



Asian Classics Institute

The Wisdom of Arya Nagarjuna
Course One: The Eight Invisibles
Class 2—Learning the Eight Invisibles
Homework

1) Describe briefly the three visions which Choney Lama had which are particularly relevant to our own study of Arya Nagarjuna's *Wisdom*, and explain the importance of them.

2) Arya Nagarjuna, in the very first verse of his most important work—*Wisdom*—achieves two major goals of the traditional opening to a scripture. He further sets up a major work to come, by Je Tsongkapa. Explain the goals and the set-up. Clue: One of these should have four parts of its own.

3) In our text, Lord Buddha is praised, straight away, for teaching dependence. How does Nagarjuna himself, later on in his *Wisdom*, describe what dependence is?

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4) In *Wisdom*, we are examining many different proofs that things are empty. How do the attitudes of a person who is a bodhisattva, and a person who is not a bodhisattva, differ about these proofs? Why do they differ?

5) How many chapters are there in *Wisdom*? What are the names, for example, of the first three chapters? What theme is repeated in their name, and why?

6) Please name the Eight Invisibles, and explain why they are called “invisibles.” Explain also why you think that Arya Nagarjuna chose these eight, specifically.

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7) What has the idea of “peace” got to do with these Eight Invisibles? Your answer should be two, and refer to a popular emptiness example!

8) In the verse about the Eight Invisibles—which is one of the most famous verses in Buddhism—Arya Nagarjuna strangely mentions “stopping” before “starting,” and “coming” (back) before “going.” How are we to understand this?

9) Describe the difference between the emptiness of the person; the emptiness of things; and the tendency to believe in these two. And then connect the idea of “destruction view” to these, describing why it is so destructive. Finally, discuss when it is that we understand these two kinds of emptiness.

10) Arya Nagarjuna is famous for giving us new and cool proofs of emptiness. Choney Lama describes four different ways in which these proofs work on us, saying that each one is different from the other, in some significant way. Name the four, and theorize about how they might be different from each other.

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Meditation assignment:

Twice a day, do rounds 1 & 2 of the Lion's Dance in a careful, enjoyable way spending as long as you have time to at each level—but still staying comfortable and inspired.

Meditation dates and times:

Please note that homeworks submitted without dates & times will not be accepted.

RealApp Assignment

Create a RealApp to accompany the material taught in this class. This is a principle derived from the material that relates to people's *real life* and is easily *applicable* to that life—a concept they might usefully meditate on, or utilize at work or in their family life.

1) Catchy title for your RealApp:

2) Description of the RealApp, in one or two sentences:

3) Description of the IDIM for your RealApp which you will look for on the internet, after the silent retreat period:

For grader's use only

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Quality	Grade	Comments
Important?		
Creative?		
Authoritative?		
Use in real life?		
Total		