

Gaining Nondeceptive Knowledge (pt. 7)

- Correct Reasons and Reliable Cognizers

March 16th 2023

Three Types of Phenomena

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Three Types of Phenomena

- **Evident phenomena**
- **Slightly obscure phenomena**
- **Very obscure phenomena**

Different for different types of beings

- According to progress on the path
 - Everything discussed so far is for ordinary beings
 - For aryas, subtle impermanence and selflessness are evident phenomena
 - No obscure phenomena for buddhas because they are omniscient

Different for different situations

- Campfire analogy

Why are we talking about 3 phenomena

- **To achieve goal we need to know or realize the path**
 - Lam Rim (steps on the path) realizations
 - 4 Noble Truths
 - Subtle impermanence
 - Selflessness and Emptiness

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Reliable Cognizers and Unreliable Awarenesses

Direct Reliable Cognizers



Inferential Reliable Cognizers



Correction Assumption



Doubt



Wrong Consciousness

Reliable Cognizers and Unreliable Awarenesses

- **Reliable cognizer**
 - Knows its object correctly (incontrovertible)
 - Reliable because it can lead us to accomplish our purpose
 - Learning to identify them let's us know whether to trust what we are seeing and thinking

Reliable Cognizers and Unreliable Awarenesses

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

Knowing When We Have a Correct Reason and a Reliable Cognizer

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 - Changing conditions mean correct reason today may not be correct later

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 - Correct assumption — — —> Inferential cognizer

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 - 2 Examples different

Knowing When We Have a Correct Reason and a Reliable Cognizer

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 - 2 previous examples are different
 - Weather forecasting conditions vary, therefore reasons change

Knowing When We Have a Correct Reason and a Reliable Cognizer

- **We don't necessarily know that a reason is correct at the time stated/used**
 - 2 Examples different
 - Weather forecasting conditions vary, therefore reasons change
 - Emptiness reasons remain constant, but only able to determine correct reasoning with more familiarity, progression on the path

Knowing When We Have a Correct Reason and a Reliable Cognizer

- **Knowing we have a reliable cognizer is important**
 - Example: driving
 - See an object out of corner of eye
 - Determining to be animal important to then brake and not hit the animal

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2. The existence of that object is not invalidated by another conventional reliable cognizer - another reliable cognizer that accurately knows conventional truths

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3. It is not invalidated by a mind analyzing emptiness

Knowing When We Have a Correct Reason and a Reliable Cognizer

- **3 Criteria for Existent Phenomena**
 - 1. Object is known to a conventional consciousness**
 - A consciousness cognizes (knows) an object

Knowing When We Have a Correct Reason and a Reliable Cognizer

- **3 Criteria for Existent Phenomena**
 - 2. The existence of that object is not invalidated by another conventional reliable cognizer - another reliable cognizer that accurately knows conventional truths**
 - Needs to be not disproved by at least one other reliable cognizer, either in another continuum or same continuum at a later point in time
 - Example - scarecrow

Knowing When We Have a Correct Reason and a Reliable Cognizer

- **3 Criteria for Existent Phenomena**

- 3. It is not invalidated by a mind analyzing emptiness**

- The belief in an inherently existent object is negated by a mind analyzing emptiness

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