

The following is the transcript of the workshop for 24th September 2009.

Scathach Rhiadra: Hello Gaya:)
Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Scath :)
Yakuzza Lethecus: hey
Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Yakuzza and Eliza :)
Scathach Rhiadra: Hello Yakuzza
Scathach Rhiadra: Hello Eliza
Eliza Madrigal: Hi Scath, Gaya, Yakuzza
Eliza Madrigal: Gaya, connection problems today?
Gaya Ethaniel: No only at PaB when it gets busy.
Eliza Madrigal: Hi Stim, Pila
Scathach Rhiadra: Hello Stim, Pila
Gaya Ethaniel: I'm ok at other places ty :)
Pila Mulligan: hi everyone
Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Stim and Pila :)
Pila Mulligan: happy first Thursday of the season
Stim Morane: Hi Gaya, Eliza, Scathach, Pila, Yakuzza
Gaya Ethaniel: :)
Stim Morane: "of the season"?
Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Dao :)
Pila Mulligan: hi Dao
Scathach Rhiadra: Hello Dao
Eliza Madrigal: Hi Dao :)
Pila Mulligan: after the equinox -- there is a new season depending on the hemisphere it's spring or autumn :)
Dao Yheng: hi again!
Stim Morane: Hi Dao!
Yakuzza Lethecus: +-----
Yakuzza Lethecus: -*+
Gaya Ethaniel: Is everyone well?
Yakuzza Lethecus: sry keyboard issue
Scathach Rhiadra: yes ty, and you?
Gaya Ethaniel: Good thank you :)
Stim Morane: fine, the usual
Eliza Madrigal: yes, well thanks
Gaya Ethaniel: :)
Stim Morane: so have we still got some perspectives on codependent arising to explore or discuss?
Pila Mulligan: where is Fefonz :)
Gaya Ethaniel whispers. Thanks for the video link Dao. Enjoyed it very much.
Dao Yheng: I almost posted bruce lee playing ping pong with nunchucks but maybe everyone's already seen that one!
Stim Morane: Is there really such a thing?
Dao Yheng: there is -- brb
Stim Morane: So ... No homework this past week.

Dao Yheng: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqGQ72bre30> -- click on it later

Eliza Madrigal: I was interested Scath's question from last week. Did you all discuss that when I had computer issues?

Stim Morane: Thanks, Dao

Pila Mulligan: rofl

Pila Mulligan: that is beautiful Dao

Stim Morane: regarding the question by Scathach ... I don't think we really discussed it.

Stim Morane: Are you still holding that question, Scathach?

Stim Morane: Would you like to discuss it ?

Scathach Rhiadra can't remember it:)

Stim Morane: :)

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Stim Morane: I have really only mentioned three basic views of codependent arising. I basically stopped at the 3rd, that of the Yogacara group.

Pila Mulligan: hi Mick

Eliza Madrigal: Hi Mick

Stim Morane: Hi Mick

Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Mick :)

Mickorod Renard: Hi Stim et all

Scathach Rhiadra: Hello Mick

Dao Yheng: hi!

Yakuzza Lethecus: hey mick

Mickorod Renard: soz I am late,,pc probs

Stim Morane: And even then, all I said was that it involves seeing how all things arise in a mind-dependent way.

Mickorod Renard: Yogacara ?

Stim Morane: This is not really a very adequate description of what they were saying

Stim Morane: Yes, it's a term you can find in Scathach's report 27 on the wiki

Mickorod Renard: thanks

Stim Morane: it basically just means "those who cultivate through the use of practice ['yoga']"

Stim Morane: this may sound strange, but not all groups really emphasized sustained formal meditation practice to the extent that this and some other groups did.

Stim Morane: There are many types of cultivation.

Stim Morane: Anyway, no, we didn't really address that question.

Stim Morane: this is related to a question Dao raised, about whether something is beyond codependent arising.

Stim Morane: for instance, great compassion

Stim Morane: a simple answer is, even if you find something that seems to be beyond codependent arising, the odds are that it still involves codependent arising.

Stim Morane: :)

Gaya Ethaniel hesitates ... then giggles.

Stim Morane: But it is also true, according to some advanced levels of teaching, that codependent arising is not centrally relevant in some aspects of the reality of interest to contemplatives

Mickorod Renard: is wanting to feel loved and wanting to love, still included in codependent arising?

Stim Morane: we should note here, Mick, that there is nothing wrong with being "codependent".

Stim Morane: It is not a put down.

Mickorod Renard: ok

Stim Morane: It's not dismissive

Gaya Ethaniel: I think the nature of co-dependent arising itself is weirdly wonderful.

Mickorod Renard: yes, me too

Stim Morane: anyway, my concerns are practice-related, centered on concrete contact or seeing.

Scathach Rhiadra: :)

Stim Morane: so my question is, what do you see?

Stim Morane: Gaya, it is rather wonderful and surprising too

Stim Morane: liberating but not in the sense that it urges an exit

Stim Morane: Perhaps it is time to find a new workshop topic ... I'm not sure it makes sense to try going further with codependent arising right now.

Gaya Ethaniel: Because ... by seeing such, one is being inclusive?

Stim Morane: yes, Gaya ... and any impulse to leave or transcend would also be subject to the same insight.

Stim Morane: i.e., codependent arising

Gaya Ethaniel nods ... yes I see.

Mickorod Renard: for me its been an adventure, in a land full of cobwebs, I have been carefully pulling the webs away and at the baseline the only important thing to hang onto is that of mutual love towards each other

Stim Morane: sounds good to me, Mick

Gaya Ethaniel: It helps one to be grounded in a way.

Stim Morane: yes

Mickorod Renard: the rest is full of pretences and desires

Stim Morane: so are we ready to find a new topic? Or did some of you want to continue with codependent arising?

Eliza Madrigal: At this point, whatever the topic is, seems this will be part of it...?

Stim Morane: well, that is likely on the experiential side, yes, Eliza

Stim Morane: it's a question of emphasis, I suppose

Stim Morane: up to all of you ...

Gaya Ethaniel: There is the word again, emphasis [stress] :)

Scathach Rhiadra: a new topic could be good

Eliza Madrigal: Hm. For me what I think I was interested in, in Scath's question, was 'suchness'...

Stim Morane: is it a stressful word, Gaya?

Gaya Ethaniel: I wonder sometimes how many zillion ways of teaching this you have up your sleeve Stim :)

Eliza Madrigal: :)

Scathach Rhiadra: :)

Stim Morane: Eliza, can you say more about your interest?

Mickorod Renard: yes, I am happy to stay with what we have done , yet I understand that a new topic may allow expansion in our understanding

Eliza Madrigal: Well, as you mentioned last week or maybe the week before, 'ethics' comes up with the switch from maybe trying to understand, to integrating of insight... so re practice,

Eliza Madrigal: it seems that this idea of 'suchness' is that... of focus ..

Mickorod Renard: ethics is lovely, its so evocative and so differently interpreted

Eliza Madrigal: (not quite there to articulate clearly... but having to do with application and insight IN what we handle, etc

Stim Morane: Suchness is an advanced point ... I was reluctant to try codependent arising. Suchness would be related, but even more advanced.

Pila Mulligan: while we are thinking about a topic, Dao's earlier Bruce Lee video link seems to show movements that defy science, it is closer to magic -- could this lead somewhere as a topic?

Mickorod Renard: as with some negative aspects of co dependant, I find that I am wrong in my ethical operations sometimes due to complying with what is expected of me

Stim Morane: I haven't seen the video yet, but it sounds enticing

Stim Morane: yes, I see, Mick

Eliza Madrigal: Of course I defer to your judgement Stim, but now I'm more interested :)

Gaya Ethaniel: Over last week, I've been thinking about 'naturalness' ...

Stim Morane: if we take the notion of "suchness" and apply it on modest levels, like those pertaining to ethics, we can find a basis for appropriate and satisfying action in life.

Stim Morane: Eliza, perhaps you could lead the way ...

Stim Morane: and yes, naturalness is closely related to both ethics and suchness here

Gaya Ethaniel whispers ... Eliza, we saw this danger in the last workshop. You ask Q, you also have to provide A.

Eliza Madrigal: I thought I did just lead the way

Eliza Madrigal: haha

Mickorod Renard: he he he

Scathach Rhiadra: :)

Stim Morane: It's all a question of what we can realistically practice, put into practice, based on this SL-type discussion.

Stim Morane: :)

Mickorod Renard: we can do anything Stim,,have faith

Stim Morane: I wish I felt so capable.

Stim Morane: But I'm glad you do.

Eliza Madrigal: :)

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Scathach Rhiadra: :)

Mickorod Renard: satisfactory action i life would be good 4 me

Stim Morane: The basic idea of suchness is that if you can see directly all of the constructions that frame ordinary reality, and release them to emptiness, then everything seen directly is sacred, self-liberating and even beyond the notion of liberation, meaningful beyond meanings, intensely present and fulfilling and also simultaneously unarisen.

Mickorod Renard: I see I am trapped in what others expect of me, yet I want to be more clear of ethical indiscretions

Stim Morane: Is this what you are proposing to do for homework?

Mickorod Renard: sorry

Scathach Rhiadra: :)

Stim Morane: oh, sorry Mick

Stim Morane: While I'm waiting for answers to my question, I'll respond to your comment, Mick

Mickorod Renard: my fault..soz

Stim Morane: It is precisely by seeing those expectations and their influence and "you" and the self

defined by them as "you" that you are not trapped.

Stim Morane: you are doing fine, moving through the chain towards release, Mick

Eliza Madrigal: Well not exactly, but yes learning more about that and possibly doing homework if it was framed in smaller bits maybe...

Mickorod Renard: thanks

Stim Morane: another angle on suchness is that all things are within an original knowing presence and of that nature.

Stim Morane: So all things are seen as reflective of a higher dimension of purity

Eliza Madrigal: which is naturalness too?

Stim Morane: you can see why codependent arising would be used as a challenge, preventing people from taking up suchness before they're ready

Stim Morane: naturalness could be understood on many levels, Eliza

Stim Morane: Not all of them are so daunting.

Stim Morane: :)

Eliza Madrigal nods, okay. Thank you :)

Gaya Ethaniel: I'm not sure I'm ready to learn about suchness without some more practice ...

Mickorod Renard: I need to look up suchness yet

Stim Morane: I could teach naturalness without getting into all that advanced stuff

Stim Morane: tathata = suchness

Stim Morane: look up that term

Mickorod Renard: thanks

Stim Morane: But it won't help ...

Stim Morane: :)

Gaya Ethaniel giggles.

Mickorod Renard: ohh

Mickorod Renard: grin

Eliza Madrigal: :)

Stim Morane: this is a classic example of an untranslatable term

Stim Morane: we need to consider that most of our words are rather prosaic in scope

Stim Morane: and at least in my view, it's not the case that terms beyond that limited range, terms like tathata, are merely cultural ... like mythology

Stim Morane: tathata is a pointer at something very real, but beyond any "meanings" or conventions or constructions

Stim Morane: it's the center-piece of my own teaching

Stim Morane: But it's not easy

Mickorod Renard: would you have an example?

Stim Morane: of tathata?

Stim Morane: :)

Mickorod Renard: of something we may relate to

Mickorod Renard: yes, suchness

Stim Morane: well ... yes and no

Gaya Ethaniel: Would you say we are now ready to do some sort of a regular practice Stim?

Stim Morane: give me a sec Gaya and I'll catch up with you ...

Gaya Ethaniel: np :)

Stim Morane: Mick ... an example would be that you yourself, at some moments in your life, enjoy a

presence that could be considered as just "ordinary, familiar stuff" like a food market or the face of an old person walking down the street.

Stim Morane: But you sense that it's much more than that.

Mickorod Renard: ok

Stim Morane: So the issue then is, could that fleeting perception be opened up?

Stim Morane: Could it become everything?

Mickorod Renard: I love that idea

Eliza Madrigal nods

Stim Morane: me too

Pila Mulligan notes Stim's comment 'it's the center-piece of my own teaching' and wonders why not let's jump into it then?

Stim Morane: but i don't like promising too much ... i'm still learning how to use SL

Stim Morane: feel free, Pila

Stim Morane: :)

Pila Mulligan: collectively, as a topic :)

Stim Morane: ah

Stim Morane: no

Pila Mulligan: in conjunction with 'learning how to use sL'

Mickorod Renard: I would love to get into it,,can you describe how you have managed it Stim?

Gaya Ethaniel: I hope they can be ... opened up. Those moments are quite profound.

Stim Morane: it was easy, Mick

Stim Morane: I just spent my whole adult life working on it

Stim Morane: Gaya, was there a practice you had in mind?

Mickorod Renard: and what would one expect to find when it opens up?

Stim Morane: completion

Pila Mulligan: (where is Fenoz?:)

Stim Morane: good q

Gaya Ethaniel: eep ... again I fell for it.

Mickorod Renard: so it is special then??

Eliza Madrigal: :)

Stim Morane: Gaya, I broke my promise. I'm very sorry.

Scathach Rhiadra: :)

Stim Morane: I was really just wondering if you had a suggestion.

Gaya Ethaniel: Well I've been doing wall-gazing since listening to your audio classes. Before I didn't sit in front of a wall ... I preferred the wall. That's what I've been doing, which is new.

Stim Morane: Mick, that is an unanswerable question.

Stim Morane: Mick ... is the essence of reality special?

Mickorod Renard: I guess everything is special

Stim Morane: yes

Stim Morane: and not

Gaya Ethaniel: I think ... to understand what you teach, I need to commit to doing a regular practice but I'm not sure if all here wants to do formal meditation.

Stim Morane: so far, Pila is going to do suchness, perhaps with Eliza, and Gaya is going with wall gazing ...

Mickorod Renard: what would formal meditaion involve Gaya?

Pila Mulligan: (and Scath, it was her idea:)

Gaya Ethaniel: Many things can be meditative for me ... but I like the simplicity of formal meditation, ie sitting etc.

Stim Morane: oh, true, Pila

Mickorod Renard: and can we formally meditate on suchness?

Eliza Madrigal: YES! Scath's fault :)

Eliza Madrigal: heheh

Scathach Rhiadra: leave me out of it please:)

Stim Morane: It's always interesting how energetic people are

Stim Morane: I'm so slow and lazy

Mickorod Renard: maybe we need to learn how to be slow and lazy then

Eliza Madrigal is now considering suchness is namaste

Stim Morane: :)

Stim Morane: explain more, Eliza?

Eliza Madrigal: We greet one another constantly... "Namaste".. as the buddha nature in me bows to the buddha nature in you"... and that in all things...

Stim Morane: I see

Eliza Madrigal: completeness speaking to completeness

Pila Mulligan: blessing

Stim Morane: well, it's a gesture

Eliza Madrigal: but representative of?

Stim Morane: and that gesture is certainly quite related to or even motivated by the presence or fact of suchness.

Stim Morane: But one can perform the gesture without seeing suchness in any very clear way.

Stim Morane: STill, it's a very good thought.

Stim Morane: yes, a blessing, too, as Pila suggests

Mickorod Renard: its a lovely thought

Gaya Ethaniel: For me often music often helps opening up to something more.

Stim Morane: yes

Pila Mulligan: nature, luck, magic, suchness -- are these related by any particular theme?

Pila Mulligan: or idea?

Mickorod Renard: for me, giving a few moments extra, to observe and take in helps

Stim Morane: suchness = final nature, or real nature

Stim Morane: as for luck and magic ??

Pila Mulligan: but is there a topic near here?

Stim Morane: I recall your mentioning somethnig like this earlier, Pila

Mickorod Renard: bruce lee

Stim Morane: yes, Mick, it's a big help.

Stim Morane: ?

Stim Morane: I'll check the video ... :)

Gaya Ethaniel: It's like Forest Gump playing ping pong.

Gaya Ethaniel: More or less same thing :)

Stim Morane: fast and machine-like?

Gaya Ethaniel: mhm like magic :)

Eliza Madrigal: :)

Stim Morane: He was more interested in pushing limits than in magic
 Gaya Ethaniel: Who?
 Stim Morane: Lee
 Gaya Ethaniel: ah :)
 Stim Morane: he pushed too far, perhaps
 Pila Mulligan: there are a hundred statistically improbable coincidences in that video
 Stim Morane: ?
 Pila Mulligan: in a few minutes
 Eliza Madrigal: looks like magic from outside certainly
 Stim Morane: yes, I can imagine
 Gaya Ethaniel: He didn't learn about 'naturalness' properly maybe :P
 Eliza Madrigal: :)
 Mickorod Renard: when I see something „suchness,,it makes me feel rather special, in that I am alone in the observation
 Stim Morane: :)
 Stim Morane: are you sure, Mick?
 Stim Morane: I mean, re "alone"?
 Mickorod Renard: well, I may be hallucinating
 Gaya Ethaniel: As in you see no one else noticing what you are seeing?
 Stim Morane: no I wasn't suggesting that
 Mickorod Renard: but I mean those I am with dont seem to notice
 Mickorod Renard: yes Gaya
 Stim Morane: my question was "are you sure 'you' are seeing?"
 Stim Morane: part of the point of suchness is that it isn't really seen by anyone in the ordinary sense
 Mickorod Renard: dont know I ca answer that Stim
 Stim Morane: I don't mean that it remains hidden
 Gaya Ethaniel: Time slows somewhat ...
 Stim Morane: just that it isn't seen "by me"
 Stim Morane: yes, that's possible, Gaya
 Gaya Ethaniel: Though fleeting
 Mickorod Renard: ahh
 Mickorod Renard: so is it something else that i am connected with that see's it
 Mickorod Renard: and so forth
 Stim Morane: yes, I understand
 Stim Morane: this brings us back to Gaya's question about practice
 Stim Morane: I would like to keep workshops here practice-based without emphasizing traditional practice regimens.
 Stim Morane: That is, focused and concrete, but not tied to on-going traditional style meditation.
 Stim Morane: I think the traditional practices would be difficult to handle properly in this sort of context.
 Stim Morane: So, we need some inspiration ...
 Stim Morane: Meanwhile, I will consider in my own less inspired way.
 Dao Yheng: ping pong
 Pila Mulligan: :)
 Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Stim Morane: a favorite

Stim Morane: can you play ping pong in SL?

Scathach Rhiadra: probably:)

Stim Morane: hmm

Pila Mulligan: maybe for homework we should contemplates possible topics

Stim Morane: how about naturalness?

Eliza Madrigal: Okay, yes

Gaya Ethaniel nods nods.

Scathach Rhiadra nods

Pila Mulligan: maybe we should do naturalness :)

Eliza Madrigal: :)

Dao Yheng: I would like that

Stim Morane: This would mean that we will move on to that as the workshop topic, not just as a homework within the current codependent arising topic.

Stim Morane: IS that ok?

Gaya Ethaniel: ok :)

Mickorod Renard: ok

Pila Mulligan: yes

Scathach Rhiadra: yes, sounds good:)

Stim Morane: all right

Gaya Ethaniel: Stim would you explain why you want this workshop to be free of traditional practice?

Stim Morane: so the wiki would have to reflect that change ...

Stim Morane: Gaya, I teach traditional contemplative, yogic, and other types of practices in rl

Scathach Rhiadra: do you want to write a piece for the wiki maybe?

Stim Morane: Scathach, I'll give you 200 words

Stim Morane: by email

Scathach Rhiadra: great:)

Stim Morane: Gaya, I don't know to what extent even the simplest forms of such traditional practices fit sl.

Stim Morane: The time frame alone is a serious factor.

Stim Morane: People typically spend somewhere between 2 years and 30 years just learning to really see the basics.

Stim Morane: I don't believe that would work here.

Mickorod Renard: yes, I need the equivalent of a whole adult life to catch up

Stim Morane: :)

Scathach Rhiadra: :)

Gaya Ethaniel nods. I understand.

Eliza Madrigal: In SL we'd just be confirming we were on the same page and asking if there were specific questions about the meditation?

Pila Mulligan: 1 year is agood start

Stim Morane: I'm not saying you can't see the same "bottom line" points as come out of traditional training.

Stim Morane: I'm just saying the traditional methods probably should be left as options here

Eliza Madrigal: Ah, okay

Dao Yheng: I do find the writing assignments helpful -- maybe that's a starting point for a practice

that would make sense here?

Gaya Ethaniel: So you would consider suggesting as an option for some?

Gaya Ethaniel: I'm being a pain sorry ... just that I'd work very hard without trying if it's given within the workshop :P

Stim Morane: I'm looking for topics that can be explored in life, without special techniques.

Eliza Madrigal: :)

Pila Mulligan: naturally

Eliza Madrigal: yes your teachings and this workshop are such wonderful focus-ers

Stim Morane: Gaya, I need to make provisions for people who have an interest such as you express.

Stim Morane: when you introduce technique, you also pretty much guarantee that people will have to come to terms with issues intrinsic to the techniques.

Stim Morane: I'm trying to minimize that problem

Stim Morane: so for me, it's a question of making life the practice

Stim Morane: we will approach naturalness along those lines.

Stim Morane: ok?

Gaya Ethaniel: ok ty :)

Stim Morane: thanks, everyone

Eliza Madrigal: Thank you, Stim

Gaya Ethaniel: I stop being a pest for now :P Thank you Stim.

Stim Morane: Bye!

Mickorod Renard: thankyou Stim

Mickorod Renard: bye

Stim Morane: not at all, Gaya

Pila Mulligan: bye and thanks

Scathach Rhiadra: thank you Stim, good night:)

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Dao Yheng: bye!

Gaya Ethaniel: Good day/night everyone :)

Mickorod Renard: and thankyou every one,,sorry if I talked too much

Gaya Ethaniel: You didn't Mick :)

Eliza Madrigal: I did though, sorry

Scathach Rhiadra: :)

Mickorod Renard: ;)

Gaya Ethaniel waves.

Eliza Madrigal: Bye everyone. Thanks :)

Scathach Rhiadra: good night all, Namasté:)

Eliza Madrigal: Namaste :)

Mickorod Renard: Eliza, you didnt talk too much

Mickorod Renard: nite Scath