

Session 12, Week 6

DTS 38-41, 156-60, 228-234; Ex. LOK Ex. 50

Transition and Orientation

Last week we emphasized the theme of simplicity. Being is immediately available; there is nothing special we need to ‘do’ to arrive at being, because we are already ‘there’. The difficulty is that we try to make sense of this on the ordinary level, as though Being were 1) just one more ‘thing’; 2) one more ‘state’ to achieve; or 3) as though Being were a reality ‘beyond’ our own being. Take a close look at the discussion (TSK 295) of why we can only make sense of Being by moving to a ‘higher’ level: it helps clarify what is special about the TSK vision.

At this ‘other’ level, the simplicity of the TSK Vision comes to the fore. The exercise we focused on, which seems so simple that we are tempted to ignore it, invites us to recognize this fundamental point. We can “lift our heads, stretch and look up, while drawing in deep breaths. (299)” Without the context of the Vision, this instruction might indeed be too simple, but we have come far enough to appreciate what is being offered here.

We also looked briefly at the theme raised at the end of the reading: the inherent interconnectedness of all ‘beings’. This discussion makes a link between the TSK Vision and the natural availability of love and compassion, themes that people often look for in the TSK Vision. Do you find this presentation satisfying? Would you like for more to be said?

The reading for this coming week is of course the last for the whole program. We could think of it as the starting point for our own independent inquiry, which starts when the program is over. With that in mind, think of the three readings assigned for this week as gateways into time, space, and knowledge as three facets of Being. We start with the theme of *eknosis*, which we have looked at before: a challenge to how we ordinarily make sense of space and the limits it imposes. *Eknosis* as a practice and an approach suggests that we cannot limit ‘Being’ to its conventional manifestations. Instead, being is inseparable from awareness, just as space is inseparable from appearance.

The second reading from DTS returns to *eknosis*. It re-imagines being in terms of time, investigating the dynamic unity of past, present, and future. The text acknowledges the usual structure and invites us to “see it differently. (157)”

Finally, the third reading invites us to link Being with the Body of Knowledge: “space into space, knowledge into knowledge . . . the gateway of time.” The end of this reading once again evokes the possibility that we can transform our relationship to knowledge “for the sake of humanity.” As for LOK Ex. 50, it is a natural expression of all that has gone before—an invitation to carry the TSK Vision with us into every moment of our lives. May we accept this

invitation joyfully, and may even times of darkness yield to the clarity within.