

Gaining Nondeceptive Knowledge (pt. 3)

- Reliable Cognizers and Unreliable Awarenesses

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Reliable Cognizers and Unreliable Awarenesses

- **Reliable cognizer**
 - Knows its object correctly (incontrovertible)
 - Reliable because it can lead us to accomplish our purpose

Reliable Cognizers and Unreliable Awarenesses

- **Unreliable awareness**
 - Does not know its object correctly (controvertible)
 - Unreliable because cannot lead us to accomplish our purpose

Reliable Cognizers

- **Direct Reliable Cognizer**
 - Know their objects - evident phenomena - directly and non-deceptively without depending on a reason or logic

Reliable Cognizers

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 - Know their objects - evident phenomena - directly and non-deceptively without depending on a reason or logic
 - Example - an unimpaired eye faculty seeing color blue - non-conceptual direct reliable cognizer
 - Example - a consciousness correctly remembering a conversation from yesterday - even though it is a conceptual memory

Reliable Cognizers

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 - Example
 - We know a car is impermanent because it is produced by causes
 - **Key is that the reason is understood**

Reliable Cognizers

- **Reliable Cognizers based on an example**
 - Inferential cognizers that realize their objects by understanding that it is similar to something else
 - An evident phenomena (e.g. an example, analogy or model) used as reason to understand the meaning, which is slightly obscure

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 - An evident phenomena (e.g. an example, analogy or model) used as reason to understand the meaning, which is slightly obscure
 - E.g. - the Potala is slightly obscure phenomenon for people who have never been to Lhasa in tibet, but when shown a model of the Potala then they can understand what the Potala is

Reliable Cognizers

- **Reliable Cognizers based on authoritative testimony**
 - Inferential cognizers knowing very obscure phenomena that cannot be established through direct perceivers or other inferential cognizers
 - Only known by depending on authoritative testimony of a trustworthy source, such as a credible person or scripture

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 - Only known by depending on authoritative testimony of a trustworthy source, such as a credible person or scripture
 - E.g. - understanding sublet workings of karma by relying on a credible scripture taught by the Buddha, who is a reliable person.

Unreliable Awarenesses

- **Correct Assumers**

- Conceptual awareness that correctly apprehends its object as a result of having read or heard an explanation of it, **BUT**
- Does not fully or firmly grasp the meaning or conclusively ascertain its object
- E.g. - learning a new topic, we have a general understanding but until we grasp the meaning, then understanding is not firm and we can change our minds (controvertible)

Unreliable Awarenesses

- **Inattentive Awareness**

- Direct perceiver to which its apprehended object clearly appears but is not apprehended
- E.g. - hearing others talking while engrossed in watching a movie

Unreliable Awarenesses

- **Doubt**

- An awareness that vacillates between 2 or more options and is inclined towards the wrong conclusions
 - Tending toward the fact
 - Tending away from the fact
 - Neither

Unreliable Awarenesses

- **Wrong consciousness**
 - Either conceptual or non-conceptual consciousness that incorrectly apprehends its observed object
 - A hallucination hearing voices here there are none (wrong sensory awareness)
 - Holding view that impermanent things are permanent (wrong conceptual consciousness)

Unreliable Awarenesses

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Unreliable Awarenesses

- Cannot be trusted because we cannot achieve our goal by relying on them
- If we mistake orange for grapefruit we will not get the fruit we want
- If we believe the self to be permanent or that phenomena exist as separate, real, independent entities we will not be able to realize emptiness of inherent existence or attain nirvana (liberation and enlightenment)

Practical Application

- Knowledge about a subject may gradually evolve via these various cognizers
- Example
 - New science student hears about bacteria from a teacher and has a rough idea of what they are
 - What kind of cognizer or awareness is this?

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 - Learning about structure of bacteria through model or diagram would then be inference based on an example

Practical Application

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- Example
 - Looks through microscope and sees bacteria
 - What type of cognizer is this and why?

Practical Application

- Knowledge about a subject may gradually evolve via these various cognizers
- Example
 - Looks through microscope and sees bacteria
 - Direct reliable cognizer
 - Bacteria become evident phenomena

Practical Application

- Knowledge about a subject may gradually evolve via these various cognizers
- Example
 - Through executing various experiments and gaining reliable data
 - Able to have inferential reliable cognizers of other properties that are slightly obscure phenomena
 - However, ability to determine whether knowledge is an inferential reliable cognizer may only be verified later on
 - Make sure data is valid, verifiable and complete
 - For this reason many scientists consider initial knowledge to be correction assumption or doubt

Reliable Cognizers and Unreliable Awarenesses

Direct Reliable Cognizers



Inferential Reliable Cognizers



Correction Assumption



Doubt



Wrong Consciousness