



Pila Mulligan: hi everyone

Dao Yheng: hi all!

Bruce: Heya, Dao.

Dao Yheng: Pila, nice of you to join us :)

Avy RunnerAvy Runner only now sees a gun in Bruces hand....., raises an eyebrow, which is hard, since he doesn't have one

Bruce: Heya, Gaya.

Dao Yheng: Hi gaya!

Gaya Ethaniel: Hello everyone :)

Avy Runner: hi Gaya :)

Agatha Macbeth: Are there 2 Bruces?

Mickorod Renard: Bruces peacemaker

Agatha Macbeth: Hello Gaya :)

Bruce: Just thought I'd bring along a "peacemaker" in case we come to blows over the reincarnation debate.

Avy Runner: peacemaker !!!

Avy Runner: it shoots hearts :)

Avy Runner: ?

Agatha Macbeth: Is that the same as the Single Action Army?

Agatha Macbeth: aka Colt 45

Bruce: These seats won't let it shoot anything!

Agatha Macbeth: TE Lawrence always used one I believe

BruceBruce thinks he will try to behave himself now.

Agatha Macbeth: Rootin tootin shootin Brucie

Avy Runner: :))

BruceBruce wonders -- Where is that d--- fish?

Mickorod Renard: thinks we need a lawence of arabia now

Agatha Macbeth: Maybe he drowned

BruceBruce dies from laughing....

Agatha Macbeth: OOps

Sun: hi all ;)

Agatha Macbeth: Hi Sunsh

Avy Runner: hi Sun :)

Mickorod Renard: Hi Sunshine

Bruce: Heya, Sun!

Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Sunshine :)

Dao Yheng: Hi Sunshine!

Sun: ;) nice to be here - bit late for me usually

Sun: hi Bruce ;)

Bruce: Here comes Brian.

Bruce: Heya, Brian.

Sun: hi Brian ;)

Agatha Macbeth: Hi Brian

Mickorod Renard: Hi Brian

Brian Roop: hi, am i interrupting something?

Agatha Macbeth: Not yet  
Bruce: not yet -- Do join us.  
Brian Roop: heh  
Bruce: This is the Ways of Knowing discussion group.  
Dao Yheng: <http://waysofknowing.kira.org/>  
Brian Roop: oh  
Agatha Macbeth: aka WOK  
Agatha Macbeth: (Nothing to do with stir fry)  
Mickorod Renard: sometimes known as wonk  
Sun: ;p  
Agatha Macbeth: Wonk?  
Mickorod Renard: ways of not knowing  
Gaya Ethaniel: Welcome Brian, this is our wiki - <http://waysofknowing.kira.org/>  
Dao Yheng: ways of not knowing :)  
Sun: ;)  
Agatha Macbeth: Indeed Dao  
Avy Runner: hi Brian, he says a bit late.....  
Brian Roop: not offended  
Agatha Macbeth: Tom Waits for no man  
Brian Roop: sounds like my old gf  
Mickorod Renard: :)  
Agatha Macbeth: (I'll shut up)  
Dao Yheng: gaya, I was looking at your report again, interesting to get a peek into the Korean community around Buddhism  
Gaya Ethaniel: :)  
Agatha Macbeth: hello Chi :)  
Sun: hi Chi ;)  
Brian Roop: hi chi  
Mickorod Renard: hi Chi  
Brian Roop: again  
Dao Yheng: Hi Chi!  
Chi Aho: Hi, Mick; Brian, Sun  
Chi Aho: and everyone!  
Chi Aho: (poetry)  
Avy Runner: hi Chi :)  
Gaya Ethaniel: I grew up feeling unsure of Buddhism in fact ... only when I was in early teen, I re-discovered it through reading a book by a Zen master.  
Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Chi :)  
Brian Roop: had a student staying with me once, he picked up a book on zen off my shelf  
Calvino Rabeni: Dao, when I was in Thailand I much envied the vital role of the temples in everyday life and the amount of current energy and creativity they had  
Brian Roop: asked me, Explain this to me, I said, "if I did I'd be lying to you."  
Avy Runner: hi Freud  
Gaya Ethaniel: Yes ... I do miss it :)  
Sun: hi again Freud ;)

Mickorod Renard: Hi Freud

Agatha Macbeth: Hello Freud :)

Brian Roop: hi freud

Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Freud :)

Brian Roop: another transfer from pab

Bruce: Yo, Freud --

Dao Yheng: it does seem like buddhism and other "eastern" religions are filling a gap for us in the west

Bruce: If you explain you lie; if you do not explain you lie.

Chi Aho: Is this just an informal gathering here? Any special time?

Gaya Ethaniel: Yet I also feel more comfortable with 'democratic' approach in some ways.

Gaya Ethaniel: 2 pm SLT every Thursday here Chi.

Brian Roop: christianity has a genuine mystical element that was largely lost in the Reformation

Gaya Ethaniel: <http://waysofknowing.kira.org/> - this is our wiki

Chi Aho: hmmm

Mickorod Renard: this si a wok class Chi

Bruce: Ways of Knowing group, Chi -- and you're welcome to join us.

Dao Yheng: yes Brian

Chi Aho: working on something? Personal work?

Chi Aho: ty, Bruce

Avy Runner: I think Buddhism is still very much alive, less dogmatic

Brian Roop: yes

Brian Roop: more about practice than theology

Gaya Ethaniel: You can find a description of today's topic on the home page of the wiki Chi.

Avy Runner: it has proven to be able to adapt to other cultures, without losing the essence

Avy Runner: yes

Brian Roop: who was it said, to live is not enough for them, they have to talk about it

Brian Roop: Samuel Becket i think

Bruce: They talk about it while they wait for Godot.

Dao Yheng: yes, a well known talker and writer, I believe :)

Brian Roop: yeah

Sun: ;)

Mickorod Renard: talking is one thing,,but listening is important too

Brian Roop: oh yes, it's everything

Avy Runner: hmmm, maybe I should practice that more :))

Brian Roop: i think Becket was being critical of Western culture

Brian Roop: too much talk

Pila Mulligan: maybe too much thinking is relevant

Brian Roop: got hamlet in lots of hot water

Bruce: I shall throw out this "thought," then:

Brian Roop: heh

Agatha Macbeth: Not Ophelia?

Bruce: The whole of Buddhism is about one thing and one thing only:

Bruce: Overcoming the illusion of separation.

Calvino Rabeni: How would you know if it is "too much" thinking?

Brian Roop: when it's too late

Dao Yheng: yes, the buddhist literature is also quite vast

Avy Runner: maybe there is not such a thing of too much thinking, only beneficial and not beneficial thinking

Mickorod Renard: Bruce, can that not be said for other practices too?

Bruce: Perhaps -- it rises in every mystical tradition, I think.

Bruce: (OOOPS -- there goes another THOUGHT!)

Calvino Rabeni: That sounds a little like a recipe for salvation, Bruce

Brian Roop: those who know, can't say; those who say, don't know

Calvino Rabeni: Who can disagree ..

Bruce: perhaps, Cal -- or else the awakening that salvation is not needed.

Calvino Rabeni: but when programs become one-pointed it can be limiting

Calvino Rabeni: I'd say it implicitly redefines salvation

Avy Runner: in Christianity dualism is part of the essence, I think, since there is a God we can't measure, but maybe that was different in ancient times

Bruce: How about ALL-Pointed programs?

Calvino Rabeni: Basho - nothing you can see that isn't a flower, nothing you can think that isn't the moon

Mickorod Renard: surely dualism also features in budhism?

Avy Runner: not in essence no, but buddhism works with what is in teh moment, which can be seperation

Avy Runner: in that context they work with two kind of truths, the absolute and the relative truth

Avy Runner: I think Batchelor presented a great view on that, making practice the backbone

Chi Aho: Isn't Buddhism all about getting on the path to deliverance from suffering (due to desire)?

Calvino Rabeni: How can buddhism claim an absolute truth .. when all is impermanent and contingent (etc.) ? Somehow transcendentalism likes to sneak back in even when apparently not part of the doctrine

Brian Roop: is buddhism about doctrine, or about pracice?

Bruce: for Batchelor, it is clearly about practice - not doctrine.

Avy Runner: Cal, that is the absolute truth, even better the relative truth is defined within the absolute truth

Agatha Macbeth: Does it have a doctrine?

Calvino Rabeni: some say its antidoctrine, but people love doctrine

Brian Roop: doctrine makes us feel safe

Freud Jungsten: I alwasly found buddhism to be very orthodoxic not praxic.... but my exposure is very limited.

Avy Runner: absolute here doesn't mean an objectivity

Brian Roop: but no room for love where there is no risk

Chi Aho: maybe doctrine (teaching), but no dogma (what you must believe)

Calvino Rabeni: perhaps Chi yes

Brian Roop: no room to let the heart expand in compassion for all beings

Calvino Rabeni: but received teaching is an invitation to dogma if it is secondhand

Avy Runner: I have the opposite experience Freud, since in the end Buddhism challenges everything, and that's also part of the absolute truth

Brian Roop: teaching can open the way to practice but only practice reveals the truth of things

Bruce Bruce feels that the very essence of Buddhism is compassion for all things.

Avy Runner: the absolute truth can't do without the relative one, (final words ok :)), tries to shut up

Bruce Bruce vows to sit on hands.

Brian Roop: don't shut up, genuine dialogue brings out truth

Avy Runner: (true, but I might be focussing too much on one point)

Gaya Ethaniel: Teachings are invitations for own exploration ... not to dogma. That is up to what each of us do, cannot blame teaching for what we do.

Brian Roop: maybe we need that 90 second bell every 15 minutes

Calvino Rabeni: Theres a thought Brian .. interesting it isn't used here

Avy Runner: :) Brian

Agatha Macbeth: Hello Atari

BruceBruce employs his 15-minute bell every 90-seconds.

Mickorod Renard: I am reluctant to say anything cos I am not sure what we are addressing

Violet: Hi everyone :)

Avy Runner: hi Atara

Sun: hi Atara ;)

Mickorod Renard: Hi Atar

Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Atari :)

Chi Aho: hey, atari

Brian Roop: hi atara

Violet: The human condition, Mick :)

Gaya Ethaniel: Here is a reminder then Mick :P - we'll share perspectives "about how buddhism has been dominated by the monastic ethos of the east, and needs to be re-conceptualized from the ground up for our own cultures." We can open up the discussion to include all religious views, and consider ways we have (or have not) been able to accommodate these.

Avy Runner: good remark Mick :)

Calvino Rabeni: We are addressing the role of buddhism in modern life, and more generally the relevance of "traditions" of spiritual thinking for the everyday life world

Mickorod Renard: thanks Gaya

Brian Roop: darn i'm in the wrong place i was looking for income tax help

Agatha Macbeth: Hi Mitsu

Dao Yheng: :))

Mickorod Renard: Hi Mitsu

Brian Roop: mitsu, hi

Avy Runner: hi Mitsu

Mitsu Ishii: hi, sorry to be late :)

Freud Jungsten: Zen taxation is a new field.

Calvino Rabeni: For example, I think, were I to imagine a "reformed" or modernized Christianity, would I include Sin, Redemption, etc.?

Avy Runner: (ah I closed that subject today Brian, pfiew)

Chi Aho: On Buddhism adapting itself to modern life, there are Buddhist groups, as well as Taoist groups in some of the larger liberal churches.

Chi Aho: Unitarian-Universalist

Bruce: Demythologizing any ancient tradition is a good idea -- to re-interpret the "Dharma" of that tradition for modern contexts.

Chi Aho: no sin, redemption, salvation in UU, Cal

Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Mitsu and Zen :)

Bruce: I think that was one of Batchelor's points.

Mickorod Renard: but I can see that there are issues where there may be conflict in views

Brian Roop: In the Catholic tradition Thomas Merton was opening the way to sharing experience with Buddhism

Sun: Hi Mitsu , Zen ;)

Calvino Rabeni: Go to a Thai temple, you find something for everyone, a buddha, a kwan yin, a ganesha, maybe a jesus, some animals, etc. it's very pluralistic and serving diversity

Bruce: Hi, Zen.

Violet: Hi Zen :)

Avy Runner: hi Zen :)

Brian Roop: drawing the ircle to include not exclude

Agatha Macbeth: Hello Zen :)

Mickorod Renard: as you know, I prefer to see myself as Christian, yet i find the budhist teachings useful too

Brian Roop: circle

Zen: Hi all sorry late

Calvino Rabeni: Hi Zen

Bruce: Agrees with the synth-churches -- In our Quaker Meeting, some of us are clearly Buddhist in practice.

Brian Roop: zen, hi

Chi Aho: I live near a Buddhist Temple; inside is a statue of a sitting Buddha about 15 feet high (3 meters); Vietnamese worshipers for the most part

Mickorod Renard: but I wouldnt want to drop aspects of my beliefs to accomodate another practice,,jsut for the sake of it

Brian Roop: i think all religions meet in their mystical traditions

Avy Runner: wow

Gaya Ethaniel: I personally understand these terms differently ... reincarnation, even original sin etc. I think they are not bound so specifically to the usual context.

Avy Runner: or maybe we should go back to the origin

Agatha Macbeth: Now you're talking my laguage Gaya :p

Brian Roop: original sin is more a theological construct than anything

Gaya Ethaniel: Well it's up to each of us to see what we see ...

Brian Roop: one way of describing the unreflected human condition

Calvino Rabeni: One view presented is something like . we won't think about whether reincarnation is real (in some sense) but to remove it from buddhism would mess up the structure of it too much

Brian Roop: why?

Brian Roop: i tink reincarnation in buddhism is just a leftover of its hundu origins

Calvino Rabeni: I'm not a proponent .. but there's a certain feeling "don't mess with tradition"

Calvino Rabeni: like the fear of "degrading" it

Brian Roop: once around is enough for me

Coffee Mug whispers: Ahh! Fresh Hot Coffee

Avy Runner: I should say, it's better to work with what is in front of you, then having thoughts about reincarnation which aren't helping you with daily life, though they might help you, in that case reincarnation is real

Mickorod Renard: clearly some aspects of Christianity as it has developed is a contrived construct...isnt everything,,but some things are there for valid reasons,,they look silly but on closer examination they have there place

Zen: some of Tibetan Buddhism or a great deal even is built on the premise that reincarnation is a fact

Avy Runner: whether you don't believe in it or not

Calvino Rabeni: according to Batchelor (I think) the concern with "degrading" tradition - as if it were one time perfect and can only go downhill - comes from only seeing the negative side of "impermanence" - not seeing that things are ever arising and being recreated

Calvino Rabeni: Agree, Mick, even the "contrivances" are there for meaningful reasons and may express something important

Zen: it gets back to the importance of traditions and forms

Avy Runner: true Zen, but even my teacher had many questions about it..... which is normal in Tibetan Buddhism too, even claiming that he doesn't know either

Brian Roop: well I can only say that my experience affirms my convictions about the uniqueness of my life, in ways that ipso facto I can't explain

Dao Yheng: at the same time, some things \*will\* degrade, even as other things \*improve\*

Brian Roop: in ways

Bruce: Bruce agrees with Cal and adds: Batchelor warns against "having" a religion and employs us to BE our "religion."

Brian Roop: who's to judge degradation and improvement

Mitsu Ishii: Stim once said that one of his teachers told him that reincarnation wasn't something he should concern himself with.

Brian Roop: what's the standard

Brian Roop: ?

Mitsu Ishii: On the other hand, I've had many experiences which lead me to believe that the world is structured in a strange way

Avy Runner: reincarnation itself is not the point, the way we handle those issues is, like sin, karma or any other subject, dogma is in handling it, not in the 'concept'

Agatha Macbeth: You too?

Mitsu Ishii: in which nonlocal connectivity seems to be possible.

Calvino Rabeni: Regardless of whether it's possible to find a fixed standard, Brian, I think we can notice biases and preferences

Mickorod Renard: I do worry about man's tampering nature though, I like the idea of some firm foothold, man is egotistical and I dare say from generation to generation believe they know everything, history shows many mistakes

Brian Roop: I think that the world that experience leads us to is not structured at all

Gaya Ethaniel: I find that there seems to be a tendency that things have to be 'improved' in a progressive way in the modern world.

Zen: is agnosticism a valid stance to take with it?

Mitsu Ishii: if that is true, then "reincarnation" might simply be a story one could use to roughly describe something which is better understood as interconnectivity.

Brian Roop: most of the world lives in such misery that they would not consider that improvement

Zen: atheistic stance seems a bit dogmatic to me

Avy Runner: Avy Runner smiles at the gong :)

Agatha Macbeth: There's your bell :p

Mitsu Ishii: it's not clear, in other words, that "reincarnation" is even well defined as a concept.

Calvino Rabeni: Gaya to the extent that is true, then conservative traditions may serve as a useful counterweight

Mitsu Ishii: the actual situation may be far more strange than such ideas interpreted narrowly

Mickorod Renard: was it the actual buddha who brought up reincarnation?

Calvino Rabeni: Yes Mitsu

Gaya Ethaniel: It can be more inclusive ...

Zen: it was in Hinduism before the Buddha

Mitsu Ishii: for example suppose Jung's collective unconscious notion is right (and I tend to think there's something to it)

Chi Aho: the doctrine from Hinduism was that of the transmigration of souls; there is a constant incarnation going on all the time and we participate in it, of course

Gaya Ethaniel: Being modern seems to be a lot about disproving existing ideas or improve upon existing ideas etc.

Brian Roop: because the Buddha took it for granted doesn't mean it's so

Avy RunnerAvy Runner takes a hike.....

Mitsu Ishii: that would mean we're all interconnected at that level, not just being connected to past lives but connected to each other.

Bruce: for me, the 'problem' with reincarnation is not doctrinal -- It is that it supposes a 'separate self' that gets incarnated...

Gaya Ethaniel: Get the next generation iPhone every 6 months or something.

Mitsu Ishii: well, technically speaking, Buddhism expresses the idea that there is no self which gets reincarnated, but there is reincarnation.

Agatha Macbeth: Enjoy Legoland Avy

Mickorod Renard: it seems odd to subscribe to a practice given by someone like the Buddha and not take his words seriously

Zen: agree with Bruce

BruceBruce wonders: Who is this "actual" Buddha, anyway?

Zen: but you can get around that by a theory of rebirth

Brian Roop: Gautama, historical figure who achieved enlightenment

Zen: just energy being transferred or something

Mickorod Renard: maybe I should consider missing a few bits of Jesus's teachings out too

Zen: but the Buddha is different in that regard

Bruce: Gautama's teaching was (I think) that we are all Buddhas. "Work out your own enlightenment."

Zen: he told his disciples to question teachings

Zen: even his own

Brian Roop: not so different from Jesus, you are the light of the world, you are the salt of the earth

Zen: to test in their own experience

Bruce: indeed, Brian.

Bruce: BE the Christ within yourself.

Brian Roop: the gift of the Spirit of God

Mickorod Renard: but i suspect the Buddha had thought it out well before he said that Zen

Zen: yes but Jesus's teachings are held as universal truths for all time

Bruce: The Buddha speaks from his own experience -- and invites us to speak from ours.

Mitsu Ishii: the Buddha is also reputed to have said: don't believe things just because it's written in some text or because some revered monk said it.

Zen: I think there have been many additions to what the Buddha said

Brian Roop: Jesus spent the night in prayer, then taught



Zen: yes Mitsu

Dao Yheng: it's a bit of a balancing act -- learning from others, learning from your own experience, without getting too stuck on any one pov

Brian Roop: yes

Zen: yeh

Calvino Rabeni: true Dao!

Zen: using guidance wisely

Calvino Rabeni: Does that include being aware of the biases in traditions one is attracted to ?

Gaya Ethaniel: Yes so I appreciate the freedom to interpret the teachings in the Buddhist tradition.

Brian Roop: a teacher, even the buddha, can only point out the way

Zen: yes Brian

Brian Roop: we have to go down the way ourselves

Mitsu Ishii: the fact is, you can check these things for yourself.

Zen: we have to follow our own path

Bruce: The Buddha is a finger pointing at the moon - - but the finger is also The Moon.

Zen: (if there is a path)

Gaya Ethaniel: Yes and it is positive that we are encouraged to do so rather than believe.

Brian Roop: it's a metaphor for practice

Dao Yheng: but our own pov can limit us -- that's why it's nice to have some crazy, reincarnation-believing teachers around :)

Brian Roop: but practice is not the absolute

Brian Roop: just a way to the ineffable

Bruce: ;-)

Calvino Rabeni: There are so many of these one-sided concepts that could use a little balance ...

Gaya Ethaniel: So we have so many different teachers etc. yes Dao :P

Mitsu Ishii: I think it's always a time to develop new teachings and understandings, while trying to deeply connect with teachings from the past. The value of the teachings for me is that they point at something quite radical, so radical that it's useful to hear them so you don't stop with a partial realization. But still, it all has to be reinterpreted into the current context.

Mickorod Renard: yea, I can say,,as I am not a budhist,,that I am enjoying some melding of traditions between my beliefs and budhism,,and although i am struggling with this in respect of reincarnation (from a Christain point of view) I am still including it and enjoying the challenge

Chi Aho: To me it would seem that if there is only One Life, One Spirit, and it is constantly incarnating itself (as evidenced by our very being), then we \*ARE\* that spirit and not who we ordinarily think we are at all, and of course we shall continue to participate in this incarnation process.

Brian Roop: some dude on npr news is singing, "she left me for Jesus"

Agatha Macbeth: Don't blame her

Gaya Ethaniel: Yes otherwise, it becomes a dead thing ...

Gaya Ethaniel: Irrelevant ...

Brian Roop: poor guy, maybe we need to invite him here

Zen: yes Gaya!

Zen: dead dogma

Brian Roop: dogma is a crutch

BruceBruce very much appreciates Mitsu's statement about "partial realization."

Calvino Rabeni: Time Check ...the hour is approaching

Brian Roop: but crutches are useful until we can walk on our own

Zen: yep

BruceBruce thinks that no real buddhist is a Buddhist.

Gaya Ethaniel: Maybe we can find some links by 'crazy teachers' for next week :P

Brian Roop: and we should not fail in compassion for those who have not found the way

Mickorod Renard: thats the rub,,many just move on afterwards without a glance over the shoulder

Calvino Rabeni: Remembrance

Chi Aho: sorry i have to go now

Violet: Yes, Brian

Gaya Ethaniel: Bye Chi :)

Agatha Macbeth: Wasn't that a film?

Mitsu Ishii: bye

Zen: bye Chi

Dao Yheng: thanks chi, bye!

Bruce: THANKS, everyone!

Sun: byebye Chi

Agatha Macbeth: Bye

Mickorod Renard: crazy teachers,,has anyone heard of Batchelor or what?

Gaya Ethaniel: lol

Mickorod Renard: byeee

Dao Yheng: :))

Sun: thanks all ;))

Violet: I have to be going, too; thank you, everyone :)

Brian Roop: wowthis is a great group, glad i stumbled on to you

Calvino Rabeni: Bye Atara

Gaya Ethaniel: Thanks for coming everyone :)

Brian Roop: thanks all

Dao Yheng: Bye Atari

Mitsu Ishii: bye folks

Zen: bye \violet and all leaving

Agatha Macbeth: Sayonara