

Approaching the Buddhist Path 2023

Class 2

4-week course with registered FPMT teacher, Eddie Peet

1


Refuge & Bodhichitta

I go for refuge until I am enlightened

To the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Supreme Assembly

By the merits I create through listening to the Dharma,

May I become a buddha to benefit all sentient beings.



2


Four Boundless Thoughts

May all sentient beings have happiness and its causes.

May all sentient beings be free from suffering and its causes.

May all sentient beings never be separated from the happiness that is without suffering.

May all sentient beings abide in equanimity, free from the bias of attachment for friends and hatred for enemies.



3

Seven Limb Prayer

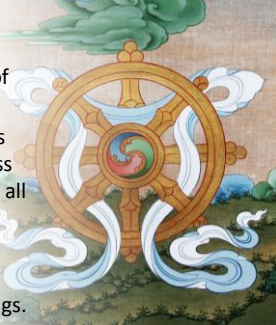
Reverently I prostrate with my body, speech, and mind;

I present clouds of every type of offering, actual and imagined;

I declare all my negative actions accumulated since beginningless time and rejoice in the merit of all holy and ordinary beings.

Please, remain until the end of cyclic existence, and turn the wheel of Dharma for living beings.

I dedicate my own and other's merits to the great enlightenment.



4

Mandala Offering

This ground, anointed with perfume, strewn with flowers, Adorned with Mount Meru, four continents, the sun and the moon: I imagine this as a buddha-field and offer it.

May all living beings enjoy this pure land!

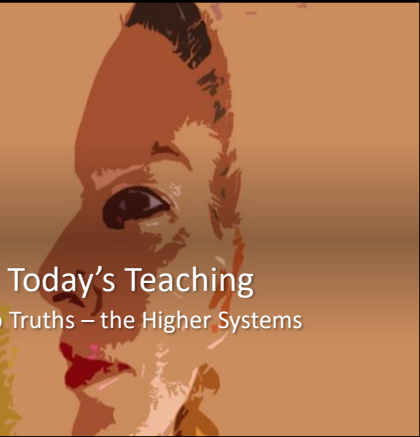
IDAM GURU RATNA MANDALA
KAM NIRYATA YAMI



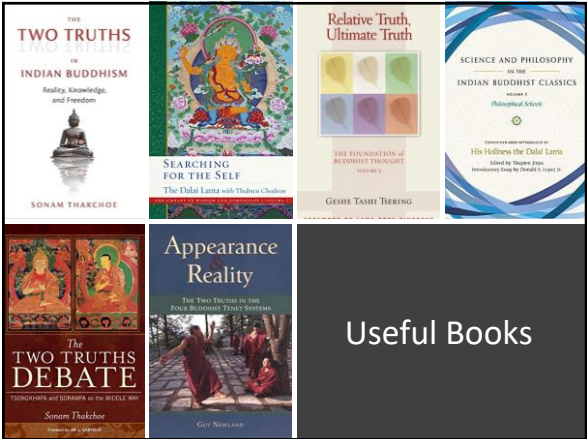
5

Today's Teaching

Two Truths – the Higher Systems



6



7

Summarising the Two Truths

Great Exposition and Sutra Followers of Scripture Things that we can no longer know the conventional identities of while we are dissecting them by physical means or analyzing them by mental scrutiny. ULTIMATE: Things that we can still know the conventional identities of while we are dissecting or analyzing them.	Sutra Followers of Reason/Logic Things are established exclusively by being something imputed by conceptual cognition. ULTIMATE: Things established from the side of their own individual manner of abiding, without exclusively being something imputed by words or conceptual cognition.	Mind Only Those phenomena that are found by a valid cognition scrutinizing what is conventional. ULTIMATE: Things that are ultimately found by a valid cognition scrutinizing what is deepest.
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8

The Mind Only System:

A person propounding Buddhist tenets who uses reasoning to refute external objects and who asserts that dependent phenomena, such as consciousnesses, truly exist.

9

The Mind Only System: Selfless of Persons

Not permanent, singular, and independent
AND
Not self-sufficient and substantial

10

The Mind Only System: Selflessness of Phenomena

1. Subject and object are not different entities
2. Phenomena are not naturally the basis of names

11

The Mind Only System: The Person

- The mind-basis-of-all
- Mental consciousness

12

The Buddha said...

In the south, in the land of Vedālī, an illustrious and distinguished monk called by the name of Nāga will destroy the positions of existence and nonexistence. He will fully explain to the world my vehicle, the unsurpassed Mahāyāna. He will then achieve the Joyful level and go to the Land of Bliss.

13

Nagarjuna

By cordoning the ultimate off from the conventional, we cordon ourselves off from an understanding of the ultimate.



14

Arya Nagarjuna said...

The doctrines that Buddha taught are based upon two truths: Worldly conventional truths and truths that are ultimate objects. Those who do not know the distinction between these two truths Do not know the profound suchness in Buddha's teaching.

15

The Two Truths

CONVENTIONAL TRUTH

A fact about a phenomenon that conceals a deeper fact about the same phenomenon.



ULTIMATE TRUTH

A fact about a phenomenon that is concealed by a more superficial fact about the same phenomenon.



16

Middle-way Teachers



Buddhapalita
(470-540)
Co-founder of the MW Consequence School



Bhāviveka
(500-570)
Founder of the MW Autonomist School



Chandrakirti
(600-650)
Co-founder of the MW Consequence School

17


A Universal Vehicle Ultimate Truth



Middle-Way
Autonomy
Svatantrika

The
*emptiness of
true existence*


18



The Middle Way Autonomy System

- Ultimately – **no true existence**
- Conventionally – **inherent nature**

19




The Middle Way Autonomy System

Selflessness of Persons

Not permanent, singular,
and independent
AND
Not self-sufficient and
substantial

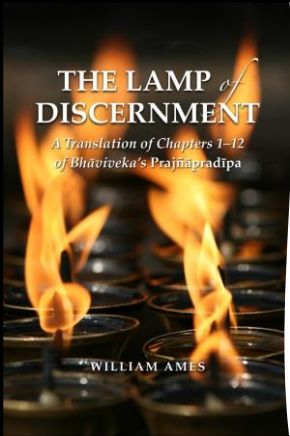
20



The Middle Way Autonomy System: Selflessness of Phenomena

The absence of true
existence

21




The Middle Way Autonomy System: The Person Is...

... the mental
consciousness

22

A Universal Vehicle Ultimate Truth




Middle-Way
Consequence
Prasangika

*The emptiness
of inherent
existence*

23

The Middle Way Consequence System: Emptiness of Persons

1. They lack self-sufficient
and substantial existence
2. They lack inherent
existence




24

The Middle Way
Consequence System:

**Emptiness of
Phenomena**

Phenomena do not
inherently exist



25



The Middle Way
Consequence System:

The Person Is...

... the mere I

26

**Lama
Tsong Khapa**

(1357 – 1419)

- He confirms
Chandrakirti's and
Buddhapalita's
interpretation
of Nagarjuna



27




Why
Two
Truths?

28

Emptiness – the Ultimate Truth

Object	• Because it is findable by a wisdom in meditative equipoise
Ultimate	• Because it is the object's real mode of existence
Truth	• Because there is concordance between its appearance and its mode of existence

29



**What's
My Take-
Away?**

You have a beginner's understanding of the
two truths of the higher tenet systems.
On the one hand, the world and we exist.
On the other, we don't exist truly.

30

Next Week

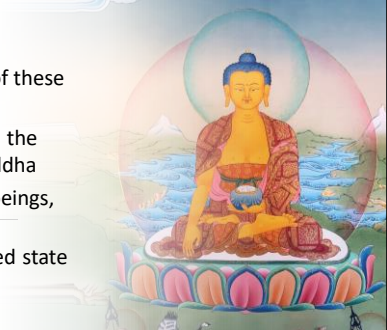
Coming up

- The mind and its nature
- Continuities

31

Dedication

Due to the merits of these virtuous actions
May I quickly attain the state of a Guru-Buddha
And lead all living beings, without exception,
Into that enlightened state



32

Bodhicitta Verses

May the supreme jewel bodhicitta
Not yet born, arise and grow
May that born have no decline
But increase forever more

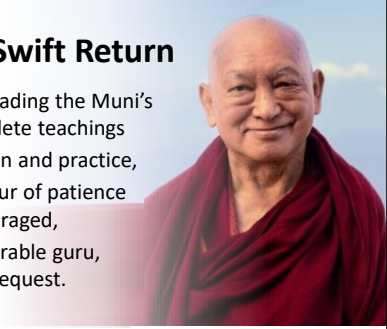
And as long as space endures,
As long as sentient beings abide,
May I too remain
To dispel the sorrows of the world



33

Rinpoche’s Swift Return

In holding and spreading the Muni’s precious and complete teachings
Through explanation and practice,
You wore the armour of patience that is never discouraged,
Incomparable Venerable guru,
to you I make this request.



34