

## Guilt



Kuan-Yin / Aquarius / Star

**I KNOW**

*Tibetan Goddess of Mercy &  
Humanitarianism*

**Offers up her energy to ...**

Facilitate being an independent and devout humanitarian  
who strives to bring hope and freedom to the world's downtrodden  
by demonstrating genuine altruism.

17



## Kuan-Yin

Do you need help with guilt?

Guilt is the most powerful emotion. We are often so overcome with guilt that we become stuck, unable to function or move forward. The guilt we experience springs from a variety of reasons, but the more important question is, once we are in the grip of guilt, how can we break free?

In many instances we can gain our freedom with the help of one of the twenty-two Archetypes (angels) whose energies exert powerful influences on our lives.

Let me share with you how the Archetype Kuan-Yin, whose portrait you see above, helped me break free of crippling guilt.

I felt really guilty. No point in saying otherwise.

After ten years of service our company charity, Kimmapii Kids, was no more – and no matter how you looked at it, my partner Marvie and I were primarily to blame.

What a fabulous charity it had been. Over its ten year tenure Kimmapii Kids had made it possible for some 30,000 kids to go to school. When we started the charity following a teaching trip to Peru in 2006 we had no idea what it would blossom into.



Named after our company, [The Kimmapii School of Shamanism](#), the charity might have started as a simple gesture of ayni (reciprocity – right relationship) but it grew into much, much more.

We, as a community of Shamans had been gifted with much. We needed to find a way to give back to the country that had shared their Shamanic traditions with us.

So when we asked, how can we reciprocate? What can we do for you? Their answer was loud and clear. Help us educate our kids!

The schools were there (such as they were) as were the teachers (albeit poorly paid) but only the more affluent families in a district could afford to send their kids to school.



Why? Because they had to provide their own school supplies – pens, pencils, scribblers, erasers, etc. The majority of families in that area of Peru were unable to afford these supplies so their children could not attend.

Kimmapii Kids was born.

Together with our community of clients and students we set about fund-raising.



Our goal – 1500 over-sized shoe boxes with enough supplies in each box to last two kids an entire school year.

That would mean 3000 kids who could not otherwise attend school would have the doors of education pushed open.



Within a couple of years we graduated from the oversized shoe boxes to satchels with a silkscreened Kimmapii Kids logo; all hand-made by a cottage industry we found in Cusco.



**What's new for the 2009-10 campaign?**

We have evolved! Instead of shipping boxes, we are going to purchase locally made, reusable satchels. This is a more sustainable, environmentally responsible choice that also means more money will go to support local economies rather than shipping costs.

I was so proud of our community. We were completely volunteer based. No salaries, no overhead. Everyone paid their own way to Peru each and every year. Our only expenses were some bank fees, minimal delivery expenses and of course, the cost of the school supplies and satchels. All together we were at less than 3% for admin fees. The Kimmapii community worked tirelessly to make it all possible.



But.... it also meant that if we, as a community, wanted to continue sponsoring the same schools and the same number of kids each year, we needed to find a way to raise between \$20,000 – \$25,000 CAD each and every year. That's a huge responsibility .... and 10 years is a long, long time.



Fundraising - The Kimmapii Kids Music Festival

Such a difficult decision! So many people counting on us, not to mention the kids. What to do?

In the end, after ten years of fundraising, event planning and logistics juggling, Marvie and I had to admit that we were just, plain tired.

We decided to close the doors of the charity with dignity and integrity. We announced that 2017 would be our final year of distribution and when we got back from Peru, we invited everyone to a Closing Ceremony for Kimmapii Kids.

Were there other choices we could have made?

Possibly. We could have scaled down – dropped a few of the schools. But we didn't.

Could we have found a new, different way to do things? Maybe. We could have cut back – made the trip every other year instead of annually. But, again we didn't.

We couldn't seem to bring ourselves to pick and choose between the kids. It was too difficult to decide which child to offer a better future to and which one to deny?

It took a long time for me to come to terms with that decision. It felt like we had somehow let everyone down. All those kids still needed to go to school. The work we were doing was still badly needed in the world. Who were we to say that it should be over?

Plagued with guilt for many months, I eventually did a ritual with Kuan-Yin to ask for help.

Very soon I began to see things differently. As the saying goes, "for everything there is a season". Kimmapii Kids flourished in its season. It was gratitude, not regret that was called for.

Kuan-Yin applauds humanitarianism, so the work we had been doing in Peru was right up her alley. What she challenged me to do, however, was to focus on one of her more subtle attributes.

It's a single word, and it was that single word that helped me put Kimmapii Kids into perspective. HOPE !

Kuan-Yin offers up her energy to ... facilitate being an independent and devout humanitarian who strives to bring HOPE and freedom to the world's downtrodden – by demonstrating genuine altruism.

These days I'm comfortable with the choice we made to close Kimmapii Kids. I've come to realize that there was much more going on in Peru than just the delivery of school supplies.

When I close my eyes I can still see those kids, and when I look through their eyes I have to smile. They came from poor families. Poorer than I had imagined possible. And here comes these gringos from some country far, far away with hundreds of satchels full of school supplies.

Our greatest impact might have manifested on the literal, but I now perceive Kimmapii Kids was really far less about the literal delivery of school supplies. I now believe that our most profound impact happened on the energetic and manifested itself with one simple, elegant word – hope!

The help and understanding I received from this Archetype set me free of guilt, but that is not to say that Kuan-Yin is the 'go-to' Archetype for dealing with all guilt. Which Archetype to choose is dependent upon what your guilt is about. In my case, my guilt was about what I perceived as abandoning humanitarianism. Humanitarianism is definitely in Kuan-Yin's realm.

If your guilt happens to be about, say, striking out in anger too often – then, Ares (God of War) would be the Archetype you would want to work with. The Archetypes are the very building blocks of the universe. There isn't a single human emotion, condition or experience that they are not directly related to. For me, getting to know them and learning to work with them has taken much of the strife and angst out of this very challenging world that we live in.

By Shanon & Marv Harwood

Directors of [The Kimmapii School of Shamanism](#)

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