

## 10.7 Buddhism with Feeling

One of my favourite similes for Sutta study is that of classical music (or your favourite kind of music). Teaching the Suttas is like playing your special musical instrument. You practise, learn new pieces, consult the masters and ancient documents, practise again and again. Then you play before the audience with all the feeling you have.

Listening to the Suttas or discussing the Dharma is like listening to a musical recital. For the best effect, you sit calmly and quietly, and let the Dharma sink in. And, oh yes, you must completely switch off your hand-phones. (Just imagine a phone going off in a classical music hall!)

The Suttas are like a musical score. The teacher is a sort of performer, and he gives his best performance, less in technical brilliance, but more with deep feelings. If the ambience is right and the audience still enough, the beauty and spirit of the ancient music is transmitted to you.

You have to listen with your heart. As you listen with the still silence of your heart, the various recitals begin to fall into place like heavenly jigsaw pieces, and your life becomes all the richer.

All this is easy to understand as Buddhism is not a person-centred or guru-centric teaching, but a Dharma-centred (or mind-centred) practice. The True Dharma is found in the stillness between the musical notes.

But it's good to listen to the masters first and study the music scores. For, one day it will be your turn to perform before your own audience.

Till then, let us be at the TMC Dharma concert chamber and listen to the Buddha Word—with feeling. Join us in on a beautiful and musical Dharma journey into inner space.