Easy Enlightenment

by the Renegade Lama: Jigme Gyatso 25feb25c



Easy Enlightenment

Contents

	INTRODUCTIONpg.	4
1	STRESS: the first of the Buddha's Four Noble Truthspg.	7
2	INSTINCT's dreadful cure that exacerbates stresspg.	20
3	BUDDHA's one stop shoppingpg.	34
4	WRONG way to meditatepg.	57
5	RIGHT way to meditate pg.	74
6	BENGALI crease counting and energy work pg.	110
7	SECRET of our Buddha Naturepg.	137
	- ♥	

Easy Enlightenment

8	TEACHER selectionpg.	
9	EASE of non-dualitypg.	173
10	SEVEN point posture of vairochanapg.	
11	ICONOGRAPHY of the archetypepg.	268
12	VEGANISM: a key to compassion	294
13	SWISS army knife of mindfulness and meditationpg.	310
14	CONCLUSIONpg.	
	Appendix	
1.5		261
	VERY easy meditationpg.	
16	TWICE daily livestreamspg.	387

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

for more than thirty years
I have harnessed
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
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) is NOT the smoking gun

proving that: we believe in a permanent or independent self, thát we are arrogant, cowardly, or fáithless.

Óur visceral response to stress evolved as an evolutionary mechanísm

ín response to peril in order to keep us álive.

Tó paraphrase Doctor of Philosophy Neil deGrasse Týson,

"(*ít could feel like*)
the universe is trying to k**í**ll 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

óf NOT getting what we want when we wánt it,

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

ánd enduring that which we do NÓT want.

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

Sínce 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 INSTINCT's dreadful 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're thirsty, food when we're hungry, and rest when we're weary. Why? For all these things keep us alive long enough to pass on our genetic traits.

Ánd that is of primary concern to our genes; the puppet master behind thé 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 five F's.

Whén exposed to any: thing, being or phenoména

déep within our viscera we seem tó ask,

"Should I Fuck this, Feed on this, Fight 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.

Yoú see we also have an oxytocin-oriented system in the basement of oúr 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 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 fróm what? Fróm that tyranny of our 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 raw 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?

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

Bút after (what seemed like) a great amount of time, and tears, and repeat instrúctions

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.

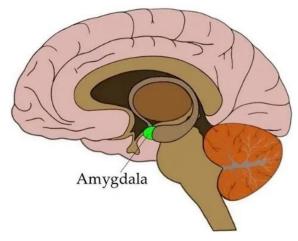
Likewise, we could so master the Buddha's eight-fold path. The seventh and eighth folds of the path are mindfulness as well as meditation

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

Mindfulness and meditation could be the engine that drives

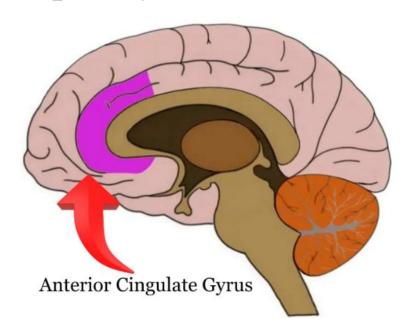
the cogs and gears of the Buddha's metaphoric enlightenment machine.

When practiced authentically mindfulness and meditation



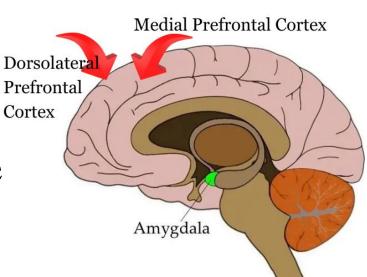
could calm our Amygdala (the seat of anxiety and aggression)

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

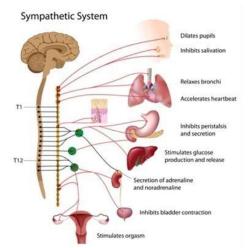


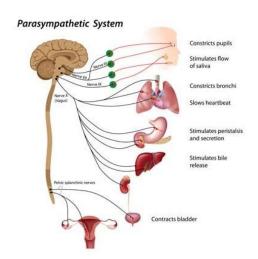
This is why the late Tulku Thondup insisted that the highest love was NOT the result of focus or analysis

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

could 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.

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)

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, cryptic, elitist, competitive, and cruel.

```
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
```

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 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.

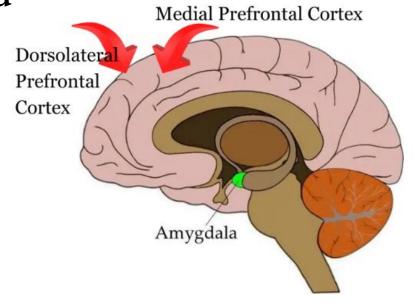
They might even use labels like analysis, contemplation, Vi-pas-sa-na,

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

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

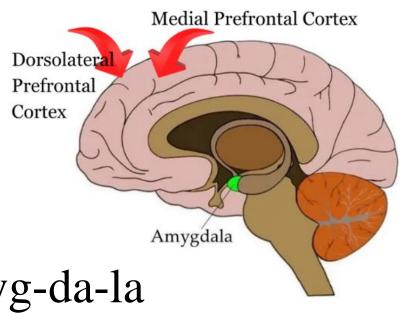
The ONLY way to practice either active focus, active analysis (or both)

is to rely upon discrete neural pathways such as those found



in our medial prefrontal cortex or our dorsolateral prefrontal cortex.

Overuse of such regions could exhaust our prefrontal cortex

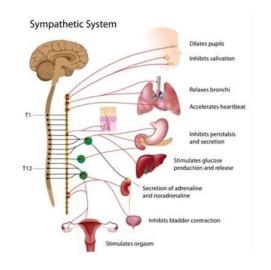


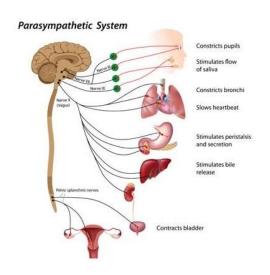
triggering our A-myg-da-la (the seat of anxiety and aggression).

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

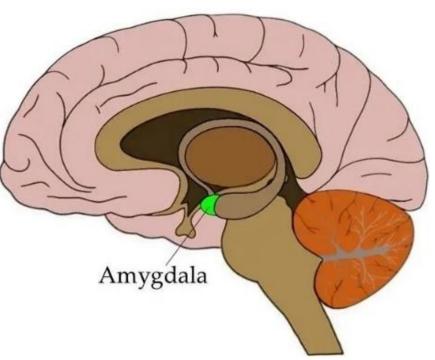




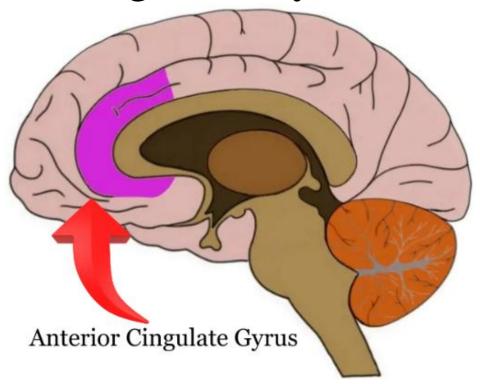
in reliance upon the two branches of our Autonomic Nervous System.

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

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

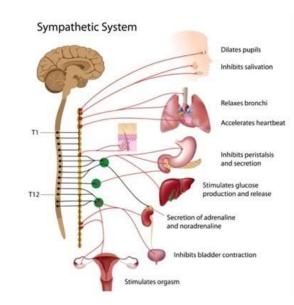
Nothing dispels the disinformation, misinformation, mythology, and superstition

surrounding mindfulness and meditation quite like neuroscience.

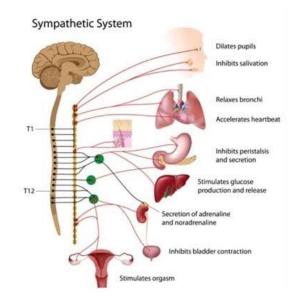
Let us begin by considering MINDFULNESS.

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:



vúlnerably, passively, viscerally, randomly, and fleetingly; which is quite antitheticál

to thé rigidity and controlling tendencies inherent to concentrátion.

Bút WHAT have we evolved to nótice?

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

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

émotions, intentions, cognitions, recollections, and imagínings.

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

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

Évery time we silently and mentally récite

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

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.

But what are we to do with all that we notice?

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

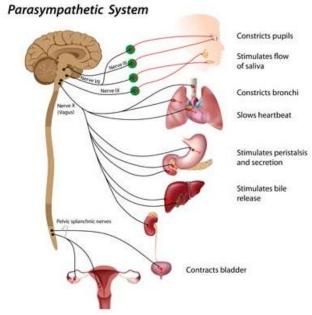
from the internal to the external, from the physical to the mental, from the pleasurable to the painful,

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.

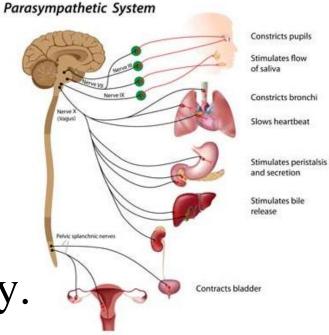
Each time we exhale we are wired



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 and 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: 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 "relaxing," 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

every twelve hours or so could be a good start

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

the third week that could be lengthened 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 change. 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

both smartphones 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, and 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.

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

of twelve inhalations each this time 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 <u>and</u> **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>four</u> sets of twelve inhalations each.







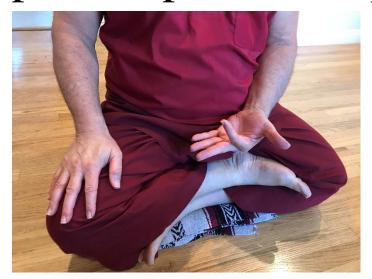


Finishing with the THIRD pillar: we could gather four collections

of <u>four</u>, eight, or twelve sets of twelve inhalations each

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

Upon the tip of left index finger, we could rest the great knuckle at the base of our right index finger 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.



Upon the tip of left <u>little</u> finger, we could rest the great knuckle at the base of our right <u>little</u> finger palms up, in our lap.





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



Upon the tip of left middle finger, we could rest the great knuckle at the base of our right middle finger palms up, in our lap.

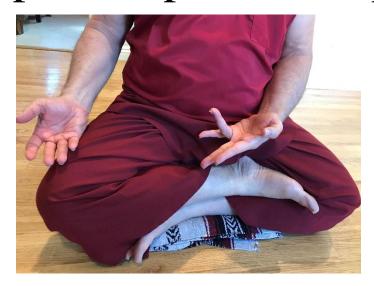




Doing so could gently invite our real or imagined, subtle energies, to automatically coalesce at the **Heart** region of our chest.



Upon the tip of left <u>ring</u> finger, we could rest the great knuckle at the base of our right <u>ring</u> finger palms up, in our lap.





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



Although these actions might NOT bestow upon us

the miraculous powers a Tolkien fever dream

they could assist our bodies' practice of the Buddha's mindfulness and meditation. _/_

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.

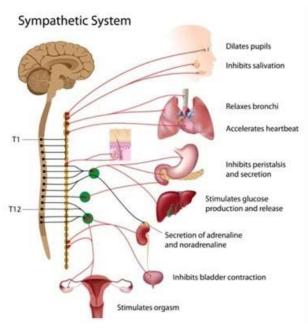
This charming iron-age turn of phrase hints that enlightenment is our birth right and easily attained,

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

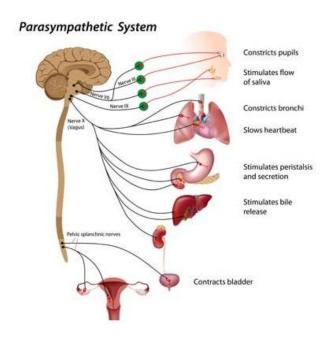
tó sophisticated imaging technology of which the ancients could have never cónceived.

Fúnctional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (or FMRI) studies have revéaled

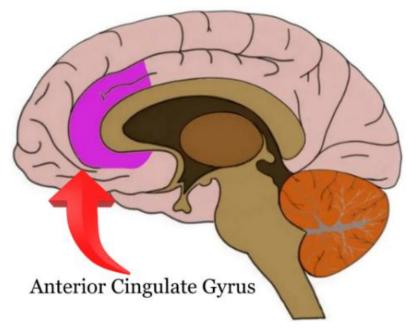
that it is our Sympathetic Nervous System that is the seat of mindfulness (or Sa-ti),



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



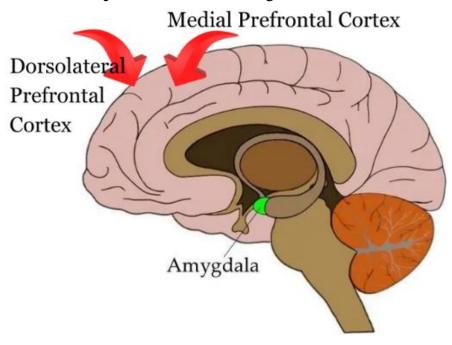
and our Anterior Cingulate Gyrus that is the seat of our loving-kindness (or Met-ta).



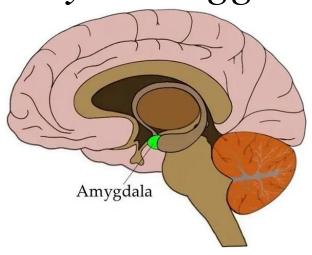
It is these three structures that comprise our Buddha nature. But a villain lurks!

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 and focus)



and our Amygdala (the seat of anxiety and aggression)



the opponents to the mechanism of our Buddha Nature.

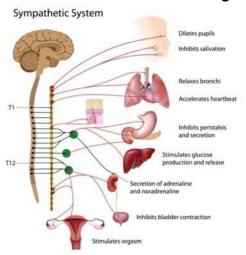
Just as Jack the Ripper taught us that a surgeon's scalpel could be used to take lives as well as save them,

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

The solution to this dilemma is two-fold.

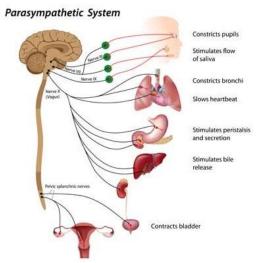
The easy method to strike the match of enlightenment already in our grasp

is to allow our Sympathetic Nervous System



to MINDFULLY do its thing during our inhalations

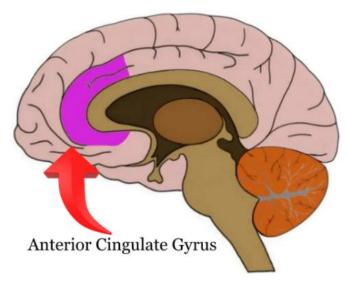
and to let our Parasympathetic Nervous System



to 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

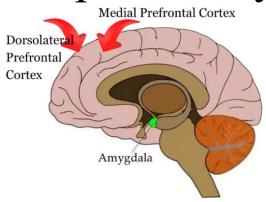


Anterior Cingulate Gyrus effortlessly and automatically.

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.

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.

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

Wé then enthusiastically practice the technique we are given

fór at least five minutes, once every twelve hours or so, for seven consecutíve 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 our preconceptions.

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 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

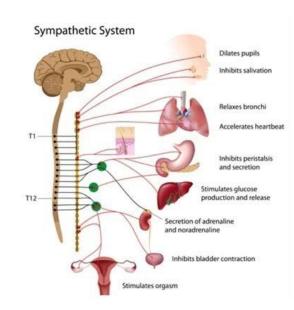
could NOT or would NOT spell out for us duality as well as its transcendence.

Let us begin remedying that with a review.

Level ONE – each time we silently and mentally recite

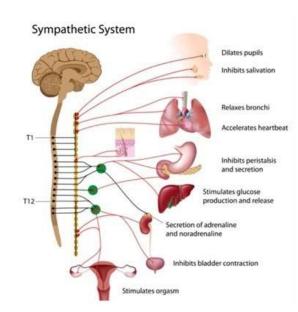
the demonstrative pronoun "*This*" (or the verb "*Noticing*") during our inhalation

our Sympathetic Nervous System wires us



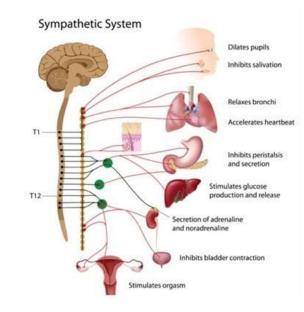
to vulnerably, passively, viscerally, randomly, and fleetingly

notice perceptions such as sights, sounds, sensations, flavors, and scents.



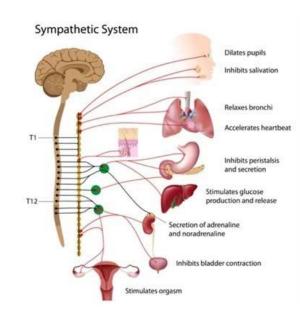
Level TWO – we could also spontaneously notice the full spectrum of human:

emotions, intentions, cognitions, recollections, and imaginings.



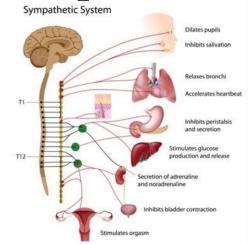
Level THREE – we could spontaneously notice many things

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



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

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



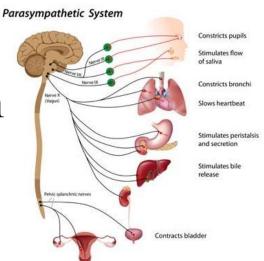
(that we desire some things and dread others).

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

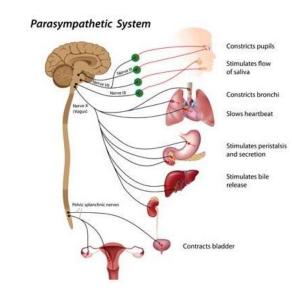
as well as resistance to the mere possibility of its presence. As we silently and mentally recite the one syllable verb "ease" (or the thee syllable verb "relaxing") during our exhalation

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



whatever dread or desire, glory or grotesquery, interest or boredom,

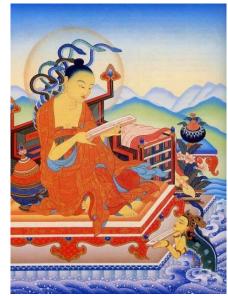
pleasure or pain, mind or body, external or internal



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 notice 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

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.

Let us turn our attention to a set of four dualities

known as the Eight Failings of the World (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

we may have *noticed* during our previous inhalation

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

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

we may have *noticed* during our previous inhalation

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

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

we may have *noticed* during our previous inhalation

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

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

we may have *noticed* during our previous inhalation

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

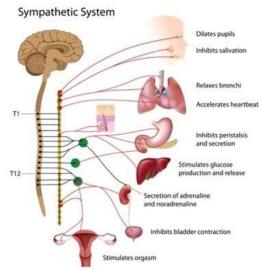
Liberation from the tyranny of duality could be an effortless and effective process.

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

Easy Enlightenment SEVEN-POINT posture of Vairochana

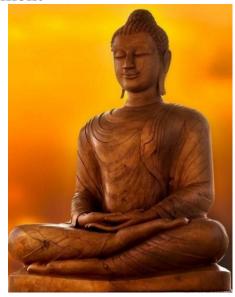
Our mind dwells in our central nervous system

and our central nervous system dwells in our physical body of flesh, blood, and bone.



Easy Enlightenment

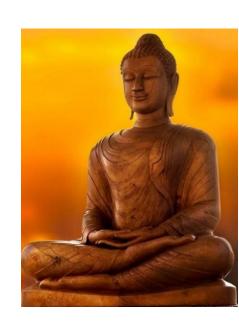
The advantage to this is that we could make subtle adjustments



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.





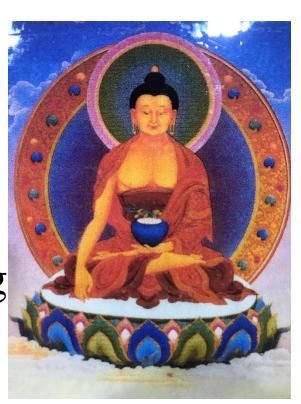


May we remember to wash it weekly

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 our knees to needless and unnecessary injury.

By experimenting with our hip joints we could rest our insteps

upon the blanket



instead of the bony crowns of our ankles, which would be needlessly 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,



we could surrender to temporary imperfection,

allowing 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 our 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 lesson or chapter discussing "Bengali Crease Counting."

Upright

Semi open eyes

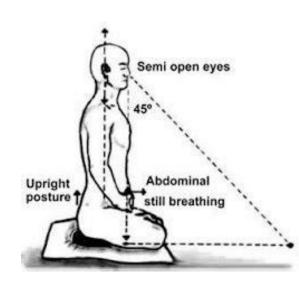
Abdomina

The THIRD point concerns our spine.

With each inhalation we could generate a vertical traction between our tush and the back 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.



Winging Scapula / Scapula Alata

Prominent medial border

Long/weak: Serratus anterior

Other:

The FOURTH point concerns our shoulder blades

(or Scapula).

With each inhalation
the vertical traction of our spine
could gently 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 letting-go 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 back 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 are 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 kinesiological momentum

of spinal traction, scapular opening, and chin dropping

strongly infer that pointing our face down, toward the floor or earth,

at a place about one to two meters before us is most sustainable. Some squeeze their eyes tightly closed, some open wide their eyes as if surprise,

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

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

and allow the upward organization of the seven points

of legs, spine, hands, shoulder-blades, head, mouth, and gaze

to gently and organically guide us with each inhalation.

Doing so, we cannot help but relish each exhalation's subtle release.

Like the archetype of Gau-ta-ma (*the Buddha*) may we too practice mindfulness and meditation. _/_

Easy Enlightenment ICONOGRAPHY of the archetype

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 be 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 of EMPATHY (the source of the greatest beauty)



that 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.



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 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.

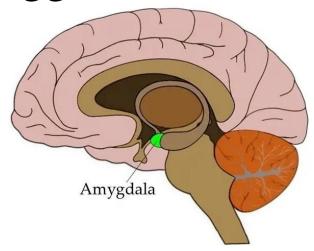
And even though we could watch the video "Dominion"

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.

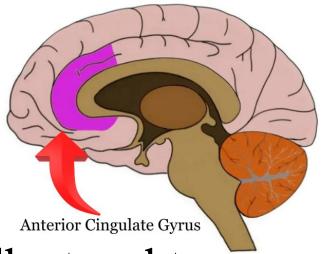


And the more we authentically practice mindfulness and meditation,

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.



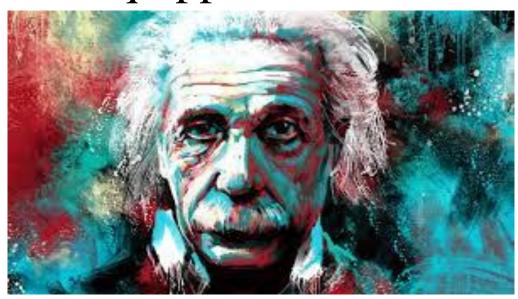
This is why the Buddha taught mindfulness and meditation. _/_

Easy Enlightenment

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 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 this:

- 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 enthusiastically seek PROTECTION

from the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune

there is no greater safety to be had than by passively noticing 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 but only have to vulnerably notice

the various 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 were NOT 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 noticed 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 noticed 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 noticed
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 noticed
during our previous inhalation

could feel as void as All-accomplishing wisdom.

FIFTH: as we meditatively relax into our exhalation

whatever *PRIDE* we fleetingly noticed 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 to us by the easy practice of mindfulness and meditation. Come, let us walk in the Buddha's footsteps practicing 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

The Renegade Lama: Jigme Gyatso's

Very Easy Meditation

practice text (or Sadhána) 6mar25b



Setting Intention by Wishing for Universal Enlightenment



Whatever COMES may all beings notice, relax, and flow!

Easy Enlightenment



Whatever STAYS may all beings notice, relax, and flow!



Whatever GOES may all beings notice, relax, and flow!

1st Quarter of Group Meditation

Upon the tip of our left ring finger, we could rest the great knuckle at the base of our right ring finger palms up, in our lap.

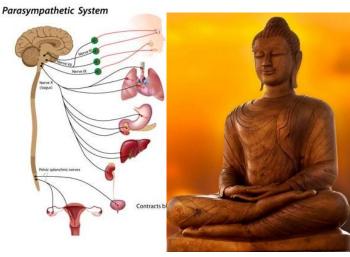


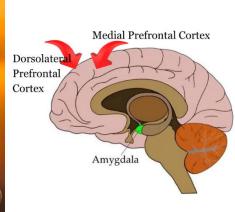


Doing so could gently invite our real or imagined, subtle energies, to automatically coalesce at the Navel region of our mid-abdomen.



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





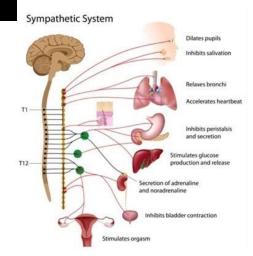
Notice

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

Mindfulness <u>noticing</u> inhalation

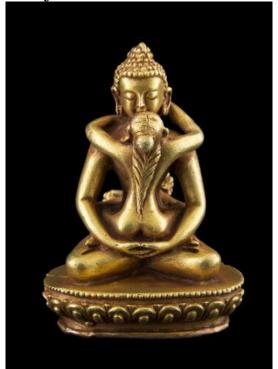
Meditation relaxing exhalation

This ease!



Fleetingly LESS tantalizing, LESS permanent, & LESS defining

Easy Enlightenment mindfulness and meditation



inhalation

Noticing relaxing

exhalation

2nd Quarter of Group Meditation

Upon the tip of our left index finger, we could rest the great knuckle at the base of our right index finger palms up, in our lap.

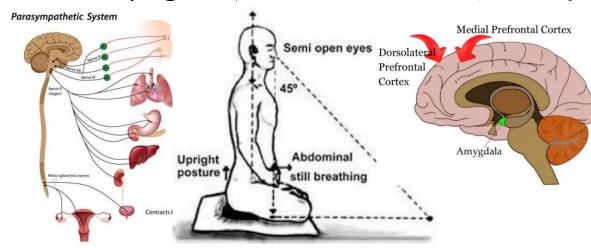




Doing so could gently invite our real or imagined, subtle energies, to automatically coalesce at the Grown region of our head.



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



Mindfulness noticing inhalation

Meditation relaxing exhalation

This

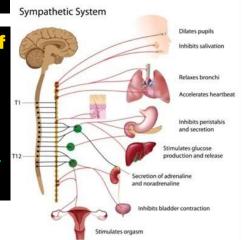
ease

Notice

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

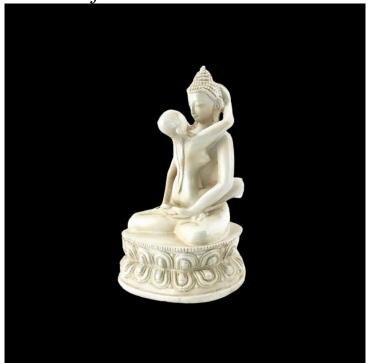
Mind's Antics of

Perception,
Emotion,
Intention,
Cognition,
Recollection, &
Imagination



Fleetingly LESS tantalizing, LESS permanent, & LESS defining

Easy Enlightenment mindfulness and meditation



inhalation Noticing
exhalation relaxing

3rd Quarter of Group Meditation

Upon the tip of our left middle finger, we could rest the great knuckle at the base of our right middle finger palms up, in our lap.

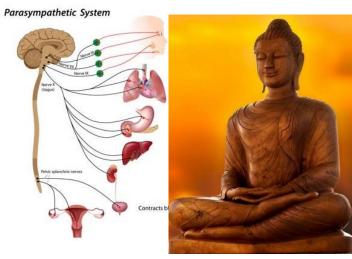


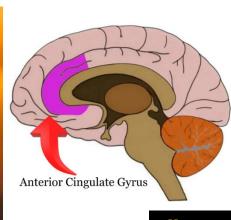


Doing so could gently invite our real or imagined, subtle energies, to automatically coalesce at the **Heart** region of our chest.



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





Notice

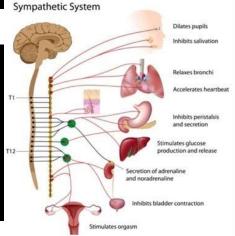
- -Vulnerably,
- -Passively,
- -Viscerally,
- -Randomly, and
- -Fleetingly

Mindfulness noticing inhalation

Meditation relaxing exhalation

This

All Manner of Phenomena **External to Internal,** Physical to Mental, Pleasurable to Painful, Interesting to Boring, **Glorious to Grotesque**



Fleetingly LESS tantalizing, LESS permanent, & LESS defining

Easy Enlightenment mindfulness and meditation



inhalation

exhalation

Noticing relaxing

4th

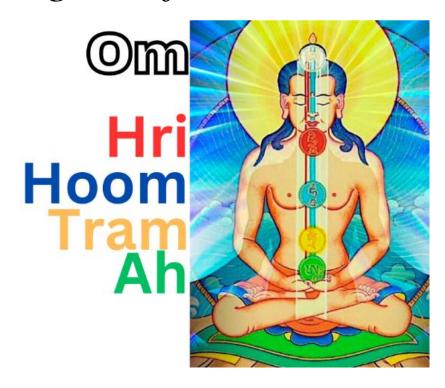
Quarter of Group Meditation

Upon the tip of our left ring finger, we could rest the great knuckle at the base of our right ring finger palms up, in our lap.





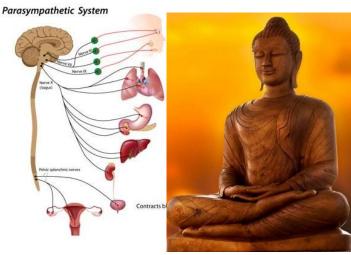
Doing so could gently invite our real or imagined, subtle energies, to automatically coalesce at the Navel region of our mid-abdomen.

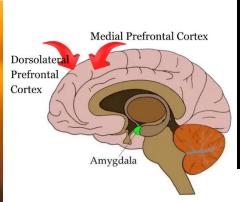


Sympathetic System

Easy Enlightenment

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





Notice

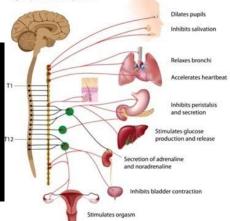
- -Vulnerably,
- -Passively,
- -Viscerally,
- -Randomly, and
- -Fleetingly

Mindfulness noticing inhalation

Meditation relaxing exhalation

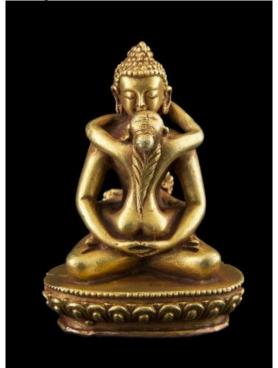
This ease!

Dualities such as:
Lack and Boon,
Pain and Bliss,
Scorn and Praise,
Shame and Fame



Fleetingly LESS tantalizing, LESS permanent, & LESS defining

Easy Enlightenment mindfulness and meditation



inhalation

Noticing relaxing

exhalation



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