

Week 3, March 15

WIR 129-131, TSK 6-10; Exercise: Balance Point of Knowledge (WIR 131)

Transition and Orientation

First, here is the link for where you can purchase Inside Knowledge: <http://tinyurl.com/nnze86>. Read it yourself; share it with friends; write reviews; talk it up! And let me have your reactions.

Now, a few more comments on last week's reading: I ended the phone call with a quote from VOK 172 intended as a guide to the practical implementation of a 'zero-point singularity' or 'universal unique' view. Here's the quote: "The starting point is to stop insisting on the unique importance of our own concerns." We talked about the play on the word 'unique' in this quote; there is also a play on the word "starting point" that I don't think I need to point out. Notice that we don't have to give up our concerns; we just don't insist on them. Relying on a more 'all-encompassing' knowledge, there is (249) "never [a] 'straying' toward entities and substance." We dwell in the Body of Knowledge, which is at once "the perfect exhibition of Space and the most complete realization of Knowledge." In imagery unusual for the vision, Rinpoche writes that we are now in the arms of (251) "the all-providing mother"

It may come as something of a shock to move from the last chapter of KTS to the first chapter of TSK. The reading from KTS gestures at Great Space, while the reading from TSK is just trying to introduce us to some of the presuppositions that govern our ordinary understanding of space. Still, these few pages from the beginning of TSK move very quickly from that ordinary understanding to a far richer understanding. They end with a statement that the KTS reading specifically repeated; namely that "space is projecting space into space." Of course, this picture (or vision) is presented only as an interesting if perhaps unacceptable 'perception'. But if you read on to p. 11, you will see that this 'space-projecting-space' possibility is presented first as a symbol, and then as a vision. You could think of the reading from KTS as a working out of that vision.

As some of you know, I wrote an essay on the theme of "space projecting space into space" in the collection called A New Way of Being. I will include it along with the Orientation for this week. Consider it optional reading.

As the walkabout for this week, refer back to the statement at KTS 247 that "we know longer need to take our bearings from the compass always carried with us." The 'compass' refers to the output of the field communiqué. But it might be helpful to take it almost literally. Living in Berkeley, it is usually easy to tell which direction you are facing: the hills are to the east, and the bay is to the west. In the coming week, look for ways that you apply a compass to make sense of your experience. Do you really need to do that? Could you rely on a more encompassing knowledge?

Finally, here's a writing assignment for those of you in the teacher training: look up all the references in DTS to the "universal unique," reflect on them, and write a paragraph or two on what you find.