

Hello Everyone and Welcome to the Living Dharma Centre Virtual Book/Study Club!

The book that we have chosen for this first session, "Call of the Infinite", is a short little book so we will have lots of time to read slowly and to ponder our responses. Discussion is through subscribed email from Barb MacCarl ( [bm.livingdharmacentre@gmail.com](mailto:bm.livingdharmacentre@gmail.com) ). Please try to respond with your thoughts by the discussion dates given and we will all benefit by reading each other's responses. If there are specific questions to someone, about something that is written by someone, if you are comfortable about it, please "Reply to All" so (once again) we can all benefit.

Also, please remember that this is the first year of this program and if you see how it could be streamlined or improved, please let us know! It is not too late to join us by signing up with Barb at: **[bm.livingdharmacentre@gmail.com](mailto:bm.livingdharmacentre@gmail.com)**

It is with a great sense of gratitude (and privilege) to be able to have this opportunity to connect, share and learn with all of our Dharma Friends. We hope that you find this an enriching experience and one that strengthens your understanding of the Dharma....that wonderful Jewel of Light.

Gassho,

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Discussion Dates:

Chapter One - Oct. 14  
Chapter Two - Oct. 28  
Chapter Three - Nov. 18 (slightly longer due to Nov. long weekend)  
Chapter Four - Dec. 2

Below are the questions to consider as you read the first chapter:

### **CHAPTER ONE**

- What does the fact of suffering in our lives tell us about ourselves as human beings?
- Is there a spiritual dimension to our experience of suffering?
- What can we conclude about life in light of our deepest longings and aspirations?
- In "The Essence of Buddhism" by D.T. Suzuki Lecture One he states: "our daily experience acquires its true significance by being related to the spiritual order of existence, and that so long as we are not in touch with this order, what we conceive to be real is not at all real, as it cannot then have any more reality than a merely dreamy existence: it is only when the spiritual world impresses itself in a lively manner upon this world that the latter obtains a new value, making our life worth something....For the spiritual world is not other than the sense-world and the sense-world is no other than the spirit-world. There is one completely whole world". In light of these comments and what you have read, which to you seems more real, the spirit world or sense world? Are they separate from each other or one and the same?

- Is it possible to speak of different kinds of truth? What distinguishes the notion of spiritual truth from other insights we have about the everyday world? Why might spiritual truth be considered more reliable as a guide to living our lives compared to truths about secular life?