



Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Agatha, Eliza and Yaku :)
Agatha Macbeth: Hi Gaya :)
Eliza Madrigal: Hi Gaya, Agatha, Yakuzza :)
Yakuzza Lethucus: hey everyone
Agatha Macbeth: Let's get physical Yaku ;-)
Eliza Madrigal: haha Ag
Yakuzza Lethucus: hmm
Gaya Ethaniel: Heloise and Zen can't make it today I'm afraid.
Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Tim :)
Agatha Macbeth: Hello Timbo
Eliza Madrigal: Oh, that's unfortunate Gaya
Dao Yheng is Online
Eliza Madrigal: Hi Tim :)
Timbo Quan: Hello everyone
Lucinda Lavender is Offline
Gaya Ethaniel: I'm sure they will catch up by logs :)
Eliza Madrigal: yes. I really appreciate the 'homework' component of this workshop... such a link to daily experience
Gaya Ethaniel nods :)
Eliza Madrigal: Hi Dao! :)
Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Dao :)
Timbo Quan: hello Dao
Dao Yheng: Hi Eliza, Gaya, Timbo, Agatha
Agatha Macbeth: Hi Dao :)
Dao Yheng: Oh, yaku too -- yay!
Agatha Macbeth: De Yak is back ;-)
Yakuzza Lethucus: head dao
Yakuzza Lethucus: hey, i meant :)
Eliza Madrigal: Nice to see everyone... quite a break we've taken
Timbo Quan: yes been a while
Agatha Macbeth: Hi Mitsu
Dao Yheng: yes, a bit too long for my tastes :)
Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Mitsu :)
Mitsu Ishii: hi
Eliza Madrigal: agreed, Dao. I've missed us :)
Timbo Quan: hello Mitsu
Eliza Madrigal: Hi Mitsu :)
Gaya Ethaniel: :)
Timbo Quan: brb
Eliza Madrigal: I guess we're settled, so here is the link to reports <http://ways-of-knowing.wik.is/>
Eliza Madrigal: I am finding koan practice tricky, mostly because one sees so many things, and as I think Dao remarked, they all don't fit together...
Eliza Madrigal: not like a normal 'lesson' or story :)
Eliza Madrigal: I guess that allows them to show things that are very personal though
Eliza Madrigal: ?

Dao Yheng: I found your comment quite insightful, Eliza, that there's a head / heart conflict in the way that we might approach a particular koan

Dao Yheng: you could treat them like puzzle pieces, just use the head to try and fit them together

Dao Yheng: or sometimes maybe the heart can point a sense that feels personal

Eliza Madrigal: this practice seems humbling ... makes one feel a little lost, like the usual keys/tools of logic don't work at all

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Gaya Ethaniel: I've been mainly working with them by holding a prominent image that just pops up.

Gaya Ethaniel: This one, I had Joshu with his shoes on his head.

Eliza Madrigal: :)

Agatha Macbeth smiles

Eliza Madrigal: its a great image

Dao Yheng: thinking of kids who put their shoes on their hands and heads

Eliza Madrigal: hehee

Mitsu Ishii: just finished reading the reports :)

Eliza Madrigal: and knees... because you can't quite walk well with feet when shoes are on hands

Dao Yheng: :)

Agatha Macbeth: :)

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Dao Yheng: how did that image feel to you, Gaya?

Dao Yheng: I must admit, as an adult, I was also thinking about, yuck dirty shoes in my hair!

Eliza Madrigal: hehe

Gaya Ethaniel: hm ... the word, serene, comes to mind ...

Eliza Madrigal: I liked your angle a lot Gaya, hadn't really thought about him showing where he was grounded... rather than in the 'conflict', etc

Gaya Ethaniel: ty :)

Eliza Madrigal: and dao's report showed me that I (arrogantly) had not even considered myself in the roles of the arguing monks :)

Mitsu Ishii: The fact is most people point out that it is quite unlikely Nansen actually killed the cat :) but sometimes Zen koans are written this way to be sort of shocking.

Mitsu Ishii: Steven also mentioned this when I asked him about this koan once

Dao Yheng: yes, it does seem like an intentional shock factor

Gaya Ethaniel: I think koans can be used like a mirror to target & reflect the mind to see it better.

Mitsu Ishii: Eliza you mentioned the koan seemed humbling ... can you say more about that? I am curious

Eliza Madrigal: mmm, nods... yes like for whatever reason I was fixated on the idea of hearing about the way another handles something which seems wise, and making a formula of it

Eliza Madrigal: Ah, well when I read others' reports, I definitely saw my limitations and laziness, in a way

Mitsu Ishii: wait -- what do you mean by that

Eliza Madrigal: hah

Mitsu Ishii: the idea of hearing about the way another handles something?

Eliza Madrigal: about the formula idea.. I mean that we learn from one another, but sometimes we don't take the step to make things our own....

Eliza Madrigal: and act from a more original place? speak in our own words, etc

Mitsu Ishii: ah I see okay

Eliza Madrigal: So for whatever reason I thought of Solomon, and how someone might judge that

Solomon's way

Eliza Madrigal: of making a decision was 'wise', in threatening to cut the object of dispute...

Eliza Madrigal: showing who was the 'truer' mother, as I remember the story

Mitsu Ishii: right

Agatha Macbeth nods

Eliza Madrigal: and make a kind of rule of that way of dealing with 'these kinds of things'

Dao Yheng: yes, but that can't work because of the boy who called wolf story!

Dao Yheng: :)

Eliza Madrigal thinks....

Eliza Madrigal: hehehe

Eliza Madrigal: guess its a bit the same point as being grounded, that Gaya brings up? each situation in its own context.. what kind of learning we are drawing on?

Eliza Madrigal: whether head/heart

Eliza Madrigal: hm, yes lots in here :)

Gaya Ethaniel: Well, you know ... like a good book, a particular koan can be revisited many times and see what comes up?

Dao Yheng: yes

Gaya Ethaniel: I'm afraid I don't follow re: Solomon, I will look up later or someone can email the group with a link etc.

Eliza Madrigal: :) Sorry Gaya, yes I'll find a link to the story

Gaya Ethaniel: No sorry I'm so ignorant :(

Agatha Macbeth: Silly! :)

Dao Yheng: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judgment_of_Solomon

Gaya Ethaniel: So what matters I guess is what each of us see in a koan at any given time.

Dao Yheng: :)

Eliza Madrigal: hehe Dao, you are fast :))

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Eliza Madrigal: Indeed, Gaya

Gaya Ethaniel: Useful that way ... I guess.

Mitsu Ishii: the solomon story is a clear parallel, though the point of the solomon story is easy to see

Mitsu Ishii: the nansen story as the commenter zen linked to points out is a little more tricky to understand

Agatha Macbeth: 'The wisdom of Solomon'

Dao Yheng: it's a tricky point in koans for me -- the koan format is a bit of a challenge, and the first step for me is often to relax a reaction to a sense of being judged or being tricked

Eliza Madrigal: Ah, yes

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Dao Yheng: maybe that's the benefit too though

Dao Yheng: maybe in a story that's easier to parse (like Solomon's) I don't get as much an opportunity to come to my own terms with the story?

Eliza Madrigal: that reaction can kind of 'close up' our understanding, but if we see that by staying with it, hm, yes... then its personal

Eliza Madrigal: hm

Eliza Madrigal: like, even when a lot has unfolded of it, reading others responses and thoughts, I *still* feel like I don't understand it at all... haven't touched it

Dao Yheng: (I feel the same after having written hundreds of words :)

Eliza Madrigal: :)

Mitsu Ishii: I do feel I understand the koan, but that's partly because I cheated and asked Steven about it :)

Eliza Madrigal: heheh

Agatha Macbeth: :)

Dao Yheng: Oh, do tell!

Eliza Madrigal: I'd love to hear more you can say about it Mitsu

Eliza Madrigal: :)

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Mitsu Ishii: I once asked Katharine about it when she was in a phase of feeling she could "see" clearly and she gave the same answer as Steven. And Dao also did, though she claims now not to understand

Mitsu Ishii: so I think it's probably on the right track :)

Eliza Madrigal: :)

Mitsu Ishii: I felt sheepish having asked Steven after his answer because it seemed sort of obvious once he said it ... I should have been more patient with it. Well, shall I just give this version of the answer? I wanted to wait until we had had a chance to talk about it a little.

Mitsu Ishii: but perhaps now we can talk about this proposed answer.

Mitsu Ishii: any objections?

Mitsu Ishii: okay I'll go ahead then

Eliza Madrigal: None at all :)

Agatha Macbeth: :)

Mitsu Ishii: the answer Steven gave is along the lines of the commenter Zen linked to, though his answer is a bit more straightforward

Mitsu Ishii: I mean Steven's answer is a bit more straightforward

Mitsu Ishii: the clue comes with Joshu's putting his sandals on his head

Mitsu Ishii: so putting your sandals on your head is to say, turning things upside down

Eliza Madrigal: :)

Mitsu Ishii: also the cultural allusion to mourning is probably an additional sort of joke as it were (as it is likely nansen didn't really kill the cat)

Mitsu Ishii: anyway, so the idea is the problem stems from the initial question: which becomes an allusion to our usual way of struggling with any conflict or issue

Mitsu Ishii: the first reaction to Nansen's challenge is to start with this idea that we need to solve a problem to "save" the cat

Mitsu Ishii: which is a metaphor for how we are constantly trying to "save" ourselves or fix situations and so on

Eliza Madrigal: Ah, of course

Mitsu Ishii: Joshu is saying: the whole question is upside down

Mitsu Ishii: there is no "saving" of the cat that is needed

Mitsu Ishii: the interesting thing is, he doesn't literally answer Nansen's challenge

Mitsu Ishii: because Nansen says: say a true word of Zen

Mitsu Ishii: and he doesn't say a word, he puts his sandals on his head and walks away

Mitsu Ishii: so in this he's saying: I'm not going to say a word, your question is upside down!

Mitsu Ishii: but Nansen says "If you had been there, you could have saved the cat"

Mitsu Ishii: he accepts Joshu's answer.

Mitsu Ishii: I think it was Dogen who said "How can you cut the cat in one?"

Mitsu Ishii: that's an equivalent question in a way

Gaya Ethaniel: Joshu probably was unwilling to consider such a question.

Mitsu Ishii: when I asked Katharine and Dao this earlier, both of them zeroed in on this "saving" aspect

Mitsu Ishii: Well Joshu realized that to actually say a word would be to admit that saving is needed

Mitsu Ishii: so he answered by challenging the question itself

Mitsu Ishii: brilliant move really :)

Mitsu Ishii: without saying anything

Eliza Madrigal nodding

Eliza Madrigal: so inspiring... just seeing what is

Dao Yheng: Right, but on the fixing / saving aspect -- it's still a koan for me. Spiritually, maybe there isn't anything that needs to be saved or fixed. But I still want to save the cat, I wish there wasn't an oil spill in the gulf, etc

Gaya Ethaniel: I'm tempted to say ... Joshu didn't intend to 'challenge' Nansen by putting the shoes on his head ...

Agatha Macbeth wonders what Schrödinger would have made of all this

Eliza Madrigal giggles at Agatha

Agatha Macbeth: :)

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Eliza Madrigal: talk about turning things upside down :)

Mitsu Ishii: well, as Steven said of course the point of the koan isn't about actual situations where people need help or something

Dao Yheng: cats have a lot to teach us, I guess :)

Timbo Quan: Thank-you for sharing that Mitsu - very illuminating

Agatha Macbeth nods

Mitsu Ishii: it's a metaphor for the way we approach problems or challenges

Gaya Ethaniel: Yes thanks Steven/Mistu :)

Eliza Madrigal: well, the question may be "does seeing the things as they are, touch the oil spill?"

Mitsu Ishii: yes, I believe it does. this is a fascinating issue because often people might criticize Zen or Dzogchen, etc., for this

Eliza Madrigal: or not 'the things' but things

Gaya Ethaniel: What I found inspiring was the way Joshu answered the question, in a single stroke cleanly without moving his mind.

Mitsu Ishii: but if you really accept things as they are, that includes helping.

Eliza Madrigal: mmm

Mitsu Ishii: the way I think of it is

Mitsu Ishii: one way to look at problems in the world is to go, "I wish the world were different" and another way

Mitsu Ishii: is to say "I accept the world as it is, and I am going to respond to it/work with it as it is"

Mitsu Ishii: there's a subtle difference between the two, because in both cases you are responding to the world but in the first case you're doing it while being in denial so to speak, which can lead to violence or turning away from things.

Mitsu Ishii: like why did this oil spill happen in the first place? Because BP kept asserting that it was impossible for an oil spill to occur (I've been reading about it)

Agatha Macbeth: Ha

Eliza Madrigal: and as we are? or does that open up a bit ... and if that opens up/loosens.. maybe other

things do too somehow... so still a kind of faith...

Gaya Ethaniel: Well it happened hasn't it?

Mitsu Ishii: they wanted the world to be a place where they didn't have to worry about the possibility of an oil spill

Eliza Madrigal: mm

Mitsu Ishii: so they turned away from seeing the dark side of reality

Mitsu Ishii: but we all do that. we don't want things to have a dark side

Timbo Quan: rather they wanted us to see that world

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Dao Yheng: Hmm, yes!

Agatha Macbeth: 'To the dark side it leads...'

Mitsu Ishii: right, but they also didn't want to see it themselves. in their internal documents they apparently downplay the risk. even planning for a huge spill like this is admitting that it could happen

Eliza Madrigal nods

Mitsu Ishii: same thing happened with the Iraq War: we didn't even try to plan for things going out of control because we didn't want to believe it was possible, etc.

Agatha Macbeth nods

Eliza Madrigal: and the financial crisis (es)

Mitsu Ishii: exactly. it goes on and on

Eliza Madrigal thinks of a million personal situations too :)

Gaya Ethaniel: Fundamentally, it's about not being responsible/considerate for materials reasons.

Mitsu Ishii: so instead of hoping or wishing the world is somehow perfect or pristine or doesn't have problems, you face the reality that disasters can and do happen and so on. but that doesn't mean you just sit there and do nothing about them.

Mitsu Ishii: accepting that the world has a dark side should mean a compassionate working with it as it is.

Eliza Madrigal: Joshu used crazy wisdom :)

Dao Yheng: Hmm, so this is why Nansen can say, "You could have saved the cat"

Mitsu Ishii: that's kind of how I see this particular issue

Gaya Ethaniel: Well, acceptance in those examples can mean seeing clearly how things are. Without doing so, how one responds appropriately?

Eliza Madrigal: Ah, yes Dao... thanks for that clarifying pointer

Eliza Madrigal: indeed

Dao Yheng: nods @ Gaya

Mitsu Ishii: Joshu's response saves the cat while questioning the mind that is a neurotic problematic mind

Gaya Ethaniel: And of course ... acknowledgement

Eliza Madrigal: wow, so much

Agatha Macbeth: I need to be elsewhere now folks, thanks for a very interesting discussion! BFN

Mitsu Ishii: best of both worlds so to speak :)

Gaya Ethaniel: Heartfelt acknowledgement*

Mitsu Ishii: thanks Agatha

Dao Yheng: bye Agatha!

Mitsu Ishii: bye

Eliza Madrigal: Bye Agatha :) Thanks for attending

Gaya Ethaniel: Bye Agatha :)

Agatha Macbeth is Offline

Dao Yheng: So, about next time -- Mother's Day in the US

Mitsu Ishii: ah we're at 1pm

Eliza Madrigal: In Shrodinger's world, the cat was never split indeed....

Dao Yheng: will enough of us be able to make it?

Eliza Madrigal: I will :)

Yakuzza Lethucus: bye everyone

Eliza Madrigal: Bye Ya :) Nice to see you

Gaya Ethaniel: Bye Yaku :)

Dao Yheng: Bye Yaku!

Timbo Quan: bye Yakuzza

Dao Yheng: OK, let's go for it, then -- Mits and I will do some shuffling and see if we can make it

Gaya Ethaniel: Homework then?

Eliza Madrigal: hmmm

Eliza Madrigal: :)

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Dao Yheng: homework koan... erg!

Eliza Madrigal is blank

Gaya Ethaniel: A question ... are we leaving Lojong now?

Gaya Ethaniel: Each of us can find a koan we want to work with for next week and write a report?

Gaya Ethaniel: If we are going to stay with koans ...

Eliza Madrigal: I thought so, but if there are more slogans anyone would like to work with that would be fine

Mitsu Ishii: yes, we could do another koan

Eliza Madrigal: okay

Dao Yheng: <http://www.ibiblio.org/zen/cgi-bin/koan-index.pl>

Dao Yheng: what do people feel about this one? <http://www.ibiblio.org/zen/gateless-gate/19.html>

Dao Yheng: I wouldn't mind going back to slogans too

Eliza Madrigal: Thanks Dao! Really nice!

Mitsu Ishii: okay that's it then :)

Gaya Ethaniel: ok thanks :)

Eliza Madrigal: I use that last quote in online sittings and hadn't known where it came from :)

Dao Yheng: neat!

Dao Yheng: another question -- do people want to say something for Mits or Eliza or Gaya to take to the Kira meeting?

Dao Yheng: I am curious myself -- is this forum going well for everyone? Thoughts about improvements etc?

Eliza Madrigal: I appreciated what you wrote Dao, was nodding at the screen :)

Gaya Ethaniel: I don't have much thoughts on this except to compliment how the meetings have continued to be helpful and enjoyable.

Eliza Madrigal: yes

Timbo Quan: yes very interesting

Eliza Madrigal: there is a level of seriousness, for lack of a better word, while still being personal and simple.. very informing to day-to-day / moment-to-moment life

Gaya Ethaniel: A short summary will suffice, it's a quite informal and interactive meeting.

Eliza Madrigal: maybe due to the writing/homework link

Eliza Madrigal: and the range of our experiences

Mitsu Ishii: I actually kind of think Dao should make the report

Dao Yheng: yes, the homework aspect does help me a lot

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Eliza Madrigal: If Dao doesn't mind, I'm great with that

Eliza Madrigal: :))

Dao Yheng: Hey!

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Eliza Madrigal: hehe

Eliza Madrigal: Well, your points were excellent :) on pointe :)

Eliza Madrigal: and gaya and Mitsu will be there

Gaya Ethaniel: I must get going I'm afraid. Been a long day.

Gaya Ethaniel: Nice to see you all again. Enjoy the weekend.

Eliza Madrigal: Bye Gaya :) Nice to see you too

Dao Yheng: wonderful to see you too gaya!

Eliza Madrigal: Thanks everyone... off to post these sessions and take a little break before a pab theme session... busy Sunday

Timbo Quan: bye all

Gaya Ethaniel: Yeah ... that's true.

Gaya Ethaniel waves.

Dao Yheng: Bye all!

Eliza Madrigal: :::waving::: Bye for now