

Reading Questions for October 6

These questions cover excerpts from two different sources. The first is selections from a book by Stephen Macedo and Susan Wolf called *Meaning in Life and Why It Matters*. The second is a chapter from a book by Damien Keown called *Buddhism: A Very Short Introduction*. The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

This week, we're looking at 4 different views regarding the meaning of life. Today we'll start by looking at a view by Susan Wolf and then move to look at a Buddhist view.

*Questions:*

1. On page xii, Macedo very briefly describes Wolf's view. If you skip ahead to pages 8-10, you'll find a place where Wolf herself describes her view a little more fully. It has three crucial elements. What are they? Is the view plausible? Why or why not?
2. What do Buddhists mean by the first noble truth – the truth of suffering? (See pages 48-51). Do you find this idea plausible? Why or why not?
3. What do Buddhists mean by the second noble truth – the truth of arising? (See pages 51-54). Do you find this idea plausible? Why or why not?
4. What do Buddhists mean by the third noble truth – the truth of cessation? (See pages 54-54). Do you find this idea plausible? Why or why not?