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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

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.

3

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

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What We've Covered So Far

- Acknowledging the need for a teacher
- The different types of teacher and training
- The ten qualities of a Mahayana teacher
- The qualities and attitudes of a student
- Benefits of devotion and faults of wrong devotion

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Useful Books

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Today's Topics

The attitudes a student needs to rely on a teacher


- Training in faith
- Seeing the guru as a Buddha



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An Outline for Faith

1. Faith and its benefits
2. Reasons to perceive the guru as Buddha
3. The necessity for doing so
4. Developing the perception
5. Appearances are deceptive



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Faith

The doorway through which all positive qualities manifest

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The Buddha said ...

Faith is the prerequisite of all good qualities –
A procreator of them, like a mother
Who then protects and increases them.
It clears away doubts, frees you from the four rivers
And establishes you in the prosperous city of happiness and goodness.


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Three Levels of Faith

1. Beginner's faith
2. Clear faith
3. Wishing faith


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Clear Faith

It is the most important for us because the qualities of our guru are evident

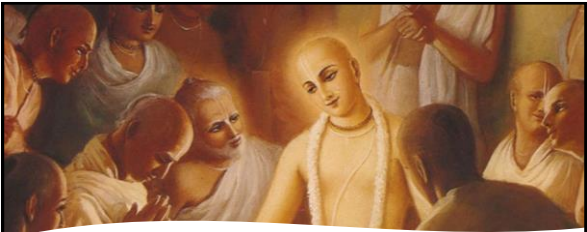
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**Wishing
Faith**

Aspiration is the basis for joyous perseverance, from joyous perseverance comes the fulfilment of all of one's wishes.

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Devotion

1. Model yourself on the mentor

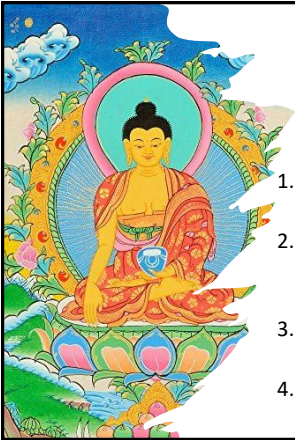
2. Please them in the proper manner

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The Buddha said ...

Faith is the best of vehicles
Through which you will be guided
and definitely emerge.
Therefore, intelligent people
Rely on following faith.
Wholesome qualities do not grow
In people who have no faith,
Just as green sprouts do not grow
From seeds scorched by fire.
— the Ten Teachings Sutra

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**Reasons to See
Your Teacher
as a Buddha?**

1. There is nothing to trust in
our own view

2. Even nowadays all buddhas
and bodhisattvas are still
working for sentient beings

3. The guru is the doer of all
the buddha's action

4. Vajradhara asserted that
the guru is a Buddha

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Pabongka Dechen Nyingpo said...

Those with certain diseases are
mistaken as to the objects of
their perception. Since the minds of
ordinary beings are made defective
by ignorance, which projects
hallucinations, how is it possible to
see the guru as an actual buddha?
— Liberation in Your Palm


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**There is Nothing
to Trust in Our
Own view**

Although everything
appears to exist
objectively in terms
of their own nature,
without being posited
through the power of
a subjective mind,
they do not exist like
that at all.



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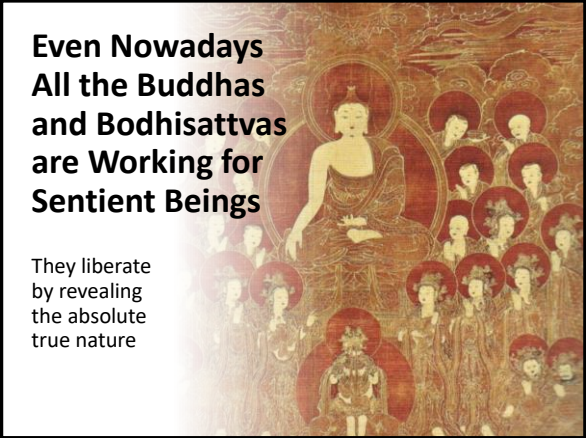
The Necessity of Seeing the Teacher as a Buddha

We want a profit; not a loss. Having the thought that the guru is an ordinary person will cause us to lose realizations.


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Even Nowadays All the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas are Working for Sentient Beings

They liberate by revealing the absolute true nature



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The Guru is the Doer of All the Buddha's Actions

The actions of all the buddhas are received in the mind of the disciple through the guru

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Developing the Perception

1. We are very familiar with noticing our own good qualities
2. Change the object from yourself to the qualified spiritual teacher

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Vajradhara Asserts the Guru is Buddha

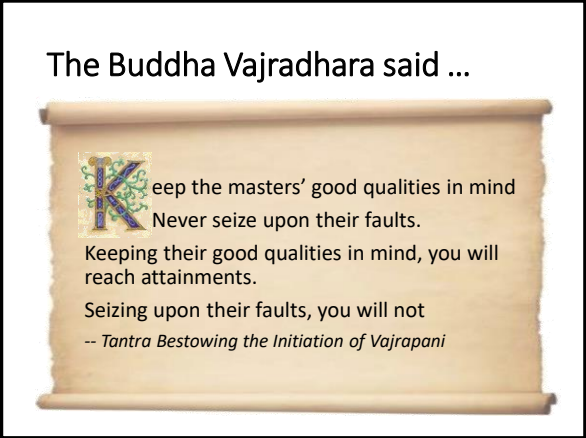
This kind of viewpoint becomes a blessing in our mind-stream



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The Buddha Vajradhara said ...

Keept the masters' good qualities in mind
Never seize upon their faults.
Keeping their good qualities in mind, you will reach attainments.
Seizing upon their faults, you will not
-- Tantra Bestowing the Initiation of Vajrapani



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The Benefits

The recognition drives your inner development with a lot of energy and power

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What's the Take-Away?

- You know about faith and how it can be cultivated
- There are four reasons we can use to see a teacher as Buddha.

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Read


- FPMT Notes p27-30
- Berzin article
- Meditations p5-9

Memorise

- Four reasons to show that the guru is a Buddha

Coming up


- Devotion in action and problem solving



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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



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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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