



Name:

Date:

Grade:

*Homework, Class One*

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) Summaries of the precepts contained in the three sets of vows are a standard type of book in Tibetan monasteries. Name the summary we will use, its author and his approximate dates. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

3) Ultimately, all the bodhisattva vows come from the Perfection of Wisdom sutras. In their early organized form, the vows are found in a number of different sources. Name four early authors and their dates, and then state which of the vows can be found in their works. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

4) Give the short definition of bodhichitta taught by Maitreya.

5) Name the two basic types of bodhichitta. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

6) Name and describe three sufferings, and explain their cause. (Tibetan track name in Tibetan and describe in English.)

a)

b)

c)

7) Describe the relationship between renunciation and bodhichitta.

8) Explain briefly the meaning of the lines in Je Tsongkapa's *Three Principal Paths* where beings are described as locked in a steel cage swept along a powerful river.

*Meditation assignment: 15 minutes per day, analytical meditation on the two-fold division of suffering.*

*Meditation dates and times (homework without these will not be accepted):*



Name:
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*Homework, Class Two*

1) Name the three different sets of vows. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

2) Name and describe the three different types of morality. (Tibetan track name in Tibetan and describe in English.)

a)

b)

c)

3) Name and describe the four wonderful qualities of the bodhisattva vows. (Tibetan track name in Tibetan and describe in English.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

4) Give the two divisions of the bodhisattva vows, and explain one reason why they are only two. (Tibetan track give divisions in Tibetan and explain reason in English.)

a)

b)

5) Name the seven types of individual freedom vows and explain their relationship to the bodhisattva vows.

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

6) 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.

*Meditation assignment:* 15 minutes per day, analytical meditation on the relation between the three sets of vows.

*Meditation dates and times (homework without these will not be accepted):*



Name:
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*Homework, Class Three*

1) Some texts say that, when we take bodhisattva vows, we should do so in two separate steps: that we should first attend a ceremony where we commit ourselves to the wish for enlightenment in the form of a prayer (that is, promise to *think* like a bodhisattva), and then later a second ceremony where we commit ourselves to the wish in the form of action (promising to *act* like a bodhisattva by keeping the actual 64 vows and other commitments). Explain why Je Tsongkapa accepts this view.

2) List the three main stages in the ceremony for taking the vows. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

3) Give the five parts to the preparation stage, and describe each one briefly. (Tibetan track name in Tibetan and describe in English.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

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) Describe the four steps to the concluding stages of the ceremony for taking the bodhisattva vows.

a)

b)

c)

d)

*Meditation assignment:* 15 minutes per day, visualize yourself taking the vows; review mentally the proper outer steps, and the proper inner motivation.

*Meditation dates and times (homework without these will not be accepted):*



Name:
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*Homework, Class Four*

1) 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)

2) In the original texts, the "root downfalls" are also referred to as "defeats." Explain the sense of each of these terms. (Tibetan track give the two terms in Tibetan and explain in English.)

a)

b)

3) List the two parts of each of the first four root downfalls. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

(1) a)

b)

(2) a)

b)

(3) a)

b)

(4) a)

b)

4) Why are these four downfalls not made into eight separate downfalls?

5) Explain the two possible motivations behind breaking the first root vow. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

6) Explain the two aspects of the person who is the object of the second root downfall.

a)

b)



7) Explain the difference in the objects of the fourth and the sixth root downfalls.

8) Explain the forms of the seventh root downfall. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

9) Name the five possible forms of the eighth root downfall. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

10) Explain two typical types of the ninth root downfall.

*Meditation assignment:* Analytical meditation, 15 minutes per day on the root downfalls covered so far, checking how close you have come to committing each, and also checking what is the farthest you have stayed away from them during the last 24 hours. Rotate between them if there is not enough time to check thoroughly during one meditation session.

*Meditation dates and times (homework without these will not be accepted):*



Name:

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*Homework, Class Five*

1) 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)

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

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

4) Describe the difference between the 14th root downfall and the 6th.

5) Describe the "missing vow" between root vows 14 and 15. Then tell why it is not counted as a separate vow.

6) Explain the difference between the 16th and the 5th root downfalls.

7) When root downfall 17 is committed, three different parties are involved, and one of them collects the bad deed. Name the three, and tell which one collects the deed. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

8) 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 root downfalls covered in this lesson—checking what is the farthest you have come to committing each, and also checking what is the farthest you have stayed away from them during the last 24 hours. Rotate between them if there is not enough time to check thoroughly during one meditation session.

*Meditation dates and times (homework without these will not be accepted):*



Name:

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*Homework, Class Six*

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) Describe the difference between shame and consideration. (Tibetan track name in Tibetan and describe in English.)

3) Describe the "medium" and "lesser" instances of the chains.

a)

b)

4) Explain how one restores one's vows in each of the three instances.

a)

b)

c)

5) Name and describe briefly the four antidote forces. (Tibetan track name in Tibetan and describe in English.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

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

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

a)

b)

c)

*Meditation assignment:* Analytical meditation, 15 minutes per day, on the four chains, and how close you have come in the last 24 hours to having them in your mind.

*Meditation dates and times (homework without these will not be accepted):*



Name:

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*Homework, Class Seven*

1) Name five instances in which you do not commit a secondary offense if you fail to reply to a question.

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

2) There are two broad divisions of motivation behind committing an offense. Name them and give two examples of each. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

3) Generally, bad deeds are divided into those which are natural and those which are proscribed; that is, something the Buddha found necessary to prohibit because of some unpleasant incident. Name and describe the two types of proscribed misdeeds. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

4) Should a bodhisattva keep those two types exactly as a follower of the lower way does?

5) 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.

6) Name and describe the five kinds of wrong livelihood taught in the *String of Precious Jewels*, and then describe the additional general kind of wrong livelihood mentioned by Master Bodhibhadra. (Tibetan track name the five in Tibetan and describe all in English.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

*Master Bodhibhadra:*

7) Explain what the sutras really mean when they say that a bodhisattva "prefers the circle of suffering life to nirvana."

*Meditation assignment:* Analytical meditation, 15 minutes per day, on the first 16 secondary offences, and how close you have come to each of them in the past 24 hours. If necessary rotate between them in different sessions.

*Meditation dates and times (homework without these will not be accepted):*



Name:

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*Homework, Class Eight*

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

a)

b)

c)

d)

2) Name the five obstacles to meditation and describe them briefly. (Tibetan track name in Tibetan and describe in English.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)



3) Describe the kind of bodhisattva who can engage in serious study of hinayana and non-Buddhist teachings without breaking a bodhisattva vow.

4) Describe the four ways in which a person may make the mistake of rejecting a mahayana teaching.

a)

b)

c)

d)

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

*Meditation assignment:* Analytical meditation, 15 minutes per day, on the 17th to the 34th secondary offences, and how close you have come to each of them in the past 24 hours. If necessary rotate between them in different sessions.

*Meditation dates and times (homework without these will not be accepted):*



Name:
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*Homework, Class Nine*

1) Name four of the situations in which a bodhisattva is required to assist someone in need.

a)

b)

c)

d)

2) Name the "two states of mind" and "the other two states of mind" that often occur as motivations for committing the secondary offenses. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

3) Name any four of the nine additional offenses which act against the wish for enlightenment in the form of a prayer; that is, which act against *thinking* like a bodhisattva.

a)

b)

c)

d)

4) 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, explain the black deed in English.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

*Meditation assignment:* Analytical meditation, 15 minutes per day, on the 35th to 46th secondary offenses, and how close you have come to each of them in the past 24 hours. If necessary rotate between them in different sessions.

*Meditation dates and times (homework without these will not be accepted):*



Name:
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*Homework, Class Ten*

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

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

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

3) Name and explain five distinctions that can determine whether a serious downfall has been committed. (Tibetan track name in Tibetan.)

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

4) Name the four typical causes why a person might break their bodhisattva vows.

a)

b)

c)

d)

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

a)

b)

c)

d)

6) Name the ultimate benefit, and the five temporal benefits, of keeping the bodhisattva vows.

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

*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 (homework without these will not be accepted):*