

## Session 6, Unit 16

### Orientation for Week 1

The introduction to Unit 16 in *When It Rains* suggests that the ‘logos’—our central theme in the coming weeks—could be seen with respect to knowledge as similar to the ‘field’ with respect to space. We could say that we are moving from the feel of the field to the logic of the logos.

Now, the logos could be seen as a ‘mechanism’ for a knowledge “not owned by the self, told by a narrator, or affirmed by a witness.” (WIR 82). You might think here of knowledge that is built in to a biological system; for instance, the knowledge inherent in the DNA of cells that shapes their development.

In principle, this knowledge is more fundamental than the needs and concerns of a self; this is why the analogy to the field makes sense. But in practice, the self is the one that claims ownership of knowledge, and when that ownership is challenged, it reacts with fear and confusion. Such emotions pervade the logos; the logic of the logos is understood in terms that fit with the world of the self.

Can we engage or discover the logic of the logos without that overlay of self-concerns? Can we strip away the reactivity of the self and thus arrive at a second-level knowledge, inherent in the structures we inhabit and even the limits we impose?

It may seem that asking this question invites an inquiry that parallels our earlier explorations of the feel of the field. Yet as we proceed, we may find that the style of inquiry appropriate to our questioning turns out to be very different. That is part of what we want to explore.

In any event, we are in a sense reversing our previous focus. We have been looking at how our ways of being in time and space give rise to certain limiting kinds of knowledge. Now we are asking about how our ways of knowing (which turn out to include our emotionality and all our capacities for experience) are reflected in our ways of being in time and space.