



Name:

Date:

Grade:

Homework, Class One

1) Give the Sanskrit and Tibetan names for the *Diamond-Cutter Sutra*. (Tibetan track give Tibetan in Tibetan; English track give Tibetan in phonetics.)

2) Explain the three meanings of the word "diamond" in the title.

a)

b)

c)

3) Why is it important to include the original word "cutter" in the title?

4) Describe the object we deny when we speak of "emptiness." (Tibetan track give the Tibetan word for "object we deny.")

5) Name the four bodies of a Buddha, and describe each one briefly. (Tibetan track name in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

6) Name the three elements of the act of giving, and what it means "not to see" them. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

Meditation assignment: 15 minutes per day, analytical meditation on the object that we deny when we speak of "emptiness".

Meditation dates and times (must be filled in, or homework will not be accepted):



Name:

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Homework, Class Two

1) Name and describe the principle most important in reaching an intellectual understanding of emptiness at the path of preparation. (Tibetan track name in Tibetan, explain in English.)

2) Give the name of the state of mind following the direct perception of emptiness at the path of seeing, and list the four objects understood at this point. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

name:

a)

b)

c)

d)

3) Give at least two actual examples of the four objects listed in question two.

a)

b)

c)

d)

4) Did the Buddha, in his former life, feel pain as his limbs were slowly cut off by the king of Kalinga, and he understood the emptiness of the three elements? Explain in some detail.

5) Why didn't he feel any hatred at that moment?

6) Why do things change, and why do some things in our world cause other things? (For example, why does medicine always work; or why are some investment strategies always successful?)

7) Explain why the viewpoint expressed by Hwashang and others, that morality is unnecessary because things are empty, is totally mistaken.

Meditation assignment: 15 minutes per day, analytical meditation on how—because things are empty—we must then be moral.

Meditation dates and times (must be filled in, or homework will not be accepted):



Name:

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Grade:

Homework, Class Three

1) Name the principal commentary that we will be using for our study of the vows of the bodhisattva; give the author's full name and dates. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

2) Give the short definition of bodhichitta taught by Maitreya. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

3) Describe Je Tsongkapa's reaction to the idea that practitioners of the secret way do not need to follow the other two sets of vows.

4) Describe the kind of person who can grant the vows of a bodhisattva.

5) Describe the kind of person who can take the vows of the bodhisattva.

6) List the first nine root downfalls of the bodhisattva vows, using the short verse forms. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(6)

(7)

(8)

(9)

7) List the 10th through the 18th root downfalls of the bodhisattva vows, using the short verse forms. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

(10)

(11)

(12)

(13)

(14)

(15)

(16)

(17)

(18)

8) Describe the result which is required for the 11th root downfall to occur.

9) Describe how the 13th root downfall is committed.

10) The 18th root downfall, and one other before it, are particularly serious and occur whether or not the four mental afflictions called the "chains" are all present. Name this other root downfall and describe it briefly. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

Meditation assignment: Analytical meditation, 15 minutes per day on the first four root downfalls, checking how close you have come to committing each during the last 24 hours.

Meditation dates and times (must be filled in, or homework will not be accepted):



Name:
Date:
Grade:

Homework, Class Four

1) Name the four "chains": the four mental afflictions that bind you, and which must all be present in order for a "major" instance of these afflictions to occur--which destroys one's root vow. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

2) Why is it wrong to be overly comforted by the fact that, if you destroy a root vow, you can take it over again?

3) Name three different ways that a person can lose his or her bodhisattva vows.

a)

b)

c)

4) Describe the kind of person you must be to break one of the rules of body and speech out of compassion, in certain very extraordinary circumstances.

5) Name the four points of the practice of virtue. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

6) Explain what the Protector, Maitreya, advises we should do if we find that some Buddhist teaching doesn't suit us for now.

7) Name the four white deeds, and for each explain the black deed for which it acts as an antidote. (Tibetan track name white deeds in Tibetan and explain the black deeds in English.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

8) Describe the five steps involved in keeping the bodhisattva vows well.

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

9) Can a person break a secondary vow out of mere forgetfulness, or does the motivation have to be one of the mental afflictions?

10) Name the four typical causes why a person might break their bodhisattva vows. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

11) Name the four antidotes for these four causes. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

Meditation assignment: Analytical meditation, 15 minutes per day, on the four causes that can make a person break the vows, and their antidotes.

Meditation dates and times (must be filled in, or homework will not be accepted):



Name:

Date:

Grade:

Homework, Class Five

1) Give the name of the principal text we will be using for our study of the realms of existence, along with the name of its author, and his approximate dates. (Tibetan track answer in Tibetan and Sanskrit.)

2) Explain how the desire realm can be divided into twenty different parts. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

3) What is the nature of the “desire” in the expression “desire realm”?

4) According to the highest school of Buddhism, what ultimately causes each of the different realms and types of birth?

5) Name the one general cause, and then the three specific causes that can lead us to a birth as a craving spirit. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

6) Name one general cause, and then two specific causes, for birth as an animal.

7) Name and describe briefly the six kinds of suffering that we must undergo. (Tibetan track name in Tibetan and describe in English.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

8) The existence of intermediate beings is also proven by statements of the Buddha. Describe the three conditions under which, according to the Buddha, a child will form in the mother's womb. (Tibetan track answer in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

9) How does an intermediate being enter the state of a human womb birth?

Meditation assignment: 15 minutes per day, memorize the six sufferings, and review specific instances of them in your life.

Meditation dates and times (must be filled in, or homework will not be accepted):



Name:

Date:

Grade:

Homework, Class Six

1) Name the four different kinds of sustenance, and give examples of each. (Tibetan track name the four in Tibetan, and explain in English.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

2) What is the function of these types of sustenance?

3) Name and describe the eight hot hells. (Tibetan track name in Tibetan, describe in English.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

4) What is the length of time that a person must accumulate the collections of merit and wisdom to become a Buddha? (Tibetan track in Tibetan, from the root text.)

5) Describe the periods during which Buddhas appear in the world.

6) Name the four steps in the contemplation of death. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

7) Describe the awareness of death which is not the one which we seek to develop through meditation.

8) Describe the awareness of death which is the one which we seek to develop through meditation.

9) Name the three reasons behind the second principle of death meditation: contemplating that there is no certainty when we will die. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

10) State the three resolutions that we should make after understanding the nine reasons for the three principles.

a)

b)

c)

Meditation assignment: Fifteen minutes per day, meditate upon the day you will become a Buddha.

Meditation dates and times (must be filled in, or homework will not be accepted):



Name:

Date:

Grade:

Homework, Class Seven

1) Give the Sanskrit and Tibetan words for Buddhist discipline, and explain the literal meaning of the term. (Tibetan track answer all in Tibetan.)

2) Describe the relationship between Buddhist discipline, and Lord Buddha and his teachings.

3) Explain the role of the extraordinary training of an ethical way of life in the development of the other two extraordinary trainings, especially as explained by Je Tsongkapa in his *Epistle on Ethics*.

4) Name the early Sanskrit commentary which forms the basis for the study of Buddhist discipline in Tibetan monasteries; give also the author, and his approximate date. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

5) Describe the motivation with which one should engage in a study of Buddhist discipline.

6) In the opening lines of his text, Je Tsongkapa mentions that the vows of individual freedom constitute the subject matter of the scriptures on Buddhist discipline. Explain why these vows are given this name. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

7) Name the six categories by which Je Tsongkapa explains the vows of individual freedom. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

8) Give a general description of the vows of individual freedom by quoting directly the relevant two and a half lines of Je Tsongkapa's root text.

9) Name the five rules, and one additional part, of the lifetime layperson's vow. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

Meditation assignment: Review daily with an analytical meditation the five vows and one additional part of the layperson's lifetime vow. See how close you might have come to committing any of these in the last 24 hours, and then also rejoice in how far away you might have acted (for example, by protecting life).

Meditation dates and times (*must be filled in, or homework will not be accepted*):



Name:
Date:
Grade:

Homework, Class Eight

1) Name five things which can cause any of the vows of individual freedom to be lost. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

2) Describe the two results of keeping these vows. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

3) Name the two "consistent" consequences for each of the ten non-virtues, following the *Sutra on the Ten Levels* and similar works.

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(6)

(7)

(8)

(9)

(10)

4) Describe the "environmental" consequence of performing each of the ten.

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(6)

(7)

(8)

(9)

(10)

5) Name and explain briefly the four special qualities of the teachings on the steps to enlightenment. (Tibetan track name in Tibetan and describe in English.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

6) Finding a proper relationship with one's Lama is considered the foundation of the entire Buddhist path. Name and describe briefly the ten qualities of a qualified Lama, from the classic source—the *Ornament of the Sutras*. (Tibetan track name in Tibetan and describe in English.)

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(6)

(7)

(8)

(9)

(10)

Meditation assignment: 15 minutes per day, analytical meditation on why taking and keeping the vows of individual freedom is related to achieving nirvana and Buddhahood.

Meditation dates and times (must be filled in, or homework will not be accepted):



Name:

Date:

Grade:

Homework, Class Nine

1) Name the root text we will be using in our study of the bodhisattva's way of life, its author, and his approximate dates. (Tibetan track in Tibetan)

2) Describe briefly the event in Master Shantideva's life which taught the monks of Nalanda Monastery that they should never judge a person from his or her outward appearance. (Tibetan track also give in Tibetan the name which was given to this master by certain misguided people.)

3) Name the ten chapters of the *Guide*. (Tibetan track in Tibetan)

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(6)

(7)

(8)

(9)

(10)

4) Name and describe first five metaphors used to describe the benefits of the wish for enlightenment.

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

5) Explain why nothing less than this precious wish could ever transform your entire world and your very being into something totally pure and enlightened.

6) Name and describe the highest objects of the practice of making offerings.

7) Describe briefly why the act of taking refuge can actually protect you.

8) Name three important reasons why we should make great efforts in the practice of purifying ourselves through all four of the forces, together. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

9) Name three different levels of virtue in which we can rejoice.

a)

b)

c)

10) Name and describe the opposite of rejoicing.

11) Name and describe four kinds of dedication, and then describe what it is we are dedicating.

a)

b)

c)

d)

What we are dedicating:

12) What are we wishing for when we make dedication?

Meditation assignment: For 15 minutes a day in meditation, practice imagining the moment in the future when you yourself experience, directly, the true wish for enlightenment (bodhichitta): a physical sensation of a shaft of clear light coming out of your chest, going out and reaching every living being, to help them; and knowing that you will spend every moment of the rest of your life serving others, especially in the highest ways (in learning the Dharma).

Meditation dates and times (must be filled in, or homework will not be accepted):



Name:
Date:
Grade:

Homework, Class Ten

1) Describe four things that uplift our hearts as we first gain the two forms of the wish. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

2) Name five ways in which the wish has the power to remove the sufferings of living beings. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

- 3) *How* is it that the wish can remove these sufferings in every living being?
- 4) Name four different steps in the process of considering how the mental afflictions hurt us.
- a)
 - b)
 - c)
 - d)
- 5) Give the short version of the standard definition of a mental affliction. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)
- 6) Name the six primary mental afflictions. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)
- a)
 - b)
 - c)
 - d)
 - e)
 - f)
- 7) What does Gyaltsab Je have to say about the idea that a strong love for the Path, and hatred for your mental afflictions, are mental afflictions themselves?

8) Why is it important that the continued existence of the mental afflictions depends on a misperception?

9) Does the perfection of giving depend on its external perfection? Why or why not?

10) Explain the reasoning behind the ordering of the six perfections. (Tibetan track mention the six in Tibetan also.)

11) Name three principles in the practice of attracting other persons to the Dharma through material giving. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

Meditation assignment: 15 minutes per day, contemplating whether the perfection of giving does or does not depend upon its external perfection.

Meditation dates and times (must be filled in, or homework will not be accepted):