

Aggers (agatha.macbeth): Hello Dao  
Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Agatha, Bruce and Dao :)  
Gaya Ethaniel: Hello again Alfred and Wol :)  
boxy (alfred.kelberry): hi :)  
Wol (wol.euler): /me waves  
Bruce (bruce.mowbray): Hey, Gaya and Alfred and Wol  
boxy (alfred.kelberry): btw, thank you for the link to the talk, gaya  
boxy (alfred.kelberry): it was very interesting  
Gaya Ethaniel: Which talk?  
boxy (alfred.kelberry): how westerners misunderstand buddhism :)  
Aggers (agatha.macbeth): How Westerners misunderstand most things :(  
Gaya Ethaniel: ah ... well ... I don't really subscribe to some of the opinions expressed in the video probably but still glad you enjoyed it :)  
boxy (alfred.kelberry): i'm still pondering over it. but surprisingly (or not), my view of buddhism or better my experiential perception is very much in line with the early text  
Gaya Ethaniel: You mean Pali suttas?  
boxy (alfred.kelberry): yes  
Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Calvino :)  
Aggers (agatha.macbeth): Hi Cal  
Bruce (bruce.mowbray): Hey, Cal!  
Calvino Rabeni: Hi greetings!  
Wol (wol.euler): hello cal  
Gaya Ethaniel: Interesting ... I don't know enough to discuss it with you but perhaps you can tell us about it one day :)  
Gaya Ethaniel: So let's give a minute or two then start people :)  
Bruce (bruce.mowbray): yes.  
Gaya Ethaniel: Hello JS :)  
JS Saltwater: Hi Gaya, all  
boxy (alfred.kelberry): i really like a quote from the talk saying that the more back to the early text the farther away from religion :)  
Aggers (agatha.macbeth): Hello JS  
JS Saltwater: hi Ag  
Gaya Ethaniel: hm ... not so sure about that ... anyway :)  
boxy (alfred.kelberry): in this sense it's rather natural for me that i tend to the early text  
Gaya Ethaniel: Yes they are profound teachings I'm sure :)  
boxy (alfred.kelberry): :)  
Gaya Ethaniel: So this week ... the urge we all have in us ...  
Gaya Ethaniel: Let me get the link for you again ...  
Gaya Ethaniel: <http://waysofknowing.kira.org/>  
Bruce (bruce.mowbray): Religion or experience -- take your pick.  
Gaya Ethaniel: <http://www.tricycle.com/feature/tran...ent-imperative> - the article  
Gaya Ethaniel: :)  
Gaya Ethaniel: Have you had a chance to read it?  
Gaya Ethaniel: Want to have a quick read now?  
Wol (wol.euler): doing that now

boxy (alfred.kelberry): \*hides\*

Gaya Ethaniel: ok :)

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): /me says it's fine to hide behind me, Al.

boxy (alfred.kelberry): :)

JS Saltwater: read most of it but need to refresh

Gaya Ethaniel: Sure :)

boxy (alfred.kelberry): somebody ate my homework

Gaya Ethaniel: JS - you find report links on WoK wiki homepage too.

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): Blub ate it, Al.

boxy (alfred.kelberry): :)

Aggers (agatha.macbeth): Ha!

JS Saltwater: kk thx Gaya

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

JS Saltwater: ah yes, Flow, a metaphor that crops up many places

Aggers (agatha.macbeth): Know the flow as you go

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): I feel that I 'understand' the need for some folks to have a 'religion' -- What concerns me is that I not condescend to them because of that need.

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): I also have needs.

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): I feel that there is a difference between "Flow" and "religion."

JS Saltwater: agreed

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): /me listens

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

JS Saltwater: I also like the point made about how transcendental experience is itself amoral

JS Saltwater: the notion that there could be immoral spiritualities is intriguing and made me wonder what spirituality really is

Gaya Ethaniel: Can you say a bit about immoral spirituality? I'm not quite getting it ^^^;

JS Saltwater: well he talks about the flow experience having to have a moral dimension

JS Saltwater: which implies it can exist apart from that

Wol (wol.euler): /me frowns

Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Zen :)

JS Saltwater: and if flow is one manner of experiencing the transcendent, which I will partially define as the spiritual, then I conclude from that there may be people who are spiritually alert but immoral

Aggers (agatha.macbeth): Hiya zen

Zen (zen.arado): Hi All :)

Wol (wol.euler): I read it in that way, Csikszentmihalyi says that transcendental experience (flow) is morally neutral

JS Saltwater: which is interesting because we usually valorize spirituality unconditionally

Wol (wol.euler): hello zen

JS Saltwater: end of sentence :)

Gaya Ethaniel: I do think that contemplation brings ethical concerns to our attention. Whether flow does that ... not sure.

JS Saltwater: hiya zen

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): The question (for me) is where the energy goes when it is released by spirituality.

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): It could go anywhere.

Gaya Ethaniel: hm ... what energy? Maybe I need to read the article again >.<

Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Pila :)

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): Practice releases energy -- we can Flow with that -- or we can fall back on our habitual patterns.

Aggers (agatha.macbeth): Aloha Pila

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): The energy does not care what we do.

Pila Mulligan: greetings

Gaya Ethaniel: You mean the charge that gravitate stuff to us Bruce?

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): Hey, Pila!

Pila Mulligan: ;0

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): Hmmmm. . . Does not know what "charge" means.

Zen (zen.arado): Hi Pila :)

JS Saltwater: Sorry to ramble and run - but need to attend to something - hope to bbl

Dao Yheng: thanks for dropping by!

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): Bye, JS!

Gaya Ethaniel: Sure bye JS :)

Calvino Rabeni: I see, not so much that the energy is discharged, as, it is freed up and made available for intentional use outside where it was stuck?

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): Agrees with Cal -- but it will "gravitate" wherever we have unresolved issues....

Calvino Rabeni: yes

Gaya Ethaniel: I'm clumsily attempting to describe something here ... will have to think a bit.

Dao Yheng: To me, the issue of flow is very much bound up with our aliveness, something more natural and instinctive than the conceptual approach, but it's not the only alternative approach

Zen (zen.arado): "curious moments of inner freedom entail a "merging of action and awareness

Gaya Ethaniel: Yes it's delicious :)

Calvino Rabeni: In nature, wherever there is flow, there is also a channel that contains it. Every river has its bank / or IS it's bank.

Wol (wol.euler): /me nods.

Gaya Ethaniel: Yummy aliveness :)

Calvino Rabeni: Religion is more channel than flow

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): really?

Gaya Ethaniel: aw ... poor old religion ...

Dao Yheng: it feels more fulfilling than what we're used to, but my own feeling is that the range of what humans can experience is even more vast than flow

Calvino Rabeni: well according to one formulation religion is structured and institutionalized spirituality

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): So, the framework for "religion" is more important than the moment-by-moment flowing.

Calvino Rabeni: yet if the energy does not flow in the structured channels, it is a dead religion and won't persist

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): /me agrees with Dao. . . on the vastness of our potential.

Gaya Ethaniel: Yes ... indeed.

Zen (zen.arado): I'm working with the idea of "Just as we need a strong sense of self to function well, so do we need freedom from the self to function freely."

Gaya Ethaniel: hm ...

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): wonderful. Zen.

Zen (zen.arado): allowing the self to do what it does in functioning term but being able to step back from it when necessary

Gaya Ethaniel: /me ponders.

Zen (zen.arado): instead of trying to get rid of the self

Pila Mulligan: /me notices the atman question again :)

Zen (zen.arado): can humans do without religions then?

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): /me ponders the excellent of Mind Training in Seven Points . . with regard to Zen's notion of "self."

Gaya Ethaniel: That sense of self sounds like natural confidence to me.

Calvino Rabeni: Transcendence is relative ... the self is not a fixed object that gets transcended, but a dynamic system that grows.. so usually going "beyond" the self/ego might be better seen as growth and evolution of the self/ego to encompass reality more broadly

Gaya Ethaniel: What do you think about 'stepping back' bit Zen?

Zen (zen.arado): seem to be a lot of threads in this article

Gaya Ethaniel: yeah :P

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): ;-)

Zen (zen.arado): it's what we do in meditation isn't it?

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): We're up to it.

Zen (zen.arado): or coming back to being

Zen (zen.arado): a la pab

Gaya Ethaniel: Like the quote you mentioned once - passively watching?

Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Mitsu :)

Dao Yheng: Hi mits :)

Zen (zen.arado): don't know about 'passive' though

Mitsu Ishii: sorry had problems upgrading my viewer

Zen (zen.arado): Hi Mitsu

Pila Mulligan: hi Mitsu

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): Hey, Mitsu!

Gaya Ethaniel: From Zen - Let go of the idea of yourself as a "doer" of anything, and instead passively witness everything happening."

Zen (zen.arado): we seem to need something that gives meaning to life

Gaya Ethaniel: Yes ... skimming the surface gets boring and tiring.

Zen (zen.arado): caught by my own quote :)

Gaya Ethaniel: :P

Wol (wol.euler): :)

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): !

Gaya Ethaniel: Witnessing ... that came up before here.

Zen (zen.arado): that was more about being able to step back from 'doing' all the time I think

Zen (zen.arado): and knowing too of course

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Zen (zen.arado): that's about resting in the flow too i think

Calvino Rabeni: doing implies a separation from flow

Gaya Ethaniel: /me nods.

Wol (wol.euler): wu wei :)

Calvino Rabeni: flow experience is dynamic being  
Wol (wol.euler): do without doing  
Pila Mulligan: :)  
Gaya Ethaniel: Can you say a bit about wu wei Pila?  
Bruce (bruce.mowbray): Do nothing and everything gets done.  
Gaya Ethaniel: I am not really familiar with this.  
Pila Mulligan: well, the first thing that comes to mind in this context, Gaya ...  
Mitsu Ishii: I was just talking about this with a friend.  
Gaya Ethaniel: :)  
Pila Mulligan: is how wu wei flow relates to transcendence  
Bruce (bruce.mowbray): /me listens intently to Pila.  
Pila Mulligan: it seems consistent with the discussion  
Pila Mulligan: wu wei is going with the flow in a transcendent sense  
Pila Mulligan: and in Buddhist terms maybe it is best illustrated by staying empty  
Pila Mulligan: not being caught up in stuff  
Calvino Rabeni: and an immanent sense, you can't have one without the other  
Pila Mulligan: it is impossible :)  
Zen (zen.arado): it's a bit foreign to our natures isn't it?  
Pila Mulligan: some days you just get caught up in stuff  
Zen (zen.arado): we are such 'doers'  
Gaya Ethaniel: :)  
Mitsu Ishii: I find the word "transcendence" problematic, however.  
Pila Mulligan: but it is there if you remember  
Calvino Rabeni: it is a problematic idea  
Pila Mulligan: yes, Mitsu, I was relating to the earlier discussion  
Gaya Ethaniel: Yes it implies a sort of separate state.  
Pila Mulligan: removal works too  
Pila Mulligan: removal from stuffness  
Calvino Rabeni: as impermanence implies always passing and always arising, a continual flow  
Pila Mulligan: but I always liked the play on words: trance end  
Calvino Rabeni: but not an absence  
Gaya Ethaniel: Removal teams for hire? :P  
Zen (zen.arado): yes :)  
Gaya Ethaniel: oh trance end heheh  
Pila Mulligan: :)  
Gaya Ethaniel: /me continues to giggle on trance end.  
Pila Mulligan: whatever frees you  
Pila Mulligan: hi Aph  
Bruce (bruce.mowbray): Trance-end and "flow-we-are" (flower).  
Gaya Ethaniel: :D  
Gaya Ethaniel: Hello Aphrodite :)  
Bruce (bruce.mowbray): Hey, Aph.  
Wol (wol.euler): hello again aph  
Aphrodite Macbain: Hi sorry to come in late  
Zen (zen.arado): Hi Aph :)

Aphrodite Macbain: been taking care o business

Aphrodite Macbain: what is being discussed, may I ask?

Gaya Ethaniel: Sure Aphrodite - let me give you a notecard and IM ...

Aphrodite Macbain: Thanks Gaya

Pila Mulligan: <http://www.tricycle.com/feature/tran...ent-imperative?>

Pila Mulligan: I think :)

Pila Mulligan: maybe I'm a week late

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): The term "imperative" is one I've come to honor...

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): It speaks to the fragility of our predicament.

Gaya Ethaniel: /me listens.

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): Sometimes, some things just seem "imperative" -- and I awaken to new parts of myself through those windows.

Zen (zen.arado): he thinks religion is an imperative for mankind but he also cites evolution or an understanding of it

Zen (zen.arado): "Understanding how evolution works, and what role we may play in it, provides a direction and purpose that otherwise is lacking in this secular, desacralized world."

Zen (zen.arado): I thought evolution was a scientific theory?

Pila Mulligan: that reminds me of how karma is described by Krishna to Arjuna n the Bagavad Gita, Bruce -- you just gotta do it

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): ;-)

Aggers (agatha.macbeth): :)

Zen (zen.arado): :)

Aphrodite Macbain: karma is achieved through action?

Pila Mulligan: oh what a broad term Aph :)

Pila Mulligan: both :)

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): /me conceptualizes "Karma" as momentum.

Gaya Ethaniel: Yes, 'Just Do It' ... I like this even though it's from Nike :P

Wol (wol.euler): /me nods.

Pila Mulligan: yep

Calvino Rabeni: I've heard a lot recently from "evolution of spirituality" movements who use the world "evolution" redefined to encompass their spiritual values

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): "Just do it" and be awake to the results of your actions.

Pila Mulligan: and are science and spirit necessarily mutually exclusive?

Calvino Rabeni: in a way riding on the coattails of science for legitimacy

Zen (zen.arado): mutually harmonious if used well?

[Gaya Ethaniel: /me nods ... indeed ... the results.

Calvino Rabeni: or redefining "quantum" to be about parapsychology, esp, or whatever

Calvino Rabeni: Personally I'd like to see religion get its own feet again

Aphrodite Macbain: what do you mean by that Cal?

Zen (zen.arado): depends what you mean by religion I guess

Calvino Rabeni: I mean not reframing it in terms of pseudo science, or acting as if it is the same theory

Pila Mulligan: independence?

Calvino Rabeni: The usual manoeuvre is to use science to legitimize spiritual ideas

Calvino Rabeni: e.g. by claiming that "evolution" is an "innate desire to transcend"

Aphrodite Macbain: if religion= system of belief, thean each system of believe depends on its own concepts

and history, some scientific, some mystical

Aphrodite Macbain: each religion has its own means of justification

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): context context context.

Aphrodite Macbain: yes, and context

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): Here we are. Here I am.

Zen (zen.arado): sorry for using so msany quotes but he says "As a mode of understanding the world, science places primary value on explanatory knowledge. This is quite inimical to a mythic stance, which holds that the world is disclosed most meaningfully in its mystery."

Aphrodite Macbain: Why is it interesting to talk about religion now? Because threrfe are new ones? Because there are fewer?

Zen (zen.arado): but not sure how far I would go with the myths

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Zen (zen.arado): how about if you are an atheist?

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): "Myths" are another way of Knowing.

Zen (zen.arado): I don't need a monotheistic belief system

Calvino Rabeni: I read a book recently on "new and emergent religions" ... it didn't define religion however, and there were some questionable entries from my point of view

Aphrodite Macbain: an atheist believes there is no god, but I may not imply that they dont have a system of morality and belief

Zen (zen.arado): well ok but not myths as superstition

Gaya Ethaniel: Yes ... we seem to be always in search of something ...

Aphrodite Macbain: hmmm funny it didn't define religion...

Zen (zen.arado): C brings in Virtue Ethics as a framework for morality

Calvino Rabeni: well that's sort of difficult

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): "myth" as deep penetration of Way of Knowing.

Calvino Rabeni: yes

Pila Mulligan: /me ponders Joseph Campbell

Calvino Rabeni: myth is a narrative for understanding-without-defining in a holistic way

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): /me ponders the power of narrative.

Aphrodite Macbain: myth is a narrative that attempts to explain or illustrate a particular world view. It has been constructed by humans, not gods

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): religion = narrative?

Zen (zen.arado): /me realizes he is more science oriented than he thought

Gaya Ethaniel: :)

Zen (zen.arado): there is a balance somewhere

Gaya Ethaniel: We've got a few minutes left ... shall we continue this topic next week. Any suggestions please?

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): ;-)

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): Maybe next week we will "balance."

Calvino Rabeni: Personal Narratives?

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): Topic for next week?

Zen (zen.arado): I need to read article again

Pila Mulligan: have you done dharma?

Gaya Ethaniel: The flow article?

Calvino Rabeni: If "balance" then maybe it could be balanced with "commitment" ?

Pila Mulligan: as a topic

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): /me suggests (timidly) the function of "narrative" in my life.

Zen (zen.arado): yeh sure

Gaya Ethaniel: wow ... so many great suggestions ...

Calvino Rabeni: /me nods at several yes

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): Wheeeeeeee!

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): OK -- It's up to you, Gaya -- Just let us know, OK/

Gaya Ethaniel: Nooooo it's up to you all :)

Zen (zen.arado): will examine my story :)

Pila Mulligan: :)

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): Ha ha ha!

Gaya Ethaniel: I will email the group ... please let's decide together.

Zen (zen.arado): such a good one :)

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): cool.

Gaya Ethaniel: And also I want to ask you about the homework meeting.

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): yes?

Gaya Ethaniel: I'm having difficulties with attending weekly.

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): me too.

Zen (zen.arado): as we all are

Gaya Ethaniel: Also miss Bruce ... guess voice is not a good option for all.

Gaya Ethaniel: So what to do ...

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): /me has no voice at all.

Aggers (agatha.macbeth): Laryngitis?

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): ;-)

Aggers (agatha.macbeth): Say 'aaaah'

Gaya Ethaniel: So let's say we do in text ...

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): aaaaaaahhhhhhh!

Aggers (agatha.macbeth): /me rubs her ears

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): cool with moi.

Gaya Ethaniel: Shall we work something out less frequent than weekly?

Gaya Ethaniel: I will put that on the agenda in the email.

Mitsu Ishii: bye everyone

Zen (zen.arado): ok

Dao Yheng: sounds good -- thanks gaya, thanks everyone!

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): weekly is cool with moi..... But can't do voice.

Aggers (agatha.macbeth): Sayonara mitsu

Gaya Ethaniel: Bye thanks all :)

Pila Mulligan: bye

Bruce (bruce.mowbray): THANKS to all beings.

Zen (zen.arado): thanks to all

Zen (zen.arado): bye

Wol (wol.euler): bye everyone

Aggers (agatha.macbeth): Night Zen