

## **Session 9**

**Week 1, January 11**

**WIR 114-116; TSK 71-88; TSK Ex. 7**

### **Orientation for Week 1**

Welcome to Session 9 of the 2-year program. We can actually start to see the end of the program coming into view!

Let me remind you at the outset about the retreat at Ratna Ling, which is coming up July 13-17. Kathleen will be in touch, but keep in mind that space is limited, and as the time for the retreat draws closer, we will increasingly be less liable to accommodate extra people.

Now, on to this session. As you know, our focus in this Session is on space. We will investigate space mostly through reading the whole of the Part One of Dynamics. There are some readings listed in When It Rains that are not assigned and should be considered optional, but those of you in the Teacher Training Program should definitely read them.

For this week, we read a single chapter from the TSK book. It should provide an interest contrast and supplement to the readings we will be doing the rest of the session.

For purposes of this Orientation, I am going to focus on just the first page of the reading (p. 71), since it already gives us a lot to think about. The first paragraph refers us back to Exercises 11-14, found earlier in the TSK book. It would be a good idea to read through Ex. 11-13, which investigate thoughts and the activity of thinking (We have discussed in earlier sessions why it makes sense to think of the relation of thoughts to mind as a special case of the relationship of objects to space.) Ex. 14 is more difficult to take out of context, since it refers back to the Giant Body practices. The suggestion in this opening paragraph is apply these practices to TSK Ex. 7 (the assigned exercise for this week). How to do that is up to you to explore, but the basic idea is to expand into the whole 'being human' complex. As the reading says, the aim is to do a complete review "of what it means to be a 'person'."

The initial stages of this "review" are presented here in terms of freeing ourselves from three tendencies: 1) structuring experience in terms of static objects; 2) insisting on the dichotomy between inner and outer (which appears in part as the distinction between physical space and the inner realm of the mind); and 3) the world as independent, highly ordered, and containing background. Why does this effort help us understand differently what it means to be a person? Because (at least as one level) our sense of being a person is based on being a 'self in the world'.

Now, the theme of 'self in the world' is often treated in the TSK books in terms of time and the temporal order, which may be why the reading says that we are not ready to take it on completely at this point. However, in DTS, much of this work proceeds in terms of space. That is where Session 9 will take us.