

# The Wisdom of Emptiness

## 2023 - Class 8



*Ceci n'est pas une pipe.*

A 9 week **DISCOVERING BUDDHISM** course with registered FPMT teacher, Eddie Peet


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# Refuge & Bodhichitta

I go for refuge until I am enlightened

To the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Supreme Assembly

By the merits I create through listening to the Dharma, May I become a buddha to benefit all sentient beings.



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# Four Immeasurables

May all sentient beings have happiness and the causes of happiness.

May all sentient beings be free from suffering and the causes of suffering.

May all sentient beings never be separated from the happiness that is free from suffering.

May all sentient beings abide in equanimity, free from attachment for friends and hatred for enemies.



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# Seven Limb Prayer

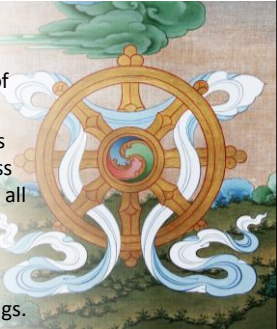
Reverently I prostrate with my body, speech, and mind;

I present clouds of every type of offering, actual and imagined;

I declare all my negative actions accumulated since beginningless time and rejoice in the merit of all holy and ordinary beings.

Please, remain until the end of cyclic existence, and turn the wheel of Dharma for living beings.

I dedicate my own and other's merits to the great enlightenment.



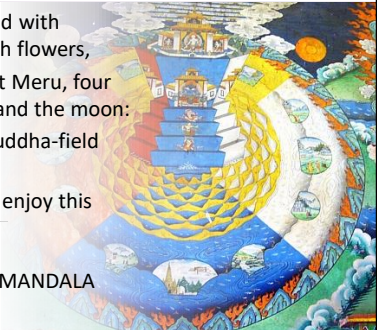
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# Mandala Offering

This ground, anointed with perfume, strewn with flowers, Adorned with Mount Meru, four continents, the sun and the moon: I imagine this as a buddha-field and offer it.

May all living beings enjoy this pure land!

IDAM GURU RATNA MANDALA  
KAM NIRYATA YAMI



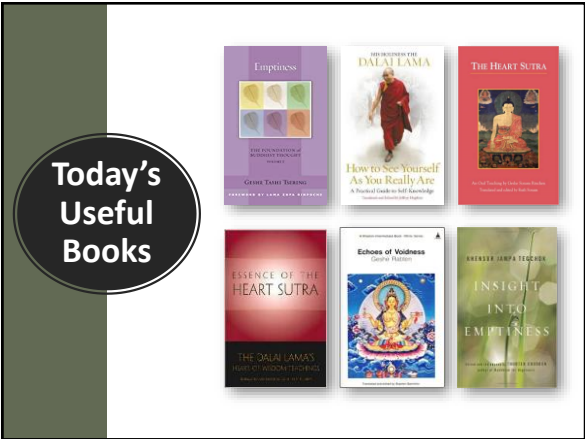
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# What We've Covered So Far

- What emptiness is and is not
- Tenets and teachers
- Selflessness and emptiness
- Dependent Arising

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### Today's Outcomes

- Four keys
- Four profundities
- The analogy of the rope and snake

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### What is Emptiness?

The Ultimate Truth

A non-affirming negation

The final mode of existence

A quality of all existents

Reality

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### Nagarjuna's Four Keys

1. Identifying the target
2. Limiting possibilities
3. Analyzing Oneness
4. Analyzing Difference

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### 1. Identifying the Target


Any nature or state that objects could have in which they rely on nothing else

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### 2. Limiting the Possibilities

1. Same as OR Different/separate
2. Singular OR Plural


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### 3. Analyzing Oneness

Like a tree possessing its core

1. The same entity
2. A singular entity



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### 4. Analyzing Difference

Like a lion in a forest grove



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### Does the I Truly Exist?

Who is on this seat – I am.  
Is the body on the seat – Yes.  
Are you and the body the same entity – No.  
Why – Because I am imputed to the body.  
Allow the body to roll forward falling from the seat.  
Who is on the seat?


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### Does the Body Truly Exist?

Who is on this seat – I am.  
Is the body on the seat – Yes.  
Are you and the body the same entity – No.  
Why – Because I am imputed to the body.  
Allow yourself to roll forward falling from the seat.  
What is on the seat?



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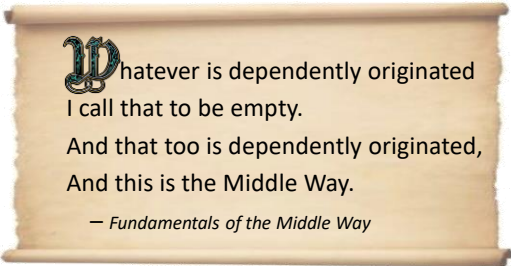
### The Conclusion

I am not the mind-body complex.  
I am not other than the mind-body complex.  
The mind-body complex is not in me; I am not in it.  
I do not possess it. What “I” is there?

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### Arya Nagarjuna said ...

**W**hatever is dependently originated  
I call that to be empty.  
And that too is dependently originated,  
And this is the Middle Way.  
*— Fundamentals of the Middle Way*



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Four Profundities of Form



- The profundity of ...
- 1. The ultimate  
– Form is empty
  - 2. The conventional  
– Emptiness is form
  - 3. Being the same entity  
– Emptiness is not other than form
  - 4. Being nominally distinct  
– Form is also not other than emptiness

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1. The Profundity of the Ultimate

The emptiness of form is nothing other than the form's ultimate nature. Form lacks intrinsic or independent existence; thus, its nature is emptiness.



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2. The Profundity of the Conventional

The emptiness of the inherent existence of form is the basis that allows the dependent origination of form.



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3. The Profundity of Being the Same Entity

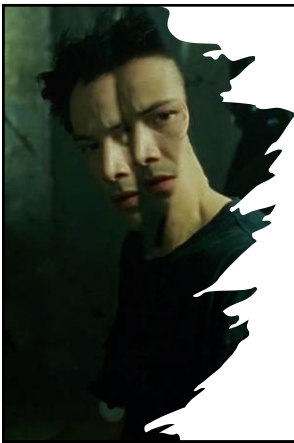
The ultimate nature of form, its emptiness, does not exist separate from the form.



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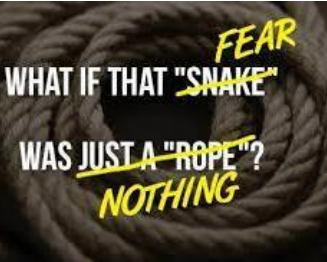
4. The Profundity of Being Nominally Distinct

Form and the emptiness of form are the same entity and these two can be distinguished one from another



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Existing In and Of Itself



Across from consciousness there is nothing over there to confirm such an existence.

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### The Rope and Snake Analogy

Whatever exists is merely labeled by the mind.

Whatever functions does so merely in name.



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### Arya Nagarjuna said...

Through what is emptiness known? It is known through seeing dependent-arising. Buddha, the supreme knower of reality, said What is dependently established is not inherently established.

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### What Does This Mean For Me?

- I must be very careful in how I act
- I am the creator of my own experience
- I am in control of my own future
- Enlightenment is possible



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### What's My Take-Away?

- The meditation of the four keys
- The four profundities
- The analogy of the rope and snake

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#### Read

- Heart sutra instructions.pdf
- Heart sutra practice.pdf
- Two emptiness meditations

#### Coming up

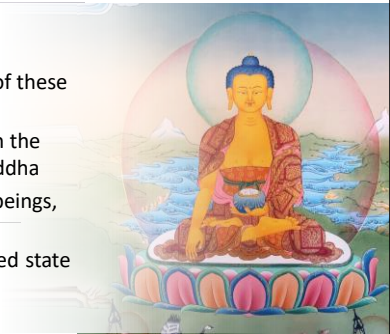
- Review class
- BYO questions!



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### Dedication

Due to the merits of these virtuous actions  
May I quickly attain the state of a Guru-Buddha  
And lead all living beings, without exception,  
Into that enlightened state



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**Bodhicitta Verses**

May the supreme jewel bodhicitta  
Not yet born, arise and grow  
May that born have no decline  
But increase forever more

And as long as space endures,  
As long as sentient beings abide,  
May I too remain  
To dispel the sorrows of the world

