

Emptiness of Z

When you were a child, the teacher taught you the letters of the alphabet. At first you just saw some lines. Before you were taught that those lines were 'Z', Z didn't appear to you because you hadn't yet named those lines Z. First you saw the lines and then were told they were Z Then your mind imputed Z onto those lines. First you see the base, then give the label. This is the only way that there can be a Z. Before seeing the lines there's nothing to call Z The first line isn't Z. The 2nd line isn't Z. All the lines together aren't Z. The lines are just the basis of imputation. Once you're told they are 'Z' your mind sees Z and believes it. Z is merely labeled by your mind onto the lines and then you believe those lines are definitely Z. But Z is created by your mind. The next time Z appears to you, you should realize it's imputed by your mind but it appears back as *not* being labeled, but as existing independently, as a real Z and you believe it's really Z. But such an interpedently existing Z does not exist- at all!

First you see the base, then give the label. Then you believe the base is the label, that they are one thing. The object doesn't appear as something that's merely labeled by mind but it appears to the hallucinated mind as a Z existing from its own side.

Before seeing the lines there's nothing to call Z. Seeing the lines is the cause of saying Z. You have to see something first. But your false notion is that the label itself *is* the base! The hallucination according to Prasangika is that the Z is findable on those lines. But Z isn't in the lines, it isn't the lines and it's not on the paper. It exists but is merely labeled by mind. It exists because there's the base.

It's the same for all objects appearing to you but they appear as being not labeled by mind and all are objects to be refuted.

So where is the real Z? Is it this line? Or that line? None of the lines are Z. Also Z isn't all the lines because they're simply the basis of imputation. The lines aren't separate from the Z but they're different from the Z. The lines aren't Z. You can't find a real Z anywhere.

It exist but you can't find it in the lines. But because the lines are there, Z is imputed onto the lines. Even the merely labeled Z can't be found in the lines.