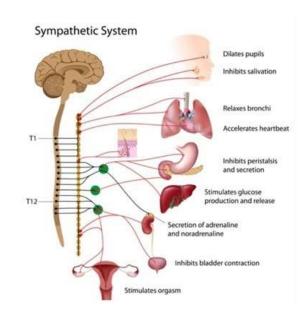
- •from the external to the internal,
- •from the physical to the mental,
- •from the pleasurable to the painful,
- •from the interesting to the boring, and
- •from the glorious to the grotesque.

Level FOUR – we could spontaneously notice the fundamental duality sited in Buddhism

(that we desire some things and dread others).

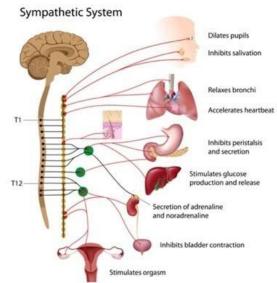
Level FIVE – we could spontaneously notice a subtle resistance to the actual absence of what we desire

as well as resistance to the mere prospect of its absence.



Similarly, we could passively notice the subtle resistance to the actual presence of that which we dread

as well as resistance to the mere possibility of its presence.



Parasympathetic System

Constricts pupils
Stimulates flow

Stimulates perista

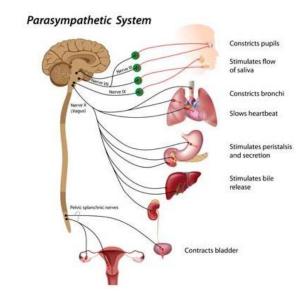
Contracts bladde

As we silently and mentally recite the one syllable verb "ease" (or the thee syllable verb "relaxing") during our exhalation

our parasympathetic nervous system is wired to support our physical relaxation and mental release

whatever:

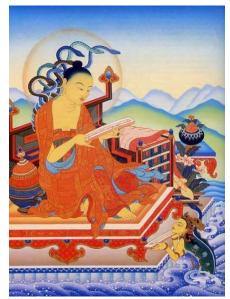
- •dread or desire,
- •glory or grotesquery,
- •interest or boredom,
- •pleasure or pain,
- •mind or body,
- external or internal



we may have spontaneously noticed during our previous inhalation;

thus causing each pole of duality to smack of the same taste of fleeting NON-graspability.

The great south Indian Buddhist philosopher Nar-ga-ju-na



taught of two truths (the conventional and the ultimate);

that we <u>notice</u> during our inhalation and that we feel during our **relaxing** exhalation. EACH being (enlightened or not) is therefore wired to notice duality during each inhalation

and taste of NON-duality during each exhalation.

This is NOT an indictment; au contraire, it is necessary.

For just as a one-winged bird can NOT take to the sky

those who convince themselves they do NOT perceive the conventional cannot experience Nir-va-na;

despite the pseudo-spiritual blatherings of individuals who think themselves buddhas

whilst remaining merely self-important boobs.

Let us turn our attention to simple perception.

As we **relax** into our exhalation whatever beauty or ugliness

we may have *noticed* during our previous inhalation

could feel as if it was melting into the simplicity of just sight.

As we **relax** into our exhalation whatever harmony or discord

could feel as if it was melting into the simplicity of just sound.

As we **relax** into our exhalation whatever pleasure or pain

could feel as if it was melting into the simplicity of just sensation.

As we **relax** into our exhalation whatever deliciousness or disgust

could feel as if it was melting into the simplicity of just taste.

As we **relax** into our exhalation whatever fragrance or foulness

could feel as if it was melting into the simplicity of just scent.

Now we could turn our attention to our inner life.

As we **relax** into our exhalation whatever happiness or sorrow

could feel as if it was melting into the simplicity of just emotion.

As we **relax** into our exhalation whatever kindness or cruelty

could feel as if it was melting into the simplicity of just intention.

As we **relax** into our exhalation whatever cleverness or foolishness

could feel as if it was melting into the simplicity of just cognition.

As we **relax** into our exhalation whatever clarity or dullness

could feel as if it was melting into the simplicity of just recollection.

As we **relax** into our exhalation whatever triumph or defeat

could feel as if it was melting into the simplicity of just imagination.

Many teacher rely on the duality of loving virtue hating non-virtue

how then could reconcile non-duality with morality?

Simple! Every time we notice and relax in harmony with the phases of our breath

We automatically calm the anxiety and aggression of our amygdala

and stimulate the empathy of our anterior cingulate gyrus;

setting the kindness of morality on autopilot.

Let us turn our attention to a set of four dualities

known as the Eight Failings of the World (or Lo-ka-vi-pat-ti in Pali)

or as the Eight Worldly Concerns (As-ta-lo-ka Dhar-ma in Sanskrit)

within the context of the four bases of mindfulness:

- •the circumstantial (Dham-ma),
- •the physical (Ka-ya),
- •the interpersonal (Ve-da-na), and
- the mental (*Chit-ta*).

As we **relax** into our exhalation whatever wealth or lack, safety or peril,

could feel as if it was melting into the simplicity of just the circumstantial.

As we **relax** into our exhalation whatever bliss or pain

could feel as if it was melting into the simplicity of just the physical.

As we **relax** into our exhalation whatever praise or scorn

could feel as if it was melting into the simplicity of just the interpersonal.

As we **relax** into our exhalation whatever fame or shame

could feel as if it was melting into the simplicity of just the mental.

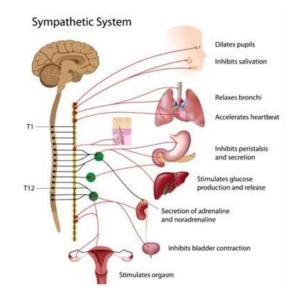
Liberation from the tyranny of duality could be an effortless and effective process.

This is why the Buddha taught mindfulness and meditation. _/_



Easy Enlightenment SEVEN-POINT posture of Vairochana

Our mind dwells in our central nervous system

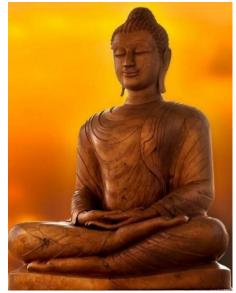


and our central nervous system dwells in our physical body of:

- •flesh,
- •blood, and
- •bone.

Easy Enlightenment

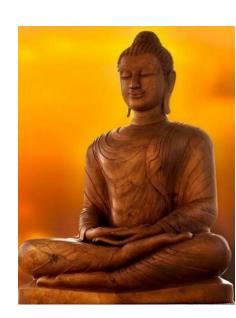
The advantage to this is that we could make subtle adjustments



to the manner in which we sit thus enhancing the duration and profundity of our practice of meditation.

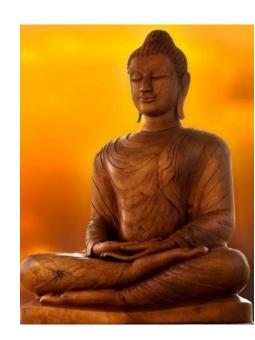
The Ma-ha-sid-dhas or great Buddhist Yogis

of India and Tibet organized the sitting instructions



in an outline known as "The Seven-point Posture of Vai-ro-cha-na."

The FIRST point concerns our legs.



We could find a, so-called, Mexican Yoga Blanket online for about twenty bucks.







We could fold it in such a manner as to approximate a twenty-four by eighteen-inch rectangle.





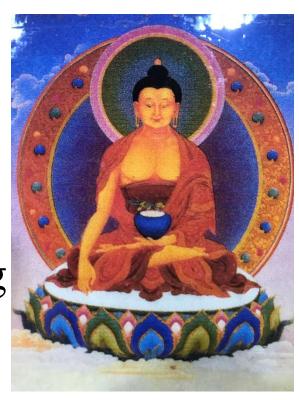


We could remember to wash it weekly

for the work of sitting could be sweaty business.

The majority of contemporary contemplative art

depicts the Buddha sitting in a full lotus posture.



What an excellent example of the effect of Patriarchy's toxic elitism upon art.



For few can comfortably and sustainably assume that posture (or A-sa-na) for two hours daily.

The most ancient Buddhist art, however, depicts Gau-ta-ma (the Buddha)

sitting in what some would describe as merely the **quarter** lotus posture



wherein one leg lays flat upon the other like a sandwich.



It is important therefore to remember that it is our hips that are ball joints



whereas our knees are merely hinge joints.

Treating knees as if they were as omnidirectional as our hip joints



could lead to needless and unnecessary injury.

By experimenting with our hip joints we could rest our instep

upon the blanket



instead of on the bony crowns of our ankles, which could be quite painful.

After a lifetime of sitting in chairs the quarter lotus pose could feel like an impossibility.



May we therefore remember NOT to force the posture.

Once we have assumed as sustainable a version of this posture as we can, though ungainly and asymmetric it could be

we could surrender to temporary imperfection,



Sitting for as little a five minutes every twelve hours or so for as little as a week or two



could allow time and gravity to work their so-called magick,

as they return our bodies to a semblance of the flexibility we once enjoyed as children.



Many find that by setting a circular meditation cushion (or Za-fu)

upon their folded yoga blanket and resting one's tush upon it



enhances both the short-term comfort as well as the long-term endurance of their sitting.

We could find a Za-fu on line for about fifty bucks.



The better ones are filled with buckwheat hulls

and have a side zipper through which we could add more hulls once the old ones have settled.



The SECOND point concerns our hands which we explored in great detail

in a previous chapter exploring "Bengali Crease Counting."

The THIRD point concerns our spine.



With each inhalation
we could generate a vertical traction
between our tush and the top of our head

(as if we were pulling our head out of the warm, dark place we sometimes seem to keep it).

During each exhalation we are wired to subtly relax this traction.



The FOURTH point concerns our shoulder blades

(or Scapula).

Winging Scapula / Scapula Alata
Prominent medial border

Long/weak:
Serratus anterior

Other:
Hyperkyphosis, scoliosis,
hypertrophy subscapularis

With each inhalation
the vertical traction of our spine
could subtly open our shoulder blades

in a manner reminiscent of a hungry vulture spreading its wings

to protect its meal from greedy competitors.



Vultures are often referenced in Buddhist teachings

as a reminder of the inevitability of the various forms of impermanence

which (although inconvenient and sometimes frightening)

could aid our training in relaxation and release.

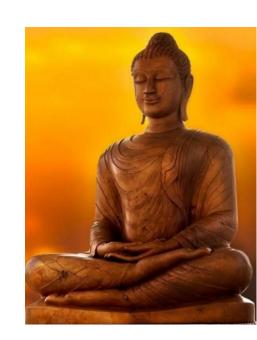
The FIFTH point concerns our head.

With each inhalation subtly dropping our chin



down towards
our breast bone (*or Sternum*)
could be the natural consequence

of subtly pulling the top of our head up while simultaneously opening our shoulder blades.



The SIXTH point concerns our mouth. With each inhalation our jaws could subtly part though lips remain sealed



and a subtle smile could:

- •start at the corners of our lips,
- ascend through the apples of our cheeks,
- •and perch upon the crows' feet of our eyes;

as the tip of our tongue gingerly touches the roof of our mouth behind our front teeth (*or incisors*).



The SEVENTH (and final) point concerns our gaze.

Although some insist there are supernatural benefits

to be had from staring at either:

- •the sky,
- •the horizon or even
- •the tip of our nose

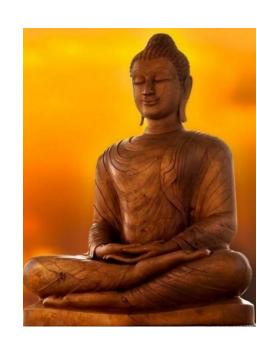
our inhalation's subtle kinesiological momentum of:

- •spinal traction,
- •scapular opening, and
- •chin dropping



strongly infer that pointing our face straight ahead while one's gaze drops,

to a place about one to two meters before us is most natural and sustainable.



Some squeeze their eyes tightly closed, some open wide their eyes as if surprise,

some hold their eyes at half-mast, while some, their eyes, gently close.

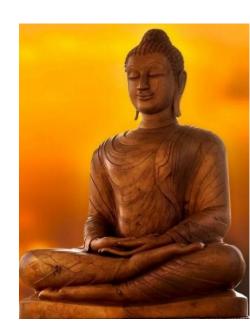
May we exercise the courage to experiment

and listen to our body's ever changing needs.



Yes, this Seven-point Posture of Vai-ro-cha-na could feel overwhelming.

May we therefore give ourselves permission to have a learning curve.



Like the archetype of Shak-ya-mu-ni (*the Buddha*) sitting in peace,

may we too practice mindfulness and meditation. _/_



Easy Enlightenment ICONOGRAPHY of three Archetypes

One of the most recognizable archetypes of Dzok-chen's

great completion stage of Buddhist meditation



is the image depicting a nude woman

(the color of a cumulus cloud)

sporting in tantric union with a naked man

(the hue of the infinite azure sky).



Despite the pearl clutching of Karens, if the Catholics get to erect statues



of a scrawny, naked carpenter being tortured to death then yes, the Ati-yogis get to display



meaningful images of two beautiful people contemplatively making love.

This image could be translated as the All-good Ones Sporting in Tantric Union,



in Sanskrit as Sa-man-ta-bha-dra Sa-man-ta-bha-dri Kar-ma Mu-dra,

and in Tibetan as Kun-tu-zang-po Kun-tu-zang-mo Yab Yum.



In his commentary to "The Essence of Refined Gold" the fourteenth Dalai Lama of Tibet



insisted that each lama functions as his own sect.

Bearing this in mind, let's explore an explanation



of the iconography of this famous (or infamous) archetype.

In this day, and in this country, one could take literacy for granted.



But in days of yore it was the exception, NOT the rule.

Thus, it could come as little surprise that many teachers relied on symbols and archetypes



to serve as mnemonic devices with which to remind folks of the teachings.

Fortunately, most complex lifeforms on this planet have evolved to think symbolically



which made such a teaching strategy quite effective for humans.

The NUDITY of the couple reminds us that for mindfulness to be truly beneficial as we inhale



it must be:

- VULNERABLE as well as
- passive,
- •visceral,
- •random, and
- •fleeting.



The TRANSLUCENCE of Sa-man-ta-bha-dra

and Sa-man-ta-bha-dri (depicted in the finer paintings)



reminds us that for meditation to be truly beneficial as we exhale

we must physically relax that we may mentally release:



as if that which we noticed during our previous inhalation,

could now feel as if it was as NON-GRASPABLE as vast empty void



(like the illusion of the infinite azure sky

on a bright and beautiful cloudless morn,



which although could look tantalizing to the eye,

could feel utterly non-graspable to the hand).



The BEAUTY of Kun-tu-zang-po and Kun-to-zang-mo

reminds us the highest LOVE (the source of the greatest beauty)



is the effortless by-product of passive noticing and releasing relaxation

in harmony with our respective inhalations and exhalations.



The ABANDON with which the cloud-colored woman

appears to sport in tantric union reminds us of the SPONTANEITY



that is tempered by CENTEREDNESS, which in turn is symbolized

by the STABILITY with which her sky colored tantric partner (or Vaj-ra throne) sits;



reminding us that the more we authentically practice mindfulness and meditation



the more our choices, utterances, and deeds could flow

with the right (or effortless) effort of love's centered spontaneity.



An additional archetype of Dzok-chen's

great completion stage of Buddhist meditation



is the image depicting a scantily clad fellow the color of a cumulous cloud.

In San-skrit this archetype of the mastery of mindfulness AND meditation is known as Vaj-ra Sat-tva.



In Tibetan he is known as Dor-je Sem-pa.

and in English as Diamond Mind or the Diamond (*like strength of a*) Mind (*well trained in awareness and release*).



His crossed legs are reminiscent of the duality we <u>notice</u> as we inhale

and the non-duality we feel as we **relax** into our exhalation.



His six ornaments of:

- 1. Anklets,
- 2. Bracelets,
- 3. Armlets,
- 4. Triple necklace,
- 5. Earrings, and
- 6. Semi-circular crown



remind us of a Bo-dhi-sat-tva's six perfections of:

- 1. Generosity,
- 2. Kindness,
- 3. Patience,
- 4. Effortless effort,
- 5. Mindfulness, and
- 6. Meditation.



His five garments of:

- 1. Skirt,
- 2. Belt,

- 3. Shawl,
- 4. Scarf, and
- 5. Semi-circular crown-tie



remind us of a Bo-dhi-sat-tva's:

- 1. Mirror-like wisdom,
- 2. Discerning wisdom,

- 3. All-pervasive wisdom,
- 4. All-accomplishing wisdom, and
- 5. Equalizing wisdom.



In his <u>right</u>-hand Dor-je Sem-pa holds a five-pronged Vaj-ra (*Sanskrit for Diamond*) reminding us that during our inhalations

we have evolved to: vulnerably, passively, viscerally, randomly, and fleetingly NOTICE

PEREPTIONS such as:

- 1. Scents,
- 2. Flavors,

- 3. Sensations,
- 4. Sounds, and
- 5. Sights



EXPERIENCES such as:

- 1. Emotions,
- 2. Intentions,

- 3. Cognitions,
- 4. Recollections, and
- 5. Imaginings;



BASES of mindfulness such as:

- 1. the Circumstantial,
- 2. the Physical,

- 3. the Interpersonal, and
- 4. the Mental;



and DUALITIES such as:

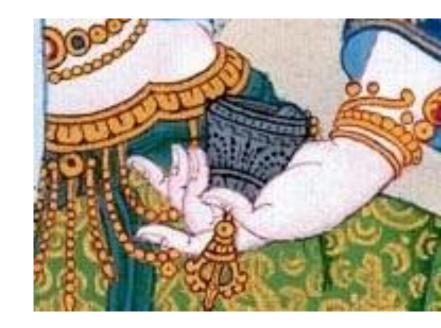
- 1. the External and the Internal,
- 2. the Physical and the Mental,

- 3. the Pleasurable and the Painful,
- 4. the Interesting and the Boring, and
- 5. the Glorious and the Grotesque.



In his **left**-hand Vaj-ra Sat-tva holds a bell (*or Ghan-ta in Sanskrit*) reminding us that during our exhalations we're wired

to physically relax and mentally release to such a degree that,



that which we noticed during our previous inhalation could literally feel fleetingly LESS:

stressful, permanent, and defining like the fading ring of a bell;



and figuratively feel as non-graspable as a vast, empty void like the illusion of the infinite azure sky



on a bright and beautiful cloudless morn which although looks visible to the eye feels non-graspable to the hand.

Let us NOT make the mistake of Yang's religious patriarchy

of: deifying, worshiping, and supplicating a mere archetype.



Instead, let us traverse Yin's path of spiritual matriarchy

allowing our practice to be inspired by the meaning of this iconography



that we could be the peaceful and loving people our dogs already think we are.

This is why the Buddha taught mindfulness and meditation. \



Easy Enlightenment SEVEN: enlightenment factors

In the Buddha's concise meditation instruction known as

the Mindfulness with Breathing Discourse or the Sa-ti-pat-tha-na Sutta

the seven enlightenment factors are mentioned.

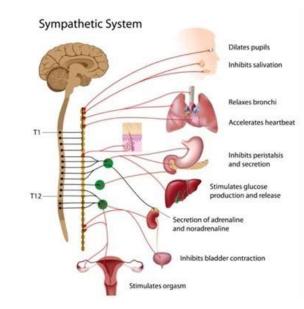
This simple teaching is applicable to the:

- Theravada,
- Mahayana, and
- Tantrayana paths.

We practice the <u>first</u> enlightenment factor of MINDFULNESS or Sa-ti

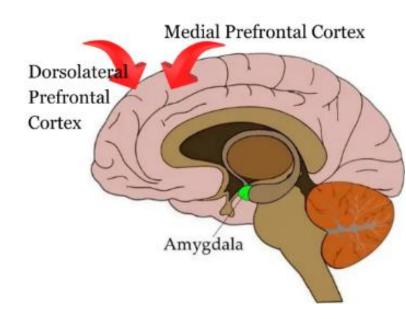
every time we notice:

- •vulnerably,
- passively,
- •viscerally,
- •randomly, and
- •fleetingly
 during each inhalation
 as silently and mentally we recite
 "This" or "Noticing."



It bears recalling that it is the polar opposite of the:

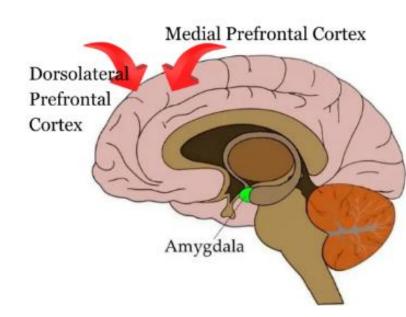
- rigidity and
- •controlling tendencies inherent to concentration.



We practice the <u>second</u> enlightenment factor of INVESTIGATION or Dham-ma-vi-cha-ya

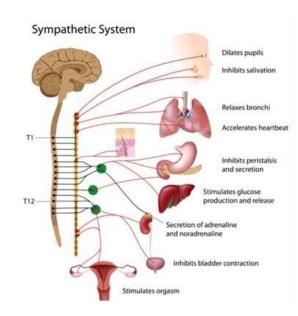
every time we courageously defy our:

- •fearful,
- •defensive, and
- •prideful tendencies



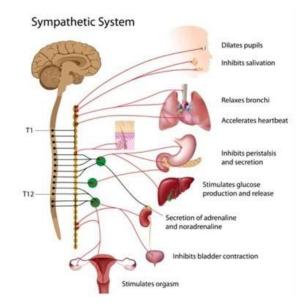
to act as our own press secretary forever photoshopping or editorializing the:

- •sights,
- •sounds,
- •sensations,
- •flavors, and
- •scents,



as well as the:

- •emotions,
- •intentions,
- •thoughts,
- •memories and
- imaginings

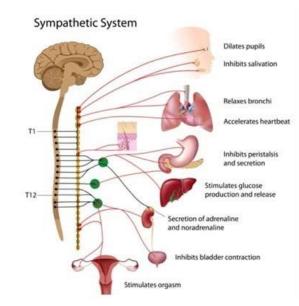


that seem to cartwheel across the metaphoric stage of our mind.



For we are called to be vulnerable to whatever comes up, be it:

- •external or internal,
- physical or mental,
- pleasurable or painful,
- interesting or boring,
- glorious or grotesque.



We practice the <u>third</u> enlightenment factor of ENERGY or Vi-ri-ya

every time we make the subtle adjustments to the variables of our life

that influence our mental lucidity and physical vitality

such as getting enough:

- •sleep,
- •exercise, and
- •recreation,

as well as consuming a:

- •whole-food,
- •cruelty-free

diet.



We practice the <u>fourth</u> enlightenment factor of JOY or Pi-ti by sidestepping

patriarchy's metaphoric minefield of stoically gutting-it-out



for the two fringe benefits of practicing both mindfulness and meditation every twelve hours or so

is FIRST – automatically generating the highest love which is spontaneous and uncontrived

and SECOND – allowing our:

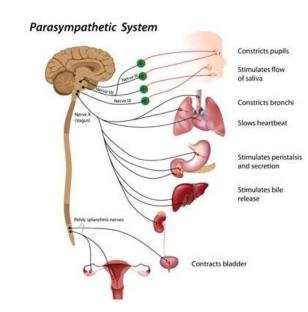
- •choices,
- utterances, and
- deeds
- to flow

NOT from the spontaneity that is scattered

BUT from the spontaneity that is **centered**. For this, my friends, is the font of enlightened joy.

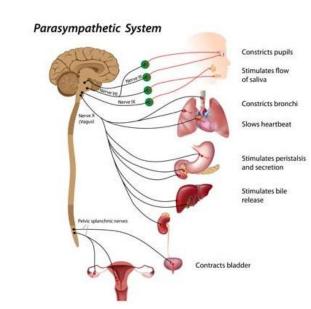
We practice the <u>fifth</u> enlightenment factor of SERENITY or Pas-sad-dhi by automatically relaxing

in cooperation with our parasympathetic nervous system as silently and mentally we utter "Ease" or "Relaxing."



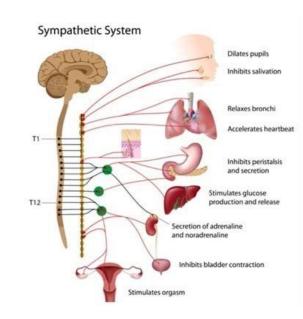
for that is what we have evolved to do during each exhalation.

Instead of forcing, we merely cooperate with our parasympathetic nervous system.



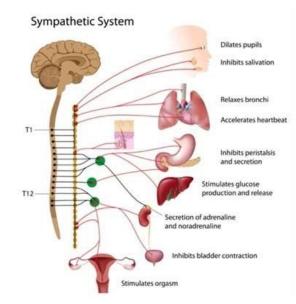
We practice the <u>sixth</u> enlightenment factor of COALESCENCE or Sa-ma-dhi

every time our inhalation gathers in our lungs



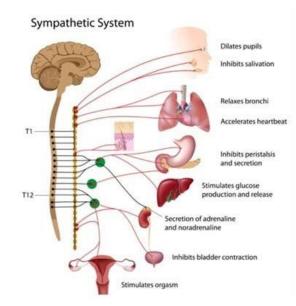
as our:

- •vulnerable,
- passive,
- •visceral,
- •random, and
- •fleeting awareness



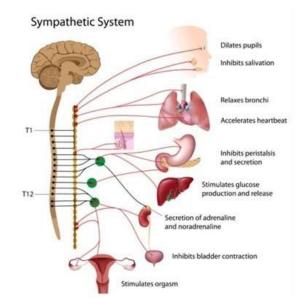
of:

- •sights,
- •sounds,
- •sensations,
- •flavors, and
- •scents

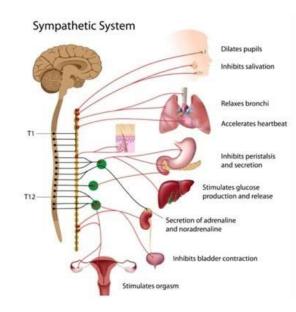


as well as:

- •emotions,
- •intentions,
- •thoughts,
- •memories, and
- •imaginings



likewise gather in our mind in reliance upon our sympathetic nervous system.



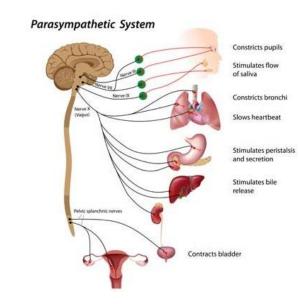
We practice the <u>seventh</u> enlightenment factor of EQUANIMITY or U-pek-kha

when, as we **relax** into each exhalation all the dreads and desires we <u>noticed</u> during the previous inhalation

feel as if they are melting into the non-duality of the fleeting non-graspability

that feels:

- •LESS stressful,
- •LESS permanent, and
- •LESS defining.



This is why the Buddha taught mindfulness and meditation. \



Easy Enlightenment VEGANISM: a key to compassion

In late-stage capitalism there are many who have a vested interest

in keeping us locked in the frenzy of various iterations of the kill or be killed mindset.

Come, let us wax subversive. For although the United Nations

explained it would take six billion dollars to end world hunger,

compassion is NOT an exclusive club with an entry fee or a two-drink minimum.

In-fact, some of the most compassionate things we could do merely involve our consumer choices.

Fifty percent of the Buddha's eight-fold path is comprised of:

- •the mental kindness of intention,
- •the interpersonal kindness of communication,
- the physical kindness of conduct, and
- •the circumstantial kindness of commerce.

However, there is nothing kind about using our consumer choices to coerce an underpaid worker

to exploit (no less slaughter) living beings because we want a snack.

On average, world-wide, EVERY day a vast ocean of sentient beings is murdered,

more than:

- nine hundred thousand cows,
- •one million four hundred thousand goats,
- •one million seven hundred thousand sheep...

- •three million eight hundred thousand pigs,
- •twelve million ducks,
- two hundred and two million chickens,
- and hundreds of millions of fish.

Each of them yeaning to live and not die, just like us.

Through the convenience a cruelty-free diet

we get to exercise greater compassion:

- •to the environment,
- •to non-human animals, and
- •(if we consume a whole-food, vegan diet) to this very body which supports our meditation.

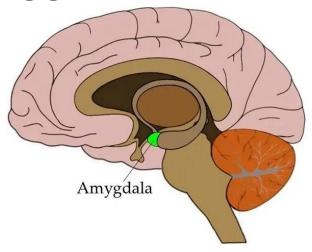
And even though we could watch the video "Dominion"

and a hundred and one other videos that could pull at our heart strings

remember we are already wired to love.

Every time we put a rabbit and an apple in a play pen

the human child always pets the rabbit and eats the apple we are natural born herbivores. It is only our amygdala that makes us aggressive.

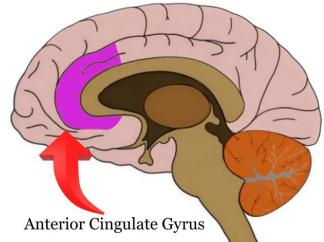


And the more we authentically practice mindfulness and meditation,

even as little as once every twelve hours or so,

the more we'll calm
the anxiety and aggression
of our survival-oriented amygdala

and stimulate the empathy of our anterior cingulate gyrus.



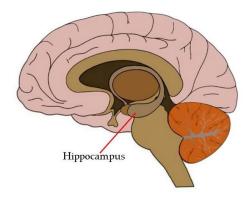
This is why the Buddha taught mindfulness and meditation. _/_



Easy Enlightenment
PTSD
and brisk walking meditation

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is NOT uncommon amongst

veterans of foreign wars, no less survivors of any violence. In his book, "Walking your Blues Away," Doctor Thom Hartmann, Ph.D.



explains how the chief culprit in PTSD as well as C-PTSD is the Hippocampus.

Much like the doorman, standing behind the velvet rope clutching a clipboard

at the entrance to the hippest dance club on a Friday night

who only deigns entrance to those who are:

- famous,
- •beautiful,
- •on his guest list,
- or who slip him a C-note;

our friend the Hippocampus prevents certain perceptions from entering our memories' storage area

thus forcing our mind to experience a past event as a present event: which is the definition of trauma. Just as the sight of certain celebrities (or a C-note) could mollify even the most persnickety of doormen

there are physical strategies that could soothe our hippocampus.

ENTER: the magick of brisk, walking meditation.

WHERE to walk?
Whether you are experiencing turmoil or disassociation crossing the street is probably NOT a great idea.

It could therefore be best to simply walk around your block

over and over again until you feel a bit better.

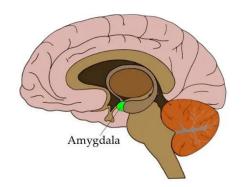
HOW to walk?
Briskly swing your arms
out of sync with your legs

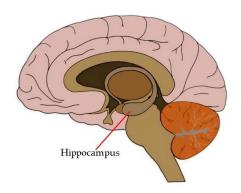
in the manner wherein you swing your left arm in sync with your right leg and right arm in sync with your left leg.

The greater the bend you maintain in your knees

the more your joints could thank you.

This asymmetry has a kneading effect upon our anxious amygdala and mnemonic hippocampus





the way a massage therapist might work a kink out of our shoulder.

We could turbo-charge this process by incorporating

the basic practice of mindfulness and meditation:

cooperating with our autonomic nervous system by silently and mentally reciting

the demonstrative pronoun "This" during each inhalation

as well as silently and mentally reciting

the one syllable verb "ease" during each exhalation.

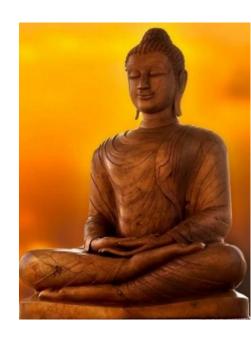
No, the goal of this practice is NOT to destroy painful memories

but to recategorize traumas from ticking time bomb of intense experiences

to their defused counter-parts: dull and prone to fading.

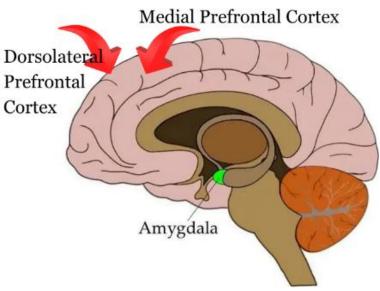
Thus, walking in the Buddha's footsteps

we could experience the healing effect of mindfulness and meditation. \



Easy Enlightenment MINDFULNESS with breathing

As we explored in an earlier chapter confusing concentration for mindfulness



is a mistake that could:

- •fatigue our prefrontal cortex,
- •increase our vulnerability to the symptoms of depression,
- trigger our amygdala and
- •increase our anxiety and
- •intensify aggression.

This confusion is compounded by folks who mistranslate A-na-pa-na Sa-ti

as "mindfulness OF breathing" instead of "mindfulness WITH breathing."

Yes, this could sound like a trifling picayune

but upon deeper examination its importance is revealed.

The phrase "mindfulness OF breathing" infers that mindfulness is actually concentration

which it most certainly is NOT.

Whereas the phrase "mindfulness WITH breathing"

(along with the sixth enlightenment factor)

infer that every time our breath coalesces in our lungs

our Autonomic nervous system NOTICES:

- •vulnerably,
- passively,
- •viscerally,
- •randomly, and
- •fleetingly.

Once we move beyond the title of the discourse.

A careful study

(of the fifth and sixth enlightenment factors) infers

how during each exhalation our parasympathetic nervous system is wired:

- to physically relax and
- •mentally release to such a degree that,

that which we noticed during our previous inhalation could fleeting feel:

- •less stressful,
- •less permanent, and
- •less defining.

The question is NOT one of doctrinal detail but whether a technique is:

- •impotent
- or effective

and whether one remains stuck or is liberated at long last.

This is why the Buddha taught mindfulness and meditation. _/_

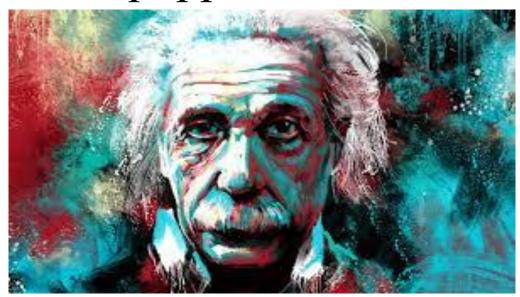


Easy Enlightenment

THE SPIRITUAL SWISS ARMY KNIFE

that is mindfulness and meditation

The Noble laureate Albert Einstein is said to have quipped,



"Any intelligent fool can make things:

- •bigger,
- •more complex, and
- •more violent.

(However) it takes a touch of genius and a lot of courage to move in the opposite direction."

In a vast, ocean-like throng of:

- rigid,
- fearful,
- superstitious,
- controlling,

- •elitist,
- •cryptic,
- •competitive, and
- •cruel

fools

there are many who insist that ENLIGHTENMENT is attainable only for the special few,

who live in a special place, in a special time,

with special companions, and who have received special teachings,

from a special teacher because they're so damned special (and we're not).

But that is NOT what the Buddha taught.

Real or archetypical, he taught that enlightenment was as simple

as mastering the eight-fold path, and that could be done

in as little as seven days. How egalitarian is that?

The key to:

- 1. right view that empowers letting go,
- 2. four points of right love,

3. and the effortless effort of having choices, utterances, and deeds flow from love's centered spontaneity

IS simply mindfulness and meditation.

For, when practiced enthusiastically, sustainably, and effectively

mindfulness and meditation are the spiritual equivalent of a Swiss army knife.

In the golden age of proto-Buddhism

(before the folly of institutionalism set in, like black mold infesting a cabin in the woods)

the only teachings were the four noble truths and the eight-fold path,

which contained the essence of all MORALITY which is loving-kindness (*or Met-ta*).

Remember, actively striving to focus upon or analyze loving kindness could produce nothing more than a mere analog:

- pale, and
- •flaccid, and
- •worthless, and
- •weak;

for the highest love (spontaneous and uncontrived)

is the effortless by product of mindfulness and meditation.

Yearning to do the loving thing is all well and fine,

but how could we know what that right thing is, what the most-kind manner is in which to do it,

and when the most kind time is in which it, must be done? Centered spontaneity!

When our:

- •choices,
- utterances, and
- deeds

flow from the centered spontaneity

(which in turn is generated by our practice of mindfulness and meditation)

love's kindness is as natural, effortless and potent as our next breath.

For those of us who are keen to devote ourselves to an Ajahn, Roshi, Shifu, or Lama

our ultimate TEACHER is simply our mindfulness and meditation.

For the sole purpose of our outer teacher is to acquaint us with the inner one;

which could be done in but a single sitting.

For those who are keen to make OFFERINGS there is no finer object of such gifts

than our teacher who is kind enough to give us instruction and answer our questions.

Although OPTIONAL donations could be lovely,

the greatest offering we could make to our teacher

is none other than the enthusiastic and sustainable practice of their instructions;

whose essence is none other than mindfulness and meditation.

For those of us who long for the purification of our (so called) Karmic-negativities and their propensities

there is NO finer antidote than mindfulness and meditation.

For those of us who enthusiastically seek PROTECTION

from the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune

there is no greater safety to be had than by passively <u>noticing</u> whatever past, present, or potential dreads spontaneously cartwheel

across the metaphoric stage of mind as we effortlessly sit in mindfulness and then viscerally **relax** in harmony with meditation's next exhalation.

For those of us who are eager to MANIFEST the fulfillment of all:

- •mental,
- •interpersonal,
- physical, and
- circumstantial

needs

we only have but to vulnerably <u>notice</u>

the spontaneous and sundry desires that could dance like sugar plums in children's dreams (as we breath in)

and meditatively **relax** and **release** as we breath out.

Recent centuries have seen a rise in the popularity of training

in the THREE MARKS of REALITY (or Ti-lak-kha-na).

Yet as we sit in mindfulness (once every twelve hours or so)

we can NOT help but automatically notice, recall, or anticipate stress (or Duk-kha).

And as we meditatively **relax** into our exhalations we cannot help but viscerally experience

how that which we noticed during our previous inhalation

could fleetingly feel temporary (or A-nic-ca)

and as non-graspable as if they simply did NOT define us (*or A-nat-ta*).

Even the tyranny exerted by the FIVE MENTAL POISONS over our choices, utterances, and deeds

is easily tamed through mindfulness and meditation.

FIRST: as we meditatively **relax** into our exhalation

whatever *DREAD* we vulnerably <u>noticed</u> during our previous inhalation

could feel as NON-graspable as Mirror-like wisdom.

SECOND: as we meditatively **release** into our exhalation

whatever *DESIRE* we passively <u>noticed</u> during our previous inhalation

could feel as empty as <u>Discerning-wisdom</u>.

THIRD: as we meditatively **relax** into our exhalation

whatever *TURMOIL*we vulnerably <u>noticed</u>
during our previous inhalation

could feel as NON-graspable as All-pervading wisdom.

FOURTH: as we meditatively **release** into our exhalation

whatever *JEALOUSLY*we randomly <u>noticed</u>
during our previous inhalation

could feel as void as <u>All-accomplishing wisdom</u>.

FIFTH: as we meditatively **relax** into our exhalation

whatever *PRIDE* we fleetingly <u>noticed</u> during our previous inhalation

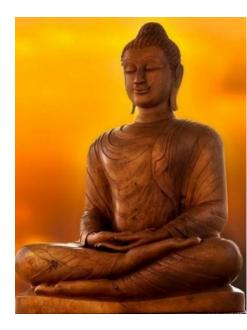
could feel as NON-graspable as <u>Equalizing-wisdom</u>.

Each complex life form upon this big blue marble, we call Earth

has evolved to be hedonistic at heart.

Yet NO thing, being, or phenomena could give us as much of the BLISS-on-tap

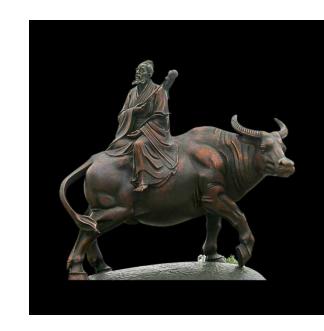
as that which is afforded by the easy practice of mindfulness and meditation. Come, let us walk in the Buddha's footsteps practicing mindfulness and meditation. \



Easy Enlightenment OX and old teacher

Consider, if you will a great ox so enormous it dwarfs a bull.

Perched upon his hind quarters sits a thin, old man.

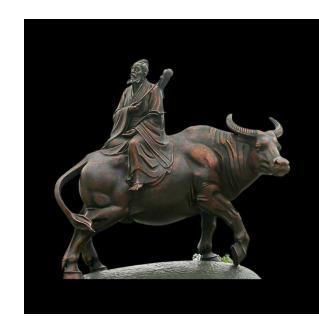


In the ox's mouth there is NO bit and upon his head there is NO bridal.

The wizened fellow holds NO rein, how ever does he direct the ox?

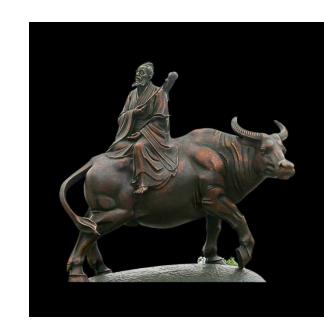


He does NOT.
Rather, he his content
to simply enjoy the ride.



By cultivating love's centered spontaneity

we too could go with the flow.



This is the effortless by product of mindfulness and meditation. __



Easy Enlightenment TEACHER: training

Patriarchal elitists have worked diligently to mystify

the process of becoming a meditation teacher.

Come let us take a good look at the, so called, man behind the curtain.

In many Theravadan traditions one has but to live as a monk for twelve years

in order to be considered a teacher.

In some Mahayana traditions one could study and meditate for many years

waiting in vain for one's Shifu or Roshi to appoint one a teacher.

Biographies of some Zen masters tell dark tales of such pettiness and favoritism.

In the Tibetan tradition anyone who completed a retreat

of three years, three months, three weeks, three days, and three hours was labeled as Lama. The problem with that is two-fold: FIRST children of wealthy families could easily afford the expenses of such a retreat

whereas those of modest means could not.

Many decades ago I ate lunch with a Tibetan monk of advancing years

who simply could not afford to attend retreat and thus complete his training.

Many Tibetans found a work-around to this financial elitism

eschewing the monastery (to whom they were required to pay rent) and living as a homeless, long-haired yogis.

Some of these were fortunate enough to find kind teachers

as well as survive both exposure and starvation.

The SECOND challenge to such a system is that

simply "doing one's time" is NO guarantee of acquiring

the intellectual comprehension or spiritual maturation necessary to truly be of benefit to others.

An additional variable in Tibetan Buddhism are the titles of Geshe, Khenpo, or Khenchen

which although could be likened to a Doctorate of Divinity in the west

are less of a promise of both intellectual and spiritual mastery

and more of a commentary upon their effort, recall, and the wealth of their family.

Yongjia Xuanjue's "Song of Enlightenment" alludes to both

the three year apprenticeship endured by novice monks

and the sad fact that NOT everybody benefits from such training.

As humanity perches upon the precipice of ecological collapse,

as well as both economic and militaristic barbarism

we stand in profound need of great meditation teachers

to help folks master the secular path of peace and love.

Let us forget the myths spun by institutionalism

and harken to the wisdom of Proto-Buddhism.

In the penultimate passage of the Discourse on the Four Bases of Mindfulness

the Buddha taught that his path could be mastered in as little as seven days.

The irony is that it could be easier to become a Buddha

than a fully qualified Dzokchen Lama or meditation teacher.

Both Malcome Gladwell as well as Brian Tracy insist that one

could master any discipline in as little as ten thousand hours.

Let us consider various ways to sustainably train both our intellectual mastery

as well as our spiritual maturity for ten thousand hours each.

The key to this endeavor is the practice of informal retreat.

Most students begin by attending my livestreams twice daily

whether live or recorded depending upon one's schedule and time-zone.

One could begin by attending no more than five minuets per class.

Each week one could add an additional five minutes:

five minuets for each stream the first week,

ten minuets for each stream the second week,

fifteen minuets for each stream the third week, until by the end of the twelfth week one's acclimated to comfortably attend for sixty minutes per livestream.

After cruising along in this manner for a month or two

one may flirt with the notion of practicing a one-day retreat once every quarter or so.

After multiple decades of experimentation I have found the following schedule to be effective and sustainable.

4:30 am wake

5:00 am first study

6:00 am first meditation

7:00 am first break

Easy Enlightenment

9:00 am second study

10:00 am second meditation

11:00 am second break

1:00 pm third study

2:00 pm third meditation

3:00 pm third break

5:00 pm final study

6:00 pm final meditation

7:00 pm final break

It is imperative to make the most of the four sets of breaks

to connect with one's: partner, children, and pets

thus ensuring their happiness and continued support of your spiritual training. Don't be surprised if your first single-day-retreat is a rough ride.

But every bump is an education. Listen to your body, respect your needs

and you could make the distinctions that could enhance

the pleasure and productivity of future single day retreats.

As the months, or maybe even years tick by,

our single day retreats could feel less arduous and more delightful

we could even find ourselves so looking forward to them

that we begin to practice them six times annually and eventually monthly.

This renegade lama considers a BO-DHI-SAT-TVA to merely be one

who feels defined by the practice of mindfulness and meditation and a MONASTIC to simply be an individual who lives as if on personal retreat.

During one's first three-and-a-half year retreat

spent collecting their five thousand hours of formal study

and additional five thousand hours of formal practice

one could be considered an apprentice lama.

During the second three-and-a-half year retreat when one is completing their ten thousand hours of formal study and additional ten thousand hours of formal meditation

one could be known as a journeyman lama.

Once one has completed their second retreat and has demonstrated

intellectual mastery as well as spiritual maturity one could rightly be described as a master lama.

In addition to mastering both the material as well as one's mind

it could be helpful to gain expertise in composition and public speaking.

Toward that end I encourage folks to read or listen to novels composed by contemporary authors

as well as attend local Toastmasters trainings.

Most people do not have the time and finances

to live as if on retreat for seven consecutive years.

If one merely studied for an hour and then meditated for an additional hour every morning

and likewise studied and meditated every evening then one could become a master lama in fourteen years.

Sadly, the United States of America has outlawed homelessness

forcing full time meditation students to find a job, find a patron, or practice in prison.

Although there are many Theravadan and some Mahayana monasteries in North America

most of them have become bastions of yang's religious patriarchy and as such take a dim view to those

who are determined to walk the path of being

flexible, loving, rational, laid-back, lucid, egalitarian, cooperative, and kind.

The author of this book is quite disabled and supports himself, with the help of his domestic partner,

and by relying on Medicare as well as Social Security: Disability.

Over the past twenty-six centuries since the Buddha, there have been times and places

where it was sometimes more easy and other times more difficult to become a master lama.

Regardless of one's age, health, gender, language, or land

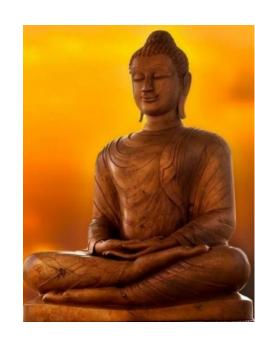
a minority of folks have become master lamas.

I am happy to help you however I can

through FREE videos, livestreams, and books

that you too could help others

to master the Buddha's path of mindfulness and meditation. __



If you have any questions about Buddhist philosophy, meditation or the practice text in the appendix; do NOT hesitate

to type your question, in great detail, in the chat window of my next livestream. Linktr.ee/LamaJigmeG

If you feel I have earned it you could support the kind works of the Buddha Joy Meditation School

on YouTube - Youtube.com/@LamaJigmeG PayPal - MeditateLikeAJedi.org/donate or Patreon - Patreon.com/MeditateLikeAJedi

Appendix

Dzogchen Lama: Jigme Gyatso's

Very Easy Meditation

practice text (or Sadh**á**na) 10jun25b



Sturgeon's Law

Ninety-percent of everything Sucks

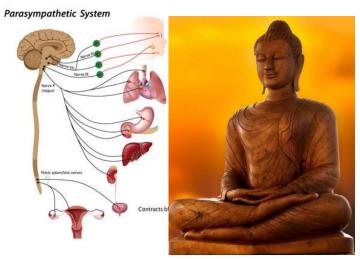
```
Yang's Religious Patriarchy
Rigid,
Fearful,
Superstitious,
Controlling,

Elitist,
Cryptic,
Competitive, &
Cruel
```

```
Yin's Spiritual Matriarchy
Flexible,
Loving,
Rational,
Laid-back,

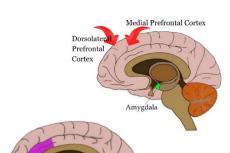
Egalitarian,
Lucid,
Cooperative, &
Kind
```

Ati-yoga's (Trekchöd's or Sutra-mahamudra's) Mindfulness and Meditation



Mindfulness noticing inhalation

Meditation relaxing exhalation



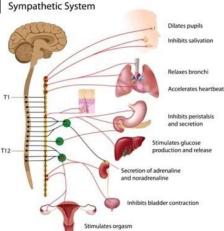
This

ease

Notice

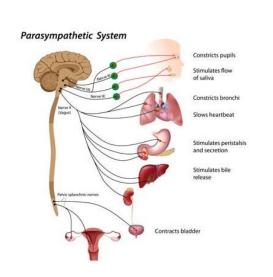
- -Vulnerably,
- -Passively,
- -Viscerally,
- -Randomly, and
- -Fleetingly

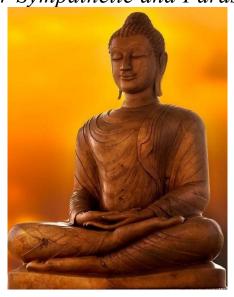


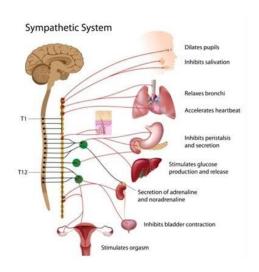


Fleetingly LESS stressful, LESS permanent, and LESS defining

Sustainably Cooperate with our Sympathetic and Parasympathetic Nervous Systems



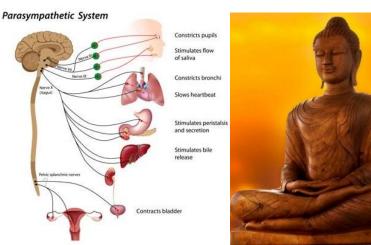




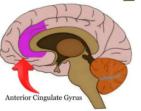
inhalation exhalation

Noticing...
relaxing!

Ati-yoga's (Trekchöd's or Sutra-mahamudra's) Mindfulness and Meditation



Medial Prefrontal Cortex



Mindfulness <u>noticing</u> inhalation

This

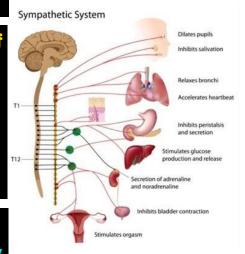
Meditation **relaxing** exhalation

ease

Notice

- -Vulnerably,
- -Passively,
- -Viscerally,
- -Randomly, and
- -Fleetingly

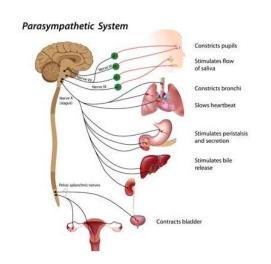
Mind's Antics of Perception, **Emotion,** Intention, Cognition, Recollection, & **Imagination**

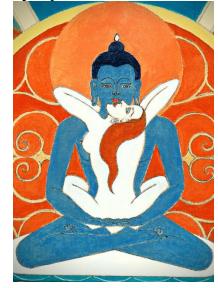


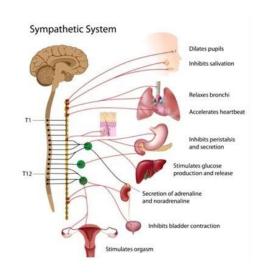
As NON-graspable as

a Vast, Empty Void like the Illusion of the Infinite, Azure Sky

Sustainably Cooperate with our Sympathetic and Parasympathetic Nervous Systems



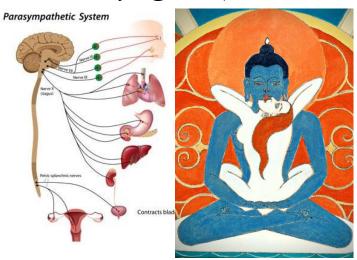




inhalation exhalation

Noticing... relaxing!

Ati-yoga's (Trekchöd's or Sutra-mahamudra's) Mindfulness and Meditation



Mindfulness noticing inhalation

Meditation relaxing exhalation

Medial Prefrontal Cortex

Dorsolateal
Prefrontal
Cortex

Amygdala

Anterior Cingulate Gyrus

This

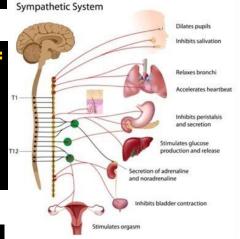
ease

Notice

- -Vulnerably,
- -Passively,
- -Viscerally,
- -Randomly, and
- -Fleetingly

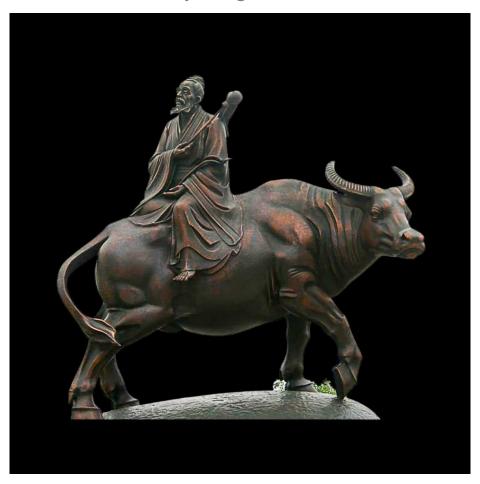
All Manner of Phenomena

External to Internal, Physical to Mental, Pleasurable to Painful, Interesting to Boring, Glorious to Grotesque

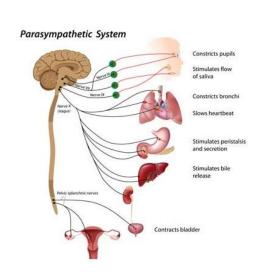


Fleetingly LESS stressful, LESS permanent, and LESS defining

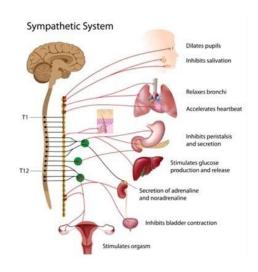
Easy Enlightenment



Sustainably Cooperate with our Sympathetic and Parasympathetic Nervous Systems



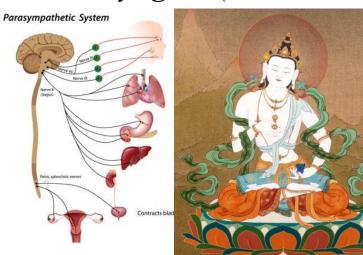




inhalation exhalation

Noticing...
relaxing!

Ati-yoga's (Trekchöd's or Sutra-mahamudra's) Mindfulness and Meditation



Mindfulness <u>noticing</u> inhalation

Meditation relaxing exhalation

Medial Prefrontal Cortex

Dorsolateral
Prefrontal
Cortex

Amygdala

This

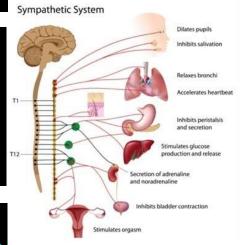
ease

Notice

- -Vulnerably,
- -Passively,
- -Viscerally,
- -Randomly, and
- -Fleetingly

Dualities such as:

Lack and Boon,
Pain and Bliss,
Scorn and Praise,
Shame and Fame



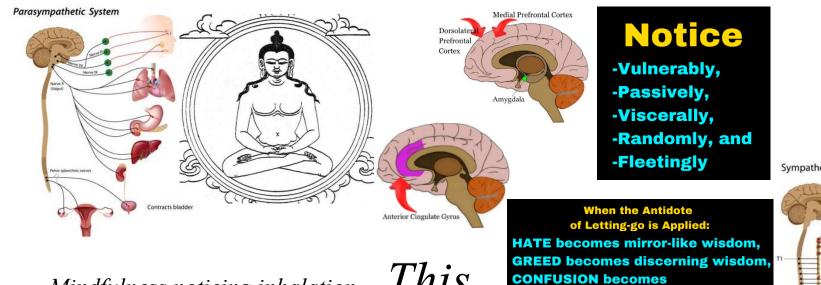
As NON-graspable as a Vast, Empty Void like the Illusion of the Infinite, Azure Sky

Sustainably Cooperate with our Sympathetic and Parasympathetic Nervous Systems



inhalation Noticing...
exhalation relaxing!

Ati-yoga's (Trekchöd's or Sutra-mahamudra's) Mindfulness and Meditation



Mindfulness noticing inhalation

This

Meditation relaxing exhalation

ease

all-pervading wisdom,

JEALOUSY becomes

all-accomplishing wisdom, and **PRIDE** becomes equalizing wisdom Sympathetic System Inhibits peristalsis Stimulates glucose production and release Inhibits bladder contraction

Fleetingly LESS tantalizing, LESS permanent, & LESS defining



You have taken your first step into a much larger world...



You and your questions are welcome to attend the twice daily livestreams Youtube.com/@LamaJigmeG