

# The Relative (And Emptiness)

By Kevin A. Sensenig

Draft 1.04

2019 February 18 – 2020 January 20

## Background

These are some things – the things on the relative, in the section below – that I’ve come up with in my practice of Zen; they stem from one statement in a definition to ‘emptiness’ presented in the glossary to “Manifestation Of The Tathagata” translated by Cheng Chien Bhikshu: ‘there is the relative’.

## Emptiness

The full definition of emptiness (sunyata) given was something like: “All things are impermanent, things are without self-existent nature, there is the relative, and all things are mutually caused and conditioned.”

As long as you don’t become attached to this ‘emptiness’, (or when you move past such attachment), and begin to work with it in your very mind and mind-form-being, it becomes a very dynamic and still and spacious place, a surface that is at once the dimension that is all around us and is us – infinite-place, no edge.

Space, also, is emptiness. You can move your hand in space (both space and the hand are impermanent, allowing this unfolding relational, this stillness or action; and neither hand nor space are fixed in time).

Note the interpretation of ‘impermanent’. Space is impermanent: not enforcing its presence in a time-fixed way. The Dharma, or dharmadatu, though it may be eternal, is also not fixed: it is constantly being developed in new relational (one space), and re-manifest, or re-interpreted. My cigar as I smoke it is impermanent in another sense: but in being so it allows space for something to eat or a new zazen or conversation or a view of the moon or the next cigar of a different type or experience; and what of no-birth.

“Form is none other than emptiness, emptiness none other than form.” – The Heart Sutra.

Emptiness is none other than this very form that we see before us; and form is an expression of the emptiness that is a place-expression.

Emptiness is the ‘space within’ – its very expression – that allows all this function. Emptiness is a very still place, yet at the same time in its expression is all this dynamic place that is the world – and it is clear that emptiness is its own yet identical-with thing.

The Relative (And Emptiness)

Page 1 of 2

## **The Relative**

There is the relative positioning of things. All things are in relative position to each other. Things are relative to each other.

The unfolding relative is this: things are relative to each other, and this unfolds in a continual and infinitesimal way, and includes both the integers and the real numbers.

This is related to the infinite point.

Impermanence allows the unfolding relative.

## **No-Thing**

Realize no-thing, and the space becomes clear.