

Winter 2011 The Stream of Thinking
Week 8 Orientation DTS 247-250

In the past two weeks, we looked at the first two lines of instruction for DTS Ex. 1. Now let's look at the third sentence: "A perception or thought goes forward, carrying awareness, then a second perception or thought recollects and passes that awareness on."

Notice that the assumption here is that we are always involved in perceiving (sensing) or thinking. In other words (and this relates to Bruce's chat during the phone call), we find the 'inward unfolding' of experience 'within' moments that on the surface are fully used up by the content of the perception or thought.

As Rinpoche suggests, this process can develop on its own. A similar (rather subtle) point comes up in the commentary, when Rinpoche writes, "Look carefully for the judgment: 'Conceptual activity is no longer occurring'."

As came up briefly in the phone call, there is a close relation between awareness and knowledge. Rinpoche makes the connection like this (248): "As awareness becomes more refined, a sense of inner knowledge enters into each experience." The rest of that paragraph gives a lot of quite specific guidance, so I'm sure we'll discuss it in next week's phone call. Notice also the comment in the commentary that the aim is not to find new knowledge.