

Points of View

A point of view describes the distinctive way we see things, the perspective of the world from where we stand. When we change where we stand, we have a different perspective.

Western culture and capitalism advance a self-centered point of view. We view ourselves and others as discrete objects and live within a world in which only the fittest survive. In Western culture, survival fitness depends upon having more power over others and accumulated wealth. Competition and conflict define our relationships as we struggle to gain more wealth and power.

The self-centered only concern themselves with their own needs, wants, and interests. We willingly harm others for self-benefit and ignore the suffering we cause, believing that the Earth and life solely exist for our benefit. We struggle in imagining another point of view other than our self-centered one. We assume everyone has a self-centered view.

On the sacred path, we strive to unseat our self-centered point of view as it opens to the willingness to harm others for self-benefit. We can only decenter ourselves if we have another center to move to. Rather than centering on ourselves, we center on the sacred, a center that has no circumference or central point as we find the sacred everywhere.

Centering on the sacred has the myriad points of view of every being and at the same time a unified view, the sacred view. Knowing the sacredness of all, we revere other people and all life as our sacred equals. We discover how much we have common – awareness, feelings, needs, our nature, the longing to survive – and celebrate our unique differences.

From a view on our sacred path, we see ourselves as a work-in-progress in removing our conditioned harmful views and ways. We view others as our teachers to help us deeply realize our sacredness and our innate nature. Each of us has our own sacred path in which we grow by always doing the next thing that needs to be done in ways that further life on Earth.

We have the point of view of a householder living with the people and other beings closest to us who also live within the household we share, who we might call family. From this stand, we perceive how to interact with those most dear to us in mutually beneficial ways. We perceive their suffering and act to relieve it and the causes of the suffering. We view this family, this collection of people, as a living entity itself to which we belong and for which we have responsibilities to further. We view furthering the wellbeing of family as greater than benefiting ourselves.

We have a point of view from within our sacred place of interbeing within the Earth Interbeing. Through equitably commoning the place on Earth in which we inhabit with other beings, we learn to share and care for what we have through mutually beneficial interactions. We view the furthering of our place of interbeing as greater than ourselves.

We may not overcome our self-centeredness within our lifetime and will always view ourselves as a work in progress. Thus, we remain ever vigilant for eruptions of our I-ness and keep ready a firm self-discipline, the disciplining of the self. Within the sacred path, our point of view transforms I-ness into an inclusive we-ness.

Centering on the sacred allows us to move our point of views around to give us more information on how to best align our intentions with our common values. We free ourselves from the singular point of centering on self and what benefits us. On the sacred path, we open to other points of view, such as the view of an interbeing or of someone who cultivates the spiritual growth of others. No matter what the point of view taken, we always stand on holy ground, the sacred center.

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