

GANDHARVA



GERARDSLOOVEN





GANDHARVA

*"With music and Buddhism
being two of the most
important aspects of my life,
Gandharva is my attempt
to investigate
how these two combine.
I hope you enjoy the experience
of listening to this music.
It was a privilege
to work on this project."*

- Gerard Slooven, Deventer 2014 -



GANDHARVA

- NINE ROADS TO THE INNER PATH -

1. MORNING REFUGE (06:56)
2. 2ND PERFECTION (08:25)
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MORNING REFUGE

*" I go for refuge
until I am enlightened
to the Buddha,
the Dharma and the Sangha.
By the virtuous merit I create
by practising giving
and the other perfections
may I attain the state of a Buddha
in order to benefit
all sentient beings."*

- Ngawang Sherab -

In many Buddhist traditions,
ceremonies exist to take refuge to the
Buddha, the Buddhist teachings and
the Buddhist community.
It is common practice to repeat these vows
on a regular basis, for example
during morning meditation.



ผู้ชนะคนอื่นทั้งล้านในสงคราม ก็เป็นเพียง
กำลังของตนคนเดียว ผู้ชนะตนเองเท่านั้น คือจอม
ผู้กษัตริย์ในสงคราม.

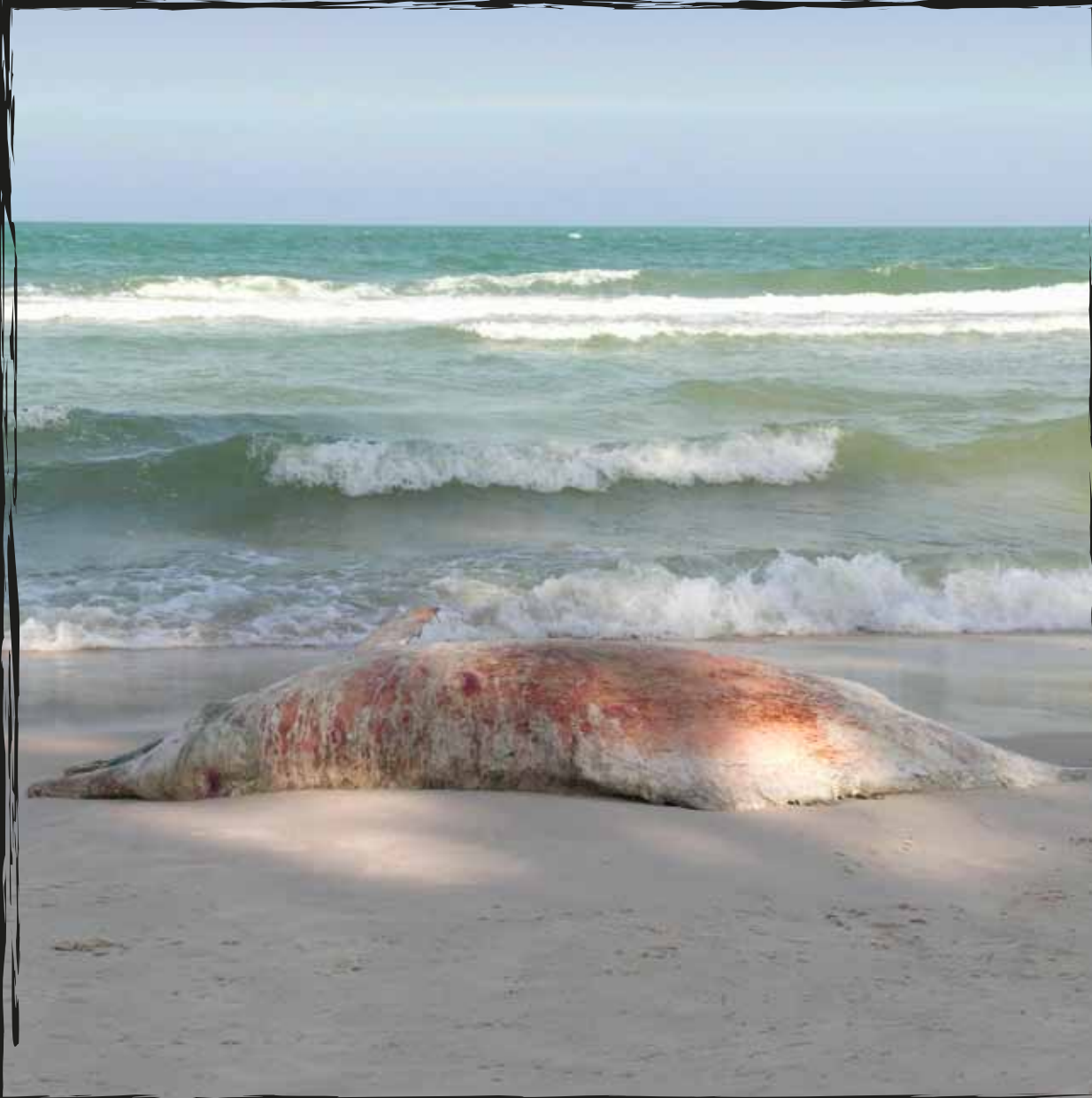
To conquer millions in a battle
is less than to conquer oneself.
A self-conqueror is the supreme
victor.

2ND PERFECTION

*"To conquer millions in a battle
is less than to conquer oneself.
A self conqueror
is the supreme victor."*

- Quote on a mural painting in Thailand -

There are six mental perfections
recognized in Buddhist philosophy,
the second being the perfection of moral
discipline, called Tsultruim in Tibet.
It is thought that practicing
and mastering all six perfections
is the way to enlightenment.
When I took refuge in 2009, I was given
Tsultruim as my Buddhist name,
so in a way it's the perfection I feel
most related to.



IMPERMANENT ETERNITY

*"The wave does not need to die
to become water.
She is already water."*

- Thich Nhat Hanh -

For me, reincarnation is one of the
hardest concepts to accept within
Buddhist philosophy.

Rebirth, on the other hand,
is something I can relate to, in the way
that everything around us - including
ourselves - is constantly changing,
reforming and manifesting
into the here and now.

Like waves in the ocean; the moment one
wave disappears, another one (or the same
one?) appears, without ever changing
that which they are all part of;
the ocean itself.



SEKI COLLAPSE

*"Abide not with dualism,
carefully avoid pursuing it.
As soon as you have
right and wrong,
confusion ensues,
and Mind is lost."*

- Edward Conze -

Seki is a concept in the ancient game of Go, where two opposing groups keep each other alive; neither one can attack the other without dying itself.

However, sometimes it is possible, generally by conditions outside of the seki itself, that the seki becomes unstable and collapses into a situation where one group dies and the other survives.

Their state of eternal mutual life, where both sides are as one, is lost into a duality of life and death.



TRUNKS

*"From a small seed
a mighty trunk may grow."*

- Aeschylus -

*The Thai city of Chiang Mai
is full of them: elephant statues,
most of them in very bad shape.
But no matter how fragile they look,
they still are proudly supporting
buildings, roofs and temples.*

*Their bodies may vanish,
but their strength remains intact.*



DEATHWOODS

"L'enfer, c'est les autres."

- Jean-Paul Sartre -

Each religion seems to have
a concept of hell.

In most Buddhist traditions, hell can be
seen as simply a state of mind, one
where we torture ourselves through our
own attachments to the distorted reality
we observe around us.

State of mind or not, it is not hard to
find pictures where this torture is
presented in a very realistic and graphic
form, like in this painting found in a
temple in Chiang Mai.



THE EMPTINESS INSIDE

*"Two possibilities exist:
either we are alone in the Universe
or we are not.
Both are equally terrifying."*

- Arthur C. Clarke -

The Buddhist concept of emptiness, meaning everything is lacking a permanent and isolated self, is easily confused with the feeling that there isn't anything at all. That kind of emptiness, however, can also hold a lot of power; like the vast emptiness of space, or the emptiness when we simply stare into the light of dawn without trying to see anything....



FRAGMENTED

*" We often think we know things
when in fact
it's only our imagination
taking us further and further away
from what is actually happening. "*

- Steve Hagan -

During meditation,
we do not try to think of nothing,
we simply try to stay in the moment
as much as possible.

Our mind, however, is trained
to latch on to every little distraction
by giving it attention,
therefor creating a state where our
concentration is scattered
all over the place.

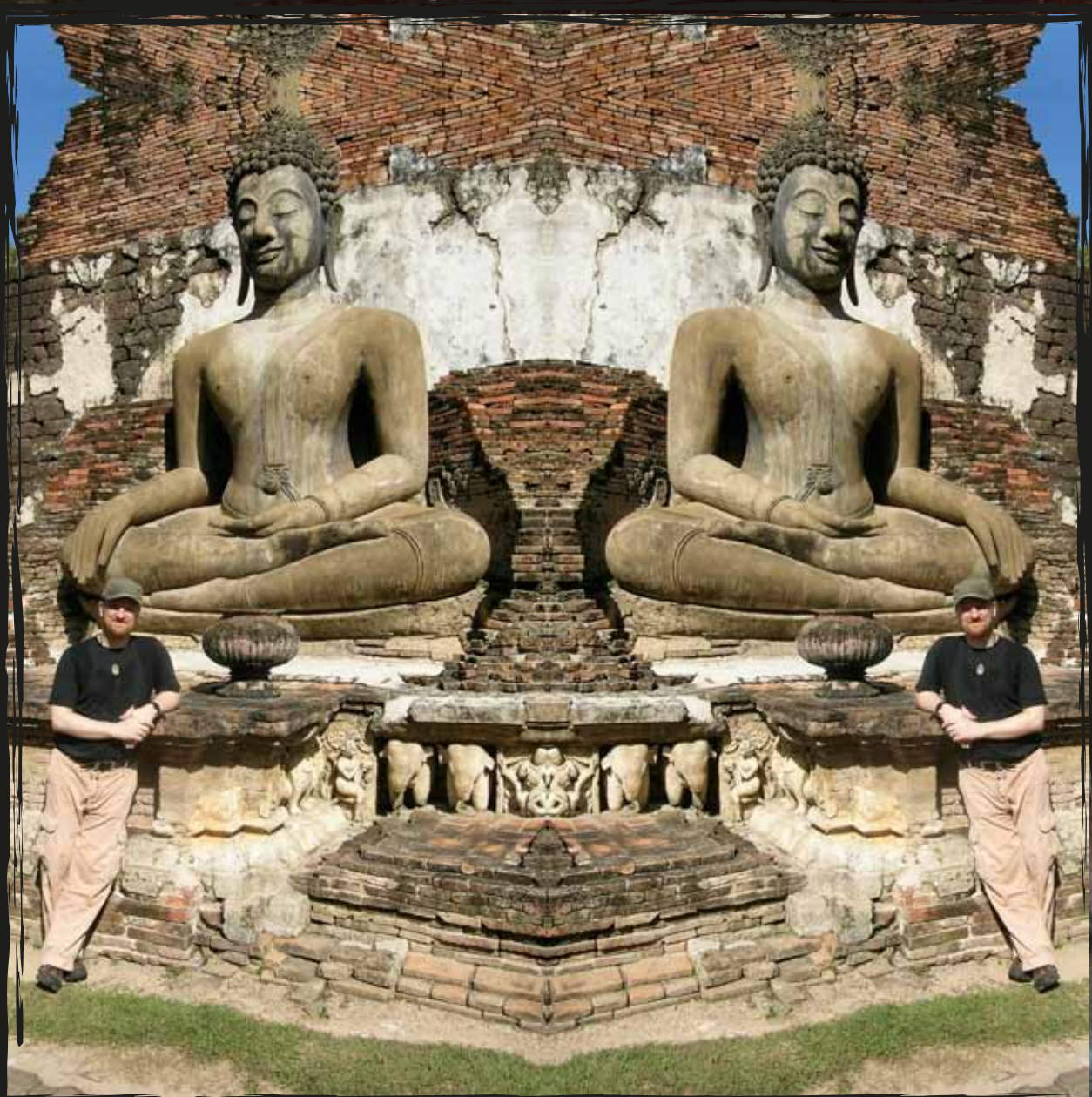


MOVEMENT VI

*" I function as a channel
through which music emerges
from the chaos of noise."*

- Vangelis -

*When does sound stop
being merely sound,
and when does it become music?
To me, it seems that the Greek composer
Evangelhos Odyssey Papathanassiou
has been trying to answer that question
throughout most of his musical career.
This is my humble tribute to him.*



CREDITS

*Composed, arranged, produced,
performed and designed
by Gerard Slooven*

*Recorded at ForestSounds Studio
Deventer, the Netherlands
2012 - 2014*

- Gerard Slooven -

All instruments, sounds and samples

- Chris Semmelink -

Tibetan vocals on track 1

- Sphoek -

Whining and howling on track 6

*All photos made by
Gerard Slooven and Chris Semmelink
during a trip across Thailand, 2009.*

Dedicated, with all my love, to Chris

