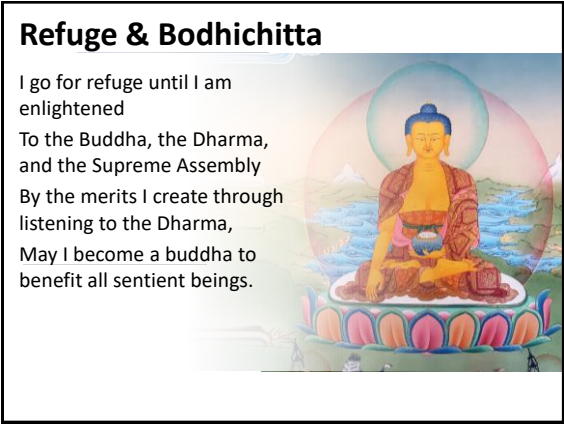
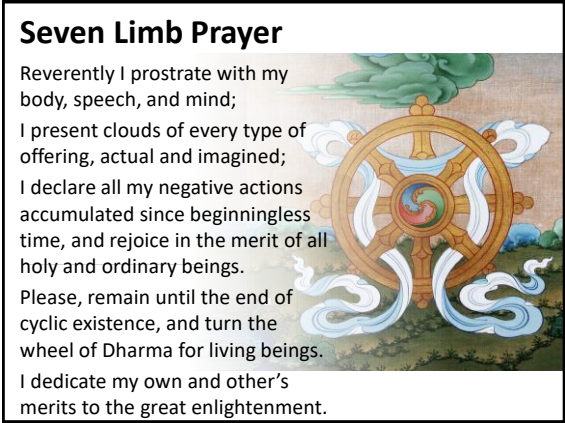


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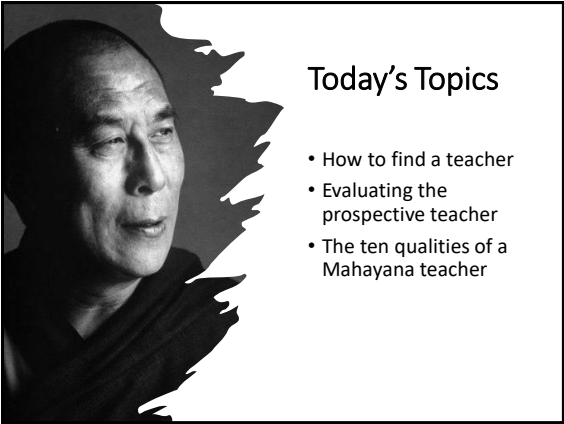
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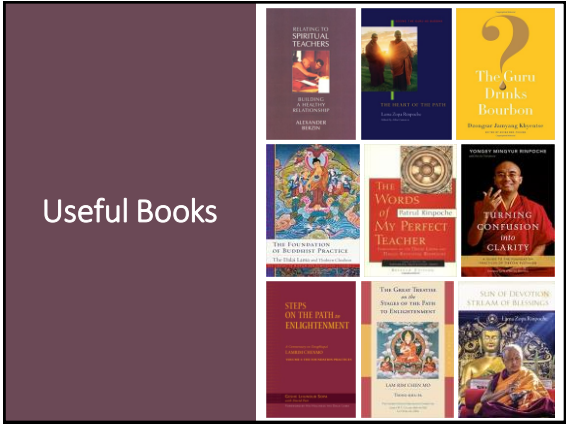
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6



7

Finding A Spiritual Friend

1. Examine the lineage

2. History of the practice

3. Taking care of the students

4. Maintaining vows

8

Evaluating A Teacher

Possible

VS

No benefit

VS

9

The Importance of Checking

We will know what to look for when seeking a guru capable of opening up the Buddhist paths within us

10

Verses About Friends says ...

Relying on an inferior person, people will degenerate.
Relying on one who is equal, they stay the same.
Relying on the superior, they will attain holiness.
Therefore you should rely on one who is superior to yourself.
If you rely on one who is superior
In ethical conduct, who is thoroughly pacified,
And possesses the highest wisdom,
You will become superior even to the superior.

11

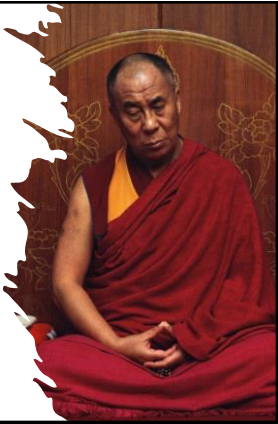
Disciplined

There is no contradiction between what is taught and what is acted upon.

12

Serene

Controlling the delusions using mindfulness and introspective alertness.



13

Thoroughly Pacified


The lama knows right from wrong



14

Wealth of Scriptural Knowledge

They are familiar with many subjects



15



A Thorough Knowledge of Reality

A valid conceptual knowledge of emptiness from the Middle-way Consequence point of view

16




Surpassing Qualities and Knowledge

Their qualities and understanding are superior to yours.

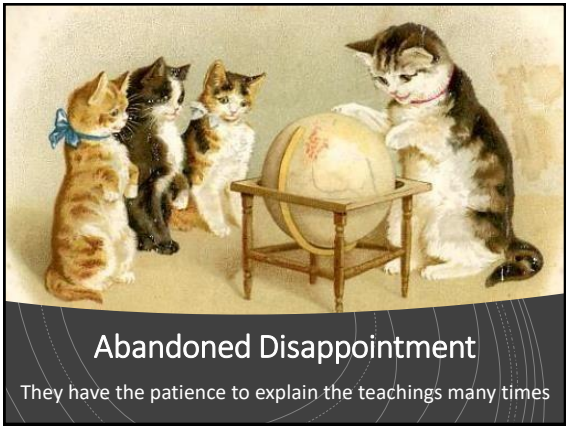
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Skilful

Guide others according to disposition, personality, and capability.



18



Abandoned Disappointment

They have the patience to explain the teachings many times

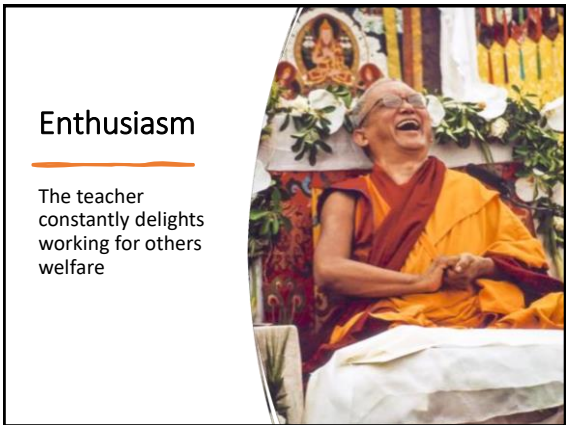
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Compassionate Love

They teach others with the pure motivation of compassionate love.

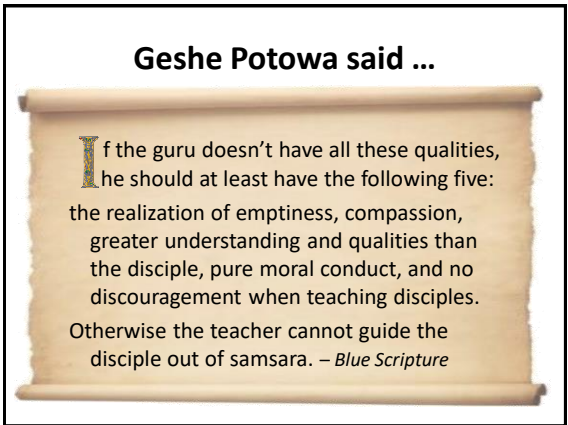
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Enthusiasm

The teacher constantly delights working for others welfare

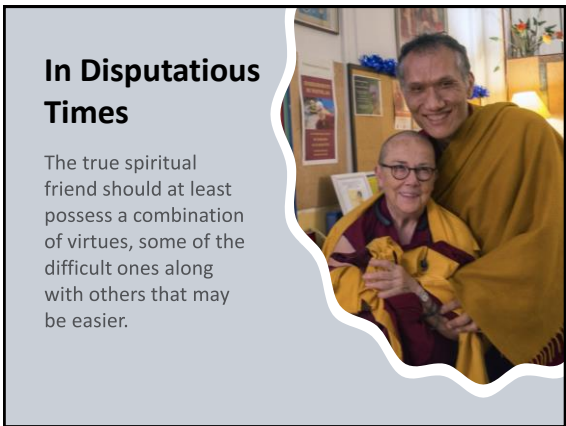
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Geshe Potowa said ...

If the guru doesn't have all these qualities, he should at least have the following five: the realization of emptiness, compassion, greater understanding and qualities than the disciple, pure moral conduct, and no discouragement when teaching disciples. Otherwise the teacher cannot guide the disciple out of samsara. – Blue Scripture

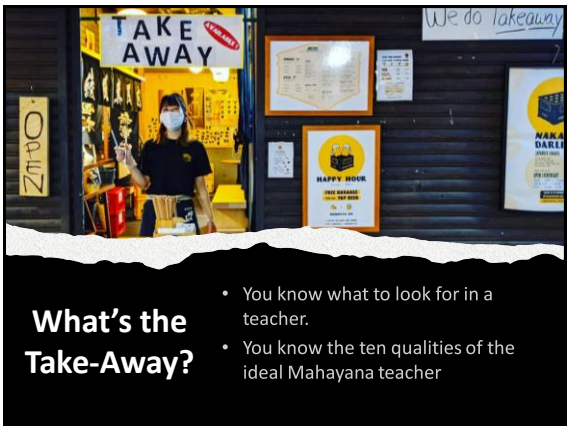
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In Disputatious Times

The true spiritual friend should at least possess a combination of virtues, some of the difficult ones along with others that may be easier.

23



What's the Take-Away?

- You know what to look for in a teacher.
- You know the ten qualities of the ideal Mahayana teacher

24

Read


- FPMT notes pages 5-7

Memorise

- The qualities of a Mahayana teacher

Coming up


- The qualities of the student



25

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



26

Bodhicitta Verse

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



27