

Study Guide

In meditation retreats, seminars, and classes a (somewhat) predictable series of topics arise in a (slightly less) predictable sequence. I've tried to get my best stories and reflections on these topics down on paper. The result has been several books and a website.

The topics are listed below with references to my writings on each topic. If you are new to meditation or this style of practice, you may want to stick with the first one or two items on each topic to get started. Once you have an overview of all the topics, further resources offer more depth on each.

Icon Keys

After each resource you'll find one or more icons that indicate where you can find the material. Rounded icons refer to free, web-based resources. Square icons show where you can purchase the writings in print if you so choose.

If you are reading this page on the web, the icons are active links to the various resources. If you are reading this on a printed page, you can find the web page by going to www.easingawake.com/?p=StudyGuide.

More specifically, the icons for free material point to:

Web – a web page

PDF – a formatted document that can be read on-line or downloaded and printed

Vid – a YouTube video

Aud – an audio recording

The icons for purchasing printed material refer to:

BuM – *Buddha's Map: His Original Teaching on Awakening, Ease, and Insight in the Heart of Meditation*, explores the meditation path described by the Buddha including key insights, unfolding stages (or "jhānas"), and how to recognize and adapt your practice to take advantage of these stages.

BeJ – *Beginning the Journey: Initial Meditation Instructions Using the Buddha's Map* advises how to get started. The material in this booklet is also found in chapters 2 and 10 of *Buddha's Map*.

K&W – *Kindness and Wisdom Practice: A Quick Guide to Mettā Paññā Meditation* bare bones summary of the practices described in *Buddha's Map*.

MFG – *Meditator's Field Guide: Reflections on 57 Insights that Slip Away* explores the inner landscape, particularly insights that touch us to the core yet easily slip away.

Topics

Beginning Meditation Instructions

Beginning the Journey. This booklet gives the beginning instructions and how to get started. [Web](#) [PDF](#) [BeJ](#)

Buddha's Map chapters 2 and 10 provide the same materi[Web](#) [BuM](#)

Overview of the Practice and Attitude:

"Three Essential Practices." Turning toward, relaxing into, and savoring are practices and attitudes that give Buddhism its distinctive flavor. [Web](#) [MFG](#)

"How Buddhism Entered the World" is biographical sketch of the Buddha's spiritual development. [MFG](#)

"1. From Stubbornness to Ease" and "21. Buddha's Map" introduces the way I like to teach meditation and how it relates to other Buddhist styles. [Web](#) [BuM](#)

"2. Resilience." Buddhism is more about how to rebound from difficulty than how to avoid anything. [MFG](#)

"8. Be Kind, Pay Attention, and Relax: A Blue Collar Hologram." A concise summary of the Buddha's teachings. [BuM](#)

Kindness and Wisdom Practice gives a quick summary of all the practices described in *Buddha's Map*. [K&W](#)

Day 3: "Turning Toward." [Vid](#) [Aud](#)

Relating to hindrances:

"The Demon's Blessing:" an exploration of the hindrances. [Web](#) [PDF](#)

A one page handout that accompanies "The Demon's Blessing." [PDF](#)

"7. Hindrances are Your Friends." [BuM](#)

Day 2: æHindrances." [Vid](#) [Aud](#)

Meditator's Field Guide chapters 17 through 38 all relate to different aspects of the hindrances. [MFG](#)

Some of these chapters are available on-line: "24. The Trap of Getting Free," "26. Hindrances Like the Back Door," "31. Recognizing Two Species of Intentions," "33. Hindrances Want to Retire," and "37. Gifts and Vulnerabilities" are also on-line. [Web](#) [MFG](#)

"Nuisances: Blatant and Latent Hindrances." [Web](#)

Stages (Jhānas) of the Buddha's path:

Buddha's Map, Part III: Path, chapters 10 through 20 describe the stages of the Buddha's meditation practice and how they unfold. Each jhāna is described along with original text, how to recognize the jhāna, and practices that are helpful at each stage. [BuM](#) "10. Joy: the First Jhāna" is on the web. [Web](#)

Day 4: "Awareness Jhānas." [Vid](#) [Aud](#)

Dependent Origination as the core of the practice:

The Inner Landscape series:

“4. Endearing:” an overview of Dependent Origination. **(Web)** **(PDF)**

“5. Dependent Origination:” detail and implications. **(Web)** **(PDF)**

“4. Thickening the Plot: Dependent Origination” **(BuM)**

“Day 5: Dependent Origination.” **(Vid)** **(Aud)**

“13. Awareness Meters” describes some practical and powerful techniques to recognize the two most important aspects of dependent origination. **(Web)** **(MFG)**

“5. Thriving in Difficult Times” details one of the two the most important aspect of Dependent Origination. **(Web)** **(BuM)**

Selflessness and seeing the impersonal nature of all phenomena:

“6. Chameleon: Selflessness.” **(BuM)**

“5. A Vote for Kindness: No Unchanging Self,” “12. Selflessness Grows out of Self-Care,” “52. The Evolving Self.” **(Web)** **(MFG)**

“Day 6: It Ain’t Personal.” **(Vid)** **(Aud)**

Natural Glowing Awareness

“39. Candles and Flashlights.” **(MFG)**

“40. Attunement, Not Attainment.” **(Web)** **(MFG)**

“41. Whatever Arises in the Mind Is Not a Problem.” **(MFG)**

Integrating Meditation into Daily Life:

“49. Engaging Precepts Mindfully” explores the precepts as a tool for cultivating awareness rather than a rule to be punished for breaking. **(Web)** **(MFG)**

“50. Wise Acceptance and the Six Rs” explores integrating the Six Rs into everyday life. **(MFG)**

“D. Precepts” investigates precepts that are easily misunderstood and explores the original intentions behind them. **(MFG)**

“Day 8: 6 Precepts and 7Rs” brings the practice into in everyday life. **(Vid)** **(Aud)**

Glossary

“H. Glossary” Explanations of many specific Buddhist terms. **(Web)** **(MFG)**