



Diamond Mountain University

Sacred Classics Translator Program, Spring Term 2006

Answer Key, Homework, Class 7

Name:
Date:
Grade:

1) What is the meaning of the analogy of the track left behind in the sky by a bird as it flies across it? What is the point that the masters are making?

Someone who can perceive the trail left in the sky as a bird flies through the sky would have great difficulty in finding the words to communicate adequately what they are able to see to someone who is not able to see this trail. Further, it would be almost impossible for this person listening to this description to realize what is being described.

In a similar way, a bodhisattva who has experienced emptiness directly cannot show what they have seen or effectively describe the experience to an ordinary being. There are simply no words to describe the experience in the ordinary person's language. Even if there were words to describe it, the other person would not be able to comprehend or perceive the experience.

The masters are pointing out that the bodhisattva levels are not distinguished by the meditative wisdom on emptiness that one achieves. Even if there were distinctions in this wisdom, the distinctions would be so subtle that one could never describe them to ordinary beings like us, and we would never understand them anyway.

2) Translate: 'JIG RTEN PA'I BRDA' BYANG.

'JIG RTEN PA'I means 'worldly' or 'mundane'; BRDA' means 'word' or 'sign'; and BYANG means 'accomplished'. So it means to be well acquainted or trained in the appropriate worldly name of something.

འཇིག་རྟེན་པའི་བདེན་བྱང་།

jik-ten-pay da jang

3) Master Kedrup Tenpa Dargye now commences his presentation on the nature of each individual bodhisattva level. Write the names of the first five levels in Tibetan script (as they appear in the text) and the respective English translation.

(i) རབ་རྩ་དགའ་བ།

rab tu ga-wa

‘Extreme Bliss’

(ii) འྲི་མ་མེད་པ།

dri-ma me-pa

‘the Immaculate’

(iii) འོད་གྱེད་པ།

u je-pa

‘Radiance’

(iv) འོད་ལྗོངས་པ།

u tro-wa

‘Blazing Light’

(v) རྩུངས་དགའ་བ།

jang ka-wa

‘Indomitable’