



Asian Classics Institute

The Wisdom of Arya Nagarjuna  
Course One: The Eight Invisibles  
Class 5—Canceling Four Definitions  
Homework

1) Having discussed how there are problems with the way things start—from the result side of things (not from self or other etc); Arya Nagarjuna moves on to discussing how there's a problem with way things start, from the side of the conditions. Give the 5 steps to his strategy here.

2) With all the four kinds of conditions, Arya Nagarjuna has a problem, for example, with saying “The tree is growing from the tree seed,” or “The awareness of blue is growing from the blue, or the eye.” Explain what he is referring to when he says, “As the result approaches growing, the cause approaches ending—these are simultaneous. And the completion of the growth of the result and the completion of the stopping of the cause are also simultaneous.”

3) Someone responds to this train of thought by saying, “Why talk so much, Arya Nagarjuna? We know that when we see an apple, there must be an eyeball working as a cause there to help create this perception. When we see the result, we know the cause must have been causing the result to grow.” How does Nagarjuna counter their argument?

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4) In denying the idea of a condition which first functions to create something, Arya Nagarjuna points out two problems with this concept. What are they?

5) Now, having denied the four kinds of conditions (that have their own nature) as a group, Arya Nagarjuna turns to denying them individually, one by one. He goes in the same order that he first presented them, in a previous verse—which means that he starts with a “causal condition”; basically, anything that has a result. What problem does the Arya point out with this definition of a causal condition: “Anything that has a result”?

6) It is said about the second kind of condition—the “object” condition—that when we turn our perceptions to a thing, that thing triggers in us an awareness of the thing. For example, when we look at a painting, the painting is out there first, and then the image of that painting flies to the eye; goes through; and triggers an awareness of the painting. But what is the internal contradiction here? And how does that disprove a common misperception about the direct perception of emptiness?

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7) We now turn to the third kind of condition mentioned by Lord Buddha: the “condition for what immediately follows”—often described as a state of mind that leads into another state of mind. Nagarjuna says, “It would be wrong to say that the seed for a thing stopped before the thing had been produced.” And why is that true?

8) The fourth and final type of condition mentioned by Lord Buddha is the “self-sufficient condition,” meaning that it has the power to create a result. Actually, this description applies to anything produced by causes and conditions. Why though, according to Arya Nagarjuna, do these conditions *not* have this power to create a result, through some inherent nature of their own?

*Meditation assignment:*

Twice a day, do all 5 rounds 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*

Quality	Grade	Comments
Important?		
Creative?		
Authoritative?		
Use in real life?		
<b>Total</b>		