



The Asian Classics Institute



Diamond Mountain University

In-Depth Course 1
Teachings of the Future Buddha:
The Uttara Tantra of Maitreya

Homework and Quiz Master, Class Seven: Buddha-Nature is Emptiness

1) There are a variety of names in Sanskrit and Tibetan for “Buddha-nature.” Give any three of them, with their English translation. (Sanskrit and Tibetan tracks write in those languages.)

[Any three of the following can be used:

(a) “Essence of the Ones Gone Thus”

དེ་བཞིན་གཤེགས་པའི་སྣང་པོ།

deshin shekpay nyingpo

तथागत गर्भ

tatha-gata garbha

(b) “Essence of the Ones Gone to Bliss”

བདེ་བར་གཤེགས་པའི་སྣང་པོ།

dewar shekpay nyingpo

सुगत गर्भ

sugata garbha

(c) “Heart of the Ones Gone Thus”

དེ་བཞིན་གཤེགས་པའི་སྣང་པོ།

deshin shekpay nyingpo

तथागत हृदय

tatha-gata hr.dayā

(d) “Family seed”

རིགས།	गोत्र
rik	gotra

(e) “Buddha-part”

ཁམས།	धातु
kham	dha-tu

(f) “Buddha-genus”

སངས་རྒྱལ་གྱི་རིགས།	बुद्धवंश
sanggye kyi rik	buddhavam.s.a

*2) Give the words with which Lord Buddha himself, 2500 years ago, spoke of emptiness as He began the discussion of Buddha-nature in the *Middle-Length Sutra on the Perfection of Wisdom*. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

[“O Subhuti, there is no track left in the sky when a bird passes by; it is simply invisible.”

རབ་འབྱོར་ནམ་མཁའ་ལ་བྱའི་རྗེས་མིང་ཅིང་མི་དམིགས་སོ།།

rabjor namkha lajay jeme chingmi mikso

3) Quote two of the lines from *The Ornament of Realizations* in which Lord Maitreya, 16 centuries ago, described Buddha-nature. (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

[The expression “family seed” refers to the foundation
For entering the six different realizations...

ཁྱོགས་པ་ཡི་ནི་ཚེས་རྒྱལ།

tokpa yini chudruk

འཇུག་པའི་རྟེན་ལ་རིགས་ཞེས་བྱ།

jukpay tenla rigshe ja

4) In one of the most famed commentaries on Maitreya's teachings, the Indian master Haribhadra (from the 9th Century) gave a concise definition of Buddha-nature. Quote it (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

[“What we call 'Buddha-nature' refers only to the true nature of things: to the ether of things.”

ཚོས་གྱི་དབྱིངས་གྱི་ངོ་བོ་ཉིད་ལོ་ན་ལ་རིགས་ཞེས་བསྟན་ཏོ།།

chukyi yingkyi ngowo nyi kona la rikshe tento

*5) Give the technical definition of “Buddha-nature.” (Tibetan track in Tibetan.)

[“Anything which can become a Buddha.”

སངས་རྒྱས་སུ་འགྱུར་རུང་།

sanggye su gyur rung

6) Give the three types of Buddha-nature; and an example for each. (Tibetan track give the types in Tibetan. Sanskrit track add Sanskrit for the first type.)

(a) [Innate Buddha-nature. Examples would be the emptiness of ones mind, or the emptiness of the path of seeing and similar realizations.

རང་བཞིན་གཞན་རིགས།

rangshin nerik

प्रकृतिस्थ गोत्र

praktistha gotra

(b) Buddha-nature for development. The wisdom of a bodhisattva perceiving emptiness on the path of seeing.

རྒྱས་འགྱུར་གྱི་རིགས།

gyengyur gyi rik

(c) Other types of Buddha-nature. The truth of cessation (which belongs to deceptive reality) in the mind of a bodhisattva on the path of seeing.

དེ་ལས་གཞན་པའི་རིགས།

dele shenpay rik

*7) Now give the definitions of the first two types of Buddha-nature from the last question.

(a) [Innate Buddha-nature is defined as “Anything which is first of all the realm of things (emptiness), and secondly can become the essence body.”]

(b) Buddha-nature for development is defined as “Anything which can become one of the caused bodies at the level of a Buddha.”]

*8) Lama Umapa is the famous teacher of Je Tsongkapa who acted as an intermediary between his student and Gentle Voice (Manjushri). In his collection of texts on this Angel, Lama Umapa describes how the five different wisdoms of an Enlightened Being mark the final transformation of the five different heaps and the purification of five sets of negative emotions. List these three items for each of the five types of wisdom.

(a) [Mirror-like wisdom; heap of consciousness; purification of anger]

(b) Equal wisdom; heap of feeling; purification of pride and cheapness

(c) Analytical wisdom; heap of discrimination; purification of ignorant liking

(d) Accomplishing wisdom; heap of other factors; purification of jealousy

(e) Wisdom of the dharma-realm; heap of form; purification of ignorance

Homework and meditation assignment: 15 minutes per day, analytical meditation on parts of yourself that will turn into the Buddha you are to become (if you're not already!).