

The Devil Debates an Angel

Course Eight
*If Einstein's Wrong,
Problems Disappear*

Name _____

Date _____

Place _____

Homework, Class One: A Flat Earth and An Irritating Person (Verses 113-119)

1) Please check the appropriate box below to indicate *whether or not the object mentioned even exists.*

- (1) The Earth Yes No
- (2) An Earth which is a flat disk, as described by early Buddhist and Western cultures Yes No
- (3) A round Earth which is the fixed center of the universe, as Aristotle described Yes No
- (4) An Earth which rotates around a fixed Sun, as Galileo described Yes No
- (5) An Earth which rotates around the Sun in a universe full of fixed stars, as Newton described Yes No
- (6) An Earth which rotates around the Sun, both in constant motion away from an original explosion point, in a universe whose shape is twisted by the presence of the stars, which are also moving—as described by Hubble and Einstein Yes No
- (7) An Earth and Sun and stars whose velocity and position are altered by the act of observation,

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as Heisenberg described Yes No

(8) An Earth and Sun and stars whose every observable quality, and very existence, is flowing from seeds created by how the observer has treated others in the past—as described by Je Tsongkapa Yes No

2) Briefly describe each of the kinds of “space” listed below, and state how it compares to the idea of emptiness.

(1) An expansive, open, and peaceful feeling during meditation:

(2) Space as outer space, where the stars and planets hang suspended:

(3) The space in which a cup of coffee sits:

(4) Space as the object of the direct perception of emptiness:

3) How does the image of a fountain relate to the thoughts which pass through our mind, and emptiness itself? In your answer, refer also to the Diamond Cutter Sutra.

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- 4) How does emptiness, in the sense of an absence of something, help us make our relationships with friends and partners perfect?

Coffee shop assignment: Please meet with at least one other person—or better, a group of people—whom you didn't know well before this teaching; do your homework together and discuss together any questions you have. Please write here where, when, and with whom you did your homework:

Meditation assignment: 15 minutes early in the day, and 15 minutes later in the day, bring to mind a person whom you find challenging. Consider which version of them doesn't exist at all—like an Earth which is shaped like a flat disk—and which version of them does very much exist. Then consider which of these two can make you upset.

Please write here the two times that you started these meditations (homeworks without these times will not be accepted):