

Thank you Phyllis

It is so difficult to say in a few words how much I am indebted to you  
Since our first encounter in the 2000s thanks to the workshop you organised in  
Hamilton, we met regularly but not often enough for our friendship !

First I want to acknowledge the wide scope of your intellectual influence. You  
opened for me so many paths related to religious biographies and hagiographies,  
patronage, spiritual and cultural encounters. Your love for the beauty of literary texts  
lead you to the amazing task of learning a new language just in order to read a text you  
wanted to appreciate in its original version ! And you do it not only with Indian  
languages ! Always curious, eager to deepen your knowledge, you explore new ways and  
always suggested us new paths to explore, various subjects you generously wanted us to  
share.

Together with Koichi, you organised conferences, symposiums, workshops and  
allowed researchers from different fields to meet and share ideas, field data, hypothesis.  
The thematics that you proposed, every time made the participants look at their own  
material in a new way : for me, the most exciting experience was the Yale Conference on  
Nature : « The natural world and the Religious Imagination in Asia » in 2006, which was  
the occasion, for me, to explore different aspects of the Yogis' world view. Also, these  
conferences were the occasion to meet other scholars, to enter networks. I am indebted  
to you, Phyllis, for so many new relationships, and the atmosphere you created during  
these conferences, and their breaks, allowed scholarly exchanges to develop into new  
friendships.

I benefited also from your generosity as editor, not only because I published in  
Journal of Indian Philosophy that you directed, but because of your thorough reading  
and also much needed corrections of my awful English !

Finally, but most importantly, I am happy of our friendship. Besides our  
intellectual exchanges, we often share our personal feelings, our views on all sort of  
topics, from politics to children... And this way of sharing a same world, of knowing that  
we will be understood whatever happens, this is invaluable.

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