



Diamond Mountain University

Sacred Classics Translator Program, Spring Term 2006

Answer Key, Homework, Class 5

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| Name: |
| Date: |
| Grade: |

1) Hinayana arhats and eighth level and higher bodhisattvas have permanently stopped their mental afflictions. Can they be said to possess stainless wisdom?

Subject to the qualification below, every state of mind other than that of a fully enlightened being is necessarily stained because it is either infected by ignorance or by the mental seed for ignorance. Therefore, the wisdom of hinayana arhats and eighth level and higher bodhisattvas is not, generally speaking, stainless.

However, when a realized being who is not yet a Buddha is in the direct perception of emptiness their state of mind is unstained. So hinayana arhats and eighth level and higher bodhisattvas, and any other realized being who is yet to reach mahayana enlightenment) possess unstained wisdom at these specific moments of meditative wisdom.

2) What additional point does the quotation from Je Tsongkapa's 'The Illumination of the True Thought' make at this stage?

Immediately upon rising from their meditation directly perceiving emptiness, the mind of the meditator returns to being infected by the mental seed for ignorance.

3) What is the difference, then, between arhats and bodhisattvas of the eighth level or higher, and bodhisattvas on the seventh level down?

Arhats and eighth level and higher bodhisattvas no longer ever possess a state of mind that is infected by ignorance. Their minds are still however infected by the mental seed for ignorance (other than when directly perceiving emptiness).

The minds of seventh level on down bodhisattvas are infected by both ignorance and its mental seeds.

4) What is meant by the statement that the wisdom of the first bodhisattva level (“the wisdom of non-duality”) is *not* the realization that what we see and what our seeing of it are not two different things.

It is that the realization that one has at the path of seeing and reaching the first bodhisattva level is not the Mind-Only School realization that the perceived object and the valid perception of it are empty of coming from a separate karmic seed.