

Tales from Thailand, 2020

#2



Hello again, dear readers.

And full-moon greetings from the Green Tara.

(It was fun to wait for the moon to rise to just the right spot.)

Thanks so much for your heartfelt response to my Tales. There are many Zero Waste Warriors out there, who have been responding with consciousness since long before my nascent attempts. I often fail to



avoid single-use plastic: people give me bottles of water, or I buy something that is otherwise unavailable without wrapping.. And I'm still learning about impeccability from Captain Zero Waste. Here she and her wonderful grand-daughter, Gan-pu, rinse the bottle caps five times (!) before sending them off to re-cycling, carefully scrubbing any hint of dirt.

Speaking of cleaning up, it seems that my ongoing second chakra sweeping meditations, to clear the infants' shame and trauma, are having a profound impact on my ability to see, to laugh, to rebound, to dance ...

you name it. I'd say: to be free.

Van Jones (one of my heroes and co-founder of the Revolutionary Love project) says it best:

If we haven't cleared the early personal wounds of our own childhood, we will drown in an ocean of powerlessness and despair amidst today's challenges.

Last Valentine's Day, instead of buying chocolate candy [*an industry mostly built on child slavery*] for people who don't need it, tens of thousands of "love warriors" wrote letters to prisoners, refugees, and migrants in detention.

This Tale is dedicated to Gladys Tiffany, a Quaker and Fayetteville peacemaker who walks her talk every day, ceaselessly standing on the front lines with grace, love and conviction. Thank you, dear Gladys.

Yesterday, I was so happy to introduce another hero to a group of Thai teenagers, at the the ISV club (International Spiritual volunteers) monthly meeting. My best friend here in Thailand, Nawng Joy, initiated this group of youth and young adults last year.

Only one of the kids had heard of Greta Thunberg, when I asked them. I told them her story, and then we watched her famous delivery to the U.N. last August...



including the detail that she'd practiced a polite version of her speech while rehearsing with her father at home...but memorized the actual "How dare you?!!" passionate version secretly. With a few tears dripping down my cheeks, I apologized for the inaction, ineptitude and failure of my generation. And I challenged them to make a difference in their own future, in their own lives. We have, perhaps, five to eight years, Greta tells us, before the worst predictions unfold.

This year, Nawng Joy took fifteen kids to Lumbini, Nepal, where a Thai medical team of ophthalmologists visits every year on a medical mission. In three days, the surgeons performed over 900 cataract operations. The ISV kids (some of them as young as 10 or 11) provided support and back-up assistance. Every kid I talked to told me it had changed their lives forever.

Yesterday was also Children's Day in Thailand, a popular annual event. The ISV kids spent the day explaining Zero Waste to hundreds of families, and initiated a "garbage toss" game to help kids separate waste.

This weekend I have received every birthday gift I could wish for:



I spontaneously joined five Ashtanga yogi friends and we played yoga for an hour. It's been four months since I dared to do that; it felt like pure magic to move again. Also, dancing most evenings at sunset under the stupa has enlivened and sparked the buoyant child within!

(I'm quite delighted with my Spotify app, btw! And now I have great music at my fingertips). And I also thank the Goddess for my magnesium and curcumin supplements which ease my aching joints at night... and help sustain the "Superwoman at 72" illusion... (55555)

Maichee Sansanee (now mostly known as “Khunmae”, or grandma) continues, literally, to enlarge the Green Tara’s presence here in Thailand...quite a radical and daring thing for such a patriarchal country. Tara comes from the Mongolian/Tibetan lineage of goddesses.

Khunmae took a group of us to a huge metal foundry in Ayutthaya and gathered the 250 workers there for lunch, after teaching them the Green



Tara chant, and handing out Tara pendants to the entire staff. We even got everyone up and laughing as they learned a kind of hip-hop dance about the Green Tara and world peace. The foundry is working on a eighty-five foot bronze statue (!) for our center in Bangkok.

Some of you long-term readers may be wondering about the little nuns, Maichees Pim and Jasmine.

We’ve been swimming a few times and Pim seems to be getting more and more interested in dancing.





Blessings to you, my incredible world-wide sangha.

I'm astonished to have such beautiful and creative friends and family, everywhere.

