

Zen Arado: Hi Yaku  
Gaya Ethaniel: Hello everyone :) Sorry brb  
Wol Euler: hello betz, zen and anyone else I can't see yet  
Calvino Rabeni: Hello  
Zen Arado: Hi Gaya  
Zen Arado: Hi Wol  
Wol Euler: hello gaya  
Agatha Macbeth: Hi Gaya :)  
Wol Euler: show  
Wol Euler: /show  
Wol Euler: bah  
Agatha Macbeth: I can see em :)  
Agatha Macbeth: Hello Timbo  
Agatha Macbeth: Yay  
Timbo Quan: Hello everyone  
Wol Euler: hello timbo  
Zen Arado: Hi Timbo  
Gaya Ethaniel: [back]  
Agatha Macbeth waves to Gaya  
Wol Euler: wb  
Gaya Ethaniel: ty :)  
Agatha Macbeth: Hi Dao :)  
Zen Arado: Hi Dao  
Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Dao :)  
Wol Euler: hello dao  
Irish Tea: whispers: Ahh tea, irish whiskey and cream....oh ya...now this is good, Agatha Macbeth. You know they say that God invented whiskey so the Irish would not take over the world. Well this is a fine way to serve it.  
Dao Yheng: Hi Wol, nice to meet you  
Calvino Rabeni: Eliza has been waylaid by rough weather - might be back soon  
Wol Euler: likewise :)  
Agatha Macbeth: Yeah, stormy in Florida  
Wol Euler: sounds like a song title  
Agatha Macbeth: Hello Mitsu  
Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Mitsu :)  
Agatha Macbeth: Probably is :)  
Wol Euler: Allman Brothers blues, maybe  
Zen Arado: agrees with Irish Tea  
Agatha Macbeth: Rainy night in Miami :)  
Mitsu Ishii: hi everyone  
Wol Euler: For Lauderdale on my mind  
Zen Arado: Hi Mitsu  
Agatha Macbeth: That too  
Mitsu Ishii: unfortunately I have to leave early today  
Timbo Quan: hello Dao & Mitsu

Agatha Macbeth: Aw

Wol Euler: hello mitsu

Gaya Ethaniel: ah ok, then can I quickly suggest if it's ok to move the meeting to 2pm?

Mitsu Ishii: Yes, we wanted to discuss changing the regular time to 2pm

Agatha Macbeth: Could do, yes

Gaya Ethaniel: I fade too much for this type of meeting by 3 really ...

Agatha Macbeth: Ok with me

Dao Yheng: Me too

Betz Darwinian: ok with me.

Dao Yheng: Zen, I remember you have an earlier engagement?

Zen Arado: ok sure - I might miss the start some nights but it's ok I'll get most of it

Gaya Ethaniel: ah

Dao Yheng: You'll miss our hellos -- we'll save some for you :)

Zen Arado: :)

Gaya Ethaniel: Thanks everyone and specially Zen :)

Mitsu Ishii: so I have some thoughts on "help" which perhaps I could share when there's an appropriate moment

Dao Yheng: Sure, Mitsu -- do you want to start us off?

Gaya Ethaniel listens :)

Calvino Rabeni: Thanks everyone for taking on this topic - I felt it wasn't necessarily an easy one, but interesting and important

Mitsu Ishii: I'll try to be brief. A friend of mine was writing a paper on Agamben's Homo Sacer series, and another friend was talking with me about moving from the west coast of the US to the east coast, and strangely this all ends up overlapping.

Mitsu Ishii: in Homo Sacer, Agamben talks about the notion of ordinary time and messianic time and timeless eternity

Dao Yheng: (it was a stimulating suggestion, Calvino -- thanks!)

Mitsu Ishii: so there he says that ordinary time is the time before the redemption brought by the messiah

Mitsu Ishii: this is supposed to bridge over to a kind of future eternal heaven

Mickorod Renard: hi

Wol Euler: hello mick

Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Mick :)

Agatha Macbeth: Hello again Mick :)

Mitsu Ishii: but he points out that messianic time is somehow caught in between, neither ordinary time nor eternal time, but in the interstice in between

Mickorod Renard: sorry i am late,,duty called

Mitsu Ishii: hi Mick

Calvino Rabeni: That makes sense Mitsu

Mitsu Ishii: anyway, so what Agamben tries to say is that there is a way in which we divide the world into the sacred and the profane

Calvino Rabeni: It might be the same idea as "numinous" or "bardo" - an inbetween world space

Calvino Rabeni: And we work to prop open the door between them

Mitsu Ishii: and that messianic time is intended to bridge these two, but there is a problem which is this:

Dao Yheng: There do seem to be a number of different kinds of time

Timbo Quan: or perceptions of time

Mitsu Ishii: the messianic time tends to reinforce the division between sacred and profane

Zen Arado: or human constructions

Mitsu Ishii: which is the point my friend Jenny was making

Mitsu Ishii: so Agamben proposes this: the idea of a "profanation" movement

Mitsu Ishii: so he's saying, if you remove the ordinary notion of a "purpose" you can make the sacred profane, and through this playful movement you can repurpose it for other ends

Mitsu Ishii: anyway, there's a lot more there. but the simple point is

Mitsu Ishii: I was thinking about what it is about the east coast that unsettles me

Mitsu Ishii: relative to the west coast of the US

Mitsu Ishii: and it is that here, there seems to be an implicit assumption that you have to separate spheres of activity

Mitsu Ishii: so for example, you have people going into finance, or politics, or non-profits

Mitsu Ishii: or alternately you have a bank (that makes money) trying to ameliorate its selfish actions by donating to charity

Mitsu Ishii: but this tends to assume that these realms are always separated.

Mitsu Ishii: you can do both, but in each case there's an altruistic action and a selfish action and they are different.

Mitsu Ishii: anyway, the idea is that can you somehow mix these worlds?

Mitsu Ishii: the example that came to mind was Google when they explained to the press why they exited China

Mickorod Renard: on a personal level?

Gaya Ethaniel: Can you somehow link that to 'help' Mitsu?

Mitsu Ishii: So Google said the reason they exited China was because

Calvino Rabeni: That implicit separation assumption is embedded in philosophy - the idea of topics for instance - assumes things are separated by predefined criteria fixed and set in advance

Calvino Rabeni: We can't open our mouth and speak without running into that one :)

Mitsu Ishii: their \*corporate mission\* (the reason for the existence of Google) is to increase access to information.

Zen Arado: you don't have to believe these assumptions

Mitsu Ishii: so instead of saying they make money first, and increase access as a means towards that end

Mitsu Ishii: they say (whether this is true or not is a separate question) that officially, money is merely a means towards the end of increasing access to information.

Mickorod Renard: there must be an adjustment of what is sought

Zen Arado: covering up greed?

Mitsu Ishii: this isn't to say Google is necessarily as altruistic as they make themselves sound, but the point is it is a different way of thinking than is prevalent on the east coast.

Mitsu Ishii: the idea that the purpose of a giant corporation isn't to make money is hard to grasp here. even as rhetoric.

Mitsu Ishii: anyway, how this relates to "help" is:

Agatha Macbeth: Altruism is always good PR

Calvino Rabeni: They do seem to have a different outlook, a more big picture one

Calvino Rabeni: For instance, to help journalism survive and cultivate it

Mitsu Ishii: I think we tend to think about help often in terms of trying to do "good" as though that were somehow separated from practical concerns

Calvino Rabeni: rather than replacing it

Mitsu Ishii: well what interests me isn't so much whether Google is really altruistic or not, but just the fact that they say this is their purpose and I think they even somewhat believe it, even if it isn't entirely true.

Mitsu Ishii: but the mere fact that they say this changes the rhetoric, the language of "help"

Calvino Rabeni: Yes

Agatha Macbeth nods

Mickorod Renard: mmm

Mitsu Ishii: in other words, do only saints and monks help, or can we organize society so that help can be part of our mundane activities

Mitsu Ishii: even business, for example.

Gaya Ethaniel: I can't see how 'good' stands in such a contrast to practical concerns Mitsu ...

Mitsu Ishii: okay, that's my long-winded contribution :)

Calvino Rabeni: Thanks, Mitsu, that's intriguing

Agatha Macbeth: Saints and monks do it for others, not for themselves...

Mitsu Ishii: I don't think it does Gaya. I just think it is often portrayed that way.

Calvino Rabeni: Not necessarily Agatha

Mitsu Ishii: what if we had a society where corporations didn't think of themselves as just making money first, with whatever else they do as a means to that end?

Gaya Ethaniel: Is it? hm ... I will have a think later ... :)

Agatha Macbeth: No?

Dao Yheng: it is a funny situation that money, which was originally meant to be a means of exchange has turned into an end in itself

Zen Arado: success breeds money though

Timbo Quan: I think corporations only do good to enable themselves to make more money - not for the sake of doing good

Mitsu Ishii: yes, I agree that's how we have structured it rhetorically

Calvino Rabeni: Here's a related question - maybe the same - how can culture be structured so ordinary imperfect people can do good, and help, without being perfect or enlightened ?

Calvino Rabeni: Or corporations :)

Mickorod Renard: its a shame that love has such low value

Zen Arado: we do live in capitalistic societies

Mitsu Ishii: but there are subcultures where this isn't how people think about it

Zen Arado: the structure produces greed I think

Gaya Ethaniel: Encourage shareholding by employees is a good practice.

Mitsu Ishii: as I was saying it's less of a strange idea on the west coast, the notion that private good and public good can parallel.

Gaya Ethaniel: That way people who work and invest their time in the company have a say in how it should be running.

Timbo Quan: crumbs to encourage you to work harder and make more money for the company

Gaya Ethaniel: Well, if you look at companies that are 100% owned by employees, they are vastly different from other companies.

Gaya Ethaniel: But such a place is rare.

Mitsu Ishii: it's just an interesting question I think

Agatha Macbeth agrees with Gaya

Calvino Rabeni: This happens in Nature - fruits are nature's way to reward the animals for transporting the seed

Gaya Ethaniel: Anyway, sorry for branching out to politics.

Calvino Rabeni: The question is - evolution without enlightenment

Agatha Macbeth: You are forgiven Gaya :)

Calvino Rabeni: No imaginary standard of perfection will aid evolution

Gaya Ethaniel: Things evolve whether one tries or not ...

Zen Arado: it's not money but the love of money they say is the problem

Mitsu Ishii: the thing that I question is that things have to be "pure"

Mitsu Ishii: you can have a mixture of selfish and altruistic motives

Mitsu Ishii: the idea that we have to separate these or that this is natural I think is quite destructive

Zen Arado: used to hear this a lot when I was a Christian

Zen Arado: Jesus condemned rich men such a lot

Zen Arado: and so many churchgoers arrived in Mercs and BMW's

Agatha Macbeth: Ha!

Wol Euler grins.

Calvino Rabeni: Eliza wrote a very nice reminder in her report, of something Stim conveyed in a past meeting - "there are no real distractions, only things that we haven't yet learned to appreciate as actually contributing toward a larger sense of presence.""

Mitsu Ishii: yeah, that's the paradox! if you have a strong idea of separation, then people find it difficult to reconcile it and they end up just being hypocrites

Agatha Macbeth: (Including the priest...)

Calvino Rabeni: I think that applies to these pragmatic issues of motivation also

Mitsu Ishii: yes, exactly, that goes to Stim's point

Mitsu Ishii: alas I have to go now... bye everyone

Gaya Ethaniel: Bye Mitsu :)

Zen Arado: bye Mitsu

Wol Euler: bye mitsu, take care

Dao Yheng: bye mits!

Mickorod Renard: bye Mitsu

Agatha Macbeth: Bye for now Mitsu

Gaya Ethaniel: If whole of experience is taken as a whole, it isn't 'distraction' or 'not distraction'. There are much more than that. This applies to points raised before.

Calvino Rabeni: yes

Gaya Ethaniel: It's not either selfish or alturistic.

Calvino Rabeni: yes

Zen Arado: agree Gaya

Gaya Ethaniel: But one often finds oneself in camp A or camp B.

Zen Arado: intention is important

Gaya Ethaniel: Voluntarily or not ...

Dao Yheng: so what helps to see that a distraction is part of presence?

Mickorod Renard: sincerity

Calvino Rabeni: Agree, Zen, it is important, but \*how\* ?

Timbo Quan: This assumes that we are able to 'take in' the whole of experience

Calvino Rabeni: I think there's reason to expect that to be impossible, though

Zen Arado: I trthink we have to see through our conditioning

Zen Arado: I don't 'need' an ipad

Dao Yheng: funny, I was just reading a view that of the two kinds of Boddhicitta -- the relative (compassion) is much more difficult  
 Dao Yheng: idea that to be truly compassionate, you would have to be all knowing (ie, fully enlightened)  
 Zen Arado: are we talking about 'help' here?  
 Zen Arado: seems we are talking about greed  
 Agatha Macbeth: WB Liz :))  
 Wol Euler: hello eliza  
 Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Eliza :)  
 Dao Yheng: Wow, eliza!  
 Mickorod Renard: does compassionate become something only attainable from self experience of hardship?  
 Zen Arado: Hi Eliza:)  
 Agatha Macbeth: You weren't blown away then?  
 Timbo Quan: Is it all or nothing though? IS it possible to be partially all knowing?  
 Timbo Quan: Hi ELoza  
 Eliza Madrigal: Hi Everyone :) Sorry to be so late  
 Calvin Rabeni: Well, in a way, it's impossible NOT to be talking about help  
 Agatha Macbeth: NP  
 Mickorod Renard: Hi Eliza  
 Eliza Madrigal: It is still pouring, but not so much ice hitting the windows, etc  
 Agatha Macbeth: Erk  
 Eliza Madrigal: :)  
 Calvin Rabeni: In the sense that the greatest teacher is relationship, which we can't not be intimately involved in :)  
 Calvin Rabeni: WB Eliza  
 Zen Arado: the Buddha did it on his own though?  
 Zen Arado: can we rely too much on outside help?  
 Calvin Rabeni: If you do, it doesn't help  
 Zen Arado: want to be spoonfed?  
 Zen Arado: seems to me we have to do our own practice  
 Mickorod Renard: maybe hardship has its purpose?  
 Zen Arado: with pointers  
 Eliza Madrigal: I liked that you brought that up a bit too Zen, about many teachers/ teachings... there really is a lot of material  
 Calvin Rabeni: "Our own" ...  
 Dao Yheng: Mickorod -- seems hardship can cut both ways?  
 Zen Arado: too much information maybe  
 Calvin Rabeni: Ah, beware "TMI" :)  
 Timbo Quan: spoonfeeding tends to lead to further spoonfeeding  
 Zen Arado: actually we get confused there is so much stuff out there I think  
 Dao Yheng: likewise for for spoonfeeding!  
 Gaya Ethaniel: :)  
 Zen Arado: or I do anyway  
 Gaya Ethaniel: Well good teachers/friends wouldn't spoonfeed ...  
 Mickorod Renard: my personal periods of grief have been something very rewarding in a spiritual sense

Eliza Madrigal nods @ Gaya

Zen Arado: exactly Gaya

Dao Yheng: I agree, Zen -- studies about the dangers of too much information

Gaya Ethaniel: But one has to take responsibility for oneself.

Calvino Rabeni: Help seems a connection with two ends - polarities - will and grace

Dao Yheng: Agree, gaya, but I have been noticing lately that the most gentle teaching seems to have the best effect

Eliza Madrigal: it is in times of grief and struggle that all our defenses drop

Gaya Ethaniel: Yes Dao :)

Dao Yheng: it's as if the more stressed out I am, the smaller the reminder has to be

Zen Arado: monks in zen monasteries years ago might only have one grumpy old master for teachings

Eliza Madrigal: mmm, nods

Calvino Rabeni: grief, struggle, chaos are doorways

Mickorod Renard: yes

Gaya Ethaniel: I think there is difference between effort and struggle ...

Mickorod Renard: maybe a guide is what is needed,,as in help

Calvino Rabeni: or conscious and unconscious suffering

Zen Arado: yes and a guide who doesn't give you too much too soon....

Calvino Rabeni: It's such a paradox - to drop the secret "rescue fantasy" but to be open to be receptive to genuine help

Zen Arado: sorry I'm labouring a point

Timbo Quan: I think that help can be addictive (perhaps for both sides)

Eliza Madrigal: there was something else Stim said, that I found comfort in this week. He was talking on audio to a student and told them something along the lines that 'you may think you're getting worse (meditatively in that context), because you're more sensitive.' He said 'you're getting better, but it looks worse.'

Mickorod Renard: I dont think u r Zen

Eliza Madrigal: :)

Gaya Ethaniel: Well holding 'rescue fantasy' prevents one to be open/receptive.

Mickorod Renard: the old,,no gain without pain

Zen Arado: OTOH we need to be prepared to ask for help

Gaya Ethaniel: OTOH?

Zen Arado: on the other hand

Mickorod Renard: yes,,this is true Zen

Gaya Ethaniel: ah

Zen Arado: I liked Cal's point "most people who think of themselves as engaging in spiritual practices could benefit by making an effort to get freer of the common psychological barriers that prevent people from giving and receiving help more effectively.

Eliza Madrigal: yes, we don't seem to be creatures meant to be as 'independent' as some cultures tend to value

Mickorod Renard: but this is hard when one is attached to pride

Calvino Rabeni: Question - what about the help we constantly get, but are not even aware of?

Mickorod Renard: giving thanks is something that I like to do

Eliza Madrigal: mmm

Calvino Rabeni: :) mick, I think that really helps

Mickorod Renard: I find it nourishing  
 Gaya Ethaniel: :)  
 Zen Arado: yes - ego wants separateness and independence  
 Zen Arado: hmmm... just realized I like to be independent :)  
 Gaya Ethaniel: :)  
 Eliza Madrigal smiles  
 Mickorod Renard: he he „me too  
 Calvin Rabeni: Really - have you ever had a chat with ego, to see what it \*really\* wants?  
 Eliza Madrigal: Isn't there a double edge to all these things...  
 Eliza Madrigal: even 'pride'  
 Calvin Rabeni: Yes, there is a double edge  
 Zen Arado: it hides itself from me Cal :)  
 Calvin Rabeni: Ego has the best and purest intentions  
 Calvin Rabeni: Just an incomplete appreciation of reality  
 Eliza Madrigal: there is a kind of pride which IS taking responsibility for oneself, and then there is a pride that thinks it has to bear everything alone...or can... ?  
 Calvin Rabeni: yes, two pretty different things  
 Calvin Rabeni: false pride  
 Zen Arado: yes middle way again ....sigh  
 Gaya Ethaniel: Even when one lives in a cave and bearing all alone, is s/he really?  
 Calvin Rabeni: no  
 Zen Arado: don't want to be a burden on others .....

Calvin Rabeni: many people bear burdens gladly  
 Calvin Rabeni: and seek them out  
 Eliza Madrigal nods @ gaya... its an illusion you mean?  
 Calvin Rabeni: interdependence  
 Zen Arado: so we should heap them on?  
 Calvin Rabeni: middle way :)  
 Eliza Madrigal: :)  
 Mickorod Renard: some are stronger than others  
 Zen Arado: 'you always yoke the willing horse' Irish saying  
 Gaya Ethaniel: Yes Eliza, we are connected mm ... what'd be a good word here ... at the root?  
 Calvin Rabeni: asking for help can be a gift to someone if it raises consciousness  
 Agatha Macbeth: To be sure  
 Zen Arado: so the more you do for others the more they want you to do  
 Dao Yheng: help as explicit acknowledgement of interdependence?  
 Zen Arado: :)  
 Calvin Rabeni: yes  
 Eliza Madrigal: root is a good word gaya....  
 Calvin Rabeni: with a celebration feel  
 Gaya Ethaniel: More one does for others, more one wants to do rather.  
 Calvin Rabeni: not a reluctance and regret  
 Zen Arado: true too Gaya  
 Eliza Madrigal: yes like Mick was saying... giving thanks he is the one nourished  
 Dao Yheng: nods



Eliza Madrigal: perhaps our nature is generous

Calvino Rabeni: Help is how to be in relationship, not something to do if driven by desperation with no other choice :))

Gaya Ethaniel nods. That way, one forwards it on or feeds it back.

Dao Yheng: woops, 3 min homework decision

Calvino Rabeni: @eliza, I agree

Zen Arado: relinquishing worldly cynicism....

Eliza Madrigal: hm...just got here Dao. haha

Dao Yheng: (completing a circuit)

Gaya Ethaniel: Did you all see homework suggestion pages Dao and Eliza made?

Gaya Ethaniel: We could pick something from them?

Eliza Madrigal: sometimes we are generous to set boundaries... hehe, ending on time

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Calvino Rabeni: Can someone review the homework suggestions?

Dao Yheng: I did like the 6 paramitas...

Mickorod Renard: can someone do my homework?

Gaya Ethaniel: [http://ways-of-knowing.wik.is/Homewo...rk\\_Suggestions](http://ways-of-knowing.wik.is/Homewo...rk_Suggestions)

Eliza Madrigal giggles Mick

Gaya Ethaniel: [http://ways-of-knowing.wik.is/Homewo...rk\\_Suggestions](http://ways-of-knowing.wik.is/Homewo...rk_Suggestions)

Zen Arado: ty Gaya

Calvino Rabeni: Sure NP Mick :)

Mickorod Renard: ty

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Mickorod Renard: quick zen,,put a yoke on cal

Gaya Ethaniel: Sounds good to me - 6 paramita

Eliza Madrigal: Thanks Gaya. And I could go with any on Dao's list...

Eliza Madrigal: Are others familiar with the paramitas at all? they are 'virtues' really...

Calvino Rabeni: "Empty Field" jumps out when I look at that list

Zen Arado: you'd have to do them one by one?

Dao Yheng: I do like that one... was meaning to check amazon to see how available the book is

Calvino Rabeni: Virtues as contrasted to hindrances?

Gaya Ethaniel: <http://unfetteredmind.org/translatio...erfections.php>

Gaya Ethaniel: Is this relevant?

Calvino Rabeni: It seems a few christian notions would need to be dusted off and redeemed, to do virtues ")

Agatha Macbeth: Probably

Eliza Madrigal: Well, there is relevant overlap in Christianity, yes

Zen Arado: taking precepts?

Zen Arado: we've done giving tonight I think

Eliza Madrigal: I love that Gaya, thanks for the link

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Mickorod Renard: looks like i have nothing to do

Gaya Ethaniel: lol

Calvino Rabeni: There are certain things about virtues as a whole it might be good to be clear on ;

Calvino Rabeni: the usual dilemma - focus vs. the big principle

Gaya Ethaniel: We can stay for a few weeks with this anyway.

Eliza Madrigal: and we can plan to do 'empty field' next?

Calvino Rabeni: Narrowing the field to two - empty field vs virtues, what would people prefer?

Zen Arado: paramitas must be different in Zen

Calvino Rabeni: Or stay with help? :)

Zen Arado: <http://www.buddhistdoor.com/OldWeb/b...ll/teach15.htm>

Mickorod Renard: I would like to take apart the virtues

Calvino Rabeni: BTW, "Ways of Help" would be a perfectly good ongoing workshop too :)

Eliza Madrigal: the empty field out of which arises virtue to help ... hehe

Calvino Rabeni: Yes, Eliza

Eliza Madrigal: take apart Mick? you mean focus on each, or leave for another time?

Calvino Rabeni: it's a necessary background for the virtues

Mickorod Renard: I mean really understand them

Eliza Madrigal nods yes I'd like to dwell there a bit if others would also

Dao Yheng: OK, Paramitas first --

Calvino Rabeni: \*really\* - I like the sound of that :)

Eliza Madrigal: Thanks Dao (being decisive!) hehe

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Mickorod Renard: grin

Calvino Rabeni: No rushing through important principles - letting them ripen to insight - ahh, were it only possible :))

Gaya Ethaniel: Good night everyone :)

Dao Yheng: I like it because it means we don't have to decide again for 6 weeks

Eliza Madrigal: Wait... are we starting with 'generosity' then?

Agatha Macbeth: Night gaya :)

Eliza Madrigal: hahah Dao

Dao Yheng: bye gaya!