

A Gift of Liberation
Course Eight—The Beauty of a Teacher
Homework, Class Three:
The Uselessness of Living Without a Teacher

1) Since the dangers of taking yourself to a Teacher and then later disrespecting or rejecting them in any way are so incredibly serious, please list here the first four of the eight traditional dangers, as described by Pabongka Rinpoche in his *Gift of Liberation*.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

2) Since the dangers of disparaging our Teacher are so extremely serious, what course of action does Pabongka Rinpoche advise, from the very beginning?

3) There is a famous quotation from a text in the Tengyur canon called *A Commentary on Difficult Points in the Secret Teaching of the Ebony Foe* concerning the measure of how much (and what) a person needs to teach us before we are required to observe the correct “Lama Protocol” towards them. Please describe.

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4) What does the famous Guhya Samaja Tantra (The Secret Collection), one of the highest of all secret teachings in the world, say about a person who disparages their Teacher and then tries to practice any form of these teachings?

5) Why is it that the highest teachings of Buddhism, the Diamond Way teachings, “backfire” and take us to the lower realms, if we practice them after disparaging our Lama?

Coffee shop assignment: Please meet with at least one other person—or better, a group of people—whom you didn’t know well before this teaching; do your homework together and discuss together any questions you have. Please write here where, when, and with whom you did your homework:

Meditation assignment: 15 minutes early in the day, and 15 minutes later in the day, go through a mental list of the principal Teachers in your life, whether in your family; your schooling; your work; or your spiritual journey. Try to recall if you have ever verbally or mentally disparaged any of these Teachers, and then confess it in your heart if you have. Please write here the two times that you started these meditations.