

The following is the transcript for the meeting of July 9th 2009.

Gaya Ethaniel: :)
Tarmel Udimo: BYB
Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Scath :)
Tarmel Udimo: Hey Scath!
Scathach Rhiadra: Hello Gaya, Tarmel:)
Gaya Ethaniel: How are you?
Tarmel Udimo: back soon
Gaya Ethaniel: ok
Scathach Rhiadra: tired, trying to do the report:)
Gaya Ethaniel: I read :)
Scathach Rhiadra: a load of confusion!
Gaya Ethaniel: nods nods. It's a mystery.
Scathach Rhiadra: I liked yours
Scathach Rhiadra: I don't think I will ever be a writer!
Gaya Ethaniel: Really? :) Yours make sense to me too.
Scathach Rhiadra: Hello Stim:)
Gaya Ethaniel: I'm definitely not a writer either.
Stim Morane: Hi Scathach and Gaya!
Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Stim :)
Stim Morane: And Tarmel
Gaya Ethaniel: Tarmel is afk atm.
Stim Morane: Ok
Gaya Ethaniel: How are you Stim?
Stim Morane: OK, busy ...
Gaya Ethaniel: ah :)
Stim Morane: And you?
Gaya Ethaniel: Good thank you :)
Eliza Madrigal: Hello Stim, Scath, Tarmel, Gaya :)
Scathach Rhiadra: Hello Eliza
Gaya Ethaniel: Hello again Eliza :)
Stim Morane: Hi Eliza
Eliza Madrigal: :)
Stim Morane: Fefonz
Gaya Ethaniel: Hello again Fefonz :)
Scathach Rhiadra: Hello Fefonz
Fefonz Quan: Hey Stim, Hey all!
Eliza Madrigal: Hi Pila, Fef
Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Pila :)
Stim Morane: Hi Pila
Scathach Rhiadra: Hello Pila
Pila Mulligan: greetaings :)
Stim Morane: :)
Eliza Madrigal: Hi Mick, Ara :)

Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Mick and ara :)

Scathach Rhiadra: Hello Mick, Ara

arabella Ella: Hiya everyone, Stim!

Stim Morane: Hi arabella, Mick

Mickorod Renard: Hiya Stim, Pila

Mickorod Renard: Scath

Stim Morane: One more minute ...

Mickorod Renard: Tarmel

Tarmel Udimio: Hi folks I'm back :)

Scathach Rhiadra: :)

Eliza Madrigal waves to Tarmel

Gaya Ethaniel: wb :)

Stim Morane: :)

Tarmel Udimio: ty

Stim Morane: OK ... Rolling ...

Stim Morane: I note that Gaya has a report on our wiki regarding thoughts and mind

Stim Morane: Has everyone seen this?

Gaya Ethaniel: Eliza and Scath also put reports :)

Scathach Rhiadra: yes

Pila Mulligan: yes

Mickorod Renard: not me,,sorry

Eliza Madrigal: yes

Mickorod Renard: ben snowed under doin the pab scribe

Stim Morane: Check it now, if you like. I'll just refer to it.

Stim Morane: Gaya, your report for today on the status of mind is very insightful. And indeed, lucid dreams can illustrate very well the new codependent arising angle I wanted to introduce today ... in such dreams, one can see how mind and the contents of mind are codependently arisen.

Mickorod Renard: do u have link Gaya?

Scathach Rhiadra: http://ways-of-knowing.wik.is/3Reports/Gaya_Ethaniel/Report_20

Gaya Ethaniel: ah ... ok thanks Stim :)

Mickorod Renard: ty

Stim Morane: Pausing so people can read the report

Stim Morane: Any comments, anyone?

Fefonze Quan: interesting, yes.

Eliza Madrigal: yes is great, Gaya..can see what you are saying

Stim Morane: It's very relevant, because most of what we're saying here is about how a contemplative sees things, which assumes practice

Stim Morane: Dream practice is a good example

Fefonze Quan: one comment - Gaya wrote - 'the mind appears due to the thought', in my experience there is something there even when there is 'no thought' - is it different from the mind?

Stim Morane: What do you think, Fefonze?

Fefonze Quan: not sure, it starts to get to arbitrary definition, what we call mind and what we don't

Fefonze Quan: starts*

Mickorod Renard: nice Gaya,,thanks

Stim Morane: There are traditions in Buddhism that actually claim you can't see mind, but only the

products of mind. Other traditions don't agree.

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Tarmel Udimo: yes Gaya, nice

Stim Morane: The main thing is to follow your own experience as best you can.

Stim Morane: The point of traditional teachings is to get you started, not to tell you what to think.

Stim Morane: Other comments, homework-related observations?

Fefonz Quan: what i saw was that thought for me is mostly words, hence when there is no verbal thoughts, i tend to call it 'no thought', though there are nameless sensations

Gaya Ethaniel: Do you have any particular practice suggestion I can try out for those dreams Stim?

Mickorod Renard: only that I found it easy to get in a muddle over what mind and thought is,,as Fef stated,,there is room for opinions

Stim Morane: Fefonz, as you proceed, you will find more and more subtle presences, that will elude classification. But it's still important to see if codependent arising applies somehow.

Stim Morane: Gaya, what would you like to try?

Stim Morane: Mick, the main thing is to see what is most clear to you and follow that

Eliza Madrigal: I found myself thinking heart/mind...with mind/thoughts very much of a different character at diff times

arabella Ella: but Stim ... when we 'empty' out mind of thoughts ... then only the mind remains and there are no thoughts to be co dependent with the mind?

Gaya Ethaniel: I'm not sure Stim, sometimes I change the plot of the dream because I don't want to see further etc. ... I haven't consciously tried out something while having those dreams.

Stim Morane: Ok, I'll try to catch up with these threads ... :)

Gaya Ethaniel: We can let my question for another session actually :)

Gaya Ethaniel: Would be more interesting to see others' thoughts.

Stim Morane: Eliza: just let them come ... But gradually one will be available for deeper consideration and insight

Stim Morane: Arabella, the absence of thoughts is still seen ... by someone, at some point in time, in some situation in life, etc etc.

Eliza Madrigal nods, thanks :)

arabella Ella reflects ...

arabella Ella: is it really Stim?

Mickorod Renard: I wasnt sure what I thought,,I contradict myself often,,the other day I was thinking thoughts as in a conduit,,on route to mind then being processed by mind

arabella Ella: even in solititude?

Fefonz Quan: Yes Stim, that was my experience too

Stim Morane: Gaya, just find yourselves in a particular situation, and exper it without moving or doing anything.

Stim Morane: Brb

Fefonz Quan: (--> [14:18] Stim Morane: Arabella, the abs..)

Gaya Ethaniel: ahhhh ok will try that out thanks :)

Eliza Madrigal: Hi SyntheticCynthia :)

Mickorod Renard: Stim sneaks off to fetch a doctor for me

Eliza Madrigal: haha

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Fefonz Quan: Are you sick Mick?

Stim Morane: Back

Eliza Madrigal wonders about empty thoughts in an empty mind..heh

Mickorod Renard: maybe in the head

Stim Morane: Let me make a general response to some of what you are raising ...

arabella Ella: actually ... in solitude ... a mind emptied of thoughts ...

Stim Morane: The 2nd tradition I mentioned, the Madhyamaka, is explicitly linking codependent arising with "sunyata", emptiness.

arabella Ella: like ... some of you may be familiar with 'worry dolls'

Stim Morane: and their idea is that everything is codependent arisen and thus "empty"

arabella Ella: interesting :)

Stim Morane: So if you find something that seems nonempty to you, you should be suspicious

Stim Morane: And look further

Stim Morane: OK?

Eliza Madrigal: yes

arabella Ella: yes thanks

Stim Morane: This will lead to a big list, because normally EVERYTHING in our lives seems non-empty!

arabella Ella: key word being 'seems'

Stim Morane: But in fact, everything can be seen more clearly and directly, as "sunya"--open.

Stim Morane: Yes, it just "seems" that way, right.

Stim Morane: Arabella

Mickorod Renard: I am not sure I know what empty feels like..except in the case of my wallet

Stim Morane: So whenever you find something that seems like an exception, stay with it.

Stim Morane: Yes, Mick, that's a big point you're raising.

Stim Morane: But I'm not sure I can remedy the situation, because we just have to hang in there and let something emerge.

Stim Morane: At least, we should not exacerbate the situation by further cementing "non-emptiness" via our habits, taking things for granted, etc.

Alfred Kelberry: hey guys :)

Alfred Kelberry waves to fef

Stim Morane: It is a weird fact that we can learn to see all things as open, even unborn.

Fefon Quan: hey alf

Gaya Ethaniel: So we appreciate in order to loosen our grip Stim?

Scathach Rhiadra: Hello Alfred

Mickorod Renard: Hi Alf,,and Arisia

Alfred Kelberry: anyone seen saki?

Eliza Madrigal: groundless

Tarmel Udimo: (she's not online Alfred:)

Stim Morane: yes, groundless too ... Because any ground would be a counterexample to the emptiness point

Stim Morane: Note, I'm not telling you what you should see ...

Alfred Kelberry: em, sorry to interrupt

Stim Morane: No problem, Alfred

Stim Morane: The most we can quickly do in this little workshop is to mention some things to look into ... It takes a while.

Eliza Madrigal nods... the term groundless helped me to get a clearer sense of sunyaya I think, than

emptiness... the idea of there being no place to land

Mickorod Renard: open and unborn,,is that at the moment you see them,,just at that point of time?

Stim Morane: Yes, Eliza. But note that this does not mean that "things are such that there is no ground" because that too would be something to see more directly, and thus as empty.

Stim Morane: So groundlessness is also empty

Stim Morane: OK?

Eliza Madrigal: hmm, yes

arabella Ella nds

arabella Ella: nods

Mickorod Renard: ok,,I think i see that one

Stim Morane: Yes, Mick, right there and then.

Stim Morane: Even emptiness is empty

Fefonz Quan nods, but thinkks 'hmmmmm???'

Eliza Madrigal: :)))

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Mickorod Renard: ok,,thaks,,and from that point it emerges?

arabella Ella: :)

Stim Morane: We're not setting up any theory or picture or how things are

Stim Morane: You want to elaborate, Fefonz?

Stim Morane: Back to you in a sec, Mick

Gaya Ethaniel: Sounds a bit weird but I'm guessing I can only notice the nature of emptiness when samsaric mind is present ...

Stim Morane: OK, so be it, Gaya ... So play it out as it comes.

Gaya Ethaniel: ok :)

Fefonz Quan: saying 'groundlessnes is also empty', (not to mention emptiness itself), is a sentence where i can read teh words and understand every single word, but have no clue about the meaning of the whole

Stim Morane: There are many levels of this "emptiness" insight.

Stim Morane: That was to Gaya ...

Gaya Ethaniel: I see ... :)

Stim Morane: Fefonz, this is the problem with this workshop.

Stim Morane: :)

Stim Morane: You should not have asked me to do this.

Stim Morane: :)

Fefonz Quan: haha, payback time :)

Eliza Madrigal thanks Fef again

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Scathach Rhiadra: :)

Tarmel Udimo: :)

Eliza Madrigal: and of course thank YOU Stim

Stim Morane: When I used to teaching this subject, I used a three lecture per week format, several hourse per class.

Stim Morane: I taught people for a couple semesters, typically.

Fefonz Quan: Stim, one notion i find connected to, is emptiness as non-independance, but sounds like you go much further

Mickorod Renard: wud it be true to say that something that is groundless has nothing to attach to,,therefore cannot develope,,thus empty?

Pila Mulligan: from a slightly different angle, as an example, the vedas refer to 'the pure devotee whose heart is entirely empty (sunya) of the propensity to criticize others'

Stim Morane: After about 3 years had passed since the conclusion of my course, a few would come back and say "would you tell all that to me again?"

Gaya Ethaniel: Sounds like a fun Stim :)

Stim Morane: Yes, Mick

Fefonz Quan: are you inviting us to return to you in 3 years Stim ;-)

Mickorod Renard: great

Eliza Madrigal: hehe..they just missed you Stim :)

Stim Morane: Yes, Pila ... An interesting point ... Empty there has a different meaning, which we can also consider.

Stim Morane: No Fefonz, I'm just reluctantly predicting the future.

Stim Morane: Before I forget, next week will be our last meeting for a couple of weeks ... I will be teaching retreats from July 18 through until Aug 1, so our next meeting after July 16 will be Thursday Aug 6.

Tarmel Udimo: makes sense, the material was starting to resonate and your students were beginning to see a bit more clearly

Stim Morane: Thanks for the optimistic note, Tarmel.

Stim Morane: Scathach, is this scheduling point something you think is worth mentioning on our wiki?

arabella Ella: it will give us time to reflect on what has been said altho we will miss you Stim

Scathach Rhiadra: yes, I will put a note

Tarmel Udimo: nods

Gaya Ethaniel: We can always have an intense homework assignment heheheh

Scathach Rhiadra: it will give us plenty of time to practice:)

Stim Morane: :) it's strange to be missed by people I have never met, but I appreciate the thought!

Stim Morane: Thanks, Scathach

arabella Ella: but of course we have met ... here in vittual reality :)

Tarmel Udimo: nods Stim wears a green sweater

Stim Morane: I'm slow to buy into that notion, arabella.

arabella Ella: SL can be just as real as RL

Gaya Ethaniel: SL and RL both are dreams after all :)

Mickorod Renard: I like my vittuals

Pila Mulligan: or at least just as second as real life

Stim Morane: Ara, I agree it is something ... I'm reserving judgment on what the something is.

Stim Morane: Pila, you have contributed a number of observations from your own practice and study of Chinese traditions, for which I'd like to thank you. Would you be likely to attend next week's session? If so, perhaps you and I could make a little dialogue specifically on how codependent arising relates to your comments.

Pila Mulligan: ok, thank you

arabella Ella: wow cool

Pila Mulligan: may I add one then?

Stim Morane: Please

Pila Mulligan: wiki: "Jung distinguished the collective unconscious from the personal subconscious particular to each human being"

Stim Morane: Uh oh ... I may pass on that one!

Pila Mulligan: :)

Stim Morane: Also, Fefonz, if you will be present next time, you and I could follow the same approach regarding "theories about reality" in general vs codependent arising. OK?

Fefonz Quan: sure, sounds like fun!

Stim Morane: We can try now, just to get things started. Give me a point of view or finding ...

Mickorod Renard: I read jung when I was in my teens

Mickorod Renard: just remembered

Stim Morane: That's a lot of reading, Mick

Stim Morane: He wasn't the most succinct writer

Mickorod Renard: no wonder i am wierd

Stim Morane: :)

Pila Mulligan: Jung commented on several of Wilhelm's chinese translations

Stim Morane: Yes ... But we have to be careful with Jung.

Pila Mulligan: I agree

Pila Mulligan: as with Freud

Fefonz Quan: Just wanted to note, at least for me, the fact that we (i) had troubles with the emptiness notion was not discouraging, au contrair!

Eliza Madrigal nods

Stim Morane: He was enthusiastic, and boosted a lot of stuff ... But some of it is pretty hard to support or unpack, and some of it derives from incorrect interpretations of things like Tibetan Buddhism

Stim Morane: Thanks, Fefonz.

Stim Morane: I'm glad I haven't discouraged you yet.

Pila Mulligan: yes, he took a lot of parts to mak ehis ownmythology

Stim Morane: (It's too soon for that.)

Stim Morane: Yes, Pila.

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Stim Morane: Anyway, I'm tip-toeing along, introducing tiny bits of this tradition

Fefonz Quan: (As a wise man told me once: i wouldn't insult you by giving easy tasks)

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Stim Morane: And the point is not that we, here, care about ancient traditions, but that your own life provides countless examples of what is at issue regarding codependent arising and emptiness

Stim Morane: Thanks, Fef

Stim Morane: let me summarize a bit:

Mickorod Renard: plese

Stim Morane: "mind is not independent of thoughts" (this is the Madhyamaka position re codependent arising). The idea here is that in immediacy, Mind is not something over and above or under or behind what is present there. Madhyamaka is not a theory about mind or anything else, it's just an observation about what is present.

Stim Morane: Mind is independent of thoughts (this is the Yogacara position). The idea here is that meditation is about taking responsibility for the kind of mind you're using. So codependent arising here means "how is what you see connected to the type of mind involved?".

Stim Morane: Yogacara is the next group I wanted to discuss with you

Stim Morane: So here we have 2 groups, with different angles on codependent arising

Stim Morane: One tradition is emphasizing immediacy, and ultimately suchness (even though this is actually a Yogacara term!), the other is emphasizing meditation and working with the mind.

Stim Morane: Both use codependent arising, but in different (and, I think, complementary) ways.

Stim Morane: So: can you see that everything present in a moment is all mutually-reinforcing, defining?

Stim Morane: If so, that's the Madhyamaka angle

Stim Morane: And can you see, like Gaya mentioned, that the view you have at a given time is codependent arisen with the mind in effect then?

Stim Morane: THat's the Yogacara angle

Fefonz Quan: it's like reversing the (main) direction of the arrow

Stim Morane: perhaps, yes

Stim Morane: People see things in different ways.

Stim Morane: You will have to determine which view is more congenial to you

Mickorod Renard: lol

Stim Morane: The point in either case is to open up what is usually closed, fixed, coercive.

Stim Morane: This is the way to have a more open exper of life

Stim Morane: One that doesn't box you in, nail you down.

Stim Morane: Yes?

Eliza Madrigal nods

Fefonz Quan nods

Gaya Ethaniel nods.

arabella Ella: :)

Stim Morane: "emptiness" is a nice thing (like Bamby)

Stim Morane: :)

Mickorod Renard: I think so,well i think i think so

Stim Morane: :)

Stim Morane: Sorry, Mick

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Pila Mulligan: oh deer

Eliza Madrigal: ouch

Stim Morane: How did we ever get from cigars to this?

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

arabella Ella: he he

Gaya Ethaniel: Just a random thought - would be nice to have a retreat for this group in RL sometime :)

Mickorod Renard: dont ned cigars,smoke is commin out my ears

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Stim Morane: But there is an answer: our habits and attachments and reactions and judgments all would benefit from seeing more of what is actually present, and thus as "open", non-binding.

Fefonz Quan: (Shit Happens: ----> Rastafarianism: Let's smoke this shit!)

Tarmel Udimo: we are having a retreat Gaya - in August :)

Stim Morane: :)

Gaya Ethaniel: Can't make that one :(

Mickorod Renard: yea,,lets join the rasta's

Tarmel Udimo: :(

Stim Morane: I will need to leave at about 54 min to the hour. Any comments or q's before I go?

Eliza Madrigal: This morning I came upon a thought that "the seed of the departure is in the arrival" .. another interesting way of thinking about this

Stim Morane: Yes, right

Eliza Madrigal: knowing that transience

Gaya Ethaniel: Homework Stim? Or we are given a break?

Stim Morane: It's there in some form.

Mickorod Renard: thats nice eliza,,yes

Eliza Madrigal: makes one appreciative perhaps

Stim Morane: And remarkably, if we see what you're mentioning, Eliza, we can also "not go" at all!

Stim Morane: We can break free

Stim Morane: In fact, we are free

Tarmel Udimo: (Ty Stim and everyone, will have to leave, - great session, bye)

Eliza Madrigal: YES!

Stim Morane: Bye Tarmel!

Eliza Madrigal: :)

Gaya Ethaniel: Have a good day Tarmel :)

Stim Morane: You see, Eliza?

Scathach Rhiadra: bye Tarmel

Eliza Madrigal: Bye Tarmel, good to see you

Fefonz Quan: byt Tarmel!

Eliza Madrigal: YES

Stim Morane: Great.

Mickorod Renard: bye Tarmel

Stim Morane: that is pretty much the point, especially for the Madhyamaka angle

Stim Morane: Now you'll have to explain to everyone else ...

Stim Morane: :)

Eliza Madrigal: haha...uh

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Fefonz Quan listen carefully Eliza

Eliza Madrigal: "hey where did eliza go?"

Fefonz Quan: listens :)

Stim Morane: :)

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Mickorod Renard: fantastic eliza,,,but i have to go

Stim Morane: Ok, Mick, see you again, I hope.

Gaya Ethaniel: Good night Mick :)

Eliza Madrigal: Bye Mick

arabella Ella: nite mick

Fefonz Quan: Bye Mick

Scathach Rhiadra: bye Mick

Mickorod Renard: yes,,i am getting there Stim,,thanks

arabella Ella: i must go too ... thanks Stim... bye everyone

Eliza Madrigal nods

Gaya Ethaniel: Bye arabella :)
 Eliza Madrigal: Bye Ara
 Fefonz Quan: nite Ara
 Pila Mulligan: bye Mick
 Scathach Rhiadra: bye Ara
 Mickorod Renard: if u cud put it on a note card eliza please
 Stim Morane: This is great, I don't have to leave early because everyone has already left.
 Eliza Madrigal: =P~ Mick
 Gaya Ethaniel: :)
 Scathach Rhiadra: :)
 Mickorod Renard: bye all Bye Stim,,thankyou
 Stim Morane: Bye, Mick
 Pila Mulligan: bye bye
 Stim Morane: I'll stagger off myself at this point
 Eliza Madrigal: Thank you very much, Stim
 Gaya Ethaniel: I will try out what you suggested Stim if I get a luicd dream. Hope you have a good retreat. Thank you :)
 Fefonz Quan: Bye Stim, thanks for the great session!
 Scathach Rhiadra: bye Stim, thank you
 Gaya Ethaniel: And report*
 Eliza Madrigal: Gaya...one more week
 Stim Morane: Thanks, Eliza and Gaya. Note, there WILL be a meeting next week.
 Gaya Ethaniel: One more week ... ?
 Gaya Ethaniel: oh ok :)
 Stim Morane: Yes, my retreat starts after that.
 Gaya Ethaniel: kewl!
 Eliza Madrigal: :)
 Eliza Madrigal: Thanks everyone... must take my son to a friends' house now
 Gaya Ethaniel: oops cool for me
 Gaya Ethaniel: Have a good day Eliza :)
 Scathach Rhiadra: bye Eliza
 Fefonz Quan: i thought the 'kewl' was cool :)
 Gaya Ethaniel: Bye everyone, nice to see you again :)
 Gaya Ethaniel: heheheheh
 Fefonz Quan: Bye Eliza, Gaya
 Scathach Rhiadra: good night Gaya
 Scathach Rhiadra: good night all
 Fefonz Quan: nite Scath