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# THE MARRIAGE OF KARMA AND EMPTINESS

PRACTICE



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This Daily Karma and Emptiness Practice consists of three sessions of audio recorded from the original retreat, along with corresponding written materials. The audio can be ordered by mail, listened to on-line as streaming Real Audio, or downloaded onto your computer in MP3 or RA formats for playback later. After listening to the audio from a session, the corresponding reading should be completed before continuing on to the next session.

The written materials for this topic are contained in three on-line files which can be downloaded, printed and assembled into a three-ring binder. For ease of binder assembly, be sure to print the files on three hole paper.

We would like to emphasize that, although recordings and written materials can be extremely helpful, it is essential for serious Buddhist practitioners to meet and study directly with a qualified Teacher who can give the necessary guidance and personal instructions of the lineage.

In these teachings the wisdom of Enlightened Beings has been passed down in an unbroken lineage to you. May you take these teachings and put them into practice in your life to benefit all. May every goodness grow and spread in all directions right now!

#### ञ्जा |सङ्ग्रा | mandel

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rirab lingshi nyinde gyenpa di,

sangye shingdu mikte ulwar gyi,

|त्र्ज्ञेंगुर्द्रस्य द्या हिर्प्य हेर्नि । | drokun namdak shingla chupar shok.

ाक्षे दे त्यु दु र इ अड़ य मै के हु ह प्य की ।

Idam guru ratna mandalakam niryatayami.

#### Offering the Mandala

Here is the great Earth, Filled with the smell of incense, Covered with a blanket of flowers,

The Great Mountain, The Four Continents, Wearing a jewel Of the Sun, and Moon.

In my mind I make them The Paradise of a Buddha, And offer it all to You.

By this deed May every living being Experience The Pure World.

Idam guru ratna mandalakam niryatayami.

# ञ्जा । भुनवायम् श्वेष्ठा । kyabdro semkye

# sangye chudang tsokyi choknam la,

|ธุร:สูธ:จราวราราชาสิ:สูธจะสู:มะติจา jangchub bardu dakni kyabsu chi,

| กรุกาทิสาฟิสาจักลากฏิสานนิ กลัราสุมสาฏิสา dakki jinsok gyipay sunam kyi,

प्रज्ञां ता प्रवास्त्र स्थित अद्यास्त्र स्था विकार प्रवास्त्र स्था विकार प्रवास स्था विकार स्था स्था विकार स्

#### Refuge and The Wish

I go for refuge To the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha Until I achieve enlightenment.

By the power Of the goodness that I do In giving and the rest,

May I reach Buddhahood For the sake Of every living being.



# | इस्मान प्रतिक्षा हिन्तु । इस्मान प्रतिक्षा हिन्तु । इस्मान हिन्तु । इस्मान

ารณ์รุ:สุมพาพิ:ผิพ:ชั้มพาษักพาผิรา sunam yeshe tsok-dzok shing,

รunam yeshe lejung way,

| द्रमः सः भुः महिषा वर्षेतः धरः विम । । । dampa kunyi topar shok.

#### Dedication of the Goodness of a Deed

By the goodness Of what I have just done May all beings

Complete the collection Of merit and wisdom,

And thus gain the two Ultimate bodies That merit and wisdom make.



## | क्रेंब:य:ब्रु: ब्रेंड: ब्राट्य:क्रुब: देव: क्रेंड

tonpa lame sanggye rinpoche,

# **ब्रिं**च यः त्वः येऽ : ५ यः कें यः रे दः यें के ।

kyoppa lame damchu rinpoche,

# विदेशमास्यासेनान्यो वित्तर्भने संस्कृ

drenpa lame gendun rinpoche,

## भिन्न नामक्र निर्माद सके वा नासुक्र ता सके निर्माद नुवा

kyabne konchok sumla chupa bul.

#### A Buddhist Grace

I offer this To the Teacher Higher than any other, The precious Buddha.

I offer this To the protection Higher than any other, The precious Dharma.

I offer this
To the guides
Higher than any other,
The precious Sangha.

I offer this To the places of refuge, To the Three Jewels, Rare and supreme.



#### The Asian Classics Institute Practice VII: The Marriage of Karma and Emptiness

#### **Syllabus**

Reading One

Subject: How Karma is Carried, According to the Mind-Only School

Reading: Selections from *Illumination of the True Thought*, written by Je

Tsongkapa (1357-1419).

**Reading Two** 

Subject: How Emptiness Allows Karma to Work, According to the

Middle-Way School

Reading: Selections from the Overview of the Middle Way by Master Kedrup

Tenpa Dargye (1493-1568), with additional material from *Entering* 

the Middle Way by Master Chandrakirti (650 AD).

Reading Three

Subject: Emptiness and Paradise; Emptiness and Purification

Reading: Selections from *An Exalted Sutra of the Greater Way on the Perfection* 

of Wisdom entitled The Diamond Cutter, with a commentary by

Choney Lama Drakpa Shedrup (1675-1748).

The Asian Classics Institute
Practice VII: The Marriage of Karma and Emptiness

Reading One: How Karma is Carried, According to the Mind-Only School

Selection One: The Mind-Only School on how mental seeds cause our perceptions

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The selections are all taken from *Illumination of the True Thought,* written by Lord Tsongkapa:

या प्रमान क्षेत्रः प्राप्ता विषयः क्षेत्रः क्षेत्रः प्राप्त क्षेत्रः कष्टे क्षेत्रः क्षेत्रः कष्टे क्षेत्रः क्षेत्रः कष्टे क्षेत्रः कष्टे क्षेत्रः कष्टे क्षेत्रः कष्टे क्षेत्रः कष्टे कष्टे

... The second part has two sections of its own: stating the position of the other school, and then denying this position. Here is the first.

This is how the presentation was made. Then those of the Mind-Only School come back, considering and then presenting a position which by itself reflects the primary belief of their entire system.

# दःश्चैत्रायात्रशादुशास्त्रशादेवः इसायवः ह्यास्यादे । स्वीतायाः स्वाप्ते । स्वाप्ते । स्वाप्ते । स्वाप्ते । स्व

They speak first of the mental seed, the energy, from which the "mind of the eye" (which refers to the consciousness of the eye) comes forth. Another case of consciousness, as it is in the process of stopping, in the next moment plants this mental seed in the foundation consciousness. When this seed ripens later, it produces that consciousness of the eye, one which takes after the earlier one.

स्यान्त्री स्थान्त्री स्थान्त्री

Consider now this energy as it exists immediately before producing the consciousness of the eye related to it; consider the energy which acts as the immediate basis for this eye consciousness. Normal people, out of ignorance, conceive of this as the physical faculty of the eye. In truth though a power of the eye which is something separate from consciousness is something that doesn't even exist. This same explanation applies to all the remaining physical faculties.

वि:त्यःसेनाःवेशःसु:नद्यःसु:नन्।कन्।स्वःसु:नेदःसुदःसुदःसुदःसुदःसुदःस्वः। सेनाःने:नन्।स्वःस्वः।

Here the cause behind the consciousness of the eye, the mental seed, is the primary factor behind it. The faculty of the eye is the component of the body that provides a contributing circumstance.

क्याबःश्चेषःपदःश्चेपाःविषःग्रीःदर्शःश्चिरःयश्चषःपःषी श्चेषःविषःश्चेःपदेःपयाः क्याबःश्चेषःपदःश्चेपवाःवःपःदर्गद्वाःश्चेरःयश्चषःपःवी श्चेषःविषःश्चेःपदेःपयाः

Here when the physical faculty of the eye is presented as the direct cause of the consciousness of the eye, the real intent is to refer to the situation where the mental seed which produces the eye consciousness is ripening. They are not talking here of what we normally think of as the physical faculty of the eye.

Regarding this the text called Middle and Extremes states,

The combination of the objects and the person,
The base consciousness, is a consciousness that appears;
In reality this is not the being.

Here the word "objects" refers to form and the rest, and "the person" refers to the five faculties; the lines are describing a consciousness that arises and which appears to be them, but which is actually foundation consciousness. Master Stiramati also explains the physical faculties as the object of foundation consciousness. The point then is that those of the Mind-Only School who accept the idea of a foundation consciousness believe that the physical faculties of the eye and so on are actually the condition of the foundation consciousness appearing as the physical faculties.

तर्ने, यर्त्यर मुंख्यायश्चिर तयुः स्थायर स्यायः स्थायर त्युः स्थायर विश्वायायः स्थायर विश्वायायायः स्थायर स्थायर विश्वायायायः स्थायर स्थायर विश्वायायाया स्थायर स्याय स्थायर स्थायर स्थायर स्थायर स्थायर स्थायर स्थायर स्थायर स्थाय स्थायर स्थायर स्थायर स्थायर स्थायर स्थाय स्थायर स्थायर स्थाय स्थाय

च्याः त्याः स्वाद्यः स्वादः स्व

Once they have demonstrated that there is no such thing as physical faculties of the eye and so on that could ever be anything separate from consciousness itself, then they must show how form as well is nothing other than consciousness. To do this they give the following description. Consider now the five types of consciousness that, according to general belief, arise from the five physical faculties. It is not that there are any outside physical objects such as the color blue and so on which the consciousness has to grasp to. Rather, blue and the rest are only an appearance which occurs through the ripening of the very mental seed which was planted in the foundation consciousness and from which consciousness itself has arisen. Not realizing this fact, people look at the mind appearing as blue or whatever and accept or interpret these appearances as being outer objects.

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Selection Two: How the Middle-Way School says the mental seeds of karma work

र्यान्त्रस्यात्रिक्षः स्वी यात्रः त्रीत्रः त्रीत्रः त्रीत्रः त्रीत्रः त्रीत्रः त्रीत्रः त्रीत्रः त्रीत्रः त्री स्वाक्षः त्रह्माः त्रवाक्षः विद्याः स्वाक्षः त्रिक्षः त्राक्षः त्रविद्यः त

Here is the second part [of a different] discussion [about where the Madhyamika school believes the mental seeds from karma are planted, since they do not accept the concept of foundation consciousness]. One may begin with the following question:

Suppose you deny then the existence of a foundation consciousness. Nonetheless you must accept that mental seeds from virtue or non-virtue do get planted, and that consequences do arise from the ripening of these mental seeds. After all, the autocommentary to *Entering the Middle Way* does state that "For time without beginning, in the suffering cycle of life, the mental seeds for things have been planted, and have then ripened, and have then been interpreted by people as the things themselves." There are as well many other quotations which mention the same thing. And it would be incorrect to say that there existed no basis or place where these mental seeds were planted. What then, according to your view, provides this place for the seeds to be planted?

द्याःक्याकाः क्ष्यः विद्याविद्याः विद्याः विद

According to those who accept the idea of a foundation consciousness, the thing called "afflicted mind" focuses on foundation consciousness and holds it to be "me"; they say that this foundation consciousness then is the place where the mental seeds stay. In our [Madhyamika] school too we have a similar concept; we say that the base which is stained with the mental seed is exactly that thing that you focus on with your simple, natural awareness of yourself and call "me."

त्रश् श्रुष्ठाः भ्रुष्ठाः भ्रुष्यः भ्रुष्ठाः भ्रुष्ठाः

# यासूराम् देःष्परारेशायम्यायायवेः नम्याकम् स्री नदेःमित्रेरायम् रा

One may ask the following:

The autocommentary to *Entering the Middle Way* states that the stream of the mind is the basis where the mental seeds are planted. How does this fit into what you have just said?

The very thing we call the simple "me" is something which results from a label being applied to the *mind*, or consciousness. It also goes on in a *stream*. From this point of view then we can also refer to it as the "stream of the mind." And even if what you mean by a "stream" is the continuation of later, similar instances of mind itself, you can say that it too is the basis which is stained by mental seeds of particular occasions.

याहि.क्षेर.प्रचीकात्तर क्षेर.हो।

याहि.क्षेर.प्रचीकात्तर क्षेर.हो।

याहि.क्षेर.प्रचीकात्तर क्षेर.हो।

याह्र.क्षेर.प्रचीकात्तर क्षेर.हो।

याह्र.क्षेर.प्रचीकात्तर क्षेर.होयात्तर क्षेर.चेश्च क्षेर.चेश

Here is how the mental seed for ignorance works. The autocommentary to *Entering the Middle Way* says,

That thing which tends to stop, and yet still stain, and then continue on in the flow of the mind is what we refer to as a 'mental seed.' The expressions 'continuity' and 'habit' and 'root' and 'mental seed' for the state of mental affliction all refer to the

same thing. This is something that Listeners and Self-Made "Buddhas" are unable to eliminate even though they may already have eliminated the state of mental affliction itself through using the unstained path. It's similar to what happens with sesame butter or flowers; you may already remove these things from the scene, but the vase in which the flowers were, or the piece of cloth that the butter stained, still retain some subtle trace of them due to the previous contact.

How then could there be any sense to saying that there is another basis, a second one, on top of the one mentioned here, where other types of mental seeds, like those of virtuous deeds and non-virtuous deeds and the rest, are planted?

One might wonder about something else:

Let's talk about the period while you are in the "uninterrupted" stage of the path of seeing [the actual direct perception of emptiness]. I can accept that at this point the negative thoughts eliminated by this path are no longer present, but we would have to say that the negative things eliminated by the path of habituation are still there, in a dormant way. At this particular point in time, the consciousness of the mind is unstained, unaffected by the mental seed which causes the mistaken state of mind where the appearance and actuality of things are different from one another. As such none of these things could lie dormant here, due to its very quality at the time. There is no

consciousness of the senses that could act as the basis for those mental seeds, and it would be improper to say that physical form could ever provide such a basis either. According to you, moreover, there's no foundation consciousness. I would have to think then that there is no basis at all where these dormant things could stay.

And yet there is no such problem, for at this point in time it is the simple "me" which is providing the basis for the dormant things eliminated by the path of habituation to stay. You can apply this reasoning as well to all the other cases involving things to be eliminated, and the antidotes which eliminate them.

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Selection Three: The Middle-Way School on the question of where the seeds of karma stay until they give their result

त्रिया प्रत्याक्षात्र व्याप्त स्थान्य स्थान्य

Here is the second point [of still another discussion]. One may ask the following:

Those who believe that entities have no natural existence [meaning the Madhyamika Prasangika (or Consequence) School] do not accept the concepts of a foundation consciousness and the like; how then is it that they can still assert that all the workings of karma and its consequences are totally right and proper?

यात्रकात्र-देवे त्य्वकात्वे त्या ह्या प्रकार्त्र-क्ष्र्र-प्रक्ष्याः व्याप्तकात्र व्याप्तकात्र व्याप्तकात्र व्याप्तकात् व्यापत् व्यापत्यकात्यकात् व्याप्तकात् व्यापत्यकात् व्यापत्यकात् व्यापत्यकात् व

# यर्चश्राची,पर्वीदायपुरवर्च्याताश्रायबरार्गे।

All the Buddhist schools, whether higher schools or lower schools, accept the principle that the consequences of pleasure and pain and so on arise from virtuous and non-virtuous karma or actions, even though the original karma and its eventual consequences may be separated by a very long period of time. The problem though is that, if the karma stays around during the entire period up to the point at which it gives its consequence, it would have to be unchanging. An unchanging thing though is incapable of affecting anything, and so you could never have a relationship where karma gave rise to any consequence.

स्रोत्यात्रस्य त्रात्रात्र्यात्रात्र्यात्रात्र्यात्रः त्रीत्रः त्रीत्रः त्रीत्रः त्रीत्रः त्रीत्रः त्रीत्रः त् स्रोत्यीत्रः प्रत्यात्रः स्रोत्यात्रः स्रोत्यात्रः त्रीत्रः त्रीत्रः त्रीत्रः त्रात्रः त्रात्रः त्रात्रः त्रीत् विष्णात्रः त्रीत्रः त्रात्रः स्रोत्यात्रः स्रोत्यात्रः त्रीत्रः त्रीत्रः त्रीत्रः त्रीत्रः त्रीत्रः त्रीत्रः त

From the moment after you complete a karma or deed, that deed is finished and gone. During the entire period from that point up to the point at which the consequence actually occurs, the deed no longer exists. A deed which is already gone is no longer a thing that can have any affect on anything. How then does a deed or karma ever produce any kind of consequence? Here is how we explain this problem:

Let's consider the deed or karma as it exists up to the point right after the moment in which the deed is completed; that is, let's consider the deed as it approaches its end. The energy of the deed has to be stored somewhere, and

so some thinkers have invented the idea of some kind of foundation consciousness for it to stay. Others have said that there is something which is changing but neither mental nor physical, something they call "the fact of not just going away"; they say it is something that exists separately from the two types of deeds [virtue and non-virtue], and that it resembles the document written up for a loan that has to be repaid. Still others have invented the idea that there is another changing thing which is neither mental nor physical, again different from the two kinds of deeds themselves, something they call a "hold."

Others finally have invented the idea of a stream of consciousness which is stained with the mental seed of the deed. This then is why, they say, that it is no contradiction for the deed to produce its consequence later, even after a very long time. The deed or karma plants a mental seed in the foundation consciousness, and so the mental seed is the result of the deed. This mental seed continues on in a stream of similar forms until eventually it produces the consequence. Thus, they say, the consequence of the original karma is something that is produced indirectly, via a medium. This same type of idea applies to the other three positions expressed.

श्चीट्रात्तर्भाक्ष्यात्र्योक्षाय्योत्त्रविष्यात्र्योत्तर्भात्त्रम् स्वात्त्रम् स्वात्त्रम्यस्वत्त्रम्यस्यात्त्रम्

# मृ:क्रु:पवे:यर:वर्देर:य:येत:य:वर्दे

The first of these positions belongs to a certain group within the Mind-Only School. The second position is explained by Master Avalokitavrata to be that of the Detailist School—of a certain section other than the Kashmiri Detailists. The third position also belongs to a specific group within the Detailist School. It is not completely clear where the fourth position belongs, but since it is consistent with the ninth chapter of the autocommentary to the *Treasure House of Knowledge (Abhidharmakosha)*, it would appear to be an alternate belief of the Sutrists and the Kashmiri Detailists.

Although the Kashmiris do accept the idea of a "hold," they do not assert that a hold could be produced by the two types of karma as something retained by the hold. The position here though belongs to someone who does assert this, and this is the point of the phrase "according to someone."

According to someone now of the Madhyamika Consequence school, the deed or karma is not something which arises in and of itself, and so, for this very reason, neither is it something which finishes through any nature of its own. Nonetheless it is no contradiction to say that something which never finishes

through any nature of its own can still produce a consequence. As such, a consequence can come from a deed even if we never accept the idea of a foundation consciousness or the like.

You must understand then that this is why the two kinds of karma can already have finished in the mental continuum of any given sentient being, and yet still after a long time—even after the passing of many millions of years—these deeds can nonetheless produce their consequences "perfectly," which is to say, without any confusion. [That is, good deeds lead to pleasure, and bad deeds lead to pain, and there is never any case where this law somehow goes wrong, and good deeds lead to pain, or bad deeds to pleasure.]

Given all this, the connection between deeds and their consequences is, in this school, purely and totally correct.

यवीयाश्वाताश्चरित्रहेर्द्वेश्वर्त्वेश्वर्वेश्वर्वेश्वर्त्वेश्वर्त्वेश्वर्येश्वर्वेश्वर्वेश्वर्वेश्वर्वेश्वर्वेश्वर्वेश्वर्वेश्वर्वेश्वर्वेश्वर्वेश्वर्वेश्वय्वेश्वर्वेश्वय्वेश्वय्वेश्वय्वेश्वय्वेश्वय्वेश्वय्वेश्वय्वेश्वय्वेश्वय्वेश्वय्वेश्वय्वेश्वय्वेश्वय्वेश्वय्वेश्वय्वेश्वय्वेश्वय्वेश्वय्वेश्वय्वय्वेश्वय्वेश्वय्वय्वेश्वय्वय्वेश्वय्वय्वेश्वय्वेश्वय्वय्व

The point of all this is that all four of the positions above, as they attempt to answer the problem raised, do so from a viewpoint of accepting that a deed has a beginning that exists by definition and an ending too that exists by definition. They are agreeing as well that the later condition of the deed's having ended is something that exists by definition. The Master [Chandrakirti] is stating that it is improper to answer the problem raised above by saying that, "Even though the ending of the deed is that way, it's no problem, because we believe in foundation consciousness." He is denying all these positions, for the reason that there simply doesn't even exist any beginning or ending of a deed that could occur through any nature of its own.

विषयः वर्षे प्रशास्त्राची के देश विषया विषय विषय । विषय विषय विषय ।

विश्वास्त्रीः द्र्यात् । विदेश्वर र द्रायिष्ठ स्थाः स्वर स्थाः स्था

The Master, to demonstrate how this way of answering reflects exactly the position of the Arya [Nagarjuna], quotes the following statement from the *Root Text on Wisdom:* 

Because the karma never begins, Because it has no nature of its own, And since it has never even begun, Neither then can it simply go away.

The lines are saying that, because there is no such thing as a karma that exists through its own nature, no such karma could ever have a beginning that came in and of itself. Because of this, it is completely impossible for a karma ever to end by any nature of its own. It is illogical to think of the subsequent condition of the deed's having ended and invent some idea of something that can never just go away.

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Selection Four: What the Middle-Way School means when it says things are just the results of conceptualization

र्से. स्यानाक्ष्म। क्र्नामन्त्रामन्त्री विद्या । यान्यमान्त्री विद्यामन्त्री विद्यामन्ति विद्यामन्ति विद्यामन्ति

र्म्यायदे न्वर्म्यायदे न्वर्म्यायव्याय स्थान स्

This section [still another one] has two parts to it. First we will show how it is that objects are established through the process of conceptualization, and then describe what it is to grasp to true existence, wherein one holds things as existing in the opposite way. Here is the first.

The Sutra Requested by Upali includes the following lines:

A splash of pleasing flowers open their petals, Golden palaces blaze in breathtaking beauty; Look for their maker, but you'll never find him, For all of these are built of conceptions—
The world is an invention of conceptions.

The verse is describing how objects are established through the process of conceptualization, and there are as well many other statements of the Buddha that describe how every single object in the universe is nothing more than a creation of conceptions.

The Sixty Verses on Reasoning say as well,

The world is something that ignorance causes; Why? For the Buddhas say it is so. And why then would it be wrong to say That this world is only conceptions.

The meaning of this verse, according to the commentary, is that none of the many worlds that exist does so through some essence of its own: none of them are anything more than products of our conception.

The 400 Verses says as well:

Without conceptions, desire and such Are nothing that can even exist; Why then would anyone with a brain Believe in reality and conception?

The commentary to the work states that—

Things that can't even exist in the absence of conceptions are, beyond any manner of doubt, absolutely things that cannot exist through any essence of their own: they are like a coil of rope you label with "snake."

The expression "reality" here refers to something that could exist through its own essence. "Conception" is the fact that things occur through the process of conceptualization.

ह्यात्तरायवयात्तरायक्रतात् । त्रिलाय्त्रं यद्भात्तराय्वेतात्त्र्यं स्वात्तराय्वेतात्तराय्वेतात्तराय्वेतात्तराय् द्रिम्मक्ष्यत्तर्भक्षे। क्ष्मायविष्यव्यस्य स्वयायायाः स्वात्तरायाः स्वात्यायाः स्वर्णात्याः स्वर्णात्याः स्वर्णायाः स्वर्णायः स्वर्यायः स्वर्णायः स्वर्णायः

# क्ट्र- बर्ग्यारायाः श्रेरायमा देवे स्वायाः प्रत्यायाः यहवासायः वहवास्याः वहवास्याः वहवास्याः वहवास्याः वहवास्य वदः ब्रिट्रा ख्याः याः याः यदः स्वायाः यदः स्वयाः स्वयः स्

When this commentary states that "desire and such" are like a piece of rope labelled "snake," it is only giving a single example; what it means to say is that each and every other existing object is as well like a rope called a snake: they are all established through the process of conceptualization.

Here the colored pattern of the rope and the way it's coiled make it resemble a snake; and if you're in a place where you can't see it very clearly, then you start to think to yourself, "It's a snake!" The fact though is that there is nothing about the rope as a whole, nor anything about its various parts, that you could ever establish as being one kind of a snake; the snake of the rope, then, is nothing but a creation of conceptions.

The same thing happens when you get the idea of "me" about the heaps, the various components to yourself. There is nothing about these components as a whole, when you consider them as a continuum in time, nor as a whole considered in a single moment in time, nor as the various parts to a whole, that you could ever establish as being any kind of "me." We'll go into this in more detail further on.

]रेदे स्वेर न्द्र स्वर स्वेर कर्द्र कर्द्र कर्द्र स्वर्श स्वर्श स्वर्श स्वर्श स्वर्श स्वर्श स्वर्श स्वर्श स्वर इत बद्र ग्राट सेद स्वर्श दर्श है मिया स्वर्श स्वर्श स्वर्श स्वर्श स्वव्या सर्व स्वर्श स्वर्श स्वर्श स्वर्श स्वर स्वर्श स्टर में स्टर्श स्वर्श स्वर

Because of this fact, and since moreover there is not the slightest thing outside of the parts or whole of the components to yourself that you could ever consider any kind of "me," this "me" is nothing more than a creation of conception, based on the components. There is no "me" which exists through any essence of its own.

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Selection Five: What the Buddha really meant when He said that things were "mind only"

पश्चिम् प्राप्त प्राप्त प्राप्त प्रमाण प्यम प्रमाण प्रमाण प्रमाण प्रमाण प्रमाण प्रमाण प्रमाण प्रमाण प्रमाण

Now the Sixty Verses on Reasoning says,

The world is something that ignorance causes; Why? For the Buddhas say it is so. And why then would it be wrong to say That this world is only conceptions. If one were to end his ignorance, Then how is it that the thing that's ended, Despite our misunderstanding, could never Disappear, even in conceptions?

The meaning of the lines is as follows. If things existed in their very essence, then they would exist as some independent reality. If this were so, then when you finally stopped your mistaken states of mind, they would never disappear, although they should have.

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म्हित्याधितावित्त्वा क्षेत्रणीयहैनाहेन्दिन्ती अवत्त्वा अवत्त्रा वित्ता क्षेत्र क्षेत्

The mind is the main thing; and to show this, the following explanation appears in the scripture:

The world, in the form of those who live in it, finds its very being through the power of the karma they have collected with their minds, and through the bad thoughts in their minds. All the vast multitude of worlds too, in the form of the places where these beings live, have been put there, have been produced, by the collective karma of these same beings, and no one else—by the karma within their own minds. This refers to everything up to the farthest reaches of the world, from the great disc of wind that underpins our planet up to the highest temporary heaven, the one named "Below No Other."

On this subject, the intricate patterns on a peacock and other such objects are produced by each one's personal karma. The intricacies of the petals and colors of a lotus flower and other such things are produced by the collective karma of living beings. You can apply these principles to all other cases as well.

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As the verse goes,

It's through the karma of living beings
That the great dark mountains arise in their time.
It's like the hells, and the heavens above,
And swords, and jewels, and trees in the world.

The great books of the Mind-Only School also discuss whether the two worlds [of beings and the place they live] are produced by karma that is collective or not, and so it's not as though the system of the Mind Only denies the existence of the world where beings live.

पक्षेत्रःय।

यक्षेत्रःय।

And so it is spoken, that all the living beings of the universe are produced by karma. And if somehow you could stop all minds, then karma itself would cease to be, for it is only through mind and what comes along with it that karma can be collected. Therefore karma itself depends on the mind. So the statement from the *Sutra of the Ten Levels*, where it says that there is no great master of all things, and no great maker of all things, conveys one meaning of the word "only" in the expression "mind-only"; the point is that there is no other creator of things than the mind itself.

यमेर्यायाः प्रश्नात्तीः भ्रम्याः स्थान्याः स्थान्यः स्थानः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थानः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थानः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थानः स्थान्यः स्थानः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थानः स्थानः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थानः स्थाः स्थानः स्थानः स्थानः स्थानः स्थानः स्थानः स्थानः स्थानः स्थाः स्थानः स

प्रज्ञान्तः हो न्यायान्ते । हो द्वायान्त्रः व्याप्तान्तः अत्यान्तः व्याप्तः हो । व्याप्तः हो न्यायाः हो न्यायायायाः हो न्यायायाः हो न्यायायायाः हो न्यायायाः हो न्यायायाः हो न्

It is stated in scripture as well that each and every one of the twelve links in the chain of interdependence depends on a single thing: the mind. These references convey yet another meaning of the word "only" in the expression "mind-only." Here the point is that mind is the main thing. The former scriptural references are putting their point in a negative way, and the latter references are putting their point in a positive way.

Thus we can see that it's the mind which is the one single principal cause that sets all life into motion. The principal cause is not something other than the mind. Therefore when the sutras speak of "mind only," they are making the point that mind is the main thing, and not matter. Although we do of course admit that physical matter exists, this matter is not the one prime creator of sentient beings in the way that mind is.

Therefore all these scriptural references are denying that the opposite of the mind, something other than the mind, could be the creator. They are not though saying that there are no outside physical objects at all.

The Asian Classics Institute
Practice VII: The Marriage of Karma and Emptiness

Reading Two: How Emptiness Allows Karma to Work, According to the Middle-Way School

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The following selections are from the *Overview of the Middle Way*, composed by Master Kedrup Tenpa Dargye (1493-1568).

त्रमान्यत्रः स्त्रीम।
त्रमान्यत्रः स्त्रीम।
त्रमान्यत्रः स्त्रीम।
त्रमान्यत्रः स्त्रमान्यत्रः स्त्रमान्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्यत्रम्यत्यत्रम्यत्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्यत्रम्यत्रम्यत्यत्यत्यत्रम्यत्यत्यत्यत्रम्यत्यत्यत्यत्रम्यत्यत्यत्य

Let us first consider enemy destroyers of the Listener or Self-Made Buddha type. Aren't you saying then that, like the non-Buddhists, they fail to eliminate all the widespread mental afflictions that operate in all three realms? Because isn't it true that they have failed to achieve the path which is directly incompatible, in the way it holds its object, with the root of all these afflictions; that is, the tendency to conceive of things as existing through some nature of their own? And this is true, for they lack that comprehensive knowledge where they realize that things have no nature of their own.

বাৰ্ব্ব:খেন:दे:केंश:उदा वान:बवा:वी:वन्वा:शेन:हेंवाश:धन:श्रःहेंवाश:धन:घवा

चल्नेत्रः भेर्यः प्रेर्वा स्वाप्तः स्वाप्तः स्वाप्तः स्वाप्तः स्वाप्तः स्वाप्तः स्वाप्तः स्वाप्तः स्वाप्तः स्व स्वाप्तः स्वापतः स्व

Consider these same enemy destroyers. It is true that they have not yet realized, entirely, the fact that the person has no self nature. This is because they have yet to perceive directly the fact that the person has no nature. This in itself is true as well, for they are still chained by total misperceptions, in such a way that they will never be able to root out the object that they think they see when they hold the parts to the person, the thing which gets the label of "me," as existing from its own side. And this too is true, for they lack that comprehensive knowledge where they realize that the parts to the person have no nature of their own.

यश्य । त्रामान्त्रियाः प्राप्ति । यहार्यमान्त्रियाः प्राप्ति । यहार्यमान्त्रियाः यहार्यमान्त्रियः यहार्यमान्त्रस्य यहार्यमान्त्रस्य यहार्यमान्त्रस्य यहार्यमान्त्रस्य यहार्यमान्त्रस्य यहार्यमान्त्रस्य यहार्यस्य यहार्यमान्त्रस्य यहार्यमान्त्रस्य यहार्यस्य यहा

The first of our logical statements above is always true. For suppose that a person is still unable to root out the object that he thinks he sees when he hold the parts to the person, the thing which gets the label of "me," as existing through some nature of its own. As long as he goes on this way, then he will continue to find himself unable to root out the object that he thinks he sees when he holds the thing which gets the label, the "me," as existing from its own side. And as long as he continues with this, then by the power of this misperception he will continue to collect karma. And as long as he collects karma, then he will continue to spin around in this wheel of suffering life.

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यश्रित्रायते धुरः यश्रित्रायते धुरः स्वार्थ्य स्वार्थ्य स्वार्थ स्वार्य स्वार्थ स्वार्थ स्वार्थ स्वार्थ स्वार्थ स्वार्य स्वार्थ स्वार्थ स्वार्थ स्वार्थ स्वार्य स्व

This then is the ultimate idea within the root text and the commentary of the *Higher Line*, [written by Maitreya and Asanga]:

Due to the mental seeds for the two kinds of tendencies to grasp to some selfnature, these two tendencies themselves spring up.

Due to the fact that they have sprung up, an impression with a wrong way of looking at things springs up, and some things seem as though they are pleasant from their own side, and other things seem as though they are unpleasant from their own side.

Due to the fact that this impression has sprung up, the emotion of liking springs up, where you focus on a pleasant object and don't want to lose it. And the emotion of disliking springs up, where you focus on an unpleasant object and want to avoid it.

This then forces you to collect karma.

And karma forces you to spin around in the wheel of suffering life.

And this is why the Buddhas have said that this suffering life is something forced on us because we have not been able to see, directly, the essence of the Ones Gone Thus [that is, emptiness].

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त्रीयान्तराष्ट्रीटायाः स्वास्त्रास्याः स्वास्त्रास्याः स्वास्त्रास्याः स्वास्त्रास्याः स्वास्त्राः स्वास्त्रास्याः स्वास्त्राः स्वास्त्रा

Here we will analyze the statement [from *Entering the Middle Way*, by Master Chandrakirti (650 AD)] where it says, "...The mind of a craving spirit as well, which sees a stream of water as pus." One may begin with the following question:

Let's consider the objects of the following states of mind: the visual consciousness of a craving spirit where a river of water looks like pus and blood; the visual consciousness of a person with a kind of cataract where a clean white porcelain basin looks like a hair has fallen into it; and that kind of meditation where you visualize skeletons—where you imagine that the entire surface of the earth is covered with the bones of corpses. Are all these objects completely equivalent, as far as being something that exists or doesn't exist?

निष्यायत्त्रप्तिः स्वराख्यां त्राप्ति । स्वराख्यां त्रिंद्र्या । स्वराख्यां स्वराख्यां स्वराख्यां । प्रदेश विषय स्वराख्यां । प्रदेश स्वराख्यां । प्रदे

In reply we will first set forth a relevant passage, and then we will explicate the passage. Here is the first. The text called *The Abbreviation of the Greater Way* says,

Insofar as craving spirits, animals, Humans, and pleasure beings, each according To their class, have differing perceptions Of a single thing, we say it has no reality.

Asvabhava, the venered layman with lifetime vows, has explained the passage. His words include the following:

When they look at *a single thing*, a stream of water, each one sees what the ripening of his particular karma forces him to see. A *craving spirit* sees the river full of pus and blood and the like.

# ने केन त्यानु न त्यों त्या स्याम्य मान्या मी क्षेत्र मान्य स्यान्य स्थानित स्थ

An *animal* or such, on the other hand, thinks of this same water as a place to stay, and makes his home there.

Humans look at the same thing and perceive it as water—sweet, clear, and cool. They drink of it, they wash themselves with it, and they swim in it.

यार्थेट्य.तयु.हुर। भाष्ट्र-अबूट-ङुं। यांच्यायाजी.वर्टे.वृद्याः स्थातर व्यव्यातयु.हुर-रू। विद्याः विद्याः भाष्ट्र-अब्दः त्याः श्रीः अकुट्र-वः श्र्र्येत्रयातर विद्यायात्त्रः हुर-रू। विद्याः

Those pleasure beings who are wrapped in deep meditation at the level we call the "realm of limitless space" see the water as empty space, for their ability to conceptualize physical matter has dissolved altogether.

गर्छेशःयःसुरःगिःर्नेतःयत्राया गत्र्वतःसुग्रमःरम्या । स्टःसुग्रमःयत्वग्रम्यः। स्टःसुग्रमःयत्वग

Here secondly we will explain the meaning of the text we quoted first. We proceed in three steps: disproving the position of others, establishing our own position, and then refuting their rebuttal. Here is the first.

Someone may make the following claim:

Given the statements that have come above, the fact is that we should never again consider anything as being one way or the other.

Well then, you must be suggesting that the system of the Buddha is all the same as the system of every non-Buddhist belief, that there is no difference in their correctness at all. And you must be saying too that we could never state that our Teacher was the highest teacher, and that the teachers of the non-Buddhists are lesser.

यशिरश्रतपुःसुर। लयश्राम्भी व्रिःश्चर द्वेरास्त्रीत्रा वर्षेत्र प्राम्य विष्यः स्त्राम्य विषयः स्त्राम्य विष्यः स्त्राम्य स्त

And you must be suggesting all this, for you have claimed that we should never again consider anything as being one way or the other.

Now if you should agree that none of the differences mentioned above exist, we must reply that they do, for as the verse says:

All other teachers now I've given up, And go for refuge now to only You; Why? Because it's You alone who has No fault, and perfected every good.

विया मुः यहेता विद्वत्विर याविर या कुः विर याविर या यहः विर या यहः विष्ठ या यहः विष्ठ या यहः विष्ठ या विष्ठ विष्ठ

Someone else might make the following claim:

Suppose a pleasure being, a human, and a craving spirit sit down together and look at a glass filled with water: the thing that we define as "wet and flowing." Since to the perceptions of each different type of being it is real, the glass full of wet and flowing water is in reality pus and blood to the eyes of the craving spirit, and in reality water to the eyes of the human, and in reality ambrosia to the eyes of the pleasure being.

We ask you then a question: in the situation you've just described, is it that the visual consciousness of all three beings are a valid perception, or is it that only one or two of them are a valid perception? Suppose you say all three are valid. Well then, the glass of wet and flowing water must be full of something that is all three different things: pus and blood, and each of the others. And then too it must be possible for there to be multiple and yet still valid perceptions which see one thing in two completely incompatible ways. And finally there must be such a thing as a valid perception which correctly

perceives that the glass is filled with something which is simultaneously water and yet not water. Why so? Because, according to your view, the three differing cases of visual consciousness possessed by the three different beings would all have to be valid perception.

तर्रेन्द्रश्चेर्यः कुः ध्वेत्रः श्वेत्रः श्वेत्रः श्वेत्रः श्वेत्रः श्वेत्रः श्वेत्रः श्वेत्रः श्वेत्रः श्वेत् वर्षः श्वेत्रः नृतः । कुः ध्वेत्रः श्वेत्रः श्वेतः श्वेत्रः श्वेत्रः श्वेत्रः श्वेतः श्वेत्रः श्वेत्रः श्वेत्रः श्वेतः श्वेतः

And if you try to agree to these absurdities, you are wrong, for the quality of being pus and blood is incompatible with the quality of being either one of the other two substances mentioned. Moreover, the quality of being water and the quality of not being water are directly incompatible in such a way that, if something exists and lacks one of these qualities, it must then possess the other.

हैं स्वाया स्वाया स्वया स्वया

Someone may answer with the following claim:

In the case mentioned, the visual consciousness of the human is a valid perception, but the visual consciousnesses of the other two types of beings are not valid perception. These latter two see something like the pus and blood, and the ambrosia, only because their karma (which is good in one case, and bad in the other) forces them to.

श्राम्यद्राम्यद्रिम् देराम्या मिन्गम्यद्राम्यद्राम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम् स्रोत्तर्भात्रम्यद्रम्यान्त्रम्यद्रम्याः स्रोत्तर्भात्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम् स्रोत्तर्भात्रम्यद्रम्यस्यम्यद्रम्यस्यस्यम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्यद्रम्

Well then, according to you, the visual consciousness of the human wouldn't be valid perception either. Because isn't it true that the human sees the water only because his karma (which in this case is halfway between the good and the bad just mentioned) forces him to? Moreover, aren't you implying then that there is no such thing as a valid tactile consciousness, or a valid auditory consciousness, in the mental stream of any being who is not a human? Because aren't you saying that there's no such thing as a valid visual consciousness in the mental stream of any such being? Certainly you are, for you believe your original position to be correct. And suppose now that you do agree that such beings can have no such valid consciousnesses.

Aren't you then implying that these beings never have any case where they are able to reach a definite conclusion about something, or to analyze an object? And if so, aren't you implying that there could never be a case where one of these beings could recognize another? Of course you are, given your position.

यश्चिमःस्व,रे.श्चे.त.रटा यश्चमःस्व,रे.श्चे.त.रटा यश्चमःस्व,रे.श्चे.त्यश्चमःयश्चमःस्व, व्यत्मःस्व, व्यत्यःस्व, व्यत्यःस्य, व्यत्यःस्व, व्यत्यःस्यःस्य, व्यत्यःस्व, व्यत्यःस्व, व्यत्यःस्

Here secondly is the section where we establish our own position. Now suppose three different types of beings—a pleasure being, a human, and a craving spirit, each with their own karma—sit down together and look upon a glass filled with water, the thing we define as "wet and flowing." The glass of water is not at this point one thing which is simultaneously three different objects. Neither is it necessary in this situation for there to be three identical valid perceptions. And when the glass full of wet and flowing water occurs, it occurs with three different, distinct parts to it.

It is not though the case that, from the time it first started, the glass of water came with the three different parts, or that they stay with the glass of water until it eventually ends. What happens is that one of the parts of the glass filled with wet and flowing water provides a material cause, and the karma of the craving spirit provides a contributing factor; and then based on both of these the later continuation of one part of the glass of water starts being blood and pus.

देवे कः वश्याविवा वीश्वात्रेय विवा वी सेवाश्वात्र व्या है संस्था है संस्था है संस्था है संस्था है संस्था है से है संस्था है संस्था है से है संस्था है से है

Another part of the glass of water again provides a material cause, and the karma of the human provides a contributing factor; and then based on both of these the later continuation of one part of the glass of water starts being water.

Yet another part of the glass of water provides a material cause, and the karma of the pleasure being provides a contributing factor; and then based on both of these the later continuation of one part of the glass of water starts being ambrosia, and so on.

देवे के बन्न विद्यानियान के स्वर्भ नामान से दे कर विश्वास्थ्य स्वर् पुर्ण द्यार ।

र्वे.य.व्या.य.याश्वेश्वायाः अर्ह्चरः । ८ द्रश्वायः योश्वेश्वायः योश्वेशः याश्वेशः याश्वेशः याश्वेशः याश्वेशः य र्वयः योश्वाः स्वाः वियाः पृः अर्ह्वरः । ८ द्रश्वः योश्वेशः याश्वेश्वः याश्वेशः याश्व

At this point, the glass full of wet and flowing water is something with three different parts. Nonetheless, it is not the case that all three different beings see all three parts. The craving spirit is forced by the bad karma he has collected to see the glass of water as pus and blood; and he doesn't see the other two things. One should understand that a similar case holds with the latter two types of beings.

What we just described as happening is only with reference to where a glass of something wet and flowing is an object shared by the three different beings, as they look at it together. When the craving spirit himself though picks up the glass in his hand and begins to partake of its contents, the glass of liquid is no longer something that exists with three different parts. Since at this point it is something that the craving spirit is experiencing exclusively, its continuation starts being pus and blood.

चीः कुः नृत्याः वितः प्रक्षेयाः पाय्याः वित्राः वित्रः याद्याः याद्याः याद्यः याद्यः

How the glass of liquid exists originally all depends on the particular outer world from where it has been taken, for each of the three different beings has a different outer world, depending on the specific karma he himself has collected. If the glass of liquid were sweet, cool water taken from the world of humans—a world created by the specific karma of the human in the group—then that would be its original condition, and so on.

ह्ये। यटाची ह्येटाया उत्रा व्या ह्या स्वाह्या स

When we say that a craving spirit looks at a stream of water and sees pus and blood, by the way, we are only talking about some kinds of craving spirits, and not all of them. This is because there are many kinds of craving spirits: some with obstacles in the world around them that prevent them from relieving their craving; some with obstacles that are parts of their bodies; and some with obstacles that relate to the food or drink itself.

यस्त्र-१ विरामित्र-प्रस्त-प्राप्त-प्रस्त-प्राप्त-प्रस्त-प्रम्य-प्रस्त-प्रम्य-प्रस्त-प्रम्य-प्रस्त-प्रम्य-प्रस् स्वाय-प्रस्त-प्रम्य-प्

There is, moreover, an example we can use for how, when the three different types of beings with their three karmas look all together at a glass full of something wet and flowing, there start to be three different objects, each confirmed by a valid perception. Suppose there is a ball of red-hot steel; one

piece of this ball provides the material cause, and the "mantra of steel" provides a contributing factor. Due to these two, a person who has used the mantra of steel on his hand can touch the ball, but he doesn't undergo any sensation of heat; instead, he feels some other sensation. A person who has not used the mantra on his hand touches the ball and does feel a sensation of heat, and no other kind of sensation.

Another example would be the moon in springtime; one part of the feel of its rays on the body provides the material cause, and then the karma of a craving spirit provides a contributing factor. Based on these two, the spirit gets a sensation of heat, which is experienced by the consciousness of the body.

So too with the wintertime sun; one part of the feel of its rays on the body provides the material cause, and then the karma of the craving spirit provides a contributing factor. Based on these two, the spirit gets a sensation cold, which is experienced by the consciousness of the body.

न्त्रिरः श्रुः नः ध्येत्रः हो। न्यत्रियः श्रुद्धः यात्राः ध्याः विष्यः यात्रः स्थ्यः यात्रः स्थ्यः यात्रः न्या । त्रुप्तरः श्रुः नः ध्येत्रः हो। न्यत्रियः श्रुद्धः यात्रः प्रत्याः विषयः यात्रः स्थ्यः यात्रः स्थ्यः यात्रः स

It is a fact that they get this kind of sensation, for [Arya Nagarjuna's] *Letter to a Friend* states:

For craving spirits, even the light of the moon In the spring is hot, and even the winter sun cold.

नेप्परप्युत्यन्त्रम्युत्रम्यरः उद्गनेन्यामीन्वरम्योश्रङ्गीः वर्ष्येद्रम्भीः वर्षेद्रम्भीः वर्षे

## यःलरःश्रेरःतवःस्त्रेर। देरःवल। क्षेत्रवःस्त्रेरः नुःस्वरःस्तरः स्वरःस्त्रेर। स्वरःस्त्रेरः पवः स्वरः

All of this is caused by the extraordinary circumstances of the particular time and place, for generally speaking it never happens this way: there is nothing at all about the sun that can feel cold, and nothing about the moon that can feel hot. This too is a fact, for there does not exist on the sun any case of that substance we call "covered space."

यश्चिम्यान्याः अर्थेट्यः विश्वः विद्याः विश्वः विद्याः विश्वः विद्याः विश्वः विद्याः विश्वः विद्याः विद्यः विद्याः विद्यः विद्याः विद्यः विद्याः विद्यः विद

Here is the third part of our presentation, where we refute the rebuttal of representatives of other views. You will recall that our own position is describing a situation where beings of three different types, each with their own karma, are sitting together and looking at a glass filled with something that is wet and flowing. The glass filled with something wet and flowing exists, at this point, as something with three distinct parts. Nonetheless, no one of the beings is able to see all three things there, for they are each at the mercy of the particular karma that they themselves have collected. Representatives of other viewpoints now come to attack this position.

ग्रीक्षःश्चीक्षःयः योष्ठ्याः यो विष्यः यो यो विष्यः यो विष्यः यो विष्यः यो विष्यः यो विष्यः यो यो विष्यः य

One comes and makes the following claim:

Your position, as just explained, is mistaken, for it goes against a statement of the glorious Dharmakirti. This is quite surely the case, for in his major work [entitled *The Commentary on Valid Perception*] he says,

Suppose you say that they don't see it, And circumstances cause another form.

What he's talking about here is a belief of the [non-Buddhist] Numerist School. They give the case of a single person whose physical form is looked upon at the same time by his enemy, and also by his friend. In reality, the person's physical form is both attractive and ugly at the same time. Something happens where yet another physical form, one from karma, grows up between the person's true physical form and the enemy and friend looking at it. Because of this neither the enemy nor the friend sees both the attractiveness and the ugliness together.

Master Dharmakirti uses logic to refute this concept, and this same logic can be used against the position you have taken, to prove that you are wrong.

देशियात्राक्ष्यां ने स्वर्था ने स्वर्था ने स्वर्था ने स्वर्था स्वर्धित स्वर्था स्वर्था ने स्वर्था स्वर्था ने स्वर्था स्वर्य स्वर्या स्वर्या स्वर्था स्वर्या स्वर्या स्वर्या स्वर्या स्वर्या स

Your reasoning here is though incorrect, for the belief you have expressed shows that you have failed to understand both the meaning of Master Dharmakirti's statement, and the whole position expressed above.

This is a fact, for the actual meaning of Master Dharmakirti's statement is as follows. The Numerist School is describing a situation where you are looking at a physical form either from far away, or from up close. They say that, depending on the distance between you and the object, another physical form which is the result of karma, and which stands between your visual consciousness and the original form, is either clear or not. This then determines whether the original form appears to you distinctly or not. It is not the case though, they say, that what determines whether the original form appears clearly or not is whether or not you have a clear impression of this form.

In reply then Master Dharmakirti is asking the Numerists:

Let's consider these two cases of some intermediate physical form that comes from karma. Do they, or do they not, function to obscure the two original forms, the one at a distance, and the other close by? If they were to obscure them, then your visual consciousness could never see the two original forms, since they would have been obscured by the others.

यक्षिशः स्. नु. कुर्याः करः नै. अब्रूटः यरः वजा ने अ. नै. अ. न श्रीय अ. पतुः स्तुरः क्षेत्रः व्यायाः अ. नश्चीय अ. ने । अयोः ने अ. ने अ. जावा विष्यः योशे अ. ने ट. श्वीटः सूटः व्योः यो वया अ.

### यदैःर्देबःधोबःयदैःधुर।

And suppose you say that they do not obscure them. Wouldn't your visual consciousness then see both the two intermediate forms created by karma, and the two original forms, the near one and the far one, all at the same time? They would have to because, according to you, the intermediate forms do not obscure the original ones.

This is the real point of the Master's statement, wherein he refutes that belief of the Numerists.

त्रीत्र।

यान्नेश्वरात्ते स्वर्णात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्रः व्याप्त्रः व्याप्तः व्याप

Our second point [that you have failed to comprehend the position we expressed above] is also quite true. Our original position was describing a situation where three different kinds of beings were sitting together and looking at a glass full of something wet and flowing. It is not our position that the glass full of something wet and flowing is one thing that is three different things. And it is not our position that there is such a thing as the physical appearance of a person which is at once both attractive and ugly.

It is furthermore not our position that the blood and pus represent some kind of physical form which results from karma and grows up between the visual consciousness of the craving spirit and the stream of water. And it is not our position that the craving spirit's eyes see both this blood and pus as some kind of physical form resulting from karma, and the river of water at the same time.

It *is* our position that, by force of his karma, the craving spirit is not able to see the stream of water.

And anyway, maybe it's you who have contradicted a statement of the glorious Dharmakirti. You have taken the position that the five sicknesses, and the five elements, and the five demons are all the direct result of the five poisons—the five bad thoughts. But when the non-Buddhists take the position that phlegm and desire have a cause-and-effect relationship, and that bile and anger have the same kind of relationship, and so on, then Master Dharmakirti refutes them by showing that desire doesn't always come and go according to the phlegm, and anger doesn't always come and go according to the bile. To do so he makes the statement that says, "It's not a fact that wind and the rest are such, for the relationship doesn't always hold." We could twist around this statement too and say that it disproved your position; and add as well how wrong it is to assert that uncreated space could ever be the direct result of jealousy.

[The point seems to be that, although your position about the bad thoughts, and our original position on the nature of the three beings' perceptions, are both correct, you could always twist around some quotation by a master, take it out of context or misinterpret it, and try to show they were wrong.]

लट्टाय.क्रुया.व.रो र्ट्रश्र.योक्ष्या.लीट्डी.ब.ट्ट.हीरा र्ट्रिव.श.यीय.तर्ट्ट.त.

तर्यायश्रिभावतुर्यत्ये । बेरावा व्याप्तायश्रिभावत्यायः

Someone else might come and make yet another claim:

Let's talk about that quotation above, where it said:

Insofar as [these different beings] have differing perceptions
Of a single thing, we say it has no reality.

The idea being expressed here is that a single object can be appearing in three different ways. This is incorrect because, according to you, what's happening is that three different objects are appearing in three different ways. And this certainly is your position; remember, you were describing a situation where three different kinds of beings sit down together and look at a glass full of something that's wet and flowing. You said that there were three different objects, each confirmed by a valid perception, and that they were appearing in three different ways.

श्चा श्रुभात्वाक्षात्वाकष्ठित्वाक्षात्वाकष्ठित्वाक्षात्वाकष्ठित्वाक्षात्वाकष्ठितिकष्ठित्वाकष्ठितिकष्यविकष्ठितिकष्ठितिकष्ठितिकष्ठितिकष्ठितिकष्ठितिकष्ठितिकष्ठितिकष्ठितिकष्यविकष्यविकष्यविकष्ठितिकष्यविकष्यविकष्यविकष्यविकष्यविकष्यविकष्यविकष्यविकष्यविकष्यव

Well now, suppose a person is using all four of his limbs, and his head, to perform five different actions. According to you, it wouldn't be one person performing five different actions, because five different protuberances of his body are performing five different actions.

विश्वासायार्मित्राचे। श्रुवित्रोदादी अवायमात्रासिद्धित्रात्तुवेदित्याव्यायम्

## देशनु न नुष्य प्रश्नुष्य नु देशनु न नुष्य प्रश्निष्य प्रश्नेष्य प्रश्नेष्य प्रश्नेष्य प्रश्नेष्य विष्य

In response to this line of reasoning, someone responds:

No, there's no such problem here. The five protuberances are all parts of the one person, so we have to say that, when the five are performing some actions, the person is performing some actions.

য়्याध्यः देन्त्रः अर्द्धः स्याध्यः स्याध्याः अर्थः स्थः स्याध्यः स्याधः स्याधः

Well the case above is exactly the same! The three things mentioned, the blood and pus and the other two, are all parts of the glass full of something wet and flowing. When the three appear then we can say that the glass full of a thing which is wet and flowing is acting as a basis, and that three different ways of appearing are being displayed upon it.

Someone else may come now and make yet another argument:

Let's talk about these three things: the pus and blood, and the other two. Are you implying then that these are not types of objects which would block each other from entering the space that each one occupies? After all, you were talking about a situation where those three types of beings, each with their own karma, sit down together and look at a glass full of water. And you said that your position was that it was possible for there to be three different objects there, each one confirmed by a valid perception.

पर विश्व श्रास्त्र स्त्र स्त्

This kind of reasoning, where you attempt to show that we are implying that the three objects are not the kinds that block each other from entering the space that each one occupies, cannot disprove our position. It is not our belief that in this situation the glass full of something which is wet and flowing is one thing which is three different things. Neither did we ever say that there definitely had to be identical valid perceptions here.

यात्रकाराः स्ट्रीतः तदुः द्वीतः व्यायाः यात्रकाराः स्वायाः स्वायः स्वायाः स्वायाः स्वायाः स्वायाः स्वायाः स्वायाः स्वायाः स्वायः स्वायाः स्वायाः स्वायाः स्वायाः स्वायाः स्वयः स्वयः

Someone might make the following claim:

In his *Commentary to the Twenty Verses*, Master Vinitadeva makes this statement—

If there was not a single drop of pus there, then how could there ever be a whole river of pus? They are forced to see it, through the ripening of their karma.

According to you, this statement would have to be mistaken, because when the three different kinds of beings sit down together and look at the glass full of something wet and flowing, the visual consciousness of the craving spirit is a valid perception, and the pus is real pus.

त्र्रात्तवार्याक्ष्माक्

And yet there is no such problem. No matter how many arguments of this kind you want to present, they are all made from the point of view of denying the existence of external objects. The way these arguments go is as follows. If the color blue were to exist as an external object, then the following would occur when this color appeared directly to a sense perception grasping blue; that is, with such a perception found in the mental stream of one of those who "only sees this side" [which is another name for those who have not yet perceived emptiness directly].

When an earlier instance of the perception of blue ends, what actually happens is that it plants a mental seed which eventually grows into a later instance of the same perception of blue, when the seed ripens. Suppose the blue were not just this kind of appearance, but rather an appearance where blue as an outer object were transmitting a likeness of itself and thereby appearing to one's perceptions. Something else then would be happening when the three different beings sit down together and look at the glass full of something wet and flowing. The three different objects would be appearing to them because each of the objects was transmitting a likeness of itself to their perception. All of this would be happening independent of any process where each being's karma planted a mental seed, which later ripened and produced the appearance of the object.

If this were how the three objects were appearing, then they would not be appearing through a process where the specific and different karma that each of the three beings had collected had planted a seed in their mind which later ripened. As such each of the beings involved would have to be perceiving all three of the objects, whereas the fact is that they do not.

All this is an argument attempting to refute those who refuse to accept the denial of outer objects.

The real meaning of the quotation by Master Vinitadeva is therefore the following:

Suppose there didn't exist a single drop of pus that existed as it appeared to exist to the craving spirit; that is, which existed as an outer object. How then could there exist a whole river full of pus which existed as an outer object? These beings do though see the pus and so on, for they are forced to do so by their karma.

यमम्बर्ध द्वात्त्वा विष्यदेष्ठी स्वात्वात्त्री स्वात्त्वात्त्री स्वात्त्वात्त्री स्वात्त्र्वात्त्र स्वात्त्र स्वात्र स्वात्त्र स्वात्र स्वात्त्र स्वात्र स्वात्त्र स्वात्त्र स्वात्त्र स्वात्त्र स्वात्त्र स्वात्त्र स्

## तुषायाक्षे वाषार्योग्यार्यो तुःस्य सुवायर सहरायवे सुरा

And this is certainly the case, for later on in the text someone argues that, if the pus and blood did not exist as outer objects, and if they were only a part of the mind itself, then they could never provide the function of being something to eat or drink. And in response, Master Vinitadeva says "Actions and their objects are like an injury in a dream." He is saying that, even though the pus and blood do not exist as outer objects, nonetheless they can perform the function of being something to eat or drink. He proves his point by using a great many examples, such as a dream.

If this were not the case, then one would have to say that form and other such doorways through which perceptions grow do not even exist at all. Why? Because you would be saying that all the sutras which state that they exist are sutras which do not mean what they say; sutras which you have to interpret to understand their true meaning. And this too is certainly the case, for the autocommentary to the *Twenty Verses* states that:

In the same way, statements by the victorious Buddha where He says that form and other such doors of perception do exist would be examples of His word that must be interpreted to establish their real meaning; statements that are only spoken figuratively, for the benefit of disciples who might require such explanations.

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In response to this someone might claim:

There's no problem; the point of this statement is to say that sutras which explain form and similar doors of perception as actually existing as outer objects are only spoken figuratively, and must be interpreted to establish their true meaning.

Well then, the meaning of the original statement then is just the same: it is saying that "there does not exist even a drop of pus and blood which exists as an outer object."

Yet again, another argument might be made:

Let's take the case of one of those craving spirits that looks at a river of water, and sees it as a dry riverbed, genuinely so. Or consider one that looks at a tree loaded with fruit, but sees it as nothing but bare limbs, genuinely so. The visual consciousness of both of these beings then must be a valid perception. Why? Remember the case of the three different beings looking at a glass full of something wet and flowing; according to you, the pus and blood was actual pus and blood, and the perception of them by the craving spirit was genuine: his visual consciousness was a valid perception.

चर्यः स्त्रीर । वर्षे प्रायार स्त्री प्रायार स्त्रीय स्त्री प्राया स्त्रीय स्त्री स्त्रीय स्त

Just because we said that about the other case doesn't mean that it's true in every case. If the craving spirit hadn't seen any water in that area in the first place, it wouldn't have made any sense for him to go over in that direction to try to enjoy some of the water. Therefore what happened was that, at first, he saw some water. Later on, he was forced by his karma to stop seeing water and saw only bare, parched earth. Then he had an impression where he thought the water had dried up.

The case with the fruit tree is the same. Although at first the craving spirit sees a tree loaded with fruit, later on his karma forces him to stop seeing fruit, and all he sees is bare branches. Then he has an impression where he thinks that the tree has no fruit any more.

र्यद्भा स्यायिक्यम् स्यायिक्य

When all this is happening, the obstacle in the visual consciousness of the craving spirit prevents him from seeing the river of water, and so he sees a dry, parched riverbed. The same is true for the visual consciousness of a human: if the obstacle were there, it would prevent him from seeing the river of water, and then he would have to see a dry, parched riverbed.

यभ्रमभारास्ट्री वर्म्,यायशिभाग्नीभा

## यम्बुरु देवा उर दुः युवाय लेवा र्थेदः यदे खेर। यासुरु देवा उर दुः युवाय लेवा र्थेदः यदे खेर।

From one point of view, the river of water hasn't dried up when the craving spirit looks at it; but there is a river which has dried up, if you're talking about a river of water that the spirit can see, or a river of water that the spirit can drink from. This follows because when the three different types of beings sit down together and look at a glass full of something wet and flowing, it is true that, due to the force of karma, three different kinds of objects exist there at the same time: the pus and blood, and the other two.

ग्रीश्रात्मश्वर्यकाताः भ्रीमान्यम्यायम् वर्ष्यमुम् ।

यक्षात्वर्यकात्मः भ्रीमान्यम् वर्ष्यम् ।

वर्षात्वर्यकात्मः भ्रीमान्यम् वर्षात्वर्यम् ।

वर्षात्वर्यम् ।

वर्षात्वर्यम् ।

वर्षात्वर्यक्ष्यस्य ।

वर्षात्वर्यम् ।

वर्षात्वर्यम्यम् ।

वर्षात्वर्यम् ।

वर्षात्वर्यम्यम् ।

वर्षात्वर्यम् ।

वर्षात्वर्यम् ।

वर्षात्वर्यम् ।

वर्षात्वर्यम् ।

वर्षात्वर्यम् ।

वर्षात्वर्यम् ।

वर्षात्वर्यम्यम् ।

Given all this, consider craving spirits that have obstacles that relate to their food and drink itself. The food and drink there really *is* food and drink, until such time as the spirit starts trying to eat or drink it. When he does try to do so, then the continuum of the food into the next moment starts becoming pus and blood. It is not though that it is the simple appearance of something as pus and blood that could ever function as something to eat or drink. If this were the case, then the rules of karma and its consequences would have to be less that what they really are. And this is true, for if a craving spirit like this ever existed it would represent a failure of the laws of karma and its consequences.

याल्य'यारा भूर'यालेर'युर'यवे द्वा'य्या'येर'छेर'रेर'सूर'यवे सूर'य'र्छ्य' योक्य'यववःयमुर'यो'यु'य'येर्द्या रय'रेय'छ्य'या'ययेरेर्द्रवे'द्रर'रूर्य'यदेश

# विया मृष्ट्रा देश्य श्रूट विश्व श्रूट विश

Suppose moreover that there were no pus and blood out there to appear as the pus and blood, and suppose that the mere appearance of something looking like pus and blood could ever function as something to eat or drink. Well then, you would also have to be able to use a comb on the hair that appears on a porcelain sink to a person with cataracts. And a horsefly that appeared to the same person would have to be able to give him a bite. And the water of a mirage would have to provide all the normal functions of water, and so on. Why so? Well because, according to you, there is no pus and blood out there to appear as pus and blood; according to you, the mere appearance of something looking like pus and blood can provide all the functions of things that you eat and drink.

पदुः द्वैर।

यद्भुर्भाव्यात्रेर प्रस्ति प्राण्डे प्रमान्य प्रवेश्वेर ।

यद्भुर्भाव्यात्रेर प्रमान्य प्रस्ति प्राण्डे प्रमान्य प्रस्ति प्रमान्य प्रम् प्रमान्य प्रस्ति प्रमान्य प्रस्ति प्रमान्य प्रस्ति प्रमान्य प्रस्ति प्रमान्य प्रस्ति प्रमान्य प्रस्ति प्रस्ति प्रमान्य प्रस्ति प्रस्ति

And consider again this case where a pleasure being and a human and a craving spirit and an animal or the like all sit down together and look at a glass full of something wet and flowing. According to you, it would have to be genuine when something that just looked like ambrosia appeared to the pleasure being, and it would have to be genuine when something that just looked like pus and blood appeared to the craving spirit, but there couldn't be

any pus and blood out there to appear as pus and blood. And if this were the case, then consider the visual consciousness of a being in the hells. It would then have to be a valid perception towards something appearing to it that just looked like the burning steel of the hells, and towards something that just looked like the forest of swords, and towards something that just looked like a mass of fire, and so on. Finally, this person would not have any valid perceptions at all towards any of these things as actual objects. Why would this all have to be so? If your idea were correct, it would have to be, for the logic here is identical to your own.

यात्रकाराक्षेत्राक्षराद्या देवे के त्र स्वाधिया देव् का यात्रकाराक्ष्या त्र स्वाधिया प्रमानिकार स्वाधिया स्वाधिय स्वाधिय

And suppose you agree that this hell being could have no valid perceptions of the type we mentioned. Well then, the burning steel and other objects could never perform any real actions: they could never burn the bodies of the people born there, they could never chop them up, and so on. Why? Well because of what you just agreed to. And suppose you agree to this; that they could never perform any real actions. Well then, the torment of the hells itself then must not even exist, by your own admission. And remember too that case where the beings all sit down and look at the same thing. You must be saying then that the actual water, the thing towards which the visual consciousness of the human is a valid perception, doesn't exist at all. Why? Well because, according to you, no actual pus and blood exists either in the same situation.

र्ट्याम्बर्धित्यः व्याप्तः विष्ठः विष्यः विष्ठः वि

Someone might now make the following claim:

In this situation, there *does* exist some real water there. This is because the human can confirm the water with his own experience, as it performs all the functions of water—as he uses it to wash himself, or as he uses it to cook something.

Well then, in the same situation there must exist some real pus and blood there as well, because in this same situation the craving spirit can confirm the pus and blood with his own experience as they perform their functions—as he drinks them, and then as the sizzle in his throat and stomach, and so on.

चक्षायायाचित्राचे। क्षेष्ठाक्ष्याचे क्षेष्ठाचार्यक्ष्याचे क्षेष्ठाचार्यक्ष्याचे क्षेष्ठाचार्यक्ष्याचे क्षेष्ठाच्याचे कष्ठाच्याचे क्षेष्ठाच्याचे क्राच्याचे क्षेष्ठाच्याचे क्षेष्ठाच्याचे क्राच्याचे क्षेष्ठाचे क्षेष्ठाच्याचे क्षेष्ठाचे क्षेष्ठाच्याचे क्षेष्ठाचे क्षेष्ठाचे क्षेष

Someone may respond to this argument with the following claim:

The two cases are not the same. When all this happens to the craving spirit, it's nothing more than his own imagination.

Well then, what happens to the human can't be happening to him either, because it's nothing more than *his* imagination.

युर्यायात्वार्यात्वायात्वार्यात्वार्यात्वार्यात्वार्यात्वार्यात्वार्यात्वार्यात्वार्यात्वार्यात्वार्यात्वार्यात्वार्यात्वार्यात्वार्यात्वार्यात्वार्यायात्वार्यात्वार्यात्वार्यात्वार्यात्वायायात्वायात्वायात्वायायात्वायायात्वायायात्वायायात्वायायात्वायायात्वायायात्वायायात्वायायात

Someone may respond to this with another claim:

When the human washes himself with the water and so on, it must not be something real, because it's nothing more than his own imagination.

स्या भूषा भूषा भूषा प्रमाण स्था विष्या । वर्षेत्र । वर्षेत्र वाष्या । विष्या । विष्या । विष्या । विष्या । विषय । विष्या । विषय । विष्या । विष्या । विष्या । विषय ।

#### यर.यजा

Are you saying then that when the pus and blood sizzle in the stomach of the craving spirit, and so on, it can't be something real? For that too is nothing more than his own imagination. You agree? Well then, the suffering of craving spirits must not exist at all.

Someone might make the following claim:

Isn't it true that when all those beings sit down together and look at something, there isn't any actual pus and blood at all? Because isn't it true first of all that, when a person with cataracts looks into a porcelain basin, there is no strand of hair in the basin at all? And, secondly, doesn't [Master Dharmakirti's] text itself say,

Identical to the case of someone where his sense power has a cataract,

Is the mind of a craving spirit as well, which sees a stream of water as pus.

क्र्.य। क्याचिया-ट्र्यायायश्चान्त्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्यात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात

And yet there is no such problem, for this quotation appears in the section where we are examining the question of whether, in the schools of the Middle Way and the Mind-Only, an object and the perception of it must be equivalent in either both existing or both not existing. Moreover, there is another fact

about this situation, where the stream of water appears as pus and blood to the visual consciousness of the craving spirit. It is no inconsistency to say that the visual consciousness that sees things this way is not a valid perception, and to say at the same time that—when the craving spirit looks at the stream of water—there does exist there actual pus and blood.

त्रश्चाश्चरम् । विभागश्चरभागतुः सुरा चराना । क्र्यास्यम् । विभागश्चर्यास्य । विभागयि । विभागश्चर्यास्य । विभागश्चर्यास्य । विभागश्चर्यास्य । विभागस्य । विभागश्चर्यास्य । विभागश्चर्य । विभाग्वर्य । विभाग्वर्य । विभाग्य । विभाय । विभाग्य । विभाय ।

Someone again may come and claim the following:

Let's consider once more this situation where three different types of beings sit down together and look at a glass full of something wet and flowing. Isn't it true that there is no actual pus and blood there? Because isn't it true that the burning steel and so on in the hells is only something that appears to a person who is born there, but that there is nothing there which actually is these objects? Because isn't it true that there is no one at all who went and made all these kinds of things? And isn't this a fact, because doesn't the text of *The Bodhisattva's Way of Life* say:

Who made the burning steel that acts As the floor of the world of hell? Where did all the mass of flames You find there all come from?

The Able Ones have spoken that Everything there like this Is nothing at all other than The mind of what's non-virtue.

## 

Yet there is no such problem. The point of this quotation is to say that the burning steel and so on are not something that was created by some unchanging creator being or something like that; by someone who thought it over first and then created them. The lines are meant to show us that what really made all these things is the non-virtuous states of mind had by the beings who have to take birth there.

याने त्वर् प्रति । नियान्य प्राप्ति । नियान्य प्रियान्य । नियान्य प्राप्ति । नियान्य । नियाय्य । नि

If this were not the case, then consider those holy people who lead their lives following the ten virtues, and who are then born into the higher realms, and then experience the pleasures of these realms. And consider too those miserable people who lead their lives following the ten non-virtues, and who are then born into the lower realms, and then experience the sufferings of these realms. Is the difference between them just that they are having some better or worse kind of misperception, and not whether they are experiencing pleasure or pain? This would have to be the case, if your reasoning were correct.

## यर्दिन्या अर्थेर्न्रभागीः यदेन्या प्रदेश्या प्रदेश्या अर्थेर्या अर्थेर्या प्रदेश

Suppose you agree that it is only a matter of better or worse misperceptions. Are you saying then that the pleasures of the higher realms don't even exist, and that the pains of the lower realms don't even exist? You must be, if you agree this way.

स्राचार क्रेंट र मूंशाया जा सूचीशाय हुं भ्रेंच जूर तय हुं यो जा असूच क्र स्राचार क्रेंट र मूंशाया जा सूचीशाय हुं भ्राचाय शाय हुं यो अपाय हुं यो यो अपाय हुं यो अपाय हुं यो अपाय हुं यो अपाय हुं यो अपाय हुं

In conclusion now, let us consider again these three kinds of beings, each with their different karma, as they sit down together and look at a glass full of something wet and flowing. It's not necessarily true that they must all have valid perceptions which are identical. If they did, then the three beings looking at the glass of water would have to think of the water as a place to live, in the way that a creature living in water would. The three beings as well would have to see the water in the same way that microscopic organisms living in the water, little beings imperceptible to normal visual consciousness, see it with their own visual consciousness. Then too the visual consciousness of microscopic organisms living in the depths of the ocean would have to be a valid perception towards the entire extent of the sea. And certain kinds of near-gods too would have to see weapons as glasses of water, and on and on; the problems raised would be many.

यश्रिमः भी कर्मा स्वायम् स्वायमः स्वायम् स्वायमः स्वायम् स्वयम् स्वायम् स्वायम् स्वायम् स्वायम् स्वयम् स्वयम्यम् स्वयम्यम्यस्यम् स्वयम्यस्यम्यस्यस्यम्यस्यस्यस्यस्यस्यस्यस्यस्यस्यस्यस्यस्

Again consider this same situation. Even though it is not necessarily true that the valid perceptions are identical, it is possible for there to be three valid perceptions here which happen to be identical. This is because, as we have already established logically, there can be a case where by the force of karma

three different objects, each one confirmed by a valid perception, start to exist. And since this is possible, then it is equally possible that, by the force of karma, three equivalent valid perceptions of a vessel could start to exist as well.

स्वात्यःश्वायायः निर्देशः सं वाश्वयः सं निःश्वी न्याः स्वायाः स्वायः स्वयः स्वायः स्वयः स्वायः स्वायः स्वायः स्वायः स्वयः स्वायः स्वयः स्वयः स्वयः स्वयः स्वयः स्वयः स्वय

Generally speaking, each of the three objects mentioned—the pus and the other two—are things of the type that block other objects from entering into the space which they themselves occupy. It is no contradiction though to say that, in this situation where the beings are looking this way, they are not objects such that they block other things from entering into the space they occupy. This is true for the following reason.

A central mountain of the world which is square in shape, and a central mountain of the world which is round in shape, and the like, are objects such that they block other things from entering the space they occupy. Nevertheless, it is possible for both these things to occupy the space taken up by a single central mountain of the world. A red-hot ball of steel is something that's hot, but consider what happens when a person touches it after he has used the mantra of steel on his hand. The sensation that he feels is not a sensation of heat; on the contrary, it is a sensation of something not heat.

[This concludes the section of the text entitled "The Stream."]

The Asian Classics Institute
Practice VII: The Marriage of Karma and Emptiness

Reading Three: Emptiness and Paradise; Emptiness and Purification

The root text is An Exalted Sutra of the Greater Way on the Perfection of Wisdom, entitled The Diamond Cutter, and is found in bold in the translation and is marked with an ornament in the Tibetan. The commentary is by Choney Lama Drakpa Shedrup (1675-1748) of Sera Mey Tibetan Monastery.

विश्वः चेरः द्वा देः द्वा द्वाः यो व्याः व्याः

The Conqueror bespoke:

Suppose, o Subhuti, that some bodhisattva were to say, "I am working to bring about paradises." This would not be spoken true.

Lord Buddha wishes to indicate that, in order for a person to reach the enlightenment described above, he or she must first bring about a paradise in which to achieve the enlightenment. Therefore **the Conqueror** says to **Subhuti**,

Suppose some bodhisattva were to say or think to himself—while holding a belief in true existence, and referring to ultimate existence—"I am working to bring about paradises." This statement would not be spoken true.

२०१२: ३०: स्वेर विष्ठ स्वा स्वायम् विष्ठ स्वायम् स्वयम् विष्ठ स्वायम् विष्ठ स्वायम् स्वयम् विष्ठ स्वायम् विष्ठ स्वयम् स्वयम् विष्ठ स्वयम् विष्य स्वयम् विष्ठ स्वयम् विष्ठ स्वयम् विष्ठ स्वयम्यम् विष्ठ स्वयम् स्वयम् विष्ठ स्वयम्यम् विष्य स्वयम् विष्ठ स्वयम्यम्यम्यम् विष्य स

Why is it so? Because the Ones Thus Gone have stated that these paradises, these "paradises," these lands that are put there do not even exist. And this is why we call them "paradise."

Why is this the case? The reason is that the Ones Thus Gone have stated that these perfect paradises, these places where you achieve your enlightenment, are put there like an illusion; that is, they occur because a great many causes and conditions have come together. But lands which have been put there in an ultimate sense, say the Buddhas, do not even exist. Since though they do exist to that state of mind which performs no check or analysis, we can nominally call them "paradise."

This fact refers not only to the paradise of a Buddha, but also to each and every thing which has ever been put here: to both the world where beings live and the beings who live in the world. All of these are simply a label put on

the collection of a number of parts: they are all the same as a house, for example. And all of these are such that, should you break them down mentally all the way to their tiniest atoms, you would reach the point where they are nothing at all. (This is the briefest sketch of the meaning for you.)

पश्चिर्ता देखान्य । विद्या क्षेत्र प्राप्त । विद्या क्षेत्र प्राप्त । विद्या विद्या क्षेत्र प्राप्त । विद्या विद्

Since this is so, o Subhuti, those bodhisattvas who are great beings develop their wish without residing in these thoughts. They develop their wish without residing in anything at all. They develop their wish without residing even in visible form. They develop their wish without residing even in sounds, or in smells, or in tastes, or in things to touch, or in any object at all.

चर्सेट्रायम् नुद्र्।

यह्मेट्रायम् नुद्र्।

Since this is so, says Lord Buddha, bodhisattvas who are working to bring about their paradise should develop their wish [for enlightenment] without residing in any such state where they hold a belief in some true existence. They should develop their wish without residing in any state where they believe in the ultimate existence of anything at all. They should develop their wish without residing in any state where they hold a belief in some true existence of any object at all: visible form, or any of the rest.

२० । मन तर्तुमा वर्ते भूषे । निमाना श्रीकातु लिया तुका वर्ते भूषा सुमाना ।

त्रश्चा न्यान्त्र स्त्री न्यान्त्र स्वान्त्र स्वान्त्र

O Subhuti, it is thus: Suppose, for example, that someone's body were to grow this large—suppose it were to grow as large as the king of all mountains, Mt. Sumeru. What do you think, o Subhuti? Would that person's body be large?

#### And Subhuti replied,

O Conqueror, such a body would be large. O you who have Gone to Bliss, such a body would be large. And why so? Because Those Gone Thus have stated that it could never be a thing at all. And this is why we call it a "body." Because Those Gone Thus have stated that it could never be a thing at all, we call it a "large body."

देविवेद्वानियां प्राप्त वाद्य स्थानि विकासियां विकासिया

Lord Buddha wishes to show that the above applies not only to outer things such as paradises, but also to the beings who inhabit this world: to objects such as the body of a person. He wishes to show that they too exist only because conditions have come together, and not in an ultimate way. Therefore he asks **Subhuti**,

Suppose some person's body were to grow to the size of the king of mountains, Mt. Sumeru. What do you think? Would that body be something large?

And Subhuti respectfully replies,

Such a body would be large. Those who have Gone Thus though have stated that this same body exists only as a term applied to the heaps, to some collection of a great many parts. It could never be a thing at all which existed in essence; that is, it could never be something which did not depend on its parts, say they. And this is why we can call such a body "large," in the sense that words are used in the everyday world.

Here a large body is just a representative example; we are meant to apply this reasoning to all physical objects, large or small. The entire statement here in the sutra is aimed at showing us how to meditate upon the fact that each and every detail of the world and the beings who inhabit it are all empty of any natural existence.

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 वर्षीरःर्रा । ब्रास्त्रियोबारी:वरःष्ट्रात्तात्तरःवर्ष्यातार्थाः वर्ष्यात्रः वर्षात्रः वर्ष्यात्रः वर्ष्यात्रः वर्षात्रः वर्ष्यः वर्षात्रः वर्षः वर्षात्रः वर्षात्रः वर्षात्रः वर्षात्रः वर्षात्रः वर्षः वर्षात्रः वर्षः वर्यः वर्षः वर्षः वर्षः वरः वरः वर्षः वरः वर्षः वरः वरः वर्षः वरः वर्षः वरः व

And I tell you further, o Subhuti: any place where this sutra is taught thereby becomes a place worthy of the offerings of the entire world, with its gods, and men, and demigods. It becomes a place which is worthy of their prostrations, and worthy of their circumambulations. That place becomes something like a stupa.

चिर्यः अत्रीत्वाश्वर्यः स्ट्रियः मित्रः स्ट्रियः स्ट्रिय

Furthermore, any place where this sutra is taught thereby becomes a place worthy of the offerings, and the prostrations, and the circumambulations of all the living beings in the entire world, with its gods, and men, and demigods. This point recalls the line in the *Ornament of Realizations* where it talks about "enlightenment and none other than a stupa." This refers to a fact mentioned in the root sutra—in the Mother, in its more extensive, medium, and shorter versions, as well as in the commentaries. Here it says that any place where a bodhisattva on the path of habituation stays thereby becomes a place like a stupa, a place that should be revered by other people. The reference here in this case is mainly to any place where there resides a person who has managed to develop the whole point of this text—that is, an

extraordinary form of actual perfection of wisdom—within the stream of his mind. Previously in the sutra a section similar to this one appears, but each instance applies to a different case.

याने न्याकी अवस्त्र विद्यान क्षेत्र क

O Subhuti, any son or daughter of noble family who takes up a sutra like this, or who holds it, or reads it, or comprehends it fully, will suffer. They will suffer intensely.

चतुः श्रृंचा चश्र्या श्रुंद्र चर त्युंद्र रहे वा श्रृंचा श्रुंचा श्रृंचा श्रृंचा श्रेंचा श्रृंचा श्रेंचा श्रेंचा श्रेंचा श्रुंचा श्रेंचा श्रेंच श्रेच

Here in a statement over and above the one before, Lord Buddha says,

O Subhuti, consider any son or daughter of noble family who takes up this sutra, who holds it in their hands, and so on—any living being who does these things and then puts the meaning of the sutra into practice. It is entirely possible that such a person could experience some pain, that they could suffer, and suffer intensely, through various kinds of illness, or conflict with others, or being criticized, or chained, or beaten, or anything of the like. It could happen, but it would be no great problem, because. . .

## প্রধ্যাস্থ্রীর্মান্ত্রীর্মান্ত

Why is it so? Because, o Subhuti, such beings are purifying non-virtuous karma from the entire string of their previous lives, karma that would have taken them to the three lower realms. As they purify this karma, it causes them to suffer here in this life. As such they will succeed in cleaning away the karma of these non-virtuous deeds of their previous lifetimes, and they will as well achieve the enlightenment of a Buddha.

तूषासुः सै 'दवो 'दवे 'त्यस' के द'र्से 'दव 'र्से द' वासुस' तुः क्षेचे 'दव 'त्यस' वादः <u> २वा.चैश.त.५.२वा.घशश.१२.भी.उचश.चे.ष्रु.ष्ट्र.ष्ट्र.भी.ब्रुवा.वा.श्री४.५.केंव</u> বশ্বঅ'ট্রীঝ'মর্ম'ব'বিই'শ্ব্রিঝ'শ্রীঝ'র্ক্র'মবঝ'শ্বু'মবি'মী'ব্বী'ববি'ঝঝ'বি'ব্বা ষপ্রপর্ম এই বেরী হ'ব বার্ রাজ্য বর্ষ কর্ম ক্রী প্রাম্য ক্রী বি হ'র প্রাম্য কর্ম বি ক্রি বার্ম বি ক্রি বার্ম বি यर विशुर रे विर धुन वा वर्षेन यदे मानेन ये गुन मुर्बेर यदे स्वेन रा गुन है શ્રેવા'વાશ' કુશશ'ગી' કુ' વ'વડવા' વદેં ક' વર્ડે અ' શ્રે' શ્રર' ધ' ઽ ૮' શ્રસ્થ ' ૩ ૮' અદ્યેક્' ધ' પ્યદ' इंचायर वर्षेर छेशायपेर थे। दय वर्षेर हैं। यदु ताया मेशया वहूं श्रमाया के हैं। हैं। बें। ।र्द्धवारी सूर में मामी वनर ना बेंग्राबाद बराय वर छेटा। बराय के दार्थी प्रका गुरा दरवर्षेरक्षेत्रक्षेत्रक्षेतार्थेरगुरा । अर्वेत्वंत्रत्यर्व्यमुरावहरा । १००० म्बुर्बार्से। । द्वीर दासार्वेद चह्या गुर कु खुर देंद म्बिर सेवाब महद सेद द ह्युःगुःर्रोःक्रुःनःसूरःनन्गःवहें बःक्रेंदःबुर्याः वःषे । नयम्यायः वयायाः वे व्येन्गुदः र्चेवाबार्वेदार्येटबार्येट्रायबार्य्याञ्चीदार्ययेद्यात्रेत्रात्रे व्याप्त्योत्यात्यवा सेट्र यदे श्रेर यश इस प्रम्यापदे। । यश म्बर यथे र स्थार या यो र हो। । यु र छे म

### विदायावराष्ट्रीरारी विद्याम्बर्धरद्यायासूरारी

For what reason is it so? Because such beings are purifying great non-virtuous karma that they have committed both in this life and in their lifetimes past—karma so serious that it would normally have taken them to the three lower realms. As such, the results of all these deeds are ripening here in this very life. Thus one is suffering pain, and by force of this suffering he or she is "cleaning away"—that is, purifying—all of this non-virtuous karma. As such, one will quickly achieve the enlightenment of a Buddha.

The force of an antidote action consisting of making great efforts in the perfection of wisdom is destroying the grasping to some self-existence, the very root of all non-virtuous deeds. This is why the text goes on to say that one will achieve freedom and the state of omniscience. And since the text does say this, then needless to say one could destroy the karma that is leading you to a birth in the lower realms. The way in which this works is explained in texts such as the *Blaze of Reasoning* and others. As the *Sutra of the Great Liberation* says as well,

Even though one may have the bad karma To take his birth in the three lower realms, A simple headache will clean it away.

Suppose for example that a seed is planted, but is then deprived completely of water, or fertilizer, or warmth, or the rest. Then it would never sprout.

Here the case is the same. If you are able to eliminate grasping to some selfnature, then none of the karmas you have collected, regardless of how many there are, can ever ripen forth. This is because their companion, the mental afflictions, are absent. As the *Commentary on Valid Perception* states,

No further karmas can ever project their results In one who has gone beyond the desire for existence; This is because the conditions have all been finished. Please cut along the dotted line to make an insert for the binder spine



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## PRACTICE

## 7

## THE MARRIAGE OF KARMA AND EMPTINESS

PRACTICE

