



# Cracks in the Wing

*Learning to see the signs  
that things  
aren't quite like that*



*Geshe Michael Roach  
New York  
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Cracks in the Wing  
A Nagarjuna Sampler



The person is not their solidness  
Nor their wetness, nor their warmth,  
Nor the motion inside, nor the space within,  
Nor even their awareness of the world —  
Nor all of these together.  
And how could you find them  
Somewhere else?

—Arya Nagarjuna (200AD)  
*A String of Precious Jewels*



And just who  
do you remove  
an appendix from?

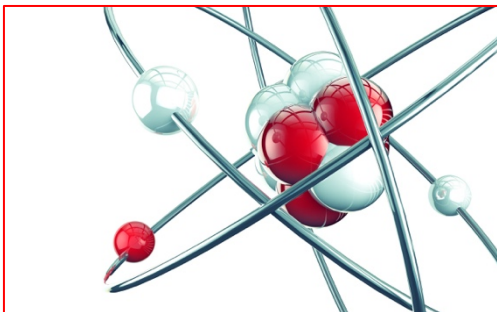
# Cracks in the Wing A Nagarjuna Sampler

Understand every living being  
In the same way you understand yourself.  
Understand every existing thing  
In the same way you understand beings.

—Lord Buddha (500BC)  
*A Brief Presentation  
of the Perfection of Wisdom*

Group	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	Alkali metals/Alkaline earth metals												Pnictogens Chalcogens Halogens			Noble gases			
Period 1	1 H																		2 He
Period 2	3 Li	4 Be											5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne	
Period 3	11 Na	12 Mg											13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar	
Period 4	19 K	20 Ca	21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr	
Period 5	37 Rb	38 Sr	39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe	
Period 6	55 Cs	56 Ba	71 Lu	72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn	
Period 7	87 Fr	88 Ra	103 Lr	104 Rf	105 Db	106 Sg	107 Bh	108 Hs	109 Mt	110 Ds	111 Rg	112 Cn	113 Nh	114 Fl	115 Uup	116 Lv	117 Uus	118 Uuo	
			Lanthanum Cerium Praseodymium Neodymium Promethium Samarium Europium Gadolinium Terbium Dysprosium Holmium Erbium Thulium Ytterbium * 57 La 58 Ce 59 Pr 60 Nd 61 Pm 62 Sm 63 Eu 64 Gd 65 Tb 66 Dy 67 Ho 68 Er 69 Tm 70 Yb Actinium Thorium Protactinium Uranium Neptunium Plutonium Americium Curium Berkelium Californium Einsteinium Fermium Mendelevium Nobelium ** 89 Ac 90 Th 91 Pa 92 U 93 Np 94 Pu 95 Am 96 Cm 97 Bk 98 Cf 99 Es 100 Fm 101 Md 102 No																

Legend:  
 black-Solid green-Liquid red-Gas grey-Unknown  
 Primordial Synthetic  
 Border shows natural occurrence of the element  
 Background color shows subcategory in the metal-metalloid-nonmetal trend:  
 Alkali metal Alkaline earth metal Lanthanide Actinide Transition metal Post-transition metal Metalloid Polyatomic nonmetal Diatomic nonmetal Noble gas Unknown chemical properties



The chemicals that all things  
are built from  
are impossible

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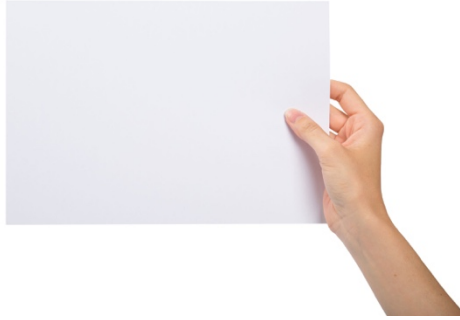
Understanding:  
the impossible wall  
between two rooms

Two glasses:  
very wrong,  
and very right



An invisible line  
between empty spaces  
in the human heart

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A problem with  
the emptiness  
of this paper  
& of your fingers

Nothing grows from itself;  
Nothing grows from something else;  
Nothing grows from both;  
And nothing grows without a cause.  
There is nothing at all that grows at all.

—Arya Nagarjuna (200AD)  
*Wisdom*



Cause & effect:  
Suspicious about why  
the car refuses to start

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First of all, having gone  
Is not going;  
Neither is not having gone  
Going.  
And yet except for having gone  
And not having gone,  
You can never be stepping.

—Arya Nagarjuna (200AD)  
*Wisdom*



The middle of your foot:  
paths traveled,  
and doubts about time

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How do we use  
the impossible?  
A Nagarjunian look at our career

A Nagarjunian look  
at our energy



A Nagarjunian look  
at our relationships



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Nirvana:  
nothing to reach,  
and no one to reach it

We call  
The true understanding  
of your pain  
Nirvana.  
—Arya Nagarjuna (200AD)  
*Sixty Verses on Reasoning*

The petals of a rainbow  
Of attractive blooms open wide;  
Lovely palaces of pure gold  
Shine in the morning light.

And yet there is no one at all  
That ever made any of them—  
They are all created by thoughts.

The entire world  
Is a construction of our thoughts;  
None of the things we hold,  
None of the things we cannot,  
Has ever happened at all.

It is all a fabrication,  
Like an illusion, like a mirage.

—Lord Buddha (500BC)  
*A Presentation of Vowed Morality*  
*Requested by Upali*



## Resources for Going Deeper

### Wisdom, Meditation, & Yoga in New York

Three Jewels: the Enlightenment Studio  
5 E 3rd St, New York City 10003  
website: [threejewels.org](http://threejewels.org)  
phone: 646 964 5736  
instagram: @threejewelsnyc

### Meditation Training & Retreats

Asian Classics Institute on Facebook & at [asianclassicsinstitute.com](http://asianclassicsinstitute.com)  
Diamond Mountain Retreat Center on Facebook & at [diamondmountain.org](http://diamondmountain.org)

### Free Online Courses for Spiritual Development

Asian Classics Institute online at [acidharma.org](http://acidharma.org)

### Books (order them on Amazon)

The following books are all written by Geshe Michael Roach and are available in 35 languages. For information about your language, contact international publishing coordinator Katey Fetch at [kfetch009@gmail.com](mailto:kfetch009@gmail.com)

- ❖ To find or improve a relationship: *The Karma of Love*
- ❖ To fix your health, keep it good, increase energy: *How Yoga Works*
- ❖ To start a business, or to reach financial freedom: *The Diamond Cutter*
- ❖ To run a business, or to be a successful manager: *Karmic Management*
- ❖ To apply seeds to the state of the world: *China Love You*
- ❖ For serious study of the Yoga Sutra: *The Essential Yoga Sutra*
- ❖ For peace & spiritual development: *The Garden, A Parable*

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