



Name:

Date:

Grade:

Sacred Classics Translator Program

Homework, Class 1

1) What is the short title of the text we are translating (give either the Tibetan or English title)? Also give the name of the author and his dates.

དགོངས་རབ་གསལ། (dgongs rab gsal)

Gong - pa Rab - sel

Illumination of the True thought

Je Tsongkapa (1357- 1419)

2) Of what earlier work is this text an explanation (give either the Tibetan, Sanskrit or English title)? Name the author and give his approximate dates.

དབུ་མ་ལ་འཇུག་པ། (dbu ma la 'jug pa)

Uma La Jukpa *Madhyamaka Avatara*

Entering the Middle Way

Master Chandrakirti c. 650 AD

3) This earlier work is a commentary upon what even earlier work? Give the short title (either in Tibetan, Sanskrit or English) and the author's name and dates.

རྩ་བ་ཤེས་རབ། (rtsa ba shes rab)

Tsawa Sherab *Mula Prajnya*

The Root Text on Wisdom

Arya Nagarjuna c. 200 AD

4) What is the Tibetan word for ‘master translator’? (Give either in Tibetan or English)

ལོ་ཙ་བ།

(lo tsa ba)

Lotsawa

5) What is the first major principle of effective translation?

To define your audience. In our case here, we wish to reach out to as large an audience as possible. We are not wishing to produce a translation just for the Buddhist academic audience or even the just the general Tibetan Buddhist practitioners in the West. Therefore it should be readable to the normal Westerner, but without any compromise in the accuracy of the translation.

6) Why do we wish to reach as large an audience as possible with our translation?

Because the purpose of producing and distribution this translation is to plants the seeds of wisdom into our Western culture as widely as possible. We are wishing to change as many people’s lives as possible by passing on the wisdom by which normal people can totally transform themselves and their world.

7) What is the second major principle of effective translation?

Be sure that you have an accurate text to work with by obtaining and comparing as many versions of the text as possible.

8) How many versions of the Tibetan text do we have scanned? And from which monastic ‘publishing houses’ are they from? Which of these texts have been input by the ACIP team?

We have three different scanned versions of Gong-pa Rab-sel: from Hlasa (found by Guru Deva at the request of Ken Rinpoche Geshe Lobsang Tarchin); from Trashi Hlunpo, the monastery of His Holiness the first Panchen Lama; and from Kubum, a monastery at the birthplace of Je Tsongkapa. Of these, only the first version of the text has been input by the ACIP team.

9) Does the Tibetan word ‘Ten-chu’ (BSTAN BCOS) refer to any particular type of commentary?

It refers exclusively to a commentary by the classical Indian Pandits. The word is not used by the Tibetans for a Tibetan commentary.