
Global Sangha Newsletter 15

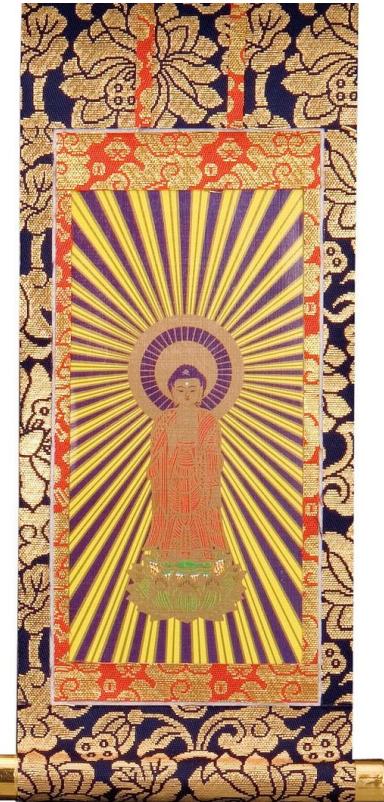
January 15, 2021 MANY GREAT EVENTS

PODCAST GS11 & 12

CONTENTS

This Newsletter includes

- Visit of Dario Sensei this Sunday
- Details of ITZI including seminars
- Final episode of Robert Joshin Althouse's article
- All up-coming courses, weekend and weekday events
- Podcasts 11 & 12



PODCAST GS11 & 12

Click the button at the top for the latest podcast.

You can access transcripts and translations of this podcast series at
https://eleusis.ning.com/notes/GLOBAL_SANGHA_INDEX

=====

Sunday 17th January at 11 am

Guest Speaker Dario Sensei

I have met Dario Sensei at San Francisco Zen Center where we were both attending a conference on compassion and mindfulness and also in Spain the meeting of Buddhist Teachers in Europe, where he gave an excellent talk about his work in Italian prisons. He speaks very good English and we get on extremely well. He is coming to our Sunday morning zoom meeting to talk to us on the intriguing subject of

Seijo and her soul separated A famous Zen koan

Dario Doshin Girolami is the Abbot of Centro Zen L'Arco - Zenmon Ji in Rome. He received Dharma Transmission from Eijun Linda Cutts, abbess of San Francisco Zen Center.

He started to practice in 1986 and was ordained as a Zen monk by Zenke Blanche Hartmann at the San Francisco Zen Center founded by Shunryu Suzuki Roshi. Prior to entering the Zen path in San Francisco he received Laureate degree in Indian and Eastern Religions and Philosophy at Sapienza University in Rome and studied under the guidance of Zen masters including Tenshin Roshi - Reb Anderson, Thich Nhat Hanh and Maezumi Roshi. He also received the Avalokiteshvara initiation from His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Former adjunct Professor of "Zen" at the John Cabot University of Rome, he holds regular seminars at the faculty of Psychology of Sapienza University, and leads regular meditation courses at the Rebibbia Prison of Rome. He wrote the book: *Lo Zen Soto e I koan - La Via della Presenza e dello Spirito*.

FOR OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS SCROLL DOWN TO THE END

WHAT IS ITZI?

ITZI <<https://zen-therapy.org/>> is the International Zen Therapy Institute (originally Instituto Terapia Zen internacional) which is now a registered charity (non-profit organisation) in England dedicated to promoting Buddhist psychology internationally.

ITZI has a number of activities, the most important of which are:

- The two year on-line study programme in Buddhist psychology
- Occasional international conferences - there have been three so far
- Psychotherapy and counselling practice and supervision

This year ITZI will offer seminars and workshops on-line on Saturdays, every couple of weeks, alternating between mornings and evenings so as to facilitate attendance by people from different time zones.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSIONS

9th January, 6th February, 6th March, 3rd April,
11.00 Zen Therapy Seminar

SATURDAY MORNING SESSIONS

9th January, 6th February, 6th March, 3rd April,

11.00 Zen Therapy Seminar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484765888>

Meeting ID: 834 8476 5888

One tap mobile local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kc0P1T379c>

SATURDAY EVENING SESSIONS

23rd January, 20th February, 20th March, 17th April

19.30 Zen Therapy Seminar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87560868030>

Meeting ID: 875 6086 8030

One tap mobile local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/ky1Zf711X>

=====

ARTICLE (reprinted from Tricycle Magazine)

AFTER AWAKENING (Part 3 - final)

Faith, practice, and enlightenment in Zen master Dogen's Genjokoan

Adapted from a talk by Robert Althouse :- Winter issue of Tricycle Magazine 2020

When Dogen says that to study Buddhism is to study the self, he is inviting you to let go of your secondhand experience and see directly. Study your human nature, your habits, your thoughts, your behavior—and you may discover you are not as interesting as you thought. To wake up is to discover your authentic self, which is always firsthand and outside all contrivances and conventions.

The French sociologist Émile Durkheim (1858–1917) defined religious consciousness as the ability to make a distinction between what is mundane and what is sacred. Without enlightenment, we just have humanistic psychology or mindfulness, but that's not the same as mindfulness in the context of a genuine spiritual path of awakening. And that's not what Dogen is teaching. Dogen is very clear about enlightenment. He's saying that's point — to wake up.

At the same time, Dogen is completely realistic. He's not talking about an ideal of enlightenment. He's talking about the actual living transmission of the dharma. The first four lines of the Genjokoan illustrate this point well. The passage starts off with Dogen talking about the Buddhist teachings from the outside, the yang side.

As David Brazier translates:

"Birth and death, practice and daily life, delusion and enlightenment, ordinary beings and all the Buddhas; such Buddha dao [Buddha way], Buddha's dharma of all dharmas."

Then Dogen talks about experiencing the teachings for yourself. (Note that the term that Dogen uses for the Buddha way is Buddha dao, which carries a greater sense of the Chinese thought encompassing it.)

"As the myriad dharmas are other than self, when one is in their midst, there are no creating and destroying, no sentient beings and all buddhas, no delusion and enlightenment."

He has moved to the yin side, where all those dualities disappear. Then, in the third line, he unifies the first two

"Out of abundance and lack, springs forth the original dao of Buddha, and for this there is making and destroying, delusion and enlightenment, and there are living buddhas."

He's talking about when you are that mirror reflecting the buddhadharma. There is no self here, and the world is sacred through and through.

It's possible to get stuck here — to think you've finally arrived — but the path is always the goal. Practice is enlightenment. With the fourth line, he throws cold water on you:

"So it is and nevertheless, blossoms fall bittersweet and weeds spread amidst woeful resignation."

You just woke up. You just finished a seven-day sesshin [meditation retreat] and your samadhi [meditative concentration] is very strong. You are enjoying this peaceful, calm, and spacious awareness, but little by little, day it slowly fades. So you might feel slightly depressed that such clarity doesn't seem to last. You are still subject to impermanence. Your body is going to get old, you're going to get sick, and you're going to suffer. You won't return to delusion in the same way—but you will still have to deal with problems and difficulties. This is what is meant by koan of Genjokoan.

The typical Chinese characters for koan roughly mean "a public case." But Dogen is not using those characters and he doesn't do anything by accident or use words haphazardly. The characters he uses for koan refer to equilibrium or balance.

Here, he's bringing in a Confucian element, the principle of li, which means to perform rites correctly so that heaven and earth remain in balance along with the natural right ordering of daily life. This includes just doing your duties: if you have a family member who's sick and you have to take care of them instead of going out to a party.

Dogen is saying that enlightenment includes this Confucian idea of li, which is not a passive thing. You actually become engaged in some way with your community, your sangha, the world, your family. The koan of the Genjokoan is whatever circumstance you're in. Your challenge is to take your place there, accept that situation, and work with it.

For Dogen, nonduality is not an abstract philosophy about the absolute and relative. He uses it as a practical tool. He says that when you are that mirror and you realize genjo, you manifest the truth of the phenomenal world and you have a responsibility to engage in the world. You have to do something. So, when you give life to your life wholeheartedly by accepting what is right here, which is koan, then genjo is what manifests.

The Genjokoan begins with a reference to the buddha dharma and ends with a discussion of li. But throughout he is talking about faith, a faith in the buddhadharma and a faith that is supported by rigorous practice.

He is saying, again and again, forget yourself, be humble, be modest. Whatever your circumstance, whether high or low, good or bad, that's your life just as it is, so right here is always Genjokoan. But don't be complacent. He warns that if you think you understand the dharma, then you probably don't. Don't think you've arrived at some place where there is no more work to be done. Wherever you've arrived is just a jumping off place for the next thing that you have to do. Don't just drop off body-mind. Drop off the dropped-off body-mind.



Photo by Dharmavidya - Storm gathering at Eleusis

WEEKLY MEETINGS

All times are Rome time zone

MONDAYS

Monday 2 - 3.30 pm is **Nembutsu Service** with Vajrapala, Susthama or other Order member. Especially for those who have taken refuge or are thinking about taking refuge or want to go deeper in the theme of refuge

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85954136440?pwd=WmRMMllydlQzaWF2Mi9RbFZWTvRRZz09>

Meeting ID: 859 5413 6440

Passcode: 670414

TUESDAYS

17.30 Sangha Group Meeting in Italian

Details from Angela <ange.romani.2017@gmail.com>

WEDNESDAYS 14.30 On-line Meeting with Vajrapala

This is a meeting of friends of Amida Benelux Sangha - all welcome - see end of newsletter below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83616599261?pwd=d3Qrl1U0RG9RQXJPQU1yTzJkY3FXUT09>

Meeting ID: 836 1659 9261

Passcode: 129104

NEW FRIDAY 10.00 from 22 January, weekly

Amida Service led by Reverend Vajrapala

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88455022063?pwd=ZEdicIJZOC92a1g2bnZjUTRWYm5EUT09>

Meeting ID: 884 5502 2063

Passcode: 171195

NEW FRIDAY 20.30 from 22 January, weekly

Amida Service led by Reverend Vajrapala and Angela Romani

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81196810533?pwd=QWxtQ1VXejJMdm0VDF6aDVTR01BQT09>

Meeting ID: 811 9681 0533

Passcode: 407423

SATURDAY

14.00 Refuge Group. Open to all who have taken refuge.

Codes separately notified.

SATURDAY 6th February and then 4 weekly

11.00 Zen Therapy Seminar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484765888>

Meeting ID: 834 8476 5888

One tap mobile local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kc0P1T379c>

SATURDAY 23rd and then 4 weekly

19.30 Zen Therapy Seminar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87560868030>

Meeting ID: 875 6086 8030

One tap mobile local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/ky1Zf711X>

SUNDAY

11.00 Global Sangha Interest Group

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87840519127>

Meeting ID: 878 4051 9127

One tap mobile local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kWbW3Qs0L>

SUNDAY

20.00 Friendship Group

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83106781029>

Meeting ID: 831 0678 1029

EVENTS

JANUARY FULL MOON UPAVASTHA

- *Koteswara & Dharmavidya*

Thursday-Friday 28-29 January 2021

An on-line retreat consisting of (with approximate start times - Rome time zone)

- 16.00 Assemble
- 16.30 Puja: Nembutsu, Nei Quan Chih Quan, Vajrasattva with short Dharma talk, Sange (Confession of faults) and Refuge Ceremony (Taking refuge & renewal)
- 18.00 Chanting Quan Shi Yin into the night until midnight or later, wherever you are
- Morning meditation
- 10.00 Gathering for sharing
- End before midday

Upavastha signifies the full moon time when the gods come to visit one's home. In Buddhism this is traditionally time for confession, contrition and renewal. This retreat is offered as an experiment. If it is popular it can be repeated on other full moon nights. Please get a ticket at: <https://www.tictailor.com/events/globalsangha> Even if you are already listed for this event, please get a ticket. There is no charge, but you can make a donation you wish.

FEBRUARY FULL MOON

Weekend 27th-28th

Programme to be announced

EASTER RETREAT

2-5 April 2021

Dharmavidya & Tineke Osterloh

A four day on-line event over Easter weekend focussed upon The Summary of Faith & Practice. Study, with discussion, practice, Dharma encounter, chanting, and ritual.

More information here:

<https://www.tinekeosterloh.com/kurse/summary-of-faith-practice/>

To stay informed or apply for any of the above: jisshas@googlegroups.com

=====

TRANSMISSION OF MIRROR TEACHINGS

Dharmavidya & Tineke Osterloh

An initiation into "dark side teachings" based on the book *Dark Side of the Mirror*. a translation of and commentary upon the text Genjo Koan by Dogen Zenji. Three hours per week. Participants should be fully committed to attendance and have read the book before commencing the course. The mirror teachings bring together Purelan and Zen with some practices from other schools as this teaching reaches the core of the Buddhist message.

This is a private teaching for a small select group of disciples; a heart to heart transmission of the text, meaning experience. Maximum group size 12. The sessions will not be recorded. There is no fee, but donations are possible.

Full details: <https://eleusis.ning.com/events/transmission-of-mirror-teachings>

and

here: <https://www.tinekeosterloh.com/kurse/transmission-of-mirror-teachings/>

If you have already been approved to join the first cohort, you can get your ticket at

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/globalsangha>

If you would like to apply to join the second (autumn) cohort, please e-mail
jisshas@googlegroups.com

=====



Demeter in search of Persephone :- Photo by Dharmavidya

=====

To myriad tathagatas
Their offerings they make
Bowing, rejoicing and returning to
The land of peace and nurturence

=====

You can see other Global Sangha materials, past podcasts and articles via :
https://eleusis.ning.com/notes/GLOBAL_SANGHA_INDEX

You received this mail as you were previously in receipt of Global Sangha Newsletters or Dharmavidya's podcasts, the Amida Shu loop or you bought a ticket for the Bodhi Retreat. If you do not wish to receive these newsletters in the future please unsubscribe from the Octopus list. Thank you.

If you wish to contact me personally, you can do so at dharma@fastmail.fm or via my Facebook @davidbrazierauthor or on my website - click the Global Sangha at Eleusis link below.

Thank you very much
Namo Amida Bu
Dharmavidya
David Brazier

Global Sangha at Eleusis

You received this email because you subscribed to our list. You can [unsubscribe](#) at any time.

4 La Ville au Roi
Bessais le Fromental
Cher
18210
France

Powered by  EmailOctopus

