



Asian Classics Institute

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

1) 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.”

2) 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?

3) 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”?