



Name:
Date:
Grade:

Sacred Classics Translator Program – Fall Term, 2005

Answer Key, Homework, Class 2

1) Of the three causes of a fledgling bodhisattva, which is considered to be the very root of the other two causes? (Give both the Tibetan and English)

Great compassion.

སྤྱིང་རྩེ་ཆེན་པོ།

Specifically, the great compassion where you seek to protect all living beings from pain.

སེམས་ཅན་སྤྱག་བསྐྱེལ་ལས་སྦྱོབ་འདོད་ཀྱི་སྤྱིང་རྩེ་ཆེན་པོ།

2) Referencing which earlier Indian text, what are the three analogies that Master Kedrup Tenpa Dargye uses to describe the three types, by stage, of great compassion?

Master Kedrup Tenpa Dargye draws upon the second verse of Master Chandrakirti's *Entering the Middle Way* in describing the great compassion that is essential at the outset for the initial growth of the Wish for enlightenment as like a seed.

The great compassion that is essential in the interim to propel one to learn the activities of a Bodhisattva, once one has already developed the Wish, is like water and nutrients.

The great compassion that is essential at the very end - to propel one to turn the Wheel of Dharma, once one has become fully enlightened - is like the ripening of fruit that one's disciples can then enjoy.

3) Briefly summarize the steps that Master Kedrup Dargye presents in how great compassion, at the outset, becomes the root for developing the Wish. Give also the Tibetan phrase for ‘the needs of others’ and ‘one’s own needs’.

A person who possesses this great compassion sees that living beings are in suffering and wishes to bring them all to complete enlightenment. So they come to aspire to fulfill the needs of others, but then see that in order to do so they must first reach full enlightenment themselves. And so this gives birth to the state of mind wherein one wishes to reach complete enlightenment in order also to fulfill one’s own needs.

གཞན་དོན།

shen dun "the needs of others"

རང་དོན།

rang dun "one’s own needs"

4) What does Master Kedrup Tenpa Dargye assert that one must do even after one has gained the Wish for enlightenment?

He states that one must continue to soak one’s mind in the water of compassion, for otherwise one may fall to the ‘enlightenment’ (i.e. nirvana) of the listeners or self-made Buddhas.

5) When ‘on-line’, what is a quick and effective way to find out what words or phrases are commonly used in today’s language - so we can ensure that we always use common English in our translations?

We can ‘google’ a word or phrase and see how many ‘hits’ we get.

