



Diamond Mountain University Setting Fire to Your Meditation, Part IX

Homework Class Four: Dispelling Darkness

1) What is Mr. Kachik trying to do in verse eight of chapter 7? How is light a perfect example for something that doesn't really exist?

- **So the opponent comes up to him and debates him in the middle of his chapter, he is not even waiting for the chapter to end. Why can't something be like a butter lamp that lights itself and everything else?**
- **The Abhidharma says there is a start that starts itself and everything else. It is like a first start. And that there is no problem with that, that it doesn't have a start of its own.**

Light is the perfect example because it is so ethereal, we already know we don't understand its nature. That just the act of observing it changes it.

2) In what verses does Arya Nagarjuna explain why light can't ever dispel darkness? Describe his reason why:

In verses 7.10 and 7.11 AN begins the unveiling of his logic.

Light could never dispel the darkness because they are never in the same place to touch. And how could it touch it? Because they're mutually exclusive. Because where one is the other can't be.

And if Light did dispel Darkness then one single flashlight could light the universe.

3) What ridiculous statement about darkness gives us a clue about our own tendency to hold our ignorance as something that is really there?

- **If light had the quality to dispel darkness one light would dispel all darkness. Darkness across the world would be dispelled as surely as the darkness in this place is a ridiculous statement that gives us a clue about our tendency to hold onto ignorance as really being there.**

4) What kinds of things are waiting for us to be seen, once we stop projecting the walls that keep us from them? Incorporate here the emptiness of distance, and of time:

Everything is possible, once we stop projecting the walls that keep us from seeing. Both Time and Distance are mental images that don't touch. Seeing this allows you to stop time or travel far distances rapidly.

5) What is the seed that creates the walls that blind us, and how do we go about tearing them down? Who is the most famous Teacher of this in the ancient scriptures?

So, all these walls, they basically they boil down to shutting off our hearts to other people.

The most famous teaching about compassion has everything to do with emptiness and it's by Master Shantideva.

You tear down the wall by meditating on how the line between you and others is not fixed. Dak Shen Nyam Je. Exchanging Self and Others.

6) Why would it make complete sense for us to be omniscient?

- **We are projecting our own dark ignorance in our mind. It makes absolutely no sense at all that we can't read the minds of all other beings, why? Because they are already our projection. We just have to remove the story of ignorance that says we can't.**
- **It makes no sense at all that we can't see the future. Why? We are making it right now. And we have already made it.**
- **It makes absolutely no sense at all that we aren't already omniscient. Why? We have this darkness. But it is only a mental image.**

Wisdom can only dispel ignorance because they are both mental images. And one is no more real than the other. So that is why omniscience is just as possible.

7) Why do we meditate? Is it the cause of wisdom? What must we do in order to dispel the darkness of our ignorance and get the light of wisdom to come in our minds?

We have to remove the mental image of a wall and replace it with the mental image of wisdom. This is how we dispel the darkness of our ignorance and get the light of wisdom to come in our minds.

And though meditation is not the cause of wisdom in a self-existent way it has manifested in our world of appearances as a vehicle, and so we must meditate

The King of Concentration Sutra Spoken by Lord Buddha

If you were to analyze

The lack of “self” to things,

And if you were to meditate

Upon that analyzed,

This itself would be the cause

For achieving the result

Of traveling beyond all grief.

No other cause at all

Could bring you to that peace.

8) Explain how getting the light of wisdom to shine in our minds would be impossible if the wisdom existed as we think it does:

When we talked about eliminating our ignorance and you get this feeling that it is some actual thing that you are stuck with, you know like a rock at the bottom of your stomach or something.

And ignorance doesn't have any quality of that. And wisdom doesn't have a fixed quality either. If wisdom were fixed in any way we could never get it. We'd either have it or not.

The only way this light could ever illuminate anything is if both the light and the darkness were a mental image. That is what Arya Nagarjuna is trying to awaken us to see