

mandel

เพาตุดิ สิ้พ ฏิพ อูสพ จิร พิ รัสา รามูพ

sashi pukyi jukshing metok tram,

าราราสีรารดิ 3.สีญารสูง เกรา

rirab lingshi nyinde gyenpa di,

เพรพาสูพาติรารูารมิยาพาริารุฐณากรามสิบ

sangye shingdu mikte ulwar gyi,

१२र्चेग्गुब:इरु:न्य:बिन:य:ह्येन:यन: वेया ॥

drokun namdak shingla chupar shok.

เดิ้ำร้าญารูารฐามฐาณฑ้าสิรูารานามิไ

Idam guru ratna mandalakam niryatayami.

Offering the Mandala

Here is the great Earth, Filled with the smell of incense, Covered with a blanket of flowers,

The Great Mountain, The Four Continents, Wearing a jewel Of the Sun, and Moon.

In my mind I make them The Paradise of a Buddha, And offer it all to You.

By this deed May every living being Experience The Pure World.

Idam guru ratna mandalakam niryatayami.



kyabdro semkye

sangye chudang tsokyi choknam la,

ไป๊ะ.ชึน.นะ.บ๊.นะนะนะเม็นจะเม็นจะเม็นจะเม็น

jangchub bardu dakni kyabsu chi,

าวาทาทิพาฐิสาพักพาวฏิพานวิเวพัวาสมพาฏิพา

dakki jinsok gyipay sunam kyi,

१२र्वे.ज.सर्द.हुर.जटश.मुग्र.दर्यीय.तर्य. ११

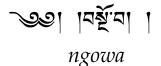
drola penchir sangye druppar shok.

Refuge and The Wish

I go for refuge To the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha Until I achieve enlightenment.

By the power Of the goodness that I do In giving and the rest,

May I reach Buddhahood For the sake Of every living being.



ٳ٢ؚٵٜٛ؆؆٢

gewa diyi kyewo kun,

ารพัร สุมพาพิ เวิพาส์ โทพาย์ โกพา เวิรา

sunam yeshe tsok-dzok shing,

ารสัราสุมสาพิเวิสาณสาฏุรารสิ

sunam yeshe lejung way,

निश्रायाञ्जू याहेशावर्ष्ठेयायरा र्वेया 11

dampa kunyi topar shok.

Dedication of the Goodness of a Deed

By the goodness Of what I have just done May all beings

Complete the collection Of merit and wisdom,

And thus gain the two Ultimate bodies That merit and wisdom make.



าสิุ้สานาสูามิราพรพาสูพาริสานีาธิา

tonpa lame sanggye rinpoche,

kyoppa lame damchu rinpoche,



drenpa lame gendun rinpoche,



kyabne konchok sumla chupa bul.

A Buddhist Grace

I offer this To the Teacher Higher than any other, The precious Buddha.

I offer this To the protection Higher than any other, The precious Dharma.

I offer this To the guides Higher than any other, The precious Sangha.

I offer this To the places of refuge, To the Three Jewels, Rare and supreme.



INSTITUTE

The Asian Classics Institute Practice V: Death and the End of Death

Syllabus

Reading One

- Subject: What is death meditation, and why do we need it?
- Reading: From *The Great Book on the Steps to Enlightenment (Lam-rim chen-mo)* of Je Tsongkapa (1357-1419).

Reading Two

Subject: Death is certain

Reading: From *The Great Book*.

Reading Three

Subject: The time of death is uncertain; and what to do when it comes

Reading: From *The Great Book;* along with *What a Buddhist Should Do When a Person is Dying,* by Khen Rinpoche Geshe Lobsang Tharchin.

Reading Four

Subject: The Exchange, the best thing to do if you're going to die tonight

Reading: Selections from *A Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life,* by Master Shantideva (c. 700 AD).

Reading Five

- Subject: The end of death
- Reading: Selections from *A Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life*, by Master Shantideva (c. 700 AD), and the *Overview of the Middle Way*, composed by Master Kedrup Tenpa Dargye (1493-1568).

The Asian Classics Institute Practice V: Death and the End of Death

Reading One: What is death meditation, and why do we need it?

The following reading taken from *The Great Book on the Steps to Enlightenment* (*Lam-rim chen-mo*) of Je Tsongkapa (1357-1419).

I Contemplating Of the Problems of Not Meditating on Death

155.म.ज.मही	ঽ ৾ঌ [ৢ] য়ৼ৾৾য়	าวสัญญานณ์	•
<i>ণ্ডিম</i> 'ন্মীমামা	าสิ์ุ่มานฉิายสาย	ৰ্মনা বক্ট'ন	•
<u> </u>	૬ લેગ ન્સ્નુેન ના	৫ক্ট'ন'র্ব্ব'শ	•
વર્ક્સેસ'યવે હુંવા	. –		

There are four steps to the contemplation of death.

These are:

Considering the problems of not meditating on death. Considering the benefits of meditating on death. Identifying just what kind of death awareness we seek to develop. How to meditate and develop this awareness of death.

Here is the first of the four. Above we spoke of getting the very essence out of this life, where now you have a whole range of spiritual opportunities. The one thing that could damage your ability to do so, from the very beginning, is the first of what we call the "four misconceptions." This is the misconception where you grasp to impermanent things as being permanent.

There are two versions to this wrong idea. One is more subtle, and one is more gross. The one that could damage your practice is the grosser one, where you look upon your own impermanence, your own mortality, and imagine for some reason that you are *not* going to die.

Now it is true that in your life up to now you have had some awareness that eventually you would have to die. Everybody has this kind of death awareness.

But at the same time you tend to be of the opinion that you won't die, because with every day that passes you say to yourself, "It won't be today, today is not the day that I will die." And you keep this attitude all the way up to the moment of your death.

Suppose you let this kind of attitude go on, suppose you fail to apply the spiritual antidotes that would stop these sorts of thoughts. The thoughts then create a kind of spiritual blindness: you begin to get the idea that you are going to be able to stay here in this life, and then you start to obsess on this life. All you can concentrate on then is how to get what you want, and how to escape what you don't want, in this life. Your life becomes, "Today I need this, and this, and next this."

This living in the present prevents you from ever examining the greater goals of life: things like happiness in your future life, or nirvana, or enlightenment itself. This, in turn, blocks you from any desire to enter the Dharma

าสูาณ ซิลานารุราจผมานารุราจสู้มานาจัญญา ૡૡૢਗ਼ૣૣૹૻૻ૾૽ઌૢૻઽૻ૾૾ૢૼૡઽ૾ૺૡૻૻ૾૾ૼૼૹૼૹૻ૽ૹ૽૾ૼ૱૱ รุสาวชิวฐพาพยูาสูราติรา ราพราติพาฐัรา र्श्वेमा सुर- ५८- २ द्वे या मर- २ दु मा मशार दा र द्वे दि. શું ૧૮ અ વર્ડે શ્વ ત્વાં તેનું તેનું

And then even if—by some remote chance you do engage in spiritual activities like learning, contemplation, or meditation, they all become something you are doing only for this life. Whatever good deeds you do this way are of very little strength. Typically they are connected with some bad deed, some breaking of morality or transgression of a vow. In fact it is quite unusual to find any good deeds of this kind that are not interlaced with the very causes that would take you to one of the births of misery.

୲୕ୣ୵୲୵୲ୖୄୠ୲୵ୖୠୄ୶ୄୖୢଌ୲୕ୖୖ୷୲ୖ୷୲୵ୠୖ୶୲ୡ୲୶ୡୄ୶୲୷ୄୢୢୡୣ୷ <u> 5.ชินเมิรา</u> สิพาชพารพาฏิพานสีนาวุ. สูสามาระวิสิมิวิสารมาระา นองารระาง য়৾য়৻য়৾য়৾য়য়৾৾য়৸ড়৾৾য়৾য়৾য়ৼ৾য়য়৾য়য় નર્ફેં તુ પ જે તુ પે શ જ ભા ન લે તુ ન ન સુવ પ જો તે દ ž.

Suppose even that you do decide to do something for your future life. Without this awareness of death you will find yourself unable to stop the kind of laziness where you put your practice off, where you say to yourself, "I'll get to it later, I'll do all these things eventually, one at a time." You begin to pass the time of your life with all kinds of distractions: with sleep, or lazing around, or wasted talk, or food or drink, or the like. You won't be able to reach a point where the practice that you do has any great energy behind it, where your practice is as it should be.

This kind of hope that you will be able to live for a long time deceives you. You start to have strong attachment to gain, to being honored by other people, and the like. You begin to feel a strong dislike for anything that prevents you, or anything that prevents you, or anything that you think might prevent you, from having these things. There grows in you a dark ignorance that cannot understand the problems these thoughts then give you.

All this brings you a steady torrent of mental afflictions, strong ones, and the many different varieties of them, major and minor: pride, and jealousy, and all the rest.

*¬*ฐ-ๅ-ๅ-พสสมมามิ-ๅ-๚-ๅ-ๅ-ๅ-รุณานณิ สัญาฐ์ราวาณาพัญญานามารุญาวณิ ૡઽૣ૽ૺ૱ૡૻૻૠઙ૽ૢૻૺઽૺૡૻૡૻૻૡૻૹૢૻૡૢ૿ૡૻૡૼૻૢૡૻૢૡૻૻ૱૱૱ૹ અ[·]રે[·]રે[·]વલે્ે્રદે[∙]ક્યુચ્ચ્યું[·]વ્યું[·]વ્યુ

These afflictions in turn lead to harmful deeds that you commit in your acts, your words, and your thoughts: deeds like the ten non-virtues, and the five "immediate" deeds, and the five that are close to these, and giving up the highest Dharma, and on and on. Every single day then deeds like these, deeds of tremendous power, capable of leading you to the tremendous sufferings of the three lower realms and the like, will tend to increase, further and further.

The antidote for all these deeds is the nectar of the Dharma, spoken so trueand the further you turn from it then the more tightly you strangle your chances for the higher realms, and ultimate good. Death will rip away your life, and the wrong deeds you have done will drag you to the lower realms, to a fearful place of mighty and savage suffering, to the fires. And so I ask you, where could you find any thought more disastrous for you than this idea, that what is impermanent could ever be permanent?

न्रविन्त्रमुः सः त्यरुः गुम् नम् त्या रहेना हेतुः ฑพูพาพรณารุก ระเชิราณิ เกรายุว่า र्ये सेना । येन् ने सा स्वा पति ने सा सिन र ये मा सा าวิณพาพารูรพายุตสาชิาพัรา เชิง শশুনঝান্যা

On this point the *Four Hundred* concurs:

What could be more a disaster than someone Who with no other Lord of Death to kill him Ends up being this Lord of Three Realms For himself, asleep as if all were well?

[The "Lord of the Three Realms" is the Lord of Death; he has total control over all living things except those who are travelling on the path of the realized, those who have seen emptiness directly. If we could reach this path we would have a chance to reach deathlessness, but instead we lazily act as if everything were all right, and end up inviting Lord Death, who would otherwise have to pass us by.]

รู้ราวธุญาณญายา รมมางราวัราริเอา รทั้งเนา เกรณฑิลเริเลาเพเดิงเลงเ เพยลารรามิเพยลาร์สาญิชิรา เมืองเกาสม ୳ୢୢ୶ୖଌ୕୕୕୕୶୶ୄୢୠୡ୲ୄ୲ୖଵୄ୶୕୶ୄୠୢ୵ୡୖ୲

The *Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life* says as well,

You must leave it all behind and go, Along with your karmic baggage, But this you you cannot grasp and so For the sake of friend and foe You do every kind of wrong.

Π

CONTEMPLATING THE BENEFITS

OF MEDITATING ON DEATH

Here secondly is the contemplation of the benefits of meditating upon your death. Suppose now on the other hand that you are able to develop a real awareness of your mortality. You would then be like a person who knew he or she were going to die within the next day or two.

If this person had even a feeble understanding of the Dharma, or of course anything more than that, then he or she would quickly realize that none of their loved ones, nor any of the things they owned or anything else, could go on the journey with them.

All their attachment to these things would stop. The great majority of people at this point would automatically start to feel some desire to get the essence out of the life they had left to them, and so they would start to engage in acts such as giving to others, and such.

You now should be the same. Think of the gain and honor, the fame and other such things you hope for from others all these worldly hopes and dreams. Try to see that all the efforts you put into these things are empty, meaningless, like useless shells of wheat once the grain has been taken out. Try to understand how these thoughts deceive you, how they wait to snare and trap you. Stop now all your bad deeds.

Exert yourself now in the opposite in good deeds, such as going for refuge, and observing an ethical way of life, and the like. Amass these kinds of deeds constantly, and with a sense of reverence and joy. This body and the rest may be meaningless, but you can give them the highest meaning; you can use them yourself to climb to the highest state there is, and then you can lead others there as well. And then I would ask you another question: where could you find any more important deed you could do, than this?

 २विःक्षेत्र २नसे दुः अश्वाग्र गुम्ना श्रुम्तः दुः स्वान्धः मिः सुं स्वान्धः स्वाः स्वाः स्वान्धः स्वान्धः स्वान्धः स्वान्धः स्वान्धः स्वान्धः स्वाः स्वात्यः स्वाः स्वान्धः स्वान्धः स्वान्धः स्वान्धः स्वान्धः स्वान्धः स्वान्धः स्वाः स्वान्यः स्वाः स्वाः स्वान्यः स्वाः स्वान्यः स्वाः स्वाः स्वात्यः स्वात्यः स्वात्यः स्वात्यः स्वात्याः स्वात्याः स्वात्याः स्वात्याः स्वात्यः स्वान्यः स्वात्यः स्

This is why the awareness of death is praised in so many places, with so many metaphors. We see for example the following, from the *Sutra of the Great Nirvana*:

Of all the crops plowed in the ground, the Autumn crops are greatest. Of all the tracks left on the ground, the elephant's are greatest. Of all the thoughts a person can have, the thoughts of impermanence and death are the greatest ones, For these are the thoughts that clear away all the desire, ignorance, and the pride of all three of the realms.

17ेग्विन रुर्छेन केंद्र पान्ट के रायर हेरिय สมม ชร ชิญ ชร จะสิมม นลิ ส์วารา ଽସୗ୕ୖୖୖ୶ସୗ୶୲ଌ୶୶ଽଽୖଌ୕୕୕୕୕ୗ୕ଽଽୖୠୢୖ ଽୖଽ୕ୣ୷୲୵୳ୡୖୢଽୖୢଈ୕ଌୖ୶ୖଽ୵ଽୖୢୢୠ୵୲୵୲୰୲୬ୖ୶୕ୣ୕ୗ୶୲୵୲୶ শূদ্র মন্দ্র মার্ম মার্

The awareness of death has been praised in other similes as well, sometimes for example compared to a great hammer, which can smash in a single stroke all your mental afflictions, and harmful deeds. It is also compared to a huge gateway, where every good and pure thing can come on through to you, all in a single rush.

ไส้ผลานลาฏกา นูลาวกิษาลู้กาวกา हेंगश्र-मु:बेन्न निन्वबेनकेंशन्म्यश्चभ्रमम् २५२...वेश्वात्रशा निर्ट्र...गु.श...हेत्ता.सर्वेत.वु. afx मोर्डेन या 198 मनमा मुवा येंश मलूर พร.พร.รร.รรุมี เลิงเรรา

The Anthology too states,

Come to see that this body of yours is fragile as a piece of china, And that all other things which exist are something similar to a mirage. When you can, then the spears that demons hurl turn instead to flowers, And the Lord of Death, who stands there hungering for you, dies himself.

It says as well that,

Those who have seen what it is to grow old, who have seen the suffering of disease, Those who have seen what it is to die, who have seen the mind depart and leave, They can give up the family life, so much like a prison hard and fast; Never imagine though that the masses could lose their worldly wanting.

Į૱ઽ૾ૼૼૼૠૼ૱ૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૺૼૹૻૡૢૡ૽૿ઽ૽ૼૼૼ૱૱ૣૣૢૣૣૣૣૣૣૣૣૢૢૢૢૣઌૡ૽૾ૺૻ૾ૢૼ૱૱૾ૢૢૢૢૺૼૺૼૼૼ૱૱૱ พิสาญ สิริสัญญาสณาธิรารสาวญี้รารสุรา ชิ้น หาริ เล่าไม่ เช่น เล่าเป็น เล่าเป યવે ગામ આ સુ. વશ્વ છે ગયા છે. તથા જે. તથા છે. यदे झूनरा से हेरा भा

To put it briefly, the time for a person to do something of value is now, and only now now while we possess a body and life like this, so full of spiritual leisure. You and I have spent most of our time in the births of misery, and we come up now and again to the better births; but the vast majority of the time was in the realms where we had none of the necessary opportunities, and so we had no chance at all to undertake any spiritual practice.

न्यूनर्भायर्भा केंगा पति हे ता रे रे रे रे जा रा ता भार ર્તે શ્રે ર્તુ ભાગવેલ મુંગ્રે ગસ્યુ નાય લે મુંગ્રુ નાય છે. สูมานาวราณาสูญาวรุญานพาสา สีมามาวลา नदेर्भेगश्रव्देवर्यवे सुनर्यगुव ग्री क्वेंन्दा <u> નેવે ગણેન મેં વર્ત્ત ગ ન</u>ને સંસ્થા દેવાયા ଧ୍ୟା ଅକ୍ଷା ଅନ୍ଥା ମିଥିଲି ଦି

And the fact that in this moment here, when we *have* found the kind of life where we could do some practice, we nonetheless do nothing the way it should be done, is all in the final analysis due to our belief that we will not die, just yet. We can say then that our natural bias towards thinking that we won't die is the root of every trouble we have. The antidote for this way of thinking that is, to stay aware of our imminent death is then the root of anything good that could ever come to us.

This being the case, you should never let yourself think, "This is one of those practices meant for people who have nothing more profound to meditate upon." And you should never let yourself think that, "It is admittedly something we should meditate upon, but only at the beginning of our practice, and only for a bit at that; it's not something that warrants a continual effort to put into practice." Rather you should try to develop a true understanding, from the depths of your heart, where you realize that this is a meditation which you need at the start, at the end, and all throughout the path. With this understanding established within you then, vou must meditate upon your death.

III

WHAT DEATH AWARENESS IS

Here is the third step identifying just what kind of death awareness we seek to develop. Now there is a kind of terror that a person can feel when he or she fears that they are about to be torn away from their loved ones and such. This fear stems from a very strong attachment for those around you, and is the natural fear of a person who has never attempted any kind of practice of the path. As such, it is *not* the awareness of death that we are talking about having to develop here.

What then is this awareness? There is not a single being who has taken on a body by force of their past deeds and their mental afflictions who is exempt from the absolute certainty of death. It is true that, in the short run, trying to develop some fear about this fact might not enable you to stop it. Nonetheless you really must try to develop some fear that you might die before you have been able to achieve your goals for your future life: that you might die before you have managed to put an end to anything that might cause you to be born in one of the lower realms, or before you have achieved all those things that would lead you to the higher realms, and to ultimate good.

<u>ઽ</u>ૺૡૡૻ૾ૺ૾ૺઽૺૼૼૼૼૹૻૹૣ૾ૣૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૡૻૻઌૹ૱ૹ૱૱ૼૺૻ૾ૼ૱ૼૡૻ૽ૢૼ૱ૡૻ૽ૼ พัรานฟาลอิเครามิาฐิญานาฏราพัราณๆ รัสา नेन्त्रास्त्रन्भ्रन्भः नः ह्युन्द्रात्रे म्द्रा नायसास्राह्य नन्ना हिन्सरन्दर्वत्वर्युरः सुरन्म ন্ম্যুম:দী

If you had this kind of fear, over these kinds of things, then it would help you to do something about them, and at the moment of death itself you would have no reason to be afraid. If on the other hand you find yourself unable to achieve these goals, then when death comes you will be tormented by regret, of two different kinds. In a general sense, you will realize that you were unable to free yourself from the circle of suffering life. More specifically, you will begin to feel sheer terror over the possibility of having to drop into the realms of misery.

ষ্ক্রীঝান্দবর্ষা এক্ষা নদান্দু দেষ্ক্রীঝঝাস্যাদ দাবিঝা มิสุญ เกราณารัญญิมิรูราว าระสามาสิราฐราสราฐมามาพิมา าริเณา यत्रया रे लिया भेना नि सूर प्रहे या हे त के आ ଞ୍ଚିମ୍ୟାସନ୍ମାକ୍ଷା । କ୍ଷାଣ୍ଣକାକ୍ଷା ଅନ୍ଥିମ୍ୟାଯ୍ୟାଯ୍ୟା अग्रेंग्रियर अग्रुमा नियान्य अग्राम्य अ य นราพักสามาริยา ให้เหนูญาณลึมเปลี่ยง. الهالة كَرْجَ تَحْوَ

As the Birth Stories say,

You concentrate your every effort, but there's no way to stay; What possible benefit can it be to feel a sense of fear And tremble over something that you can now never repair?

You can tell for yourself by looking at the nature of this world,That those who did wrong are at this point consumed by intense regret;They realize then that they didn't at all do good the way they should,And begin to suspect that in the life beyond they will come to suffer.

The fear that you begin to feel as you die confuses you, Making it difficult to recall the very deeds there were That you did before, and that you feel such strong regret for doing.

So make in your life a habit now to do only deeds pure white; For could a person fear Lord Death who lives the Dharma too?

าดิาาสูานาณญาาา กรุญาลิาลธิวัรสุมา พิมพาน | พุณานิพานนาเพิ่า พูนาน าริพาสาวยิภาพานาณ์รพามธราชิรา เวลิ นานางเกาะเป็นเราะ यवे क्षेत्र में।

The Four Hundred too has the following verse:

Anyone who's truly sure, Who says to themselves, "I'll die," Leaves every kind of fear behind; How could they then fear Death?

กรายาร์สามีเอล์ รูมาราพรารราพรารามิ รุญานานพมพาสาลา วิาวุญาณามาณุณานา ริ.วรุ ซีว.ว. ซู้ม.วพร.ว.วมเวะเสีงเวพ. ୶ୢଈୄୖୄୢଽ୵୳ୖୖୖୡୖ୲୴ୄୖୄ୰ୄୖ୴ୄୢଽ୵୵ଵୖୡୖ୲୵୷ୖଈ୲ୡ୲୵ଌୖୖ୷ ૡઙૻૣૣૣૣૣਗ਼ૡૹ૽ૻૡ૱ૢૢઽૻ૱ઌ૾ૡૡૼ

Suppose then that you are able to contemplate your impermanence, and think to yourself, over and over again, "There is absolutely no doubt that I am quickly going to be ripped away from my body, and from all of my possessions." This would allow you to block the kind of desire that still entertains some hope that you will be able to avoid losing all these things. And then you would feel none of the fear of death that comes because your mind is tormented by the thought of this loss.

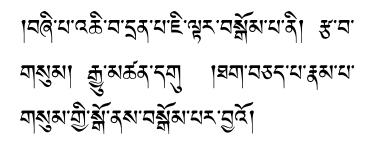
The Asian Classics Institute Practice V: Death and the End of Death

Reading Two: Death is Certain

The following reading is taken from *The Great Book on the Steps to Enlightenment (Lam-rim chen-mo)* of Je Tsongkapa (1357-1419).

IV

HOW TO MEDITATION ON DEATH



Next we cover the fourth step, which is how to meditate and develop this awareness of death.

You should do the meditation in three stages, going through the three principles, the nine reasons, and the three resolutions.

We will proceed then through the three of

contemplating how it is certain that we will die;

contemplating how there is no certainty when we will die; and

contemplating how, when we do die, nothing but the Dharma can be of any help to us.

ବ୍ୟୁର୍ଦ୍ଧାର୍ଥ ଅଭ୍ୟା ଅଭ୍ୟୁର୍ଦ୍ଧାର୍ଥ୍ୟ ଅଭ୍ୟୁର୍ବ୍

The first of the meditations has three parts; here is the first, which is contemplating how the Lord of Death must certainly arrive and, when he does, how nothing at all can stop him.

No matter what kind of body you take on yourself, death must come to you. As the *Anthology on Impermanence* states,

If total Buddhas, and self-made Buddhas as well, And the listeners who are the followers of the Buddha, Must all eventually leave their holy forms, Why need then speak of normal people?

เพูณฑรารารารารายรายราวส์การรารารา วิ গ্রি- এমা বান- ন্ নারমার এক নমামার্ ব্রামা นลิ เพาส์ภาพาริาสิาพัรานาพาพิสาริเ เกรา ฐาาณ พิราสูาพส์จิ่าสุราสาพิรา เรารับ સમય ગીંગ્યાયન મેર છે. હેવાય વડા જેવા લિયા સા

We can say too that death will come to you, no matter where you go. The same text says,

It doesn't matter where you go; the place does not exist Where death would find it difficult to intrude. There is no such place in the sky, nor at the bottom Of the sea, nor deep within a mountain keep.

ાર્ફ્રેન ૧૮૮ છે. આવે રુચા નચા રુખા માં આ અગ છત. สุลมาลธิเวมาละสมมานาณาฏานามามามา สิโ ริเชิรเพฆโ อีะเระเชอีะเอรเซอีรเอ. È क्रेन्या । गुन् मुरु खुरु करे नहट न कर दर्शे การา าริเพิสาวยุมานรามเกลานลา ส์ภาพาญิพาริท ได้พาณาการพาญิริพามา જ્ઞુન માર્ગેના હિશ્વ શ્વે

So too death makes no distinction at all for the proper order of young and old when it comes to destroy its victims. On this the same work says,

Those who are now and those who are yet to be, Must all relinquish this body, and travel on. Realize, you wise ones, that all this dies; Live the Dharma, and do what must be done.

ารอิเวรณ์เลเรี้งเกงเขาอระติระจีนางเลเ र्श्वन्धायश्च र्त्त्रेया मुया ये या मुया ये या กรุมพ.น.พพา รกร.สา ผู้กพ.นดิ.สพ. रेकेतर्यास्यानम्त्रायाङ्गेरायेन्दाय्वयासा สิภานามากุฆานาณสสามิรานาสิสาภูามุสิภุณ यःगठिमा मु सुमा में नवि मानसा या रेमा छेर सा নইনাস্থা

Beyond this is the fact that no one can free themselves from the Lord of Death by outrunning him, nor turn him back with magic words or the like.

As the scripture known as *Advice to the King* states,

Suppose for example that you were surrounded on all four sides by four great mountains, solid, firm, hard to the core, indestructible, unbreakable, indomitable, adamantine, and massive, stretching to the highest limits of the sky. And then suppose suddenly that they caved in upon you.

<u>સુપ્</u>રત્યું તે સાથે તે સ য়৽য়য়য়৽ড়ৢঢ়৽ঢ়ঢ়৽৾য়৾য়য়৽ড়য়৽য়৾য়য়৽য়য়ৢঢ়৽ นั้าสมพาชาญิพา เวสาเชิร วัราวานาลิ นดมาส์ ราฏิพากลีุ้ญานดมายพารราษุญพา รระฐสาสมมาฏิมาวลิ์ฦานราฐาวสามาพิสา Ť

Every trace of vegetation from the roots, to the stalks, to the branches, to the twigs, and out to the leaves, would be crushed to powder. And every living creature there, every sentient being, every spirit too, would be smashed to dust. And as the mountains fell in it would happen in a minute, and no one would be able to outrun them, or force them back, or buy them off. Nor but with the greatest difficulty could you use any kind of magic substance, or magic words, or any sort of elixir to stop them.

मियायां के रागे दे न के रा रा के रागे ุ่นดิเฉริเรณานี้ระพิเริเรณาณพาพญ์มางเนง ฉุรัส นุลพ ผู้กลา ฏิพ กลู้ ฤ นุลพ ผู้ ร ภูพ ๛ลัฐ์ญานฉพายพารกาฐญพา નર્ફ્સેગપર સુગરે અખેતરો

Here, great King, our life is the same. When the four great terrors make their appearance, no one can outrun them, nor force them back, nor buy them off. Nor but with the greatest difficulty could you use any kind of magic substance, or magic words, or any sort of elixir to stop them.

And what are these four terrors? They are aging, and sickness, and death, and trouble. Great King, I say to you: aging is the fact that our vitality is inevitably obliterated; sickness is the fact that our health is inevitably obliterated; trouble is the fact that any good thing that ever comes to us is inevitably obliterated; and death is the fact that our very life is inevitably obliterated. All four of these come to us, and we cannot outrun them, nor force them back, nor buy them off. Nor but with the greatest difficulty

could you use any kind of magic substance, or magic words, or any sort of elixir to stop them.

พามาร์ (สุมาร์) รายาร์ รายาร์ เป็น น ติม รทัพ จอ เนรา มิ มธิ์ ราม ติม รทั่งเนาณาส์ สู้ณาริาณงาผู้ฤาสุงาราหามา ฉะิฤพา ฉะิเทราสุราณาพิสามัาฉริมพ. মার্মুদর্মার্টা

Kamawa too once said,

A person is supposed to be frightened of death now, and then unperturbed when it actually comes. You and I though act the opposite: we feel no concern for it now, and then when it actually comes we tear at our chest in agony.

ได้ ณาผู้สามามิราชิราจุฎิราวรามาธรารา พิรานากลงสานาสิโ สรณารูาณธุญานาณลโ <u>२.५.जम्बास.तर.यटु.तर.जूटस.सी.वर्षेटस.</u>य. <u> </u> ઽ૾ૺ૾૾ઽૻઽૻ૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱૱ ada เปลงเขางระพายาลรามสาวริเ र्डसः विमाय्मेन में।

The second reason here is the contemplation of how it is impossible to add any time onto your life, and how it continually leaks away, without a pause.

The scripture entitled *Entering the Womb* describes the longest you could live as follows:

Nowadays the longest you can live, supposing you are able to take care of yourself in the very best way possible, is a hundred years, or a touch more.

Even if you could live for a hundred years, the time would pass very quickly. This is because years pass in months, and months in their turn pass in days, and days pass in daytimes and nighttimes. These too pass in the shortest periods, of mornings and evenings and the like. So a human lifespan in general is something which is very short.

$$\begin{split} \hat{\mathsf{f}}^{} \cdot \mathbf{u}^{} \mathbf{x}^{-} \underbrace{\mathbb{R}}^{} \mathbf{x}^{-} \underbrace{\mathsf{f}}^{} \mathbf{x}^{-} \underbrace{\mathbb{R}}^{} \mathbf{x}^{-} \underbrace{\mathbb{R}}^{}$$

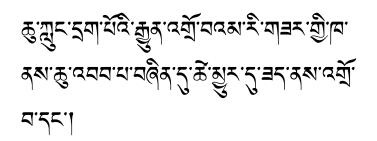
You and I can see for ourselves, moreover, that we've already used up a good number of these days. As for the days we have left, we know we are helpless to add a single moment to them. They leak away, twenty-four hours a day, without the slightest pause. On this the *Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life* says,

Our lifetime constantly leaks away, Day and night, without a moment's pause. If your life is leaking away, and never being replenished, Then how can you imagine, that you will never die?

าราพรารณ์รูส์สุขารสมพิษิาวรานรา वयारा ववया य द र य हुत क्या स र य र มิเลมุ์เพราผู้รารูเอรอุเพาอิสาสสาร์ราวา 55.1

There are many examples you can use during your contemplation of these points. Think of weaving a carpet: you are building it up with rows of yarn, and each row is nothing more than a few threads of wool. But if you work steadily, it all adds up and soon you've finished an entire carpet.

Think too of a flock of sheep. When they are led to the slaughter house, they go forth with only one very short step at a time. But every single step brings them inexorably nearer to their death.



Think too of the rapids of a great river, or of a waterfall as it leaps from the top of a high cliff. The moments of your life are rushing away, just the same.

A cowherd takes a club up in his hand and drives the cattle, totally helpless, to their destination. Just so do sickness and the natural aging of our bodies drive us, totally helpless, into the presence of the Lord of Death. You must use a whole variety of such examples in your meditation upon death; as the *Anthology* again says,

When for example you start to weave a carpet,
You build it up, a string of wool at a time—
Eventually then you weave it to the end.
Human lives are just the same.

Those condemned to death are another example, Passing along with a single step at a time, Drawing ever closer to the slaughter. Human lives are just the same.

The rapids of a mighty river Rush unstoppable to their end; The passing of a human life Is just as irreversible.

Our lives are simple hardship, short, And something full of suffering; With simple speed we are destroyed, Like letters scratched on water.

A cowherd grasps his staff and drives The cattle to their final end, While sickness and the plague of age Force us to the feet of the Lord of Death.

They say as well that the great Lord Atisha would go to the edge of a stream and meditate there on the death; he would comment that "Sitting here and watching this trickle of water pass by is a wonderful way to meditate on life's impermanence."

The *Sutra of the Cosmic Play* uses a number of similes as well:

The three realms are impermanent, like a cloud in the autumn sky;Watching as people are born and die is the same as theater.The passing of a person's life is a single flash of lightning;We rush on our way to the end with speed, like a mountain waterfall.

ไว่พ.ข.ขะ.วี.ชีะ.ลป.นพพพ.สษ.สษา.ชุป. น ดิญาณ ผู้ฉิ่า ๆ รัพ นิ่ายผม เชา ฏิมามิ หา นามิาริ์สานามิการทุญการาญหาเพิ่สานมากูามา ณ.สี้น.ช่อเปอตที่ กระกระบองอาน เริ่ง. यत्र है।

It has been said that, "For a person who has the least bit of ability to reflect and draw some inferences on the inside, there is nothing outside of them that doesn't speak of impermanence." As such, you should try to find in your life a whole variety of examples for the fact of impermanence. Use these examples for your contemplation and if you contemplate thus on a regular basis, then you will gain a true recognition of your impermanence. Just thinking these things over once or twice is not enough to reach this kind of knowledge.

As Kamawa once said,

Here's a question for all you people who said you tried to do this contemplation but didn't get any result from it. Just *when* was it that you were contemplating? All day long you were distracted by other things. At night all you did was sleep. Perhaps you should stop lying to yourself.

At the end of our life, the Lord of Death comes and destroys us, and we travel on to our next life. But there is something else too that happens all during the interim, during every hour of our life here. There is not a single moment at all when our lifetime is not slipping away, when it is not getting shorter and shorter, even as we go somewhere, or stay somewhere, and even as we sleep. So in a sense we are always on our way to our next life, we are travelling there now, and we have been on the move every second from the day we first entered our mother's womb.

Therefore even in these days, while we still live, we are living only to die: those emissaries of Death, the ones called Sickness and Aging, are dragging us towards him. Don't take any comfort then in the fact that you haven't died yet, don't get the idea that you are staying anywhere, and that you haven't yet started off on your journey to the next life. You are like a man who just fell off the edge of a great rock crag; you would be foolish to take some comfort from the fact that you are still in mid-air, and haven't hit ground yet.

าราพราสดิเสสูานลิเลญิณานรารรพานาณพ มิพิรุนจาว์ สีมามจามส์สามัราวิไ ไม่ระ नःवह्माम्नेनः सम्तानगनमा हुरुः या हिः नमा नम्रम्भायमाने के के मन्त्र न के मान्द्रों मान्द्र नर्वेवा सेन पर वके ननमा दुर न वर्षे । विश्व 55.1

The following lines too are quoted in the commentary on *The Four Hundred:*

This warrior amongst men, from the very first night, From the moment of entering the womb in this world Walks with each passing day, with ne'er a delay, Into the presence of the Lord of Death.

The Words on Stopping the Four Misconceptions also speak to this point:

Suppose you had fallen from the peak of some high mountain top,And were just about to die—would you then in the free-fall feel content?From the moment of their birth they race to one goal only, death;How before they reach there then could any living being relax?

All of the above is meant to show how it is certain that we will die quickly.

ากลังานฉิ ซิ ณ พร ซิ ลากู รฉิ ณ์ร ลาร นราริพานราวสิาสารพมานาลิไ ซูราวนๆวา नुरुकोर् रुरु हो। देवर केर रुर के कर में लेग के श्रूर.जर्श.पर्या.स.रट.क्रैया.श.लजट.याहेर. શૈશ્વાસુરાવરવાલેના

Next is contemplating how certain it is that you will die without having had any time to practice the Dharma, even while you were alive.

Suppose you were able to live to the end of one of those longest lives that we described above. Even so it would be wrong to think that you would have any free time all that time. So far in your life you have squandered a great deal of time meaninglessly; as for what remains, you will pass half of it in sleeping.

รู พติยารัส พรารู จรจารารา จระส์ ૡૢ૱ઽઽઽ૱૱ૹ૽ૻૻ૽ૢૺૼૼૡ૽ૣૼૼૼૼ૱૱ૡ૱૱૱૱૱ นา. นร์ ราบรามสูนานนิ พยู พิรานสา

The other half you will also spend meaninglessly, your mind filled with a great many other distractions. You will while away your days of good health and then arrive at old age, your body and mind worn out, and lacking any energy to do any Dharma, even if you wanted to.

The point is that the window of opportunity during which we can undertake our spiritual practice is nothing more than a very brief period. As *Entering the Womb* relates,

You spend half of it wrapped in sleep. Ten years is wasted by childhood, and another twenty in old age. From what's left you have to subtract the time you spend in grief, and the time you spend crying in anguish, and the time you spend in physical pain, and the time you spend in deep unhappiness, and the time you spend in strife. Subtract too the time that you spend going though all those thousands of different diseases which the body is subject to.

The Words on Stopping the Four Misconceptions concur:

Suppose you live to a human's longest life;
it can never be
more than a hundred years.
Of these you spend the beginning, your youth,
and the end, old age,
in a meaningless way.
In the days that are left, all your hopes
and plans are smashed by sleep,
and disease, and the rest;
Tell me then how much time is left over,
for those who live as humans,
to feel any kind of contentment?
-

Įઅઢ૬'୩'ઽઽ૾'ૡ઼૾ૡૡ૱૱ૹૻૻ૱ૻૡૼ૱ สูสารราสาธิรารราสาสสาวอรานลิวาล์ณาสา ส์สาสูาฉญ้าสาณ์ายาพราสิราทุสูราร์า

Chekawa too has said,

I have been alive for sixty years; and if you take away the time that I spent feeding myself, and sleeping, and being sick, there were not even five years left that I had for spiritual practice.

And so all the good things of this life are like the happiness within one night's dream: you wake, and then it's nothing more than a memory. The time comes to die, and everything good you ever had lives only in a dim remembrance.

This great enemy, death, will surely come; nothing can stop him. You should contemplate this fact try to wonder, "Why do I take such pleasure in the lie of this life?" Make up your mind that you absolutely must now practice some Dharma; swear it to yourself, continually.

શ્રુેશ મનસ ભાષા ગુે અવે વદેવા મેત્ર છેત્ર र्वेदर्भात्म । मात्रर्भाया के महत्र नमाया के حقٍب ا "เมื.ษ. ภ.พ. วุณณ. นรา เรา ٢٠٦٠٦٠٩

Remember the *Birth Stories*, where it says:

Alas, you worldly ones so full of affliction of the mind;Why do you take such pleasure in a land of shifting sands?The shining glory of the kumuda bloom, opening to the moon,Soon enough turns nothing more than a simple memory.

าลมี.น.ส. เห.ย์. เม.ย์. เน.ย์. จะิี่ทุฬานาพิรานาร์ามส์ราฏิไ ไลพารีพพ. รมมางราวส์งารราชิราฏิมารทุก ोर्नेमार्थ्य स्थित स्वरूप र मिल्ले के र होता के कि र होता क

It's something of a pure amazement too that all of usThrust into a life like this are not consumed by total fear;Damn the Lord of Death, who stands and blocks all pathways out,While we oblivious feel content, and have an enjoyable day.

We all share enemies, dreadfully powerful, ones we cannot stop:Their names are sickness, age, and death; they attack us even now.If it's certain that we are headed for agony in the world beyond,How could anyone with a mind be content in the one here now?

Go now and contemplate these lines, from the *Epistle of Kanika*:

The Lord of Death, the heartless one, Lays waste to the efforts of a lifetime; With such a death on its way to him, What man of wisdom would sit and wait?

This merciless warrior stands and aims His unfailing merciless arrow at you; In the time before he lets it fly then Try to make something of your life.

The Asian Classics Institute Practice V: Death and the End of Death

Reading Three: The time of death is uncertain; and what to do when it comes

The following reading taken from *The Great Book on the Steps to Enlightenment* (*Lam-rim chen-mo*) of Je Tsongkapa (1357-1419).

Here next is the second of the three principles: contemplating how there is no certainty when we will die. It is an absolute certainty that death will come to us at some point between today and a hundred years from now. It is not certain though which day between these two he will choose. As such, we would have to admit that it's impossible to come to a definite conclusion whether we will die, for example, today.

Nonetheless, if you are going to try to think more on the mortal side, then you will have to develop the attitude that you will die today. If you tend to think more on the side that denies your mortality—that is, if you tend to think that you won't die today, or that you probably won't die today then you will constantly be acting on the assumption that you're going to continue to be here, rather than living to help your future life. Right in the middle of everything then the Lord of Death will come to take you, and you will have to die in anguish.

If you spend every day getting ready to die, you will find yourself able to achieve many goals that relate to your future lives. This is an excellent thing to do regardless of whether you actually die that day or not. And it is an absolute necessity if you *do* happen to die that very day.

$$| \zeta^{i}\lambda^{*}\cdot q | \quad \forall \zeta^{*}\cdot u^{*}\cdot u^{i}\tilde{q}^{i}\zeta^{*}\cdot u^{*}\cdot \zeta^{i}\cdot \tilde{q}^{i}\zeta^{*}\cdot u^{*}\cdot \tilde{q}^{i}$$

 $\zeta \eta^{*}\cdot \delta q^{*}\cdot \tilde{q}^{*}\cdot q^{*}\cdot q$

This truth can be illustrated with the following example. Suppose you have a sworn enemy, a very powerful one, and that he is planning to make some vicious attack on you. Suppose too that the general timeframe for this attack has been decided: you know that he is going to come for you sometime between this date and that date. You're not sure exactly which day he's going to appear, but you would certainly have to be on your guard every single day. Our case with death is exactly the same.

Suppose you are able to develop this attitude where you believe that you are going to die today, or at least that it is very likely that you will die today. The result is that you will start getting things ready for what is surely going to come that is, for your next life and you will stop concentrating on preparing things for your current life.

If you are unable to develop this attitude, then you will continue to believe somehow that you are going to be staying here in the present life, and you will continue to concentrate on organizing things for this life. You will continue too to ignore what's needed for your future life.

न्येर वा मात्र मारेमा हु खुतरे र र न महर สูสาสาริลิ สิราฐาสารฏิรายารรา ริราสา र्श्वेन पर मालव न् र दे में क्रुया व मान न त को मादी यानरा मुन्य मलेक के रिया के आरे रे कया ૡૹ૾૾૾ૹૢૢૢૣૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢઌ૾૾૾૾ૹ૾ૺ

If for example you believe that you are going to be living in a certain house for a long time to come, you concentrate your time on making the house a nice place to live. If one the other hand you believe that you are moving to another house, if you believe that you will not be staying in the house where you are, then you naturally begin to concentrate on getting everything ready for the place you're going to go. Again, our case is just the same.

This proves that you must develop the attitude that you are going to die today, every day.

There are three reasons to prove this second principle, that there is absolutely no certainty when you are going to die. The first is the contemplation that here on the continent of Dzambu, lifetimes are anything but fixed. Looking at things in a broad way, we can say that the length of a life on the continent of Unpleasant Sound is something which is fixed. And although on the other continents the span of life is not fixed, there are many cases where a certain length of life is normally the case.

Here on the continent of Dzambu, though, a person's life is anything but fixed. There are times at the beginning of the world when people can live up to an "inestimable" number of years. Eventually though there comes a time when the longest life we can point to is only ten years. Even nowadays we can see with our own eyes how indefinite lifetimes can be, as death comes for the old, and the young, and those in between, at random.

As the Treasure House says,

Here indefinite: at the very end, Ten years; at the beginning "inestimable."

The Anthology too states,

In the morning a lot of people were standing here;By evening some of them were missing.In the evening a lot of people were standing here;By morning some of them were missing.

So too it says,

We see men die, we see women die, We see those in the bloom of health die; So how on earth could you point to someone And say, "He's young, he'll certainly live."

Some people die still in the womb, Some people die in the moment of birth, Some people die standing still, Some people die on the run.

เลาสาสารราลาลาสาลัสา เลาสารราลา กการสิงพิท เกิมเฏิมากการูเลส์เลญูราริท ।ଦମ୍ବଷଂସ୍ତ୍ର ଞ୍ଚିଶ୍ୟଂଙ୍କୃମ୍ୟୁମ୍ୟୁନ୍ଷ୍ୟ । ବ୍ରିଷଂସ୍କ୍ଷ୍ୟୁନ୍ଷ୍ୟ 51

Some are old, some are young, Some are strong ones in between, They walk and then drop, in a steady stream, Like ripe fruit falling from a tree.

สู พวมาญี่ฦฺมาา พัฦมาา สิวามรา พหูสา างมานามายัญงานกาญกามชั่วาามรั้งานา สมมาพิราณาภูมาณา กรุญาฏราวิมานราริา ૡૢૻૡૢૡ૾ૺ૾૾ૹૼૼૼ૱૱૱ૼૼૼૹૢૢ૾૱ૢૼઌઽૻૼૢઽ ମକ୍ଷକ୍ଷାୟାଦ୍ଦରି ସଦି କିଁ୍ତି କ୍ରିପୁର୍

Think of great lamas you've known, or friends, or anyone the people that you've seen yourself, or heard about from others who died before their time. Something on the outside, or something on the inside of them, came and killed them suddenly, before they were able to do all the things they were hoping to do.

You must think to yourself, "I'm in exactly the same situation now that they were in when they died..." Try to think this truth over again and again; try your best to reach this realization of your death.

Next is the contemplation that the things that can kill you are very, very many; whereas the things that can keep you alive are very few.

There are many things that threaten the kind of life we live: threats that are living beings, and threats that are inanimate objects. Humans and inhumans, beings of the spirit realm, do harm to us in many different ways. Beings of the animal realm threaten our body and life in a variety of ways as well.

You have try to contemplate thoroughly all the ways in which these living things can hurt you; and how too that inner things like sickness, and outer things made of the various physical elements, attack you constantly.

าฦคุสาพรารราภิาณูสาวฏูรารารคิาณสารูรา รส์โมาณา ริเรสาญรายสาธุ์สายอิยาณา ๚฿๚๚ฬ๎ฦ๚ฺฏิๅ๚๛๛๛ฏ สุมพาษามาสิ่งพพานาาวนิดาวญี่ตากูญาาน तःत्रान्द्रीन्नेन्द्रेयाःवर्ध्वाः पश्चः यार्वेनः यःनेन्याः ૱<u>૾</u>ૻઽઽઽઽૡૢ૱ૢૢૢૢૢૣૺ૱૱ૢૢ૽ઌ૽ૼઽઽૡ૱ૡૢ૱૱ૣ૽ૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼઌ૱ ઐન નક્ત્ર નુ એન ને

Moreover, your body consists by necessity of the four elements. Their nature is to be in conflict with each other, which causes the energies of the four to fall out of balance, some asserting themselves too strongly, and some becoming too weak. This situation triggers then illness within the body, and this eventually rips out your life. And so in a way you are under attack by the components of your own body. Since these elements are a very part of you, life is by nature a very fragile thing.

וליאדימדיעקאישאימאו משיחציתלי. ૡૺૹ੶૱૾ૺૹૣ૽ૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૹૻ૾ૡૼ૾૾ૻૡ૾૾ઌૻૻૡૻ૽ૢૻૻૡૻ૽ૡૻ૽ૡૻ૾ૡૻ૾ૡૻ૾ૡૻ૾ૡૻ૾ૡૻ૾ૡૻ૾ૡૻ૾ૡ૽ૻૡ૽ૻૡ૽ૻૡ૽ૻૡ૽ૻૡ૽ૻૡ૽ૻૡ૽ૻૡ૽ૻૡૻ૾ૡૻ૾ૡૻ૾ૡૻ૾ૡૻ าสู้ราวิาสูราชิญารารีราชสงสงานราฏิราฏิ ฉนิณานาราฏิรานาสิายุราพราสิราร์โ เดิมา 55.1

The Sutra of the Great Nirvana says as well,

And then there is the conception of death: see your life as standing there, surrounded all the time by a mass of hate-filled enemies, life leaking away with every moment, and no hope at all of ever filling back what was lost.

रैबःकेबःव्य्वेदःमःयश्वश्वगुम्। वक्रेम्ममामीबः मीःबदःमाबरूग्मा । सुमाद्रमायमा वर्षे मद्यमायमः सेम्बिबा । बिसादमा

The String of Jewels also states,

The tools of Lord Death are the very world around us; Our lives are just the same as candles standing in a tempest.

न्वेशः श्चेन्शः यश्याप्रः किंते मर्वेन् सन् सुनः ฦิฬาสุรุสานาพิเ เสูาพิเสูรุราสุพาฏุราพิ मगाना । ननुमासः हुनः ननुमासः वनुनः मामेनः ฏิฆาณ์ตานาณญา พราศัมาทราณฑุฆาวิาสิา ביאדישון ופאיקרין

The Letter to a Friend mentions,

Our lives are filled with danger, and we are more fragile Than a bubble of water swept along in the wind. The fact that we live long enough to exhale after inhaling, Or wake again from a night of sleep, is truly a miracle.

าดิ าสูานาณสาฏาา สูสานาลิรานสาวุธูา ગુરાબા किंगसाय किंगमुः क्रुं रख्रूर है। पियायायात् सम्राजायने दे लिखा । समायागुनः 5्वर से रेगर्स हो विश्व मसुरस से

The Four Hundred again says,

Alone they have no power to give us birth;Only as a group can the elements in us work.As such it would be a mistake for a person to sayThat this inner war could ever feel good.

าสิจางามายาจิสาการรับวิการุงาพิสามพาสา ริรารู ฑุสฺฆามลิาณฺฆาธุราษีรัญฮูาธิสา สสสสานาธิสาราชการกา สาสสานา র্মবাধ্যমন্ত্র স্ক্রার রমগ্র শ্রান্য মন্ত্র ক্রিন্য ন সার্ব স ฉEัมพานฉิ ซูักพาสูร ตุรา

These are the days when the five degenerations have spread to a very great extent, when it is infinitely difficult to find anyone who is capable of amassing the powerful good karma necessary for producing any very long lifetime. Food and other kinds of medicinal substances have little potency, and lack any great power to stop diseases.

The general ability of the body to break down easily the things we eat and drink, so that the great elements within the body can be properly nourished, is declining. We find it difficult to digest these things, and even after they are digested they have little beneficial effect on our bodies.

There is an additional problem caused by the fact that we are able to collect only small quantities of good karmic energy, whereas we commit massive amounts of bad deeds. These diminish greatly the power of practices such as repeating a number of mantras, and so it is extremely difficult to use these methods to lengthen our lifespan, and such.

Beyond all this is the fact that there is nothing at all that we use to keep ourselves alive that cannot also turn into something that kills us. We spend our lives searching for food and drink, or a place to stay, or friends or the like, with the intent that they help keep us from dying.

But they can all turn into something that kills us instead. If we eat or drink too much, or too little, or swallow something which is not clean or the like, it can kill us. Our house can collapse on us, and our friends can cheat us,

and they can all in the end lead us to our deaths. You literally cannot find anything which is supposed to keep you alive that cannot kill you as well.

Moreover, life itself is directed at dying; even if there were more objects that were supposed to function to keep us alive, we could hardly put any faith in them. As the *String of Jewels* says,

The things that can kill us are many; Those that keep us alive are precious few, And act as well to kill us. We must as such do all the Dharma we can.

Next is the contemplation that there is no certainty when we will die, for the reason that our bodies are extremely fragile.

Our bodies really are very fragile, very much like a bubble, and it requires no great injury to destroy our life-force: even something like the prick of a thorn, if we disregard it, can kill us. The point is that none of the things that can kill us has to try very hard to kill us.

ત્રવેશ ક્ર્યુંટ્સ ગયા શાર્ટ્સ કુર્વે સું શાહે છે. भागन्तु । प्रयमः प्रश्नाम् प्रयोग् भागवे खुरू छत् af:รุญาพรา เลงเวเพราส์ ญางเราส์ વશુર ના વિન દુઃ બચા રુ ન ચે જ છે. वर्त्रया विश्वायसूरसार्शे

The Letter to a Friend says,

Great edifices like the earth itself, and the mountainAt the center of the world, and the seas, all burnWhen the seven suns rise, and not even dust remains.Who needs to mention then that fragile thing called man?

Once you have taken this contemplation to its end, it will occur to you clearly that there is no certainty at all when the Lord of Death will decide to come and destroy your body and life. You will realize that you have no time left; and then you must make many solemn vows to yourself, you must resolve to practice the Dharma here and now.

As the Epistle of Kanika states,

The Lord of Death is partial to no one; When he strikes, he does so suddenly. Don't ever say then you'll "Do it tomorrow"; Practice the Dharma instead with speed.

It's no good thing for a human being Ever to say, "I'll do it tomorrow"; The tomorrow when you are no longer here Is a day that beyond any doubt will come.

^{ફ્} ભાવર્તું માંગુે ન્વનાયુવા વું દંગા માંગે સે દાજા વવા
ঢ়য়৽য়ৢঢ়৽ঀ৾৾৾য়য়য়য়ঀ৾য়৾য়য়৾য়৾য়৾য়৾য়৾য়৾য়৾য়৾য়৾য়৾য়৾য়য়৾য়য়
१वनः सेनः सुनः सेनः मनेनः मावरूः मा निः केनः कें व
ลู้ระนั้าสูรา เสานอิสุรานสานยินเสาสา
न्मी निम्हें व कार्य की निव लाग
ริ.ช.ช.นฏิร.พฐ๛ท เลลาปลิร.พ.ศ.ษร.รู
1. ম. এ.
૱ઽૺૻઌૹૹૹૡૹૡૻૢૼૼૹૣૻૡૹૢૻૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૻૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢઌૡ૾૾ૢૺ
यशःवन <u>र</u> :यर:मुर्दे।

That mighty prince of accomplished practitioners, Shri Jagata Mitra Ananda, has also spoken:

The spirit lord will take this form you rent, In health, in its prime, in an hour of contentment, And rip away in that very moment its heart. You sit there now unconcerned by disease or death By decline and the like, but when the day arrives To meet them face to face you'll know nothing to do. Of all the three principles, this one, the contemplation that it is totally uncertain when you will die, is the most important.

Since this attitude is the critical one, you must do your best

to make it grow within you.

Here finally are the three reasons behind the third principle, which is that, when you die, nothing but the Dharma can be of the least help to you.

So we have seen that we will be forced to pass on to a future life. When the day comes, you can be surrounded by any number of friends and relatives, by people who love you and whose hearts are torn, but there is not a single one of them that you can take along with you. You can be the owner of a great heap of lovely riches, any amount of them at all, but you cannot carry along with you a single molecule. When you die you must give up even the flesh and bone that are part of your very being; it's ridiculous then to think that you could keep anything else.

નેશ્વ તે તે તે તે તે સુવ સુય તે વાય તા ચયય છે. ฏิญาฏราสรุญาวร์ราณ สรุญาญญราวร์ नगार्नेन करा वहेगा हेवा गालवा नु वर्गे न लेगा $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}$ יאדיאדי לבין $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}$ יארי $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}$ יאדי לבין $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}$ יארי $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}$ יאדי לבין $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}$ יארי าลมลาณ วิจัราสาสูาสิรธิสาวการเดิญ अन्तराज्यमेवि नन्तर्युन्याकेव नु वयुन् ର୍ଜ୍ୟ ମଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷ ଅନ୍ୟ ଅନ୍ଥି

We can say then that each and every good thing of this life will send us away, and we too will send them away, and pass on to our next life: this is, simply, quite certain to happen. You must contemplate how this is coming to you today, and you must contemplate how, when the moment comes, it is only the Dharma which will be your refuge, and your protector, and your one true friend.

ગ્ર] તે ગાવે સ્ટ્રીન્સ પોત્રા બન્ના સન્ન સ્ટ્રી તે વર્ત્તુ તે ત્ય ૹ૾ૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૡૹૻૻ૾૾૾ૢ૽ૼૹૢૻ૾૾૾ૻૡ૽ૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૡ૽ૼૡૼૡૻૻૡૼૡૻૻૡ૽ૻ૱ ารสิวารกาที่สาลิรรรมเนลา เรกิรร มิสานามาสาร์สามานา เวล์าารมมางรา सुर र्येगानमा विमाय आप हिंग हे मामे विदाय กา เพยิสานา พรีราณ ณิสามานา ผู้รา 133141551

As the Epistle of Kanika says,

The karma ripens, and all your deeds From before abandon and leave you alone. Driven by all the new karma now, You're forced ahead by the Lord of Death.

Everyone you've ever known Is left behind, and only the good Or bad you've done comes with you. Please understand,

and do only things that are right.

It's just as Shri Jagata Mitra describes it:

Now matter how wealthy you are, Your Highness, Once you die and slip to the world beyond, It's like standing stripped in an empty desert—

Alone, without the Prince, without the Queen,
Without a stitch of clothing, without a friend,
Without a kingdom, without a country at all;
Solitary, single, not a trusted servant in sight.

नग्वनः उः र्ह्तेशा विश्वः मसुदशः यः सुरुः र्दे।

To put it simply, how could you hope for more In a land where you are no longer the owner Even of the name you once called yours?

Thus it is then that you must contemplate upon the awareness of your death: the spiritual leisure you now possess is extremely valuable; it is extremely difficult to find; and aside from its being so hard to find it is also extremely easy to lose.

ૡદેશા ફેર્સ સું અપ્લર & ? ગીં ગાં કરા ચરે લેયા સુવ યમ સે મું ન સ સે દ્વ દેવ છે. તે ન સુવ ય ન ન સુવા ન સુવા શેવા ન વા તે શે ન શાનુ ન વ તે સુનશ છે. ય. જુરા સાથ રે. રે. રે યો. જ જીરી રે. છે. રે છે. यदे हुर्न य लेगान में राषे मलय नु य नने ૡ૽ૣ૽ૼૡ૽૾ૺૼ૽૾ૺૢૢ૽ૢ૾ૺ૱ૹૢ૽ૺઽૻૺ૽૾ૢૻૢઽૻૻ૱ૹ૽ૣૢ૽ૢૢૢૢૢ૽ૺૼૻ૾૱ૹ૽ૻ૱

Suppose we fail even to attempt reaching something of ultimate benefit, for our next life and beyond; suppose instead we spend all the time from now up to the moment of our death in the pursuit of the things that make us feel good, and in avoiding the things that cause us pain.

Common animals are more skilful at this endeavor than we could ever be; we need to engage in some kind of activity that distinguishes us from beasts. Otherwise achieving the kind of life in a higher birth that we enjoy now is essentially the same as never having attained it at all.

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र्शेन् त्वह्याय्यमा सुयामाग्रीमानसुनमानवनः भारतीत्वायवा । स्रवेयाक्तायान्यान्यान्द्री ารณาฉฏิ์ราซูสาสิ์สามาริรารทุณาฉริบ เณมา ฏิพ.พฐร.ว.รุพพ.ฏิพ.วรัพ เดิพ. গ্রম্ব মার্ম দি মার্ম দে মার্ম দে মার্ম দে মার্ম দি মার্দে মার্দে মার্দে মার্ম দি মার্দে মার্ম দি মার্ম দি মার্ম দি মার্ম দে মার্দে মার্র দে মার্র দে মার্র দে মার্র মার্দে মার্দে মার্দে মার

As the Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life puts it,

There are certain insignificant gains That are not a difficult thing to attain Even for a cow if she tries;

Yet there are those who suffer from karma And waste this perfect leisure and fortune, Achieved with such effort, on nothing more.

यश्वयद्यद्य्यांश्र हे।

And so even though the awareness of your death may sometimes seem a difficult thing to develop, you must still make great efforts to do so, for it is the very foundation of the path.

Potowa too has said,

My guiding lamp is nothing but this meditation on my own impermanence. It helps me to clear away all my concern about the things of this life my friends and possessions and so on and realize that I will be flying away to my next life, alone, with no one to come along with me. Then I am truly able to stop my attachment to my current life, and maintain an intention never to do anything which is against the Dharma. As long as you find yourself unable to reach this state of mind, you will find too that the road to each and every part of the teaching is shut off to you.

106

รัณนฉิเดณสุมาฏรา ดุราณส์มุมามุมัญ นารารสู้สานารู้รา ผูาราสุมณฑสัญาวา वनेनशःविनः रुशःविनः ननः नग्रसः कृषः कृषः कृषः ฏิสารสมสสา สังรรฐราพราสาษฏิรฐสาน <u> લેવા ગુદ્દ વર્તુ શાસ શાસ શાસ શું દ્વા સાથે છે લેવા</u>

Dolpa once stated,

You must along the way undertake practices to amass the energy of good deeds, and to purify yourself of spiritual obstacles. So too you must make supplication to the angels, and to your Lama. If then you put all your heart into contemplating this attitude, if you focus on it, then you will be able to attain it. Things produced by causes have a basic nature that they can never just stay the same, and you will find that you can arrive at certain kinds of attitudes that you thought you could never develop in a century.

พามาสาณารุณิสาณาสาริ์การาดุณาฮ์าสาริกา ર્શ્નેન્ સુરા વર્ષે તથાલુથા ઇ તાવર્ષે એ અર્થેન્ મ ดิ[ุ]ଷ'ग्रसुट'र्ये। टि'सूट'रु'र्द्वेश'र्स्ट्रेग्रस'र्र्ड्य างการเกาล์สารส์สาลิรา มารู้การเรา ગસુસાભાસું અર્ઠઠા ત્વા દે ભૂમાવઠઠા પાસે תפרימו

They say too that when someone would ask Kamawa if they could move on to a new spiritual topic he would say, "Work again on the old one." When they asked if he could finish up the old one, he would say, "There is no finish to the old one." So if your mind can handle it, do the meditation as I have described it above. If your mind cannot handle it, then try to keep as many of the nine reasons for the three principles as fits your capacity.

मर्बेन्-बन्न्-प्रतिन्-प्राया-कुन्-प्रतृम्।स्राया-कुन्-के ฉริลิ·ฮู·ฉ.รสมมาณมาพรามาณ์สาสาวร. พรารราพรารูาสสัสาหรารูร์ไ

Meditate over and over on your death until you gain a complete disgust for the activities of this life; until you can think of them like pretty jewelry offered to a person being dragged to the place of his or her execution.

न्दःनरुष्यःयायात्रादन्त्यागुदः झ्रान्रथः नेन्द्रन्देवेः ઝુઅશ્વાત્વે તુ: નુંચ્ચા પર નુશ્વા તુશા ન સુન્યા તુ: मुलामवे न्वीन्राय सम्रामने स्वार् हे हेन पर वगुराने झ्रान्यायावन दुः वरा दे सुरावेश यर ٦Å

The subjects of how to serve a spiritual guide, of the spiritual fortune and leisure of this life, and of our impermanence are found throughout the supreme form of speech, the word of the Buddha, and the commentaries upon it. You must come to realize that these are instructions to be put into practice at each point where they occur, and so you should actually undertake them at each step.

If you do so, then you will be able to grasp the true intent of the victorious Buddhas quite easily. You should apply this advice to each of the other sections here as well.

This brings us to our second major division, which is the contemplation of what will happen to us in our next life. This involves thinking about the relative happiness and suffering of the higher and lower realms.

She is a sponsor of the Dharma Whose gifts of faith spread far and wide, And Yangdzom Tsering in the deed done here Has given birth to a pure white force. May this power send her across the spiritual Levels and paths, with the speed of a carriage, And bring her quickly to the capital city Of secret Union, before and beyond all time.

Let goodness grow forever!

What a Buddhist Should Do When a Person is Dying

In the spring of 1991, the director of an American hospital which often treats Mongolian and Tibetan patients requested advice on any special steps to be taken with followers of the Buddhist religion as they die. Khen Rinpoche Geshe Lobsang Tharchin, who has recently been appointed by His Holiness the XIVth Dalai lama as the abbot of Sera Mey, one of the largest Buddhist monasteries in the world, gave the following brief advice.

How should family, friends, and hospital staff handle a Buddhist who is dying?

As a person is dying, it is extremely important not to disturb or upset him in any way. Family, friends, and staff should not show any excitement near the deathbed, and should speak softly, in restrained tones. It is best at this time to speak as much as possible about religious topics, according to the religious faith followed by the dying person.

If the person is a Buddhist, the people present should try to talk about subjects such as the Buddhas, lamas or great religious teachers, compassion, loving kindness, the wish to achieve enlightenment for the good of all living beings, and especially the fact that the Buddha himself is a place where one can take ultimate refuge or shelter--a protection which will never fail.

The reason for trying to speak about these things is that the last moments of thought in this life are extremely important in determining what will happen to a person in the future: these thoughts trigger particular seeds in a person's mind that will decide where he is to go next. Therefore it is essential to see that these thoughts are as pure as possible. There should be no bad thoughts or disturbing emotions.

The process of dying is very similar to what happens when an advanced religious practitioner goes into meditation. The mind goes deeper and deeper, and enters an extremely subtle state. Because of this it moves into a psychic chamber that is located in the area of the heart and forms part of the central psychic channel that passes down through the center of the body.

Although the person has stopped breathing and has to all outer appearances become completely cold and lifeless, this subtle state of mind is nonetheless still present in the body, within this chamber. In some people it may remain there for as long as ten days, although seven days is more typical. The way

in which the person's mind is stirred out of this deep, subtle state is the crucial point in the death process.

If allowed to do so, the mind will of its own accord come out of the subtle state--and this is actual death. If however we touch or jar the body abruptly, we can waken his mind from its deep state. The mind will leave the body where we touch it: if we touch the lower part of the body, the legs or feet, then the mind will leave from there and in most cases lead the person to a birth in hell or one of the other lower realms. If we touch the upper part of the body it is better, for most people will then take a birth in the higher realms. The best place we can touch the person is at the center of the top of the head.

It should be emphasized though that one should avoid touching the person altogether. This is because stirring his mind out of its subtle state is actually taking it to the point of death--touching his body causes his mind finally to leave the body, and this is tantamount to killing him. Therefore we should be extremely careful to leave the person alone until the mind has completed the process of the subtle state and departed on its own accord.

How do we know when the mind has departed on its own? What signs will appear?

Once the deep, meditative state has been released, certain liquids will come out of the two nostrils of the person's nose, and also from his lower parts. This should not be confused with the passage of urine during the grosser stages of death; the liquids referred to here are known as the "red" and "white" substances, and are involved with the process of physical conception.

When the liquids are released, the person is actually dead, and his body can be touched. With some people the subtle state might go on considerably longer, and in such a case you can speak to the person quietly and calmly, and ask him two or three times to come out of it. Then the liquids will be released, and you can touch the body.

Is it all right after death to put the body into a refrigerated area?

This is a very dangerous practice. If the mind is still in the subtle state, it will detect the cold and develop a strong desire for warmth. This can cause the person to take birth into one of the hot hells. It is better to wait at least 24 hours after death before refrigerating the body, and very preferable if the period can be even longer. If this is not possible, it is important to ask the person gently to release his state of meditation, as described above.

Is it appropriate for a Buddhist to have his bodily organs donated after death?

It is a very good thing if one can make this final act of charity with his body. It should however be done out of a motivation of wanting to give, and not for any kind of monetary profit.

What is the Buddhist position on mercy killing, or ending someone's life to prevent him further, incurable suffering?

It is very wrong to turn off a life-support system, or to take any similar action, anything that will cause a being's life to end, even if he is "brain dead" but still breathing on a respirator, or the like.

What is the Buddhist position on abortion?

Abortion is completely wrong. It is murder. In fact it is a particularly repugnant form of murder, since in most cases of murder the victim is someone who can physically attempt to fight back and defend himself, whereas in an abortion the victim is small and helpless, and cannot protect himself.

What is the Buddhist position on contraception?

Contraception is not killing, since conception has not occurred, but it is preventing a being from achieving a higher birth, a precious human life.

Is there any way that we can help a person after he dies?

In our lives we do a great many bad deeds, and they remain with us, like small black stones. We have also done a very few good deeds, either purposely or by sheer accident, and these are like small white stones. Nonetheless, by the force of our prayers, and by the blessings of the goodness of the "three gems" of Buddhism--that is, the Buddha, the high realizations of Buddhism, and people who have gained them--it is possible that at a very crucial point in the process of death, or during the "inbetween" period before the next life, the power of the white stone or few good deeds can be pulled out and triggered, rather than the power of the many black stones. It would be a little like winning the lottery.

What particular prayers or rituals can be held to help the dead person?

After the person dies, his mind enters a state called the "bardo" or inbetween state. During this period he is still seeking out his next birth. This "inbetween" being will never live for more than seven days, although he himself can die and become an inbetween being again--for up to a total of seven times, or a total of 49 days, before the next birth is taken.

Because the inbetween state even in the longest case cannot last more than 49 days, we normally perform one ritual on the 49th day after the person's death (for all these prayers, we take the day of death as the first day counted). We believe that this ceremony, which is known as "jang-chok" or "ritual for the purification of bad deeds," can actually help the dead person to take a higher birth.

During this ceremony we lay out some pieces of the dead person's clothing. The "inbetween" being, or the person after his death and before his next birth, has a very subtle physical form, and during this "inbetween" period exhibits extranormal powers such as the ability to pass through walls. He is aware of outer physical events and can be present at the ceremony, attracted to his belongings.

Even though he may not understand the language in which the ritual is held, it is still effective for him. This is because the power of the ritual comes from what we call the "infallible three." The first of these is the blessing of the three jewels, mentioned above. The second is the power of emptiness, or the truth of the fact that nothing can exist inherently. The third is the pure and selfless intent to help the dead person, felt in the hearts of the people performing the ritual.

Incidentally, even if the dead person has already taken his rebirth by the time of the 49th day, the prayers will be effective in helping him in that rebirth. For this reason too it is a custom to hold an additional purification ceremony earlier, on the seventh day after death (again counting the day of death as the first day). Again the person's clothes are used, and the "jang-chok" is read, usually along with a set of nine prayers known as the "mon-lam de-gu," or any appropriate "mon-lam" type of prayer.

Are there particularly effective prayers that can be read around the person as he actually dies?

If the dying person has received the necessary initiations, it is very good if you can recite to him, calmly and clearly, the "dak-kye" ritual used in the secret teaching of Vajra Yogini. The "tun-druk" or secret six-session prayer is also

very good. These rituals have a special power for the dying person because the prayers and visualizations have become ingrained in him, since he has recited and practiced them on a regular basis throughout his life. The prayers are effective whether or not he can at that point clearly hear or comprehend them.

Any other kind of "mon-lam" or prayer can be read around the dying person, if neither of the above is appropriate. It is also good if you can recite the "om mani padme hum" prayer, which is familiar to nearly every Buddhist in our community.

What kind of funeral ceremony is appropriate for a Buddhist?

There is no great difference whether the body is cremated or buried. There is a tradition not to burn the body in a case where the person has had a serious and contagious disease, since it is believed that the smoke from the cremation would be unhealthy for other beings; in this case, burial would be prefered. In general though the practice of burial uses up what would other be useful land for the living. We also believe that there are certain spirits which we can't see, and which are able to partake of the body's flesh. Some of them are made ill by the flesh of man, so that again cremation would be prefered.

Incidentally, in some countries it has become a tradition to hold parties or "wakes" including alcohol drinking, in connection with a funeral. Lord Buddha specifically prohibited the use of alcohol or drugs for Buddhists, and so Buddhists should avoid this practice.

What should be done with the belongings of the dead person?

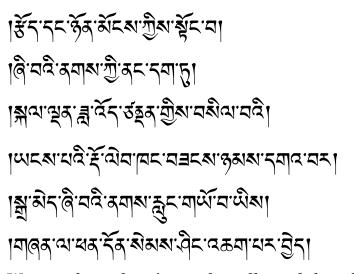
Of course, the wishes of the person as he expressed them before his death should be followed.

The Asian Classics Institute Practice V: Death and the End of Death

Reading Four: The Exchange, the best thing to do if you're going to die tonight

The following contemplations are based on the *Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way* of Life (Bodhisattvacharyavatara; Byang-chub-sems-dpa'i spyod-pa la 'jug-pa) of the Buddhist master Shantideva (circa 700 AD), and the commentary upon it by Gyaltsab Je Darma Rinchen (1364-1432) entitled Entry Point for Children of the Victorious Buddhas (rGyal-sras 'jug-ngogs).

Contemplation One Where to devote yourself to meditation



We spend our days in gentle walks and thoughts Of helping others, here in the silent Peace of the forest, flowing in soft breezes; We live doing as we please in our mansion Of a wide flat rock, cool with the touch Of moonlight and sandalwood scent of the holy, Living deep within the woods Of peacefulness, completely emptied Of conflict and the afflictions.

We live where we please, as long As we like, in abandoned houses Or caves, or else at the foot of a tree. We have given up the suffering Of owning and protecting things, Carefree we live, relying on nothing.

Here is the first point, which describes one of the feature of living in isolation: that the place and so on are so perfectly excellent. "If I go into isolation," you may ask, "where should it be?" Think of a wheel-empowered emperor, who has no one at all to compete with him, and who revels in the objects of the

senses at his own complete leisure. Just like this emperor do *we live, deep within the woods of peacefulness,* at rest from all the various distractions, in a place *completely emptied of* both any outer *conflict and* any kind of mental *affliction*—completely free of any of the objects that could trigger within us emotions such as liking or disliking another person.

We live doing as we please under some very wide, flat rock as a roof, which is just like a mansion for us. The place is cool, made cool by the touch of sweet sandalwood scent smeared all over—the soft moonlight of the presence of the holy beings who have stayed there in the past.

Here the forest is silent, with no kinds of sound to clash with our thoughts, and *peace*ful with the *soft* velvet *breezes* that *flow* past to grace the ground of our meditation. *We spend our days* here *in gentle walks, and thoughts of* things we can do that will *help others*—in the practice of the wish for enlightenment. And so it is, that when great practitioners go into isolation, the pleasure they feel is infinitely greater than anything felt by those who follow the worldly way of life.

Here is the second point, that another benefit I will achieve from living in isolation is my independence. In isolation *we live where we please,* and *as long as we like,* in places where there are no other people: *in abandoned houses, or* in *caves, or else at the foot of a tree. We have given up* both *the suffering of owning* many different material *things, and the suffering of* trying to *protect* these *things* from being lost. In short, *we live carefree, relying on nothing:* no hopes, and no plans.

Contemplation Two What to meditate upon: the service of others

Think of these considerations And others as well, contemplate The benefits of isolation. Put an end to useless Thoughts, and meditate upon The wish for enlightenment.

From the very beginning exert yourself In the practice of treating others And yourself the same. When the happiness and the sufferings Are the same, then you will care for all Just as you do yourself.

Think of these considerations—the ones presented up to this point—and others as well, in order to contemplate the benefits of living in some faraway place, isolated from the hustle and bustle of life and other such distractions. Put a complete end to all useless thoughts like striving after the objects of the senses, and spend your time meditating upon the wish for enlightenment.

"What is the method," you may ask, "which I should use to meditate upon this wish?" You should, from the very beginning, exert yourself in the practice of treating others and yourself the same. "And how do I do that?" you may ask. We spend our time working to achieve happiness for ourselves, and working to stop any suffering for ourselves. We must learn to act just the same way towards the happiness and the sufferings of others; we should make our attempts to achieve happiness and to stop suffering the same, for both ourselves and others. When we do so, then we will come to care for and cherish all living beings just as we do ourselves.

Contemplation Three They are a part of you too

૧ભગાચાયાઓગ્રીમાચાનુદ્વી ગાફસાઅવાખવા આિંતસાસુ ગસ્યુવાનુવે ભુસાસુ ગાઈગાયા ભુતા કે ગલેક વર્ષે ગાંધાવનું વ્યુવાનગ શિય્ય અહીં તે ગાંધાવે છે ગાંધાવે છ શિય્ય અહીં છે ગાંધાવે છે ગ

There are many separate parts, the hands And all the rest, but we dearly care For them all, as a single body. Just so shall I work for the happiness of every different being, Treating all as equal, all as one, Thinking of their joy and pain as if it were my own.

 \hat{X} અષ્ઠા અત્ર અત્રવ પ્રષ્ણ પ્રાપ્ત પુ પ્રાપ્ત પ્રશ્વ તે ' પ્રાપ્ત વે ' સ્રુપ્ત પ્રાપ્ત ' પ્રે ' તે ' પ્રાપ્ત પ્રાપ્ત તે ' પ્રાપ્ત પર તે ' પ્રાપ્ત પ્રાપ્ત તે ' પ્રાપ્ત પર તે ' પ્રાપ્ત તે ' પ્રાપ્ત તે ' પ્રાપ્ત તે ' પ્રાપ્ત પર તે ' પ્રાપત તે ' પ્રાપ્ત પર પ્રાપ્ત તે ' પ્રાપ્ત પર તે ' પ્રાપત તે ' પ્રાપ્ત તે ' પ્રાપ્ત તે ' પ્રાપ્ત ' પ્રાપત તે ' પ્રાપ્ત ' પ્રાપત તે ' પ્યાપત તે ' પ્રાપ

One may make the following objection:

I don't see how it could be the right thing to do to act towards the happiness and the sufferings of others exactly the same as I do towards

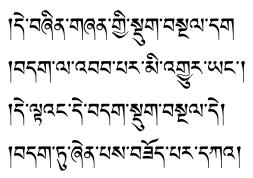
those of my own; the reason I say this is that the number of living beings is absolutely infinite, and there is no way that I could ever think "me" about every one of them.

Think though about the many *separate parts* of your body: your feet, your *hands, and all the rest.* Even though *there are many* of these parts, we think of them all as "mine," and care dearly for all of them, as the single body of a single person. The various *different* types of *beings*—worldly gods, humans, and the like—are *just so.* Even though they are separate, there is no distinction between their individual *joys and* their individual *pains:* I can learn to view them as indistinguishable, and then conceive of all of them *as if* they *were my own* self, just as I conceive of myself as myself. The point here is that I could learn to think about *every* one of them in the same way, and say to myself, "I *shall work* to achieve this particular *happiness,"* and "I shall work to stop this particular suffering."

Contemplation Four What makes pain mine?

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Suppose you object, and say That your pain never hurts The body of another. Even so your pain is something You can't bear for just one reason: Your grasping to yourself.



Just so, even though it's true That sufferings others feel Never come and strike you, Still it is your suffering, Since you'll find them hard to bear Once you grasp to yourself.

୶୲ଵ୶ୄୠୄୖୄୢୄୣ୶୶୲୳ୢୄଈୖ୶୲୳ଽ୶୲ୖ୶୲୶୲ୡ୕ଽ୲୳ଽଽୖ୶୲ୄୢୄଌ୶୲୳ୢୄଈ୷୲ୠୄୡ୲୷୲ଈ ୶୲ୡ୕ଽ୳୳ଽଽ୲ଽଽ୶୲ୖଽ୲ଌଽୣଽ୲୶୶୲ୖ ૡથર 'ર્રે'લે'ના શ્રેનિંગ્સર્ગ'ને ગાલન શે શૂગ ગ્રષ્ટ્ર વાયશે શો અન્ય પ્રે ગાં તે કે પ્રાપ્ત કે પ સ્પત કે પ્રાપ્ત કે પ્ર

One may make yet another objection:

Two facts here are the same: the pain that others have doesn't hurt me; and the pain that I have doesn't hurt others. Therefore you are incorrect when you say that I should make very intentional efforts to remove their pain in exactly the same way that I make efforts to remove my own pain.

Yet there is no such problem in our reasoning. *Suppose you* do *object* this way, *and say that your pain never hurts the body of another,* any more than their pain hurts you. *Even so,* their pain is your pain. This is because *your* own *pain is something* you find *unbearable for just one reason: your* habit of *grasping to yourself* as yourself.

Suppose that, *just so*, you become accustomed to considering others yourself as well. *Even though it may be true* then *that* the *sufferings* which *others feel* may *never come and strike you* personally, *still* the suffering that these living beings feel *is your suffering* to work to remove, *since you'll find it hard to bear* it when sufferings come to them, *once you* have learned to *grasp to* them as being *yourself*.

Contemplation Five Logical proofs for compassion and love

।ସମସ୍ୟାସ୍ପିଷ୍ୟ ସାଜ୍ୟ ଅଁୃଷ୍ଟୁସ୍ୟ ସହୁଦ୍ୟ ସଷଦ୍ୟା ।ଷ୍ଟୁସ୍ୟ ସହୁଦ୍ୟ ଭିଶ୍ୱ ସ୍ଥିର୍ଟ ସମସ୍ୟ ଷ୍ଟୁସ୍ୟ ସଜିଶ ।ସମସ୍ୟ ସ୍ପିଷ୍ୟ ସାଜ୍ୟ ଦ୍ୟ ସ୍ୟ ସ୍ଥ ସ୍ଥା ।ଷିଷ୍ୟ ଓଣ୍ଟ ଭିଶ୍ୱ ଥିରୁ ସମସ୍ୟ ସ୍ଥ ସ୍ଥ ସଜିଶା

I must stop the pain of others, Because it's pain; it's like the pain That I feel myself. I must act to help all others Because they're living beings; it's like The body that I own.

Àଧ୍ୟଂତଶ୍ଂସ୍/ବଣ୍ ଶ୍ରିଂଞ୍ଗୁସ୍/ସଞ୍ଜ୍ୟାର୍ଜିଷ୍ଣଂତଶ। ସମସାଂସ୍ବିଷ୍ଣ ସ୍ୟର୍ଭ୍ୟାସସ୍ଥି ଅଟେ ଅଭ୍ୟାନ୍ତି ଅଟେ ଅଭ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟ ଅନ୍ଥି ଅଟେ ଅନ୍ଥ୍ୟା ସହର୍ଭ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ଥ୍ୟା ସହର୍ଭ୍ୟା ସ୍ଥି ଅଟେ ଅନ୍ଥ୍ୟା ସହର୍ଭ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାସ୍ଥି ଅଟେ ଅନ୍ଥ୍ୟା ସହର୍ଭ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର ଅନ୍ୟା ସମ୍ବସ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ସନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର ଅନ୍ୟା ସନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ସନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟ ଅନ୍ୟା ସନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟ ଅନ୍ୟା ସନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ସନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ସନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଯ୍ ଅନ୍ୟା ସନ୍ୟାର୍ୟ ଅନ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟା ସନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ସନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ଥ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ୍ ଅନ୍ୟାର୍ୟା ଅନ

[The following section is presented by Gyaltsab Je as a pair of formal, logical proofs.]

Proof number one:

Consider the pain of other living beings.

It is right that I must stop it,

Because it is pain.

It is, for example, like the pain that I feel myself.

Proof number two:

It is something right that *I* must act to achieve whatever *helps* and brings happiness to *all others*,

Because each person out there is a *living being*.

It's like, for example, the way I work to bring happiness to *the body that I own*.

Contemplation Six The democracy of love

।বান-ক্রি'নন্বান্ন-শের্বি'শা ।নন্নান্দের্বি'ন্ড্রেক্র্র্নেম্বার্থা ।নন্বান্দের্দ্রন্বান্বাউন্বানন্বিন্বন্বার্জ্বরা ।বান-স্ট্রি-'নন্বা'নাউন্বানন্বি'নন্দর্জ্ব।

Given the fact that both myself And others are exactly the same In wanting happiness, What difference could there ever be Between us, what reason that I work Only for happiness for myself?

Given the fact that both myself And others are exactly the same In not wanting pain, What difference could there ever be Between us, what reason that I protect Myself and not all others?

It is right that I should act exactly the same towards the happiness and sufferings of others as I do towards those of my own, for the following reasons. *Given the fact that both myself and others are exactly the same in* how we *want happiness, what difference* then *could there ever be between us*—between myself and others? There is no difference at all. And for *what reason* then do *I work only for happiness for myself*—what is my justification? Why do I not work the same for the happiness of others? What I'm doing now is not right.

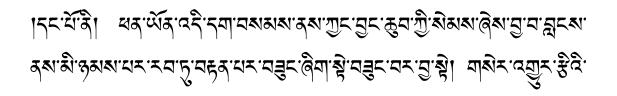
Given the fact that both myself and others are exactly the same in how we do not want any pain, what difference could there ever be between us, between myself and others? There is no difference at all. And for what reason then do I fail to protect the happiness of all others, and concentrate instead on reaching my own happiness, and protecting it from ever being lost? The two happiness are exactly the same, and it is right for me to work to achieve them both.

The Asian Classics Institute Practice V: Death and the End of Death

Reading Five: The End of Death

The following selections are taken from the *Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life* (*Bodhisattvacharyavatara; Byang-chub-sems-dpa'i spyod-pa la 'jug-pa*) of the Buddhist master Shantideva (circa 700 AD), and the commentary upon it by Gyaltsab Je Darma Rinchen (1364-1432) entitled *Entry Point for Children of the Victorious Buddhas (rGyal-sras 'jug-ngogs)*. The last section is from the *Overview of the Middle Way*, composed by Master Kedrup Tenpa Dargye (1493-1568).

Keep this thing called the "wish for enlightenment" As firmly as you can, for like The highest form of alchemical elixir It transforms this filthy body you've taken To the holy form of a Victorious One, Of immeasurable value beyond all value.



<u></u> ફ્રસાયવે અર્ઠેવા વાશેર વશુર શું જે સૂદ વારેવા વીશ સુવાશ સૂદ સેંદ વાશેર દુ વક્ષુર મુભા નવે સું મેત્ર છેતું મેત્ર શ્વર એ ર પર એ અચારે છે ર છે ર છે ર જે ર સું ર ન અ તે વે

Once you have contemplated its benefits, then you are to *keep*—that is, you must keep—this thing called the "wish for enlightenment" as firmly as you can: find it, and then prevent it from ever lessening. This is because it is *like the highest* form of alchemical elixir, the kind where you need only a single gram of the elixir to change a thousand grams of iron into gold. And this is so because with the wish, and with it alone, you can *transform this filthy body you've taken* on—a body which is filthy both in the sense of what has brought it about, and from the point of view of the stuff from which it is made—*into the holy form of a Victorious One, of immeasurable value beyond all value.*

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The supreme nectar of deathlessness, Which acts to destroy the Lord of Death Within every living being, is as well this wish.

ײַר־קַר־אָק־ײַזויאאאי־דאָר־ײַיבי בייבי איקיקיאיקיאיקיאיריאייעיבאון איזאיידא

There is a *supreme nectar of deathlessness*, one *which acts to destroy the Lord of Death within every living being*—which stops this condition of having helplessly to die. And the nectar *is this wish* for enlightenment, because it leads us to the state where there is no aging, and no death.

าวญ์ วิวิริรุณาราสิดาราพิ เม้าอรามุริราพราวราพิสาส์เ

This same wish is an endless Treasure house which removes The poverty of every living thing.

ากุจิฆานาลิท อาราอิรารราชัญาณ์รณาผู้รามิเอรานาผิราวณาฉญานนา

Here is the second. There is as well *an endless treasure house which removes the poverty of every living thing,* for it grants never-endingly a wealth of both material things and the Dharma. The treasure too *is this* same *wish* for enlightenment.

าลฏิ์าลลิเสรารสาติาฏิราลลิเ ાર્ચ્ચ શું અર્દે ગાં શું મુખ્ય તે શું શું આ પ્ર

This same wish is a supreme medicine Which puts a final end To the illness of living kind.



Here is the third. There is a supreme medicine which puts a final end to every illness of living kind, and it too is this same wish.

ไม้ว.งาพ.งไปิพ.ยู่ะ.วีน.ก.พูโ าวที่ ววิ เวลา เจ้า ผู้สาวารา เจลา

The wish is a great tree which refreshes All those beings who have tired themselves Wandering along the road of cyclic existence.

าลดานลา มีวานลางเวาเลยมเด้าเว่านาญเล่าวนาลังนามีการมีเป็นเกาม์ล.

Here is the fourth. There is a great tree which provides a cool spot that refreshes and clears away the sufferings of all those beings who have tired themselves by wandering along the road of the cycle of existence. This too is the wish.

าลที้เการมมางรารสาลที่เกม ลู้ณาสาวฏิรานณิฐาลิสสามาพิสา

The wish is a great span That allows all living beings To escape from the lower realms.



Here is the fifth. There is a great span, a bridge, that allows all living beings to escape from the lower realms. This too is the wish.

าลมี้เสลิ ซิสามักมากการเกิดเสลา เพิ่มพาฏิ สาว คราวาพิสา

The wish is a moon that rises In the mind, to clear away The mental afflictions That torment living creatures.

ရြာအိုလာကာကြောက် အိုရာဆ္ဆိုသာလာကာကာက ရောက်လာကာကို ကြောက်လာကာကို ကြောက်လာကာကို အိုလာကာကို အိုလာကာကို အိုလာကာကို အန္တိုင်ကာက်ကို အိုလာကို အိုလာကာကို အိုလာကာကို အိုလာကာကို အိုလာကာကို အိုလာကာကို အိုလာကာကို အိုလာကာကို အိုလာကာကိ အိုရာဆ္ဆိုင်ကာစာကေရာက်ကို အိုလာက္ကေရာက္ကေနာ့ အိုလာကာကို အိုလာကာကို အိုလာကာကို အိုလာကာကို အိုလာကာကို အိုလာကာကို အ

The power of removing obstacles we will cover in two parts: how the wish removes the obstacles that are mental afflictions, and then how it removes the obstacles to total knowledge. Here is the first. *The wish* for enlightenment *is a moon that rises in the mind, to clear away* with its cool light all the heat of *the mental afflictions,* which *torment living creatures.* This is because it has the power to destroy each and every one of the obstacles which are mental afflictions.

The wish is a great sun That rises to obliterate, To rip out, the cataracts, The lack of knowledge, In every living being.

ٳ؆ૹ૾ૢૹૻૻૹ૽૾૱૽ૣ૽ૼ૱ૡ૽ૺૼૼૼૹ૽ૼ૱૽ૼૡૼૻૹૻૻૻૻ૱૱ૹૻૻૻઌ૾૱ૻૡ૽૾૱ૻ૾ૡ૽૾ૹૻૻૡૺૹૻૹૣ૽૱૿૽૽ૢૺ૱૱૾૾૱ ઽૹૢૡૻૡ૽૾ૺૡ૽ૢૺૼૹૻૻઌૺ૱ૹૻૡૡ૽ૢૢ૽ૺ૱ૻૡૡ૽ૺૹ૽ૺ૱ૡૻૺૡ૱ૡૻૻૡ૱ૻઌ૾૱ૡ૽ૺ ૱ૡૢૢ૱ૡૡ૽૾૾ૡૢ૽ૼૼૼૼૼઙ૾૾ૢ૾ૼ૱ૢૢ૽ૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૡૹૻૡૡ૽૾ૡૺૹૻૻ૱૽૿ઌ૾ૢૢ૽ૼૹૻઌ૽ૼ૱૱ૼૡ૱ૡ૽ૢૺ૱ ૱ૼ Here is the second part. *The wish is* also *a great sun that rises to obliterate*—that is, *to rip out* from its roots—*the cataracts* of the obstacles to total knowledge *in every living being: the lack of knowledge* which is not directly related to the mental afflictions. This is because the state of wisdom which perceives emptiness, and which is further enhanced by great accumulations of good deeds, functions to terminate completely the very seeds of the obstacles to total knowledge.

ાત્રચઃર્ત્રેચઃવેંચઃત્રસુત્રચાયાવા આરાશુઃ છેલ્લા સુદાવા સાથે છે. આ સાથે આ સા

The wish is the very essence Of butter, distilled from churning The milk of the holy Dharma.

าปสมานานานายิ่งมา สลานามสนารายาารสู้นานาราย นรานามสนารายาารสู้นานนั้น เรราน์โล้ จังงงานพิรานานริโล้าทุญราร[ั]การงานนิโอ้จาน์โมนิโล้งไม้ได้สังไม้โล้งไม้โย้งา าลมาฏิเวลาราวฏิเาสูาเวรามีมานามการกลุ่ามานานมาลิรารับรูราาเพิ่ง นพ ผลานาพยนารทานฏิรานนารัฐพารราษสานนาพราญิษิราตูนูรานาพิสานพ ગુન શુશ્ચ વર્ન ભારવર પર ગુલે

Here thirdly is how the wish achieves the goals of others, in two stages of how it brings about every kind of benefit, and how it brings about every kind of happiness. *This wish* for enlightenment *is* the very essence, something that has been *distilled from* the great ocean of *the milk of the holy Dharma*, the highest of all spoken words. It has been distilled through the process of *churning* this milk with the great paddle of wisdom which has come from listening and contemplation. It is like a great heap of *the very essence of butter*, a butter that has a special nutritional value, in that it can help everything of any kind of benefit at all to grow. As such, everyone should make efforts to reach this state of mind.

The Glass of Liquid

Here we will analyze the statement [from *Entering the Middle Way*, by Master Chandrakirti (650 AD)] where it says, "...The mind of a craving spirit as well, which sees a stream of water as pus." One may begin with the following question:

Let's consider the objects of the following states of mind: the visual consciousness of a craving spirit where a river of water looks like pus and blood; the visual consciousness of a person with a kind of cataract where a clean white porcelain basin looks like a hair has fallen into it; and that kind of meditation where you visualize skeletons—where you imagine that the entire surface of the earth is covered with the bones of corpses. Are all these objects completely equivalent, as far as being something that exists or doesn't exist?

રેપ્ય અવન સુધેપ્યુદ પ્યર્થેન માંગ્રે માંગ્રે સંગળવન માંગ્રે સુધ્ર પ્રાયંપ્ય કે સ્ટાર્થ્ય સંગળવા છે. સુધ્ર સંગણ સુધ્ય સંગણ સુધ્ર સંગણ સ સંગણ સુધ્ર સંગણ સંગણ સંગણ સંગણ સંગણ સંગણ સંગ સ સંગણ સુધ્ર સંગણ સાધ્ય સંગણ સાધ્ય સંગણ સુધ્ર સ

In reply we will first set forth a relevant passage, and then we will explicate the passage. Here is the first. The text called *The Abbreviation of the Greater Way* says,

Insofar as craving spirits, animals, Humans, and pleasure beings, each according To their class, have differing perceptions Of a single thing, we say it has no reality.

Asvabhava, the venered layman with lifetime vows, has explained the passage. His words include the following:

When they look at *a single thing*, a stream of water, each one sees what the ripening of his particular karma forces him to see. A *craving spirit* sees the river full of pus and blood and the like.

An *animal* or such, on the other hand, thinks of this same water as a place to stay, and makes his home there.

Humans look at the same thing and perceive it as water—sweet, clear, and cool. They drink of it, they wash themselves with it, and they swim in it.

Those pleasure beings who are wrapped in deep meditation at the level we call the "realm of limitless space" see the water as empty space, for their ability to conceptualize physical matter has dissolved altogether.