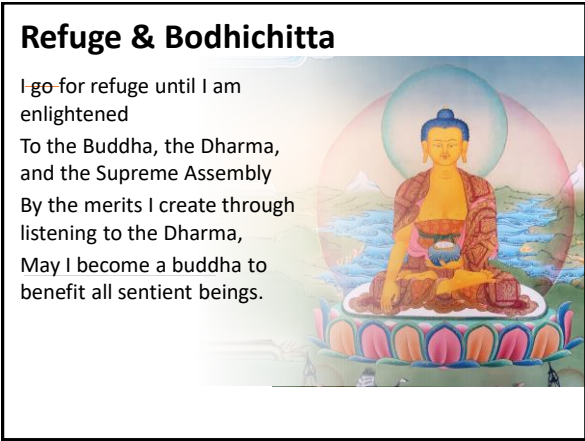
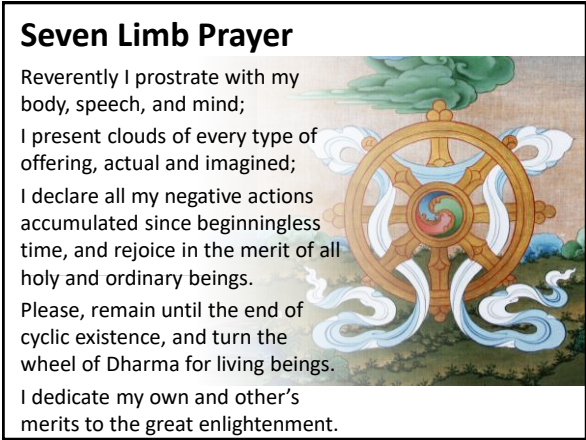


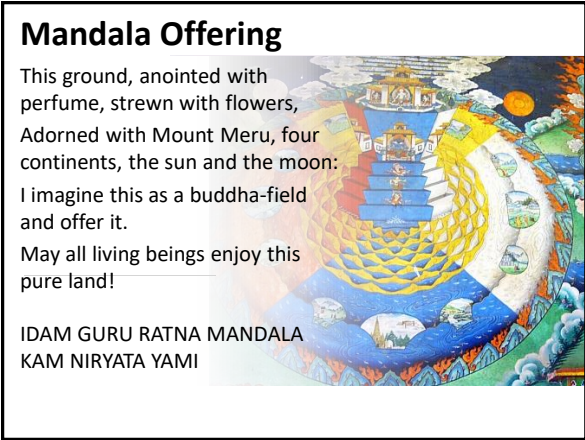
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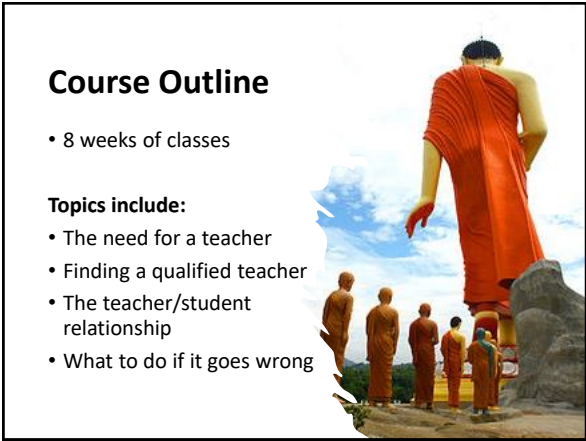
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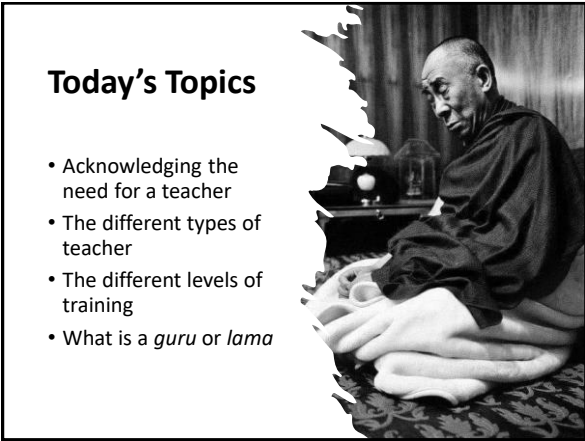
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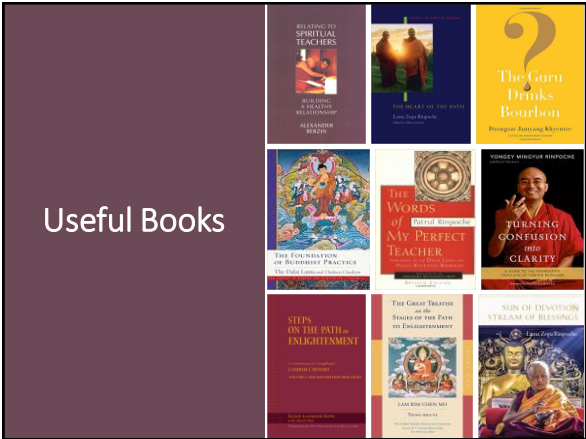
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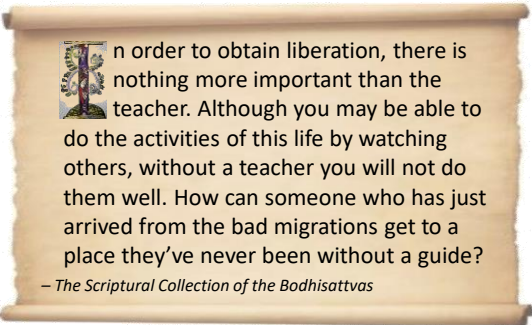


6



7

### Geshe Potowa said . . .


  
In order to obtain liberation, there is nothing more important than the teacher. Although you may be able to do the activities of this life by watching others, without a teacher you will not do them well. How can someone who has just arrived from the bad migrations get to a place they've never been without a guide?

– The Scriptural Collection of the Bodhisattvas

8

### A Student's Deepest Levels of Need

1. To improve future lives
2. To gain liberation
3. To attain enlightenment



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### By Means of Reasoning

**The subject**

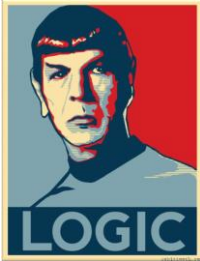
- A person who wishes to become omniscient

**The proposition**

- They must follow the spiritual friend

**The reason**

- Because they do not know how to gather the two accumulations nor how to purify the two obscurations



10

### Different Levels of Training

- The progress through stages differs
- Relationship roles differ over time
- Stages of accomplishment differ




11

### Constructive Friendships

**A Buddhist Professor**

- Provide information to correct mistaken ideas



12

Constructive Friendships

A Dharma Instructor

- Shares experience
- Shows how to apply Dharma to life
- Dispels fantasies



13

Constructive Friendships

A Ritual Trainer

- To adjust and correct performance
- To have systematic workouts



14

Constructive Friendships

A Preceptor

- The level of individual liberation
- The representative of the Buddha
- The vow of refuge



15

Geshe Sopa said . . .



It is necessary to rely on a person who has trained himself, has great knowledge, and proper understanding. Otherwise you may go in the wrong direction; you may want to go west, but you'll wind up facing east. That can happen.

– Steps on the Path to Enlightenment, p106

16

The Meaning of *Lama*



“given birth internally to the sublime”

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The Mahayana Master

- The level of the Mahayana
- Just like a buddha
- The bodhisattva vow



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### The Tantric Master

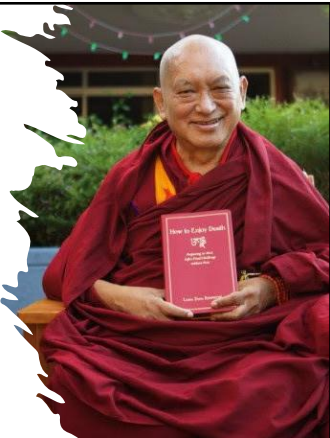
- The level of the Vajrayana
- As a buddha
- The vows and pledges of the tantric vehicle



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### The Root Guru

- A Spiritual Mentor
- A constructive friend to inspire the heart
- To be sources of inspiration
- To help us trust ourselves



20

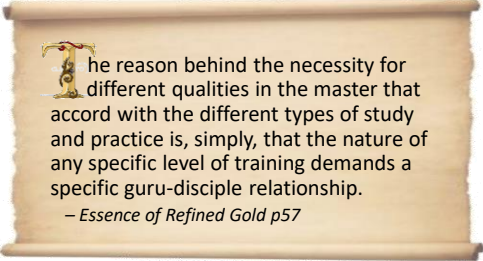
### The Meaning of *Guru*



“heavy with good qualities and spiritual presence”

21

### HH the Dalai Lama says ...




22



### What's the Take-Away?

- You know why you need a teacher
- You know that there are different types of teacher for different levels of training
- You know what a guru or lama is

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### Meditation

- Why We Need A Spiritual Guide

### Memorise

- The reason for depending on a Mahayana teacher

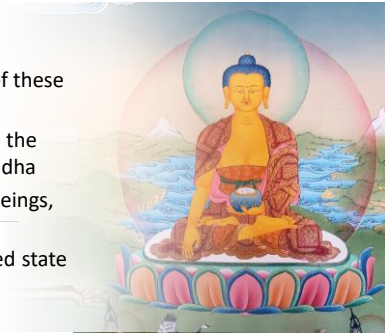
### Coming up

- Searching for and finding a Mahayana teacher

24

**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



25

**Bodhicitta Verse**

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



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