

Empty When Full / Full When Empty
A Rime Shedra NYC Introduction to the Middle Way
11 of the Tuesdays From January 14 to March 31, 2020
Omitting February 11, 2020, from 7:00-9:15 pm
The Lithuanian Alliance of America, 307 West 30th Street, 3rd Floor
Suggested offering: \$150 for the series or \$15/class on a drop-in basis

Syllabus

1) Class One: Introduction and Overview

a) Introduction to the Middle Way by Chandrakirti, SB. pp. 1-35

i) The Root text, translated by Ari Goldfield, SB. pp. 1-30

(1) Chapter One, Perfect Joy, SB. pp. 1-3

(2) Chapter Six, Far Gone, SB. pp. 3

(a) Overview (v. 6:1-7), SB. pp. 3

(b) Establishing Emptiness by Reasoning (v. 6:8-178), SB. pp. 4-25

(i) Absence of Self in Phenomena (v. 6:8-119), SB. pp. 4-17

(ii) Absence of Self in the Person (v. 6:120-178), SB. pp. 17-25

(c) Categories of Reasoned Emptiness (v. 6:179-223), SB. pp. 25-30

ii) Outlines of the Text, SB. pp. 31-35

(1) The Structure of Chapter Six, Far Gone, SB. pp. 31-32

(2) The Arguments in Chapter Six, Far Gone, SB. pp. 33-35

2) Class Two: Introduction to Madhyamaka Part One SB. pp. 36-52

a) *The Introduction to the Middle Way* by Wulstan Fletcher

i) Background, pp. 1-10, SB. pp. 36-42

(1) *Madhyamaka*

(2) Chandrakirti and the *Madhyamakavatara*

(3) The Origins of Madhyamika and the Buddha's Silence

ii) The Development of the Madhyamika School, pp. 11-32, SB. pp. 42-52

(1) Nagarjuna and Aryadeva

(2) A Difference of Method: Buddhapalita, Bhavaviveka, and Chandrakirti

3) Class Three: Introduction to Madhyamaka Part Two, SB. pp. 52-70

i) *The Introduction to the Middle Way* by Wulstan Fletcher

(1) Madhyamika in Tibet, pp. 32-42, SB. pp. 52-57

(a) Mipham Rinpoche and the Prasangika-Svatantrika Distinction

(b) Mipham Rinpoche and *The Word of Chandra*

ii) *The Adornment of the Middle Way* by Wulstan Fletcher

(1) Versions of Madhyamaka, pp. 1-25, SB. pp. 58-70

(a) Background

(b) Shantarakshita and Mipham's Commentary

(c) Mipham and the Svatantrika-Prasangika Distinction

(d) A Rival Interpretation (Tsongkhapa)

4) Class Four: Introduction to Madhyamaka Part Three, SB. pp. 71-87

a) *The Adornment of the Middle Way* by Wulstan Fletcher, SB. pp. 71-79

i) Nuances of the Issues Involved, pp. 26-42

- (1) Chittamatra
- (2) The Madhyamakalankara and the Pramana Tradition
- (3) Universals and Exclusions
- (4) The Argument of Neither One nor Many

b) *Nagarjuna's Madhyamaka: A Philosophical Introduction*, Jan Westerhoff

i) Chapter Two: Interpretations of Svabhava, pp. 19-52, SB. pp. 80-87

- (1) The Notion of *Svabhāva*, pp. 19
- (2) The Ontological Dimension, pp. 20
 - (a) Essence-svabhāva, pp. 21
 - (b) Substance-svabhāva, pp. 23-40
 - (i) Generally
 - (ii) Dependence Relations

5) Class Five: Essential Issues, Part One, SB. pp. 87-110

a) *Nagarjuna's Madhyamaka: A Philosophical Introduction*, Jan Westerhoff

i) Chapter Two: Interpretations of Svabhava, pp. 19-52, SB. pp. 87-97

- (1) The Ontological Dimension, pp. 20
 - (a) Substance-svabhāva, pp. 23-40
 - (i) The Property Argument
 - (ii) The Mereological Argument
 - (b) Absolute Svabhāva, pp. 40-46
- (2) The Cognitive Dimension, pp. 46-52

b) Commentaries on the Madhyamakavatara

i) Commentary by Dzongsar Jamyang Khyentse Rinpoche, SB. pp. 98-110

- (1) The Quality of Outshining Others, excerpt on pp. 33-44

6) Class Six: Essential Issues and Rangtong Madhyamaka, SB. pp. 98-118

a) Commentaries on the Madhyamakavatara, SB. pp. 98-110

i) Commentary by Jamgon Mipham (handout, not in sourcebook by mistake)

- (1) The ultimate truth itself and the approximate ultimate truth, pp. 192-195
- (2) Although phenomena are by nature unproduced this does not prevent their appearance, pp. 274-278

b) *Frameworks of Buddhist Philosophy, The Treasury of Knowledge*, Jamgön Kongtrul Lodrö Tayé, translated by Elizabeth M. Callahan, SB. pp. 111-118

i) Chapter 8: Rangtong-Madhyamaka, pp. 203-216

- (1) The System Common to Prāsaṅgikas and Svātantrikas, pp. 204
- (2) The Twofold Absence of Self-Entity, pp. 205
- (3) The Mode of Reasonings, pp. 205-211
- (4) The Explanation of Their Differences, pp. 212-216

- 7) Class Seven: Ground Madhyamaka, SB. pp. 119-146**
- a) The Middle from Beginning to End by Karl Brunnholz, from *The Center of the Sunlit Sky*, pp. 69-272**
 - i) Table of Contents, pp. 120-121**
 - ii) Ground Madhyamaka excerpts**
 - (1) The Emptiness of Emptiness, SB. pp. 122-131**
 - (2) Lost Identity, SB. pp. 131-146**
- 8) Class Eight: Path Madhyamaka Generally, SB. pp. 146-162**
- a) The Middle from Beginning to End by Karl Brunnholz, from *The Center of the Sunlit Sky*, pp. 69-272**
 - i) Path Madhyamaka excerpts**
 - (1) The Madhyamaka Path, SB. pp. 146-162**
- 9) Class Nine: Path Madhyamaka – Logic, SB. pp. 163-199**
- a) The Middle from Beginning to End by Karl Brunnholz, from *The Center of the Sunlit Sky*, pp. 69-272**
 - i) Path Madhyamaka excerpts**
 - (1) Reasons and Negations, SB. pp. 163-183**
 - (2) The Status of Valid Cognition in Centrism, SB. pp. 183-199**
- 10) Class Ten: Path Madhyamaka Conclusion and Its Application, SB. pp. 199-216**
- a) The Middle from Beginning to End by Karl Brunnholz, from *The Center of the Sunlit Sky*, pp. 69-272**
 - i) Path Madhyamaka excerpts**
 - (1) Do Centrists Have a Thesis or Position?, SB. pp. 199-211**
 - ii) Result Madhyamaka excerpts**
 - (1) Illusory Lions Killing Illusory Elephants, SB. pp. 211-216**
- 11) Class Eleven: Reasoning into Emptiness, SB. pp. 216-248**
- a) The Middle from Beginning to End by Karl Brunnholz, from *The Center of the Sunlit Sky*, pp. 69-272**
 - i) Result Madhyamaka excerpts**
 - (1) Detailed Explanation of the Great Reasonings, SB. pp. 217-241**
 - (2) Unmasking Personal Identity, SB. pp. 241-248**
 - (3) The Result of Centrist Reasoned Analysis, SB. pp. 248**
 - ii) Related Endnotes, SB. pp. 250-259**

The Madhyamakavatara by Chandrakirti

Summary Outline of the Text

Based upon Commentaries by Gorampa and Dzongsar Khyenste Rinpoche

1) Introduction (v. 1:1-4)

- a) Title and Homages
- b) Praise of Compassion (v. 1:1-2)
- c) The three types of compassion (v. 1:3-4)

2) The First Five Bhumis (v. 1:4-5:4)

- a) The First Bhumi, Complete Joy (v. 1:4-17)
- b) The Second Bhumi, Without Stain (v. 2:1-10)
- c) The Third Bhumi, Giving Out Light (v. 3:1-13)
- d) The Fourth Bhumi, Dazzling with Light (v. 4:1-2)
- e) The Fifth Bhumi, Difficult to Overcome/Practice (v. 5:1-4)

3) The Sixth Bhumi, Advancing/Knowing Clearly (v. 6:1-226)

- a) **Emptiness as it is to be realized by all the vehicles (v. 6:8-178)**
 - i) **Absence of Self in Phenomena (v. 6:8-119)**
 - (1) Svatantrika and Prasanghika
 - (2) Proof by Logical Reasoning (v. 6:8-119)
 - (a) **Refuting the Four Extreme Theories of Genesis (v. 6:8-103)**
 - (b) Conclusions (v. 6:104-119)
 - ii) **Absence of Self in the Person (v. 6:120-178)**
 - (1) The need to refute what is grasped at (v. 6:120)
 - (2) Refutation by Reasoning (v. 6:121-178)
- b) **Emptiness as it is to be realized by the Mahayana (v. 6:179-223)**
 - i) **Generally (v. 6:179-180)**
 - ii) **The Sixteen Emptinesses (v. 6:181-218)**
 - iii) **The Condensation into the Four Emptinesses (v. 6:219-223)**
 - (1) The Emptiness of Things
 - (2) The Emptiness of Absence of things
 - (3) The Emptiness of Own Nature
 - (4) The Emptiness of Other Nature

4) The Final Four Bhumis (v. 7:1-10:1)

- a) The Seventh Bhumi, Gone Far (v. 7:1)
- b) The Eighth Bhumi, Immovable (v. 8:1-3)
- c) The Ninth Bhumi, Perfect Intelligence (v. 9:1)
- d) The Tenth Bhumi, Cloud of Dharma (v. 10:1)

5) The Result, Buddhahood (v. 11:1-51)

- a) Summarizing the qualities of the bhumis (v. 11:1-9)
- b) How the Buddha Attained Enlightenment (v. 11:10-16)
- c) The Kayas that are Attained (v. 11:17-47)
- d) Why the Buddha is Supreme (v. 11:48-51)