

## Madhyamaka and Prajnaparamita

Madhyamaka philosophy and prajnaparamita (perfection of wisdom)

The following with reference to the ideas of Nagarjuna:

- sunyata/ sunyata (emptiness)
- two truths
- samsara and nirvana/ nibbana 7 The role of Nagarjuna in the development of these ideas
- basic details of his life and intellectual context
- his sceptical approach
- The Fundamental Wisdom of the Middle Way (Mūlamadhyamakakārikā) The importance of the Perfection of Wisdom (Prajnaparamita) Sutras,
- their context and association with Nagarjuna, shunyata, and the Bodhisattva path Different interpretations of sunyata/sunnata and what it means for all things to be empty of svabhava/sabhava (own being) The distinction between relative and ultimate truths and why recognition of this distinction is important for liberation
- whether this idea means that all teachings are ultimately worthless The claim that samsara and nirvana/nibbana should not be understood as different things The Heart Sutra:
- makes a good summary exercise and can be linked to all the above teachings
- discussion of its significance and importance to Buddhists Evaluation of these ideas in terms of:
- practical applications for Buddhists
- relationship with the teachings of Gautama

Carl Hulton, Running on Emptiness: A Layman's Take on Two Truths

<http://secularbuddhism.org/2014/04/14/running-onemptiness-a-laymans-take-on-the-two-truths/>

Thich Nhat Hanh, The Fullness of Emptiness <http://www.lionsroar.com/the-fullness-of-emptiness/>

Also many useful talks and guided meditations by him available on YouTube.

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/nagarjuna/> <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/madhyamaka/>

Harvey, P. (2012 2nd edition) An Introduction to Buddhism: Teachings, History and Practices

(Introduction to Religion), Cambridge University Press Chapter 5 Della Santina, P. (2002) Causality

and Emptiness: The Wisdom of Nagarjuna, Buddha Dharma Education Association Ltd

[http://www.buddhanet.net/pdf\\_file/nagarjuna.pdf](http://www.buddhanet.net/pdf_file/nagarjuna.pdf) Nagarjuna, Fundamental Verses on the Middle

Way, prologue; Chapter XXIV, 18 and 19 Williams, P., Mahayana Buddhism, Chapters 2 and 3