The Empty Cup Tea-Corner

A Tea Dialogue at the Living Garden – 16 Nov 2026

Episode: Six Hours, Two Generations, One Shared Vision

Theme: When Technology Meets Wisdom, and a Book Begins a New Journey

A reflection on the first day of collaboration between Joshua Perdana, a Computer Science Intern, and the author of Empty Cup, bringing the wisdom of the Living Garden into the digital world through www.habib-khong.com.

The Setting: An Evening of Gratitude

The sun was slowly setting over the Living Garden.

Golden light rested upon the leaves, and a gentle breeze moved through the bamboo grove. At the familiar Tea-Corner, three cups had been prepared.

One was for **Empty Cup**, the lifelong learner who believed that an empty vessel could always receive fresh wisdom.

Another was for **Joshua Perdana**, a young Computer Science intern whose world was filled with codes, algorithms, digital possibilities, and the excitement of creating something new.

The third was for **the Living Garden Mentor**, whose quiet presence reminded them that knowledge may build great things, but wisdom gives those things meaning.

It had been an extraordinary first day.

Six hours of working together.

A published book had begun finding a new home in the digital world.

A website had emerged: **www.habib-khong.com**.

And two generations had discovered that they had much to learn from each other.

The tea was poured.

The conversation began.

Part One: Six Hours That Became a Beginning - A Bridge Between Two Generations



Empty Cup:

Joshua, my young friend, how are you feeling after our first six hours working together?

When we began this morning, we had a vision, a published book, and many ideas. Now, we have a website!

I must confess, I am both delighted and humbled.

What did you experience today?

Joshua:

Empty Cup, I came expecting to work on a computer science project.

I thought we would discuss website design, digital content, programming, and technical implementation.

But as we worked together, I began to realise that this was more than building a website.

We were taking thoughts that had been written in a book and finding a way for them to reach people through technology.

It made me think differently about what I was creating.

Empty Cup:

That is interesting, Joshua.

You see, I have spent many years gathering experiences, reflecting on life's lessons, and putting them into words.

But you belong to a generation that understands how ideas can travel across the world in seconds.

I bring the stories.

You bring the digital tools.

Perhaps today, we were building a bridge between two worlds.

Living Garden Mentor:

And what a beautiful bridge it can become.

But tell me, my friends, what makes a bridge valuable?

Is it the materials used to construct it?

Is it the cleverness of its design?

Or is it the lives that can cross because the bridge exists?

Joshua:

I suppose it is the people who benefit from it.

Living Garden Mentor:

Precisely.

A website may be built with technology, but its deeper value lies in what it carries.

If it carries wisdom, it may encourage a troubled heart.

If it carries hope, it may strengthen someone facing difficulties.

If it carries humility, it may remind a successful person that there is always more to learn.

Today, you have not merely created web pages.

You have begun preparing a pathway through which one person's reflections may become another person's encouragement.

Part Two: The Empty Cup and the Young Programmer



Two Empty Cups, Mutual Learning

Joshua:

Empty Cup, may I ask you something?

You have lived through many experiences and written a book. Why do you still call yourself Empty Cup?

Shouldn't someone with so much experience be a Full Cup?

Empty Cup:

(Laughing gently.)

Ah, Joshua! That is precisely the danger.

The moment I believe my cup is full, I may stop learning.

Today was a perfect example.

I may understand the message I wish to share, but when it comes to the technical world of websites, there is so much I do not know.

I needed your knowledge.

I needed your patience.

And most importantly, I needed to remain teachable.

Joshua:

But I also needed your guidance.

I may know something about computer science, yet I do not have your years of experience or the deeper understanding behind your writing.

Living Garden Mentor:

Then both of you have discovered the first lesson of today's work.

Age does not guarantee wisdom, and youth does not prevent it.

The older person must not become too proud to learn from the younger.

The younger person must not become too confident to listen to the older.

When both approach each other with empty cups, something beautiful happens.

Knowledge flows in both directions.

Empty Cup:

So today, Joshua was my teacher in technology.

And perhaps I was his companion in understanding life's deeper questions.

Living Garden Mentor:

Yes.

And remember, teaching is not always speaking, nor is learning always listening.

Sometimes, teaching happens through patience.

Sometimes, learning happens through making mistakes together.

And sometimes, the greatest lesson of the day is simply discovering how to work with someone whose world is different from yours.

Part Three: When the Website Became More Than a Website



Empty Cup:

Mentor, I have been thinking.

For years, a book was something people could hold in their hands, turn its pages, and read quietly.

Today, with Joshua's help, we have taken a step into the digital world.

Does this change the nature of the wisdom we are sharing?

Living Garden Mentor:

The vessel has changed, but the water need not change.

A cup made of clay can hold water.

A cup made of porcelain can hold water.

Even a simple wooden bowl can offer water to a thirsty traveller.

The value is not merely in the vessel.

It is in the nourishment the vessel carries.

Your book is one vessel.

Your website is another.

And perhaps, in time, there will be other vessels you have not yet imagined.

Joshua:

That is an interesting way of describing technology.

In computer science, we often think about platforms, systems, interfaces, and functionality.

But you are saying that technology is really a container for something more meaningful.

Living Garden Mentor:

Exactly, Joshua.

Technology can amplify information.

But information is not the same as understanding.

Understanding is not always the same as wisdom.

And wisdom is incomplete if it does not lead us toward greater love, humility, and responsibility.

Empty Cup:

Then perhaps our website should not simply invite people to read.

It should invite people to reflect.

Joshua:

And perhaps we can design it so that visitors find the reflections easy to explore, even if they are unfamiliar with the book.

Living Garden Mentor:

Now you are beginning to see your shared purpose.

One of you asks, "What message should we share?"

The other asks, "How can people access it?"

Together, you must ask a third question:

"How might this work make someone's life a little better?"



The Deep Research session has also been started to develop and refine this Tea Dialogue using the available uploaded material and the website.

It will examine how the first six hours of collaboration can be expressed as a meaningful lesson in **intergenerational learning, humility, digital creativity, mentorship, and stewardship of wisdom**.

The central message is:

“When the experience of one generation meets the creativity of another, and both are willing to remain Empty Cups, the Living Garden discovers new ways to grow.”