

Clarifying the distinction between cognition and intuition, with copious examples, Sunnie and Jim Kidd offer this work as a guide to the mystical quest and therewith to wholesome living—life of wisdom, peace and joy. They correctly point out that while the Western tradition emphasizes object-consciousness, the Eastern traditions emphasize act consciousness.

Accordingly, the Western tradition is concerned with the study of objects of consciousness, whereas the Eastern traditions are concerned with attaining ultimate reality by transcending the perceptual-conceptual mode of our being. Thus it would seem that there is a conflict between the pursuits of the Western and Eastern traditions. Sunnie and Jim Kidd go on to show how to overcome this conflict by recognizing what they call “Inbetweenness.”

What is Inbetweenness? Simply put, Inbetweenness is the interconnectedness of all beings (existents); thus, contrary to the widespread but uncritical belief that the world consists of isolated and self-existing entities—Aristotelian substances—the world is weblike, with everything ineluctably connected with everything else. This interconnectedness is at the heart of the Buddha’s doctrine of dependent origination as well as the Upanisadic teaching of the common rootedness of all existents in Brahman (Atman). Thus for the pragmatic purposes of dealing with the world of our senses and intellect, we need to recognize objects and study them from perceptual-conceptual frameworks. The truths generated thereby are conventional truths. However, ultimate reality cannot be attained through any frameworks; it can only be attained by transcending all percepts and concepts—in short, all frameworks.

Realizing that Inbetweenness has profound consequences to our lives, Sunnie and Jim Kidd insightfully and lucidly discuss these consequences through the concepts of Openness, Reaching Out, Interflowing Spirit, Resonantial Harmony and Intuitive Understanding. Realization of Inbetweenness is the realization that the world is an indivisible whole that enables one to live harmoniously with others and with oneself.

Avoiding the peculiarities of academic expressions, which only serve to confuse and bewilder the reader, Sunnie and Jim Kidd write with clarity, simplicity and elegance, in a manner that is easily accessible to any intelligent and inquiring reader. A most distinguishing feature of this work is the use of everyday-experiences, such as taking a walk in a park, to introduce and explicate concepts of great depth and significance, necessary to grasp Inbetweenness. Sunnie and Jim Kidd richly deserve to be congratulated for offering a most inspiring work to heal the world riddled with hate, crime and violence. I have no doubt that this book will have a profound and transforming effect on its readers.

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