

Rendered As Juxtaposed Verse, Nagarjuna, Nishijima, Mulamadhyamakakarika, Fundamental Wisdom Of The Middle Way, ch 1 v 8, On Essential Buddhist Practice

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What follows is the verse chapter 1 verse 8 in Nagarjuna's Mulamadhyamakakarika, The Fundamental Wisdom Of The Middle Way, translated by Nishijima. I have rendered it differently than Nishijima, drawing on the Sanskrit/English he provides. It reads like the Zen Buddhist path this way, so etched and strikingly clear, yet with infinite untraceable value.

unsupported, insubstantial
analamana

exactly so! ... (and) this one, this here
evayam

sat, the thing to sit, (say, zazen)
san

many facts, things of the universe, truths, this universe manifest (as)
dharma

to point out, exhibit
upadisyate

But this is the Zen Buddhist path!

This renders differently than Nishijima's translation – and is taken from the Sanskrit he so helpfully provides, along with each word's English counterpart.

Rather than a linear read through, read a line, keep it in mind, then put the next line in mind, what it points to, etc. This then forms an etched, juxtaposed view and progression in mind, that is just the Zen path and sort of ethos!

Just so, like this: the world, or this or that, unsupported, and insubstantial... exactly so! and (yet) this one, this here thing or world or fact (the juxtaposition, so evident and concrete), insubstantial and a fact, concrete, here, this here ... by sitting zazen, ... then the many facts, things of the universe, truths, this universe manifest (as) what is before one, all this, ... to point out and exhibit this truth, reality, paradox, interesting thing that is just so! A direct, poetic, line by line statement of just this Zen space/actuality!