

A Journey of Light and Hope

By Amy Jia (as of June 19, 2025)

A Single Dot Marking a New Beginning

It has been 6 months and 12 days since I gave my presentation, *“Starting Over – A Journey of Rediscovery Through Art”*, in Dr. Ho’s Art and Spirituality course on December 7, 2024. That day, I shared that my journey began with a single dot — “.” — a small mark full of hope. I mentioned that I planned to keep moving forward from that dot, using art to rediscover myself, one day at a time.

When Life Weighed Heavy, Support Became My Anchor

There were many days when the weight of life felt overwhelming, moments when I doubted if I could keep going. But through the fog of exhaustion and disconnection, the support from my classmates in the WhatsApp group, started by Tie Han, became my anchor. Their kind words and shared encouragement were steady lights that held me up, reminding me I was not alone and giving me the strength to keep moving forward in art.

Light as a Sacred Companion

This journey is a series of lights, literal and metaphorical. From the soft glow of a streetlamp that became a sacred sign, to sunlight slipping through curtains waking me with promise; from shimmering seas and peaceful mandarin ducks, to heart-shaped purple lights glowing in trees, God’s presence quietly illuminates my path.

After Long Days, When Lights Find Me

This is what it’s like after work:



However, even after a long day, I still feel joy and peace in my heart. There's always a quiet feeling inside me, a gentle pull, that makes me want to pause and capture something, like this:



I simply lifted my iPhone and took a photo, just following a feeling. Later, when I looked at it, I saw two lines of light, aha! So inspiring, so happy, so joyful! It was just the streetlight above my head... but in that moment, it felt like I was found by the light. 😊

I couldn't help sharing it right away in our Art WhatsApp group. Aha~ amazing, isn't it? I always have brothers and sisters in Christ there, sharing in my captured moments☺

Then the bus came, and I got on.

Led by Quiet Lights Along the Way

After the bus ride, a soft light from a low wall gently lit my path, inviting me forward. With gentle lights guiding each step, I felt lighter and sure; no fear of the darkness, because light always shines ahead, lighting my way forward.



Alongside the soft glow of the neighborhood's low wall lights and the gentle shine of streetlamps, I walk on, peace quietly filling my heart with every step.



A Moment of Quiet Gratitude

Once home, I stood just outside my door and took one last photo, a quiet moment to say thank you — to the day, the lights, and every person who appeared in my life.



Morning's Gentle Invitation

The next day, I really didn't want to get up. But a soft ray of sunlight slipped through my curtain, gently reaching me in bed, a gentle call to rise, to begin anew, welcomed by the warm embrace of morning light.



Beauty in the Everyday: Tree Shadows and Sunlight

At the bus stop where I've stood nearly every day for a year and half, I paused to notice the delicate dance of tree shadows on the street, intricate patterns painted by branches. Even in the routine, the sunlight never fails to surprise me, turning ordinary moments into quiet gifts of beauty. Never bored in the sun, ha...



Hope in the Early Light of Work

Starting the day early isn't always easy, but as sunlight streams through the office door, it fills the space, and my heart, with quiet hope. That morning glow carries a promise of new beginnings, helping me face the day with renewed strength and a peaceful spirit.



Finding Light and Rest in God's Care

After all, with God's grace, no burden can overtake me (1 Corinthians 10:13). I usually have two days off each week to rest from work, and while reviewing my photos recently, I noticed that I'm always surrounded by light on those days. 😊

On my days off, I usually spend the mornings at Regent College, near my home, having breakfast and reading a book. One day, I took a photo and later realized how warm and comforting that moment felt, with the morning sunshine gently spreading all around.



Time slipped away quietly. Later, I wandered down to the sea, seeking a breath of fresh air... but what I found was far more - shimmering tides that danced like liquid light, graceful mandarin ducks gliding effortlessly, and a golden stillness that wrapped around me like a gentle embrace.



God gave me more than I asked for—comfort, beauty, and presence. As I watched, the sunset painted the sky in colors that took my breath away.





While walking toward the bus stop, purple heart-shaped lights twinkled softly from the trees, reminding me that even in the smallest manmade moments, love quietly shines.



On my way home, darkness never took hold—light gently guided me every step along the road.





Sacred Signs in “Strange” Places

Returning to work, I entered the drama classroom, transformed by the team into a bustling film set. As I snapped a photo, a soft glow caught my eye, a cross appearing faintly in the background. Hidden holiness in an unexpected place, reminding me that even amid chaos, God quietly marks His presence with grace.



Joy in Small Things

One day, as the snow began to melt, I caught sight of something that made me smile, a delicate shape, unmistakably Snoopy, carved gently by time and thawing ice. In that small, unexpected moment, pure joy blossomed, a quiet reminder of beauty found in the simplest surprises. ☺





Final Reflection

“No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind.

And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.”

— 1 Corinthians 10:13

Even in moments when I felt like giving up, He gave me light, in the form of warmth, friendships, golden mornings, streetlamps, and even funny little snow dogs.

I began with a single dot.

I continued with quiet steps.

I walked with light.

And I was never alone.