

## INNER AND OUTER UPDATE

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First some inner comments:

It is amazing to me how fast my often-overflowing sense of my self empties out the moment something untoward happens. Bad news, the death of a loved one, major life disappointments... you name it. No sooner do they appear then my sense of self heads south and I find myself stark empty of attachments or at least back to a bare minimum. And it doesn't take much to trigger the avalanche, just some unforeseen or unwelcome event.

This kind of experience sobers me up pretty fast and I find myself serious and brushing away pastimes and opportunities normally I would embrace. Suddenly they are empty of meaning for me, simply unimportant compared to the vacuum I experience.

Now, if I could only learn to embrace that emptiness with the joy I do the attachments! I am getting there, but I still have a long way to go, and yet in life, not so far to go.

One ray of sunshine is that I now know that if my intent was good and if I worked on some project with a good heart and sincerity, even if the tides of life washes it away, the merit and value of its creation remains with me. This is true for any mandala. In my eyes, that is a step forward. In the past, I would mourn the loss and never even value the process involved in creating it.

Now for the outer comments:

I have been reworking the studio in preparation for expanded use once the main load of library materials are carted off to the University of Illinois to be part of their permanent collection. How great for scholars and students down the line.

Meanwhile, back in the jungle of junk, I have cleared the main floor and even hung some of my old rock concert posters on the walls. So, here is a quick review of the main rooms. The empty spaces in the library room, once the books are gone, will be replaced by other books and materials, so the acoustics of the room remain useful. In addition to this large room, we have two other live rooms (all sound-safe), plus a separate drum room, which has been needed. The two "other live rooms" are not shown here because they are still full of stuff.

As for myself, Margaret and I leave tomorrow before dawn for the 800-mile one-day trip to KTD. I will be gone for about two weeks and may or may not have a good Internet connection and/or time to post here, but I will try.

Until then, I wish you all well.



This is the main library room that acoustically is perfect for recording. After the books are gone, believe it or not, I have other books and materials to fill the space.



This is the video editing part of the new "drum room."



Here is the empty space for a drum kit. The room has doors on both sides and is far enough away from the main recording studio to be isolated.



This is the break room or "Green room" when we have small concerts in the library room.



The break room, with the old sign from our restaurant on the wall.



Another shot of the break room.



This is the load-in room, where shipping and receiving used to take place, but now generally is a place where gear stays when going in or out.



This, of course, is the bathroom.