

An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
*Great Commentary to the  
Diamond Cutter Sutra*



Diamond Mountain  
Retreat Center  
April 2018

An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 1**

Twinned diamonds  
and the five paths:  
*How far have I come?*

**Kamalashila**

**Idim 2**

Lord Buddha  
in the Garden:  
*Am I balancing personal  
quiet and serving the world?*



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 3**

Buddha gone begging:  
*Am I living a simple  
and healthy lifestyle?*

An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"



**Kamalashila**  
**Idim 4**  
Lord Buddha  
sits up straight:  
*Am I meditating every day,  
even just a little?*

**Kamalashila**  
**Idim 5**  
Subhuti sits  
at the Buddha's feet:  
*grateful to my teachers*



**Kamalashila**  
**Idim 6**  
Subhuti's Question:  
*Am I asking myself  
how to live,  
how to practice,  
how to think?*



An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 7**

The Three Teacups:

*Am I really open to learn?*

**Kamalashila**

**Idim 8**

Who is everyone

I will enlighten?

*Who made  
people different?*



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 9**

Nirvanicizing:

*Will I take  
the responsibility?*



An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 10**

Only one thing works  
*for success,*  
*for relationships,*  
*for health, peace;*  
*for death; for pain;*  
*for saving the world*

**Kamalashila**

**Idim 11**

No one reaches nirvana:  
*the second husband*  
*in your kitchen*



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 12**

If there is no me,  
*who goes from chains*  
*to freedom?*

An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 13**

If there is no me,  
*who makes karma,*  
*and then gets it back?*

**Kamalashila**

**Idim 14**

If there is no me,  
*why can I recognize*  
*my mother's face?*



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 15**

From caterpillar to butterfly:  
*who made the cocoon?*

An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 16**

If atoms  
are too small to see,  
*how can I see a thing  
made of atoms?*

**Kamalashila**

**Idim 17**

If helping the sick  
makes medicine  
work for me,  
*do I still have to take the  
medicine?*



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 18**

What do the signs  
feel like inside?  
*How do the signs on the outside  
reflect my good qualities  
on the inside?*



An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 19**

Where do the signs  
come from?

*What did I do in the past  
that created this sign?*

**Kamalashila**

**Idim 20**

What glues the signs together?

*Why do I see the whole from the parts?*



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 21**

Avoid the ditches  
on either side of the road:

*Why did the Buddha say  
no signs were there?*

An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 22**

I would love to show up

*(Enough love to send a form body)*

**Kamalashila**

**Idim 23**

Dharma Jewel:  
books vs. understandings

*The real protection  
and what causes it*



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 24**

The Diamond Cutter Sutra,  
for us:

*Assume that the Buddha  
designed it for you, now*



An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 25**

Those of the last 500,  
who understand:  
*It's time; and you're here*

**Kamalashila**  
**Idim 26**  
Sangha Jewel:  
robes & emptiness;  
*The friends you should  
really hang out with*



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 27**

Gratitude, the only way out:  
*The best thing to try,  
in the days of dark*



An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"



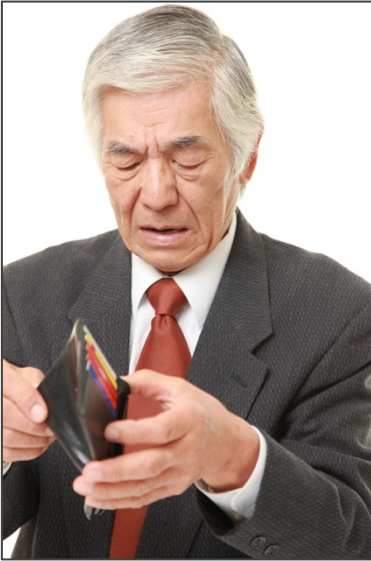
**Kamalashila**  
**Idim 28**  
Planted & safe:  
*sealed with*  
*a Coffee Meditation*

**Kamalashila**  
**Idim 29**  
Even understanding  
is not:  
*we live in*  
*a mental construct*



**Kamalashila**  
**Idim 30**  
Three boats to leave behind:  
*a time to move beyond anything*

An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"



**Kamalashila**

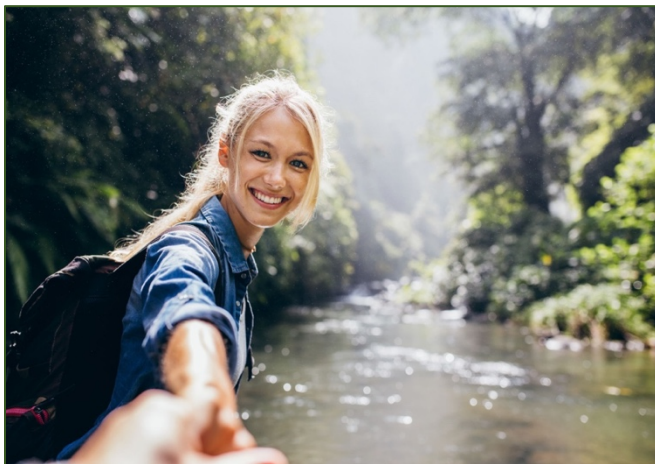
**Idim 31**

Gakja: the missing Discover credit card:  
*simple absences, and not simply not*

**Kamalashila**

**Idim 32**

Disembodied karma triggers:  
*the emptiness of the space  
between the trigger  
and the result*



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 33**

When I reach a level,  
who reaches it?  
*No me during,  
no me after;  
or I would lose it.*

An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 34**

How did our Buddha  
receive any teachings?

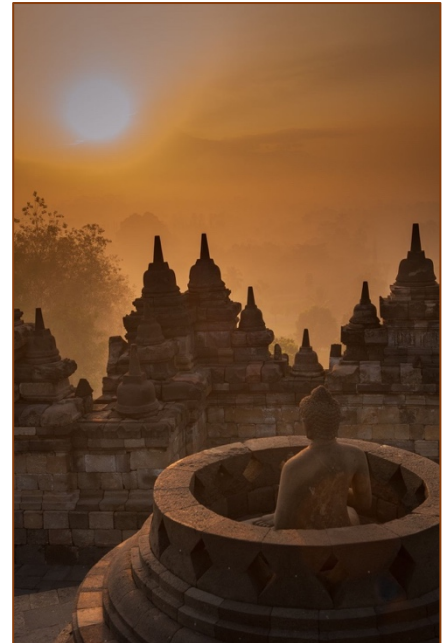
*How did the creator  
of the Diamond Cutter Sutra  
learn to make a sutra?*

Or: A proof of gratitude

**Kamalashila**

**Idim 35**

Karmas, stupas, journeys, teachers:  
*four things the sutra brings us*



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 36**

Explaining vs teaching:  
*inspiring others to try*



An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"



**Kamalashila**

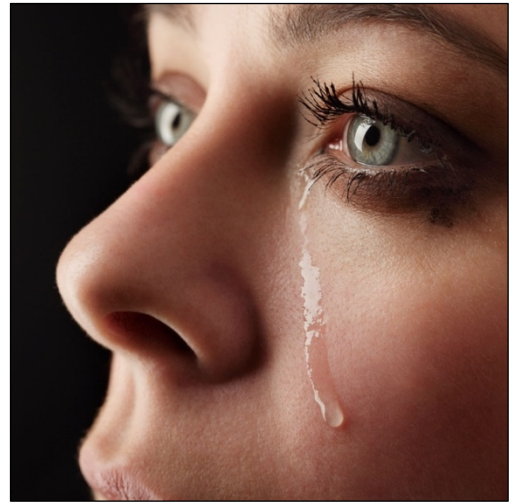
**Idim 37**

The name of the book:  
*wisdom and a ship*

**Kamalashila**

**Idim 38**

An arya's tears:  
*Do I understand  
what makes every line  
of the Diamond Cutter great?*



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 39**

My understanding  
of emptiness  
is also empty;  
*help me overcome  
that "attachment"*

An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"



**Kamalashila**  
**Idim 40**  
I am a wonder  
of the last 500:  
*let me appreciate myself*

**Kamalashila**  
**Idim 41**  
Facing the fear of emptiness;  
    *I am* here,  
a wonder from my seeds,  
and for the first time  
    I have control  
over what happens to me



**Kamalashila**  
**Idim 42**  
The King of Kalingka:  
*empty patience like cement,*  
*stronger the longer*  
*we are pressed*

An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"



**Kamalashila Idim 43**

Flow chart for negative thoughts:

- 1) I am myself >
- 2) Attachment to "me" >
- 3) Me vs. others >
- 4) Taking care of me >
- 5) Desires >
- 6) Anger when my desires are thwarted: "Someone hurt me!" >
- 7) All the problems of life

**Kamalashila  
Idim 44**

The blind man in a room of riches;  
getting discouraged kills belief.

*Come touch the Sun,  
to enjoy your life.*



**Kamalashila  
Idim 45**

Signs of success in studying the  
sutra, and cleansing:  
*the non-fatal headache,  
criticism,  
and a quick enlightenment*

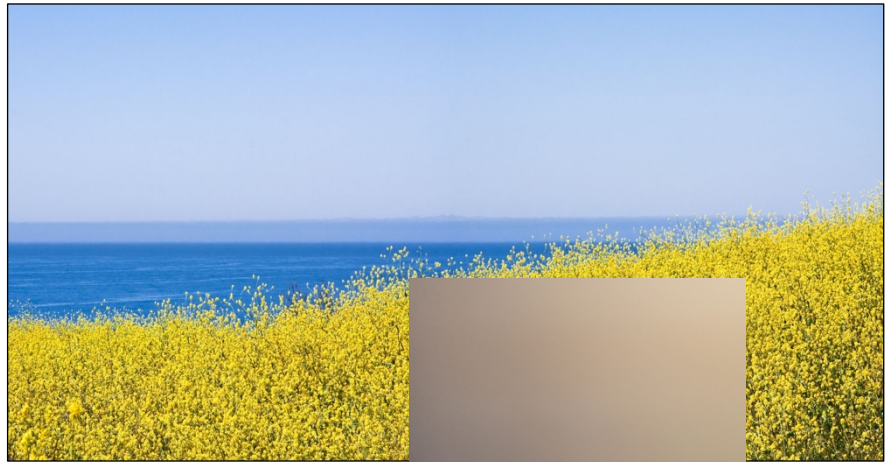


An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"

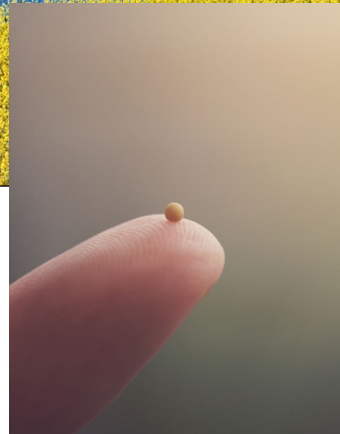
**Kamalashila**

**Idim 46**

How to please a  
billion Buddhas:  
*the offering of practice;  
the blade of a razor,  
pale by comparison;  
and the inconceivable  
fruit*



*of the  
inconceivable seed*



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 47**

Explaining the Dharma:  
*Is it ever alright  
not to dig deeper?*

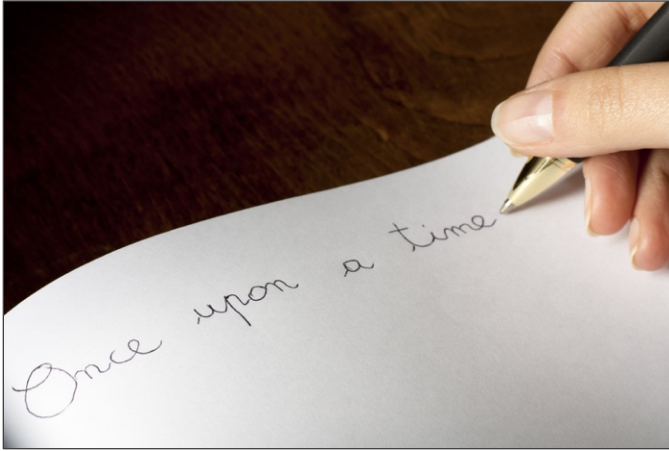
**Kamalashila**

**Idim 48**

Chi Jedrak:  
*What is the difference between  
"The Dharma" and  
a book of Dharma  
like the Diamond Cutter?*



An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 49**

Pens never touch writing,  
words never describe anything,  
words never convey ideas,  
and luminous images  
never create things.  
*No one teaches the Dharma.*

**Kamalashila**

**Idim 50**

The honor of being a teenager,  
among normal people



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 51**

How do empty things  
in my life  
still do something?



An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 52**

Subhuti doesn't get it;  
*can I also*  
*use skillful means*  
*to spread the Dharma?*

**Kamalashila**

**Idim 53**

The yoga of everyday life:  
*The Buddha*  
*goes for groceries,*  
*to the left*



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 54**

Six interpreters  
of the nine messages



An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"

**Kamalashila**

**Idim 55**

Taraka timiram dipo,  
Maya-avashyaya budbudam,  
Svapnam cha vidyud abhram cha,  
Evam drashtavya sanskirtam.

तारका तिमिरं<sup>१</sup> दीपो मायावश्यायंबुबुदं ।  
स्वप्नं च विद्युदभं च एवं द्रष्टव्यं संस्कृतं<sup>२</sup> ॥

*Help from the  
Sanskrit roots:  
Crossing, timid, divine,  
Magic, school, pop!,  
Insomnia, Jupiter,  
Aquatic burden;  
A dragon's cereal.*



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 56**

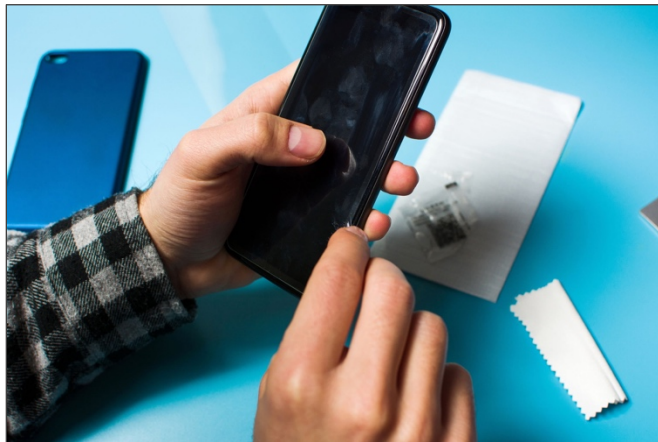
Stars need darkness,  
and cannot survive  
in the sun

An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"

**Kamalashila**  
**Idim 57**

Stars & night,  
movie & blank white screen:

*The appearance  
of the deceptive world,  
which depends upon  
background emptiness*



**Kamalashila**  
**Idim 58**

The complete non-reality  
of a hair stuck to  
our cellphone screen:  
*scrubbing for nothing*

**Kamalashila**  
**Idim 59**

No candle ever lit  
without wax & wick:

*Things can work,  
and success can come,  
(despite the fact)  
(because of the fact)  
that they are empty*



An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 60**

Useless hopes & fears  
about things  
that aren't what they seem:  
*we could simply plan  
and design our life, ourselves*

**Kamalashila**

**Idim 61**

Three kinds of people there  
when the magician  
turns a stick into  
an enraged elephant



**Kamalashila Idim 62**

The disappearing dew —  
see the connection between  
the poem's two themes:  
*impermanence to pain,  
pain to the emptiness  
of things and people;  
and a reason to practice  
the secret teachings*



An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 63**

Puddle,  
bubble,  
drops in the air:  
*it's all the water of the  
three kinds of pain*

**Kamalashila**

**Idim 64**

Things in a dream  
don't exist at all,  
*but can still make us  
desire or hate*

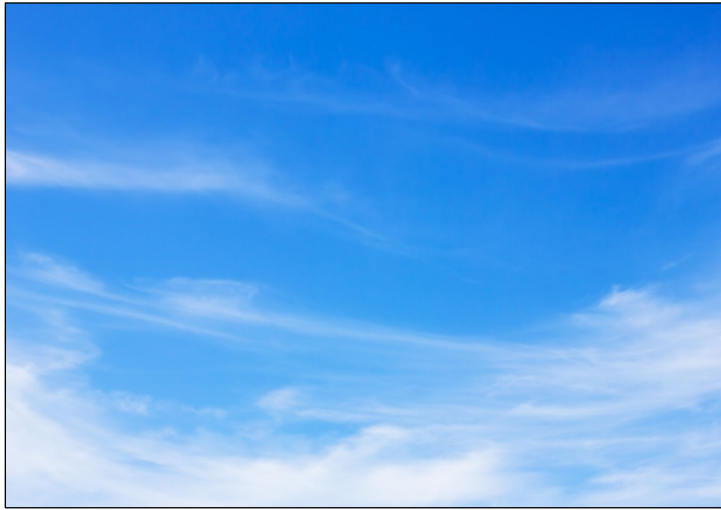


**Kamalashila**

**Idim 65**

Lightning  
and the three doors  
to freedom:  
*we cannot hold it now  
we cannot hold where it came from  
we cannot hold where it went*

An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"



**Kamalashila**

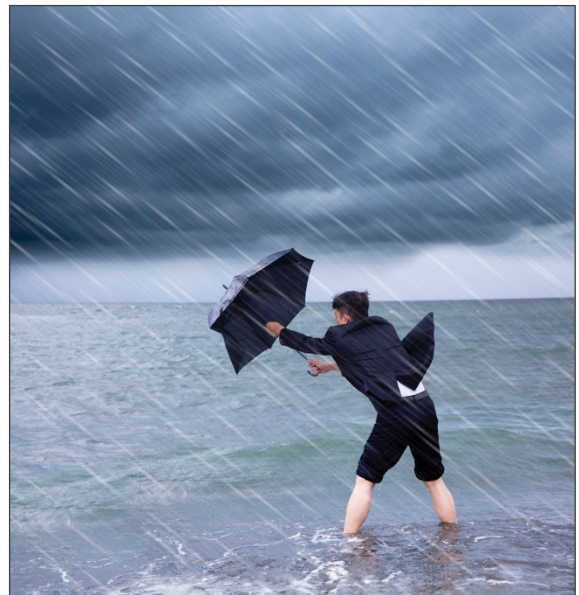
**Idim 66**

Tiny subtle seeds  
below the seeds:  
*high, high clouds  
that slightly shade  
the sun*

**Kamalashila**

**Idim 67**

Clouds and rain,  
pen and writing:  
they may be consecutive,  
but they never touch—  
*so there cannot be  
any cause & effect*



An Idim Review  
of Master Kamalashila's  
"Great Commentary to the Diamond Cutter Sutra"



**Kamalashila**

**Idim 68**

A final extra line

In the Sanskrit:

*Whatever I have taught here  
I have also not taught here;  
And thus we can say  
I have taught here.*