

AWAKENING OURSELVES IS AWAKENING OTHERS

~ Zen Master Thich Dieu Thien & Zen Master Thich Thong Hoi ~

"AWAKENING OURSELVES IS AWAKENING OTHERS" is the spirit of Awake, liberation in Buddhism. Being a Buddha's follower, one must be very clear about this. Currently, there are songs, information that has distorted the path of Awake like this song below:

"Buddha, Why Bless Me but not Her", this song, gives us the image of an ordained person towards a wrong goal and too tragic. Every day, the physical body is in the temple, the hand is inviting the moktak, the mouth is chanting, but the mind endures suffering because he keeps on missing his lover. Because he ignorantly believes this worldly life is real, relationship is real, therefore, when impermanence happened to his lover, he criticized Buddha and raised hatred, "Clinging to the tragic love relationship." From there, following his ego mind, he has entered the evil path, causing more eternal karma. But why tragic? It is tragic because he mistakenly thought that he had practiced spiritually everyday and Buddha had saved him! Only his physical appearance is like an ordained person, but his mind is heavily burdened with worldly attachments: love and hatred! Practicing spiritually like that, Buddha had never helped him, how he can blame Buddha and return the yellow robe! Even everyday chanting and reciting Buddha's name but not clear about Ignorance and Awake, enough to confirm he had never been helped by Buddha!

Seeing that people in this lifetime are so misleading about the path of Awake, forgetting the deep grace of Lord Buddha and the Awakened Teachers; therefore, because we love and want to awaken all people, we rewrite this song: "Awakening Ourselves is Awakening Others", in order to reopen the path of Awake, hoping to be able to help those who are seeking the path of Awake in this lifetime, want to Wake Up to be liberated, but have not had the chance to meet the Awakened Teacher to help them.

The first two parts are aimed at [1] Opening the mind, [2] Realize Awake potential, and the third part is [3] Waking Up.

Thanks to the Awakened Teachers, lighting up our Wisdom, so that we can realize the source of ignorance, merge into the Source of Wisdom, "Breaking ignorance and afflictions", "The ego self is like fleeting clouds!", "Liberating from the clinging to human love forever", at this moment, it can be truly called "Awakening Ourselves" is also "Awakening Others".

"Awakening Others" means "Awakening all sentient beings, paying gratitude to Buddha".

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- 1 -

*Buddha is within, ignorance covers
Forever chasing after thoughts and losing
ourselves.
Attaching to karma day and night
Moktak sound cannot end attachments.
Living in the temple but keeps on missing his
lover
Bodhi tree cannot blossom.
The sutra verse is still echoing forever
Suffering and hatred chasing after for many
fall seasons.*

*Because ignorance, not clear about illusion
and Awake
Attaching to form, looking for Buddha
outside
What suffering, or why
We cannot turn back, lifetime after lifetime
Becoming more distant from Buddha
Does the sutra verse mean anything?!
Because we haven't yet awakened
ourselves, how can we awaken others?*

- 2 -

*The flow of life never goes our way
Why blaming the water flowing heartlessly?
For thousands of lifetimes, things come and
go
Why our mind is mentally distressed?
In Awake mind, there is no sound nor picture
Crazily believing everything is real.
Living with illusion mind
The more we practice, the farther away from
Lord Buddha*

*Because not clear about our inner mind
Clinging to the tragic love relationship
Heavy burden in the mind from missing his
lover
Cannot let go of her image.
Let's ask ourselves, practicing like this
Blindly inviting the moktak and chanting
We haven't yet awakened ourselves, so how
can we awaken others?!*

- 3 -

*Day by day lighting up Wisdom
Realizing clearly our true self and ego self
For thousands of lifetimes, things come and
go
The True Nature is Emptiness
In Awake mind, there is no sound nor
picture.
Clearly realizing the source of ignorance
Breaking ignorance and afflictions
The ego self is like fleeting clouds!*

*Open, spacious, pure, disturbed by nothing
Manifesting from the source of Awake.
The source of infinite Wisdom and
Compassion
Liberating from the clinging to human love
forever.
Paying gratitude to Buddha in this lifetime
Stepping into life to awaken all sentient
beings.
Awakening ourselves is awakening others!*