



Asian Classics Institute

The Wisdom of Arya Nagarjuna
Course One: The Eight Invisibles
Class 4—The Four Kinds of Conditions
Homework

1) An important concept in the Perfection of Wisdom literature is that of an “innovator.” Name the two great innovators of India and what they innovated, including the 6 parts of the classical definition of an innovator, and a comparison to modern times.

2) What are the two general types of negative things recognized in Buddhism? What is the general description of each, and an example of each? Which of these two categories does emptiness itself belong to? Why is it useful to know which of the two it is?

Wisdom of Arya Nagarjuna, Course 1
Homework 4

3) In this famous second verse, Arya Nagarjuna is examining all the possibilities for ways that things could ever start. What are the four choices he mentions? Why are three of them not very difficult choices to eliminate? How do we eliminate the fourth?

4) Why is there an ancient argument over saying, “Things don’t come from themselves, or from both themselves and others; or from no cause at all—nor do they come from other things, at least from their own side.”

Wisdom of Arya Nagarjuna, Course 1

Homework 4

5) Why does Arya Nagarjuna bring up, in his third verse, all the four different types of factors which create things? Please list the four, and describe them very briefly—while commenting on the possibility of a fifth type of cause.

6) What is the basic problem—which Nagarjuna brings up in his fourth verse—with thinking that a seed could cause a tree, in the way that we normally think it does?

Meditation assignment:

Twice a day, do rounds 1 through 4 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:

Wisdom of Arya Nagarjuna, Course 1
Homework 4

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

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