

Our conversation centered around Pila's essay on [Dharma](#) and the notion of darshan.

Pila Mulligan: hi Dao

Bruce Mowbray: Hi, Dao.

Agatha Macbeth: Hello Dao

Ataraxia Azemus: Hi Dao :)

Dao Yheng: Hi Pila, hi all!

Bruce Mowbray: Hi, Anon.

Bruce Mowbray: (way far away, Anon.)

Dao Yheng: Thanks for your essay this week, Pila

Pila Mulligan: :) thank you

Pila Mulligan: is the term darshan familiar to anyone here?

Dao Yheng: I have never really considered the meaning of "dharma" except in a buddhist context, where it generally refers to the Buddha's teachings, or more generally "phenomenon/stuff"

Pila Mulligan: yes

Ataraxia Azemus: Yes

Agatha Macbeth: Tartan yes, not darshan

Dao Yheng: I'm not familiar with darshan either!

Pila Mulligan: darshan is an experience of being in the presence of a master or deity

Dao Yheng: ah, thank you

Pila Mulligan: darshan is also probably one of the more direct experiences of dharma

Dao Yheng: so, if you meet your teacher on retreat or in a dream, is that considered darshan?

Pila Mulligan: straight on teaching

Pila Mulligan: yes Dao

Coffee Mug whispers: Ahh! Fresh Hot Coffee

Agatha Macbeth: Ah, nice

Pila Mulligan: dharma as one of the three pillars of Buddhism began with darshan :)

Dao Yheng: darshan might also be the feeling of really being in the presence of a flower, say? Or is that stretching it?

Pila Mulligan: it is not stretching for me Dao

Pila Mulligan: a flowering epiphany :)

Dao Yheng: :)

Ataraxia Azemus: :)

Dao Yheng: Could you say more about the three pillars beginning with darshan? Does it mean, in an individual encounter, or are you saying something about the roots of buddhism?

Dao Yheng: (sorry if my comments are coming out of order, my connection is a little slow today)

Ataraxia Azemus: Hi Zen :)

Pila Mulligan: I was thinking of the roots, and not being a Buddhist I am using terminology loosely

Bruce Mowbray: Hi, Zen.

Agatha Macbeth: Hello dere Zen

Dao Yheng: Hi Zen!

Pila Mulligan: hi Zen

Agatha Macbeth: Top o the evenin'

Zen Arado: Hi all

Bruce Mowbray: Darshan goes back to the Hindu roots of Buddhism -- meeting with one's guru, who is

regarded as the manifestation of Dharma. . .

Bruce Mowbray: but a lot of that is mythological, isn't it, Pila?

Pila Mulligan: myths, yes, indeed

Pila Mulligan: :)

Agatha Macbeth: 'Never let facts get in the way of a good story'

Zen Arado: I'm going to a Tibetan Temple in Scotland tomorrow

Bruce Mowbray: the notion of guru infallibility, for example. . . mythological.

Agatha Macbeth: Wow

Pila Mulligan: nice

Ataraxia Azemus: Oh, awesome, Zen :)

Zen Arado: there is a lot of guru devotion in Tibetan Buddhism

Dao Yheng: fun, Zen :)

Bruce Mowbray: Oh say more, Zen!

Zen Arado: that I don't quite understand

Agatha Macbeth pictures Buddha in a kilt

Dao Yheng: :))

Zen Arado: <http://www.samyeling.org/>

Zen Arado: that place

Zen Arado: it has been going since the sixties

Zen Arado: Chogyam Trungpa was there for a while

Zen Arado: just going for a course with Ringu Tulku

Zen Arado: nice break anyway

Dao Yheng: sounds great, Zen

Zen Arado: was there before about 3 years ago

Bruce Mowbray: so, this center is in the Shambhala tradition, Zen?

Zen Arado: it's A BIG PLACE

Zen Arado: sorry caps :)

Agatha Macbeth: I CAN IMAGINE ZEN

Bruce Mowbray: I'm trying to find a map to learn where in Scotland it is located.

Zen Arado: Dumfries

Agatha Macbeth: Ah

Zen Arado: Dumfries

Bruce Mowbray: Dumfries. ahhh!

Zen Arado: near Lockerbie where the plane crash was

Bruce Mowbray: Have a wonderful time, Zen.

Agatha Macbeth: Yes, meditate well

Zen Arado: not sure what they do at courses

Zen Arado: mostly teaching I think

Dao Yheng: will be interesting to hear your report when you get back :)

Agatha Macbeth nods

Zen Arado: the teachings have been passed down through all these traditions

Bruce Mowbray: Hi, Anon.

Ataraxia Azemus: Hi Anon

Zen Arado: we learn to be thankful for that in Zen

Zen Arado: Hi Anon

Agatha Macbeth: Wow, it's Cloud strife

Bruce Mowbray: bye, Anon.

Zen Arado: :)

Dao Yheng: back on Darshan -- an interesting way of framing it -- coming from a more mahayana perspective, where all is empty and all is buddha nature...

Zen Arado: what is darshan?

Dao Yheng: a sense that the "meeting" is all that truly is

Pila Mulligan back and reading after RL phone call

Dao Yheng: from Pila Mulligan: darshan is an exepereince of being in the presence of a master or deity

Bruce Mowbray: In Hinduism, Darshan is being in the presence of and receiving instruction from one's guru, Zen.

Zen Arado: ah ok

Pila Mulligan: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dar%C5%9Bana>

Zen Arado: they say the very presence of enlightened masters can bring you to that too

Zen Arado: I haven't experienced that

Pila Mulligan: shaktipat

Pila Mulligan: in Hinduism

Zen Arado: is that genuine or do we add it by our own thinking?

Agatha Macbeth: Bless you

Mitsu Ishii: it's genuine

Mitsu Ishii: transmission

Bruce Mowbray: I ws with Muktananda in the 70's and saw a lot of shaktipat -- although never experienced it myself.

Pila Mulligan: :) Ags

Agatha Macbeth: :)

Zen Arado: my own teacher has a lot of ...presence

Mitsu Ishii: you can receive transmission, but you have to be ready

Bruce Mowbray: I was not ready!

Zen Arado: a quietness of demeanour

Bruce Mowbray: by a long shot!

Mitsu Ishii: I'm not sure how it works or why

Zen Arado: are you now Bruce?

Mitsu Ishii: but I have experienced it, very strongly.

Zen Arado: how would you know?

Mitsu Ishii: it's obvious

Zen Arado: the teacher has to determine?

Bruce Mowbray: Muktananda touched me with a long feather -- and all I felt was a feather. . .

Mitsu Ishii: no, it's obvious. or it was for me at least.

Bruce Mowbray: so, I think I'm probably more of a nature-buff than a guru buff.

Zen Arado: what was obvious?

Pila Mulligan: some have gods some had dogs

Agatha Macbeth: Nothing wrong with that Bruce!

Zen Arado: (soorry for questioning)

Mitsu Ishii: transmission was obvious. I mean I didn't really know what was happening

Bruce Mowbray: Yes, aggres with Mitsu -- It was QUITE obvious to those who were experiencing it. . . (but I

was not.)

Mitsu Ishii: but it was huge

Agatha Macbeth: They all say that

Mitsu Ishii: I later spoke with my teacher and he verified what he was trying to transmit

Mitsu Ishii: and it was exactly what I experienced, etc.

Pila Mulligan: :)

Bruce Mowbray: Huge, yes.

Bruce Mowbray: overwhelming, in fact.

Agatha Macbeth: HUGE

Dao Yheng: :))

Mitsu Ishii: it wasn't really an experience in the ordinary sense of the word, though

Bruce Mowbray: I have great respect for that, --- but i did not experience it personally.

Zen Arado: I'm not ready for that for sure

Anon: hay how yall doing

Agatha Macbeth: Wow, that's what I call lag...

Mitsu Ishii: the word I'd use to describe it is "NOTHING"

Mitsu Ishii: not nothing as in a void

Anon: this place is cool

Bruce Mowbray: Welcome, Anon.

Mitsu Ishii: but nothing as in nothing at all needs to be done but in this really thoroughgoing way, not just an idea

Agatha Macbeth: Actually I'm quite warm

Dao Yheng: Anon, we're talking about <http://waysofknowing.kira.org/>

Bruce Mowbray: We are a group of explorers in mindfulness, Anon. We call our group "Ways of Knowing" and it is part of the Kira Institute.

Bruce Mowbray: This is the Kira Cafe.

Bruce Mowbray listens for more from Dao.

Zen Arado: Rumi poem: they told me to stand outside the doo and knock but when I did I found I had been knocking on the inside"

Zen Arado: door

Dao Yheng: that was quite good, Bruce, thank you :)

Mitsu Ishii: yep, exactly :) (Rumi)

Dao Yheng: and zen!

Bruce Mowbray: yw ;-)

Ataraxia Azemus: :)

Anon: yall noany cool places to go

Anon: i mean any cool pcaces

Agatha Macbeth: Greenland?

Zen Arado: depends what you want Anon

Zen Arado: :)

Mitsu Ishii: or antarctica

Anon: any yall like flying around and exploring

Zen Arado: dancing places?

Zen Arado: just like sitting and talking

Zen Arado: seems to be what I do most anyway :)

Agatha Macbeth: It's just yer age Zen :p

Dao Yheng: Pila, I was wondering too if you would say a bit more how you see the relationship between karma and dharma

Zen Arado: yeh I guess

Agatha Macbeth: :)

Zen Arado: yeh I wondered about that

Zen Arado: don't really see the connection

Ataraxia Azemus: I should be heading out....thanks, everyone :)

Dao Yheng: bye ata

Ataraxia Azemus: Be well :)

Agatha Macbeth: Enjoy Atari

Zen Arado: bye Violet :)

Dao Yheng: ...or anyone, really -- was intrigued but not really sure I understood

Pila Mulligan: it is a tough one Dao

Pila Mulligan: I'm not sure there is a formula

Zen Arado: they seem like two separate things to me

Pila Mulligan: but I think they are easily confused with one another

Pila Mulligan: yes

Pila Mulligan: and probably a very perosnal view in most cases

Pila Mulligan: karma is something that exists on a very large scale, to me

Pila Mulligan: we live iwth it regardless

Zen Arado: maybe Dharma is a guide for how to behave but Karma is how we actually do behave?

Pila Mulligan: dharma is something we can learn and appreciate for its worth

Pila Mulligan: maybe Zen

Pila Mulligan: here's a quote i was reading a while ago

Pila Mulligan: The core of Buddhism is made up of the three pillars of the Buddha, the Dharma (his teachings) and the Sangha (monks and nuns). Simply explained, one could say that without the historical Buddha Shakyamuni there would have been no Buddhist Dharma, nor Sangha. Without his teachings, the Buddha would not have made much of a difference, and also the spiritual community would not have existed. Without the Sangha, the tradition would never have have been transmitted through the ages. The Buddha would have been 'just' a historical figure and his teachings would have been 'just' books.

Pila Mulligan: the same is true in Christianity, Islam, Krishna religions, and so on

Pila Mulligan: they are teachings of a master or diety

Pila Mulligan: karma is the whole of life and human nature

Pila Mulligan: to me :)

Pila Mulligan: is that too much ?? :)

Zen Arado: but isn't karma predicated on actins?

Zen Arado: actions

Pila Mulligan: there's a touogh question -- yes it is, but is it separate from aCTIONS?

Pila Mulligan: actions*

Zen Arado: actions produce karma, good or bad?

Pila Mulligan: :) ?

Bruce Mowbray: Bye, Ataraxia.

Zen Arado: but what we do is the result of the way we are

Pila Mulligan: my mythology has led to this end: to understand karma we can look at atman, the self, and

ask is karma personal, am I real, or is it all just one big flow?

Pila Mulligan: karma exists either way

Pila Mulligan: do I?

Zen Arado: it's like we have relative individual choices but it's also all part of a big flow?

Pila Mulligan: free will? :)

Pila Mulligan: these are big questions, eh :)

Dao Yheng: I'm not sure if karma exists without the whole logic of action, self and object

Zen Arado: yep

Bruce Mowbray: I prefer to think of "karma" as momentum that follows action.

Pila Mulligan: like swimming Bruce?

Bruce Mowbray: so all behavior - action - involves momentum in some way. . .

Bruce Mowbray: well, perhaps swimming -- but ANY behavior.

Zen Arado: momentum needs something to produce it too though?

Pila Mulligan: if we analogize it to swimming then water becomes part of the context

Bruce Mowbray: there is a continuation -- not an immediate and discrete cause and effect.

Bruce Mowbray: bye Anon -- Hoping we'll see you at the pavilion.

Zen Arado: if we are totally with the flow we need little action

Bruce Mowbray: Doing nothing, everything gets done.

Bruce Mowbray: Ahh!

Dao Yheng: :)

Pila Mulligan: another big question: do good works count for anything?

Pila Mulligan: this is getting back to dharma

Bruce Mowbray: like water -- or a mountain -- no effort to be stable -- no effort in the watercourse way.

Bruce Mowbray listens for more from Pila.

Pila Mulligan: well, that was it really

Zen Arado: sometimes I think talking about these things doesn't get you anywhere

Dao Yheng: :)

Pila Mulligan: karma, free will and good works, the three pillars of Pilaism

Agatha Macbeth grins @ Zen

Bruce Mowbray: agrees with Zen.

Pila Mulligan: but it is fun

Bruce Mowbray: ;-)

Zen Arado: yeh there's that :)

Bruce Mowbray: yes, agrees also with Pila!

Dao Yheng: yup, yup!

Pila Mulligan: and I really do not have the answers

Bruce Mowbray: Where is there to go? To "get somewhere"?

Pila Mulligan: just imaginings

Zen Arado: I know

Zen Arado: or do I ...sigh

Dao Yheng: OK, I hate to ask, but does anyone have any ideas for next time?

Dao Yheng: (the real stumper)

Bruce Mowbray: I mean, suppose you achieve some marvelous stability in your meditation -- who's to know that? and are you going to show off about it? -- Nowhere to "go".

Pila Mulligan: if talking about these things doesn't get you anywhere, what gets you somewhere?

Pila Mulligan: topic idea
Bruce Mowbray: Being gets you here.
Pila Mulligan: :)
Zen Arado: how about the difference between reality and fantasy
Agatha Macbeth: Is there one?
Bruce Mowbray: ;-)
Zen Arado: it came up at our retreat
Agatha Macbeth: So that's what you get talking about
Zen Arado: what is 'real'?
Agatha Macbeth: What is love anyway...
Pila Mulligan: where do we want to be?
Agatha Macbeth: The pub?
Pila Mulligan: :)
Zen Arado: comes up all the time about SL
Dao Yheng: reality and fantasy -- sounds good to me!
Pila Mulligan: yep
Agatha Macbeth: Ah well...
Bruce Mowbray: Perhaps "reality" is one of those myths, Zen. . .
Agatha Macbeth: Time to hit da road
Agatha Macbeth: Byeeee
Pila Mulligan: bye Ags
Bruce Mowbray: Byeeeeee, aggers.
Dao Yheng: Bye Agatha!
Zen Arado: 'Is this the real life..or just a fantasy...
Zen Arado: bye Aga
Bruce Mowbray: is it a man or a butterfly who is dreaming?

The session officially ended here, though our conversation meandered on for a while ... :)