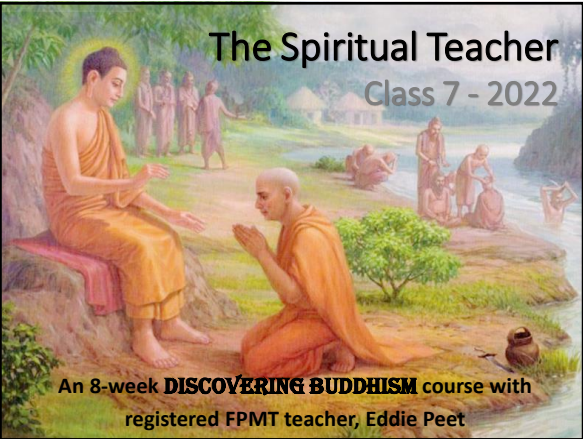


The Spiritual Teacher

Class 7 - 2022



An 8-week **DISCOVERING BUDDHISM** 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

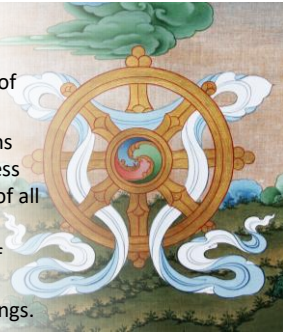
By the merits I create through
listening to the Dharma,
May I become a buddha to
benefit all sentient beings.



2

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



4

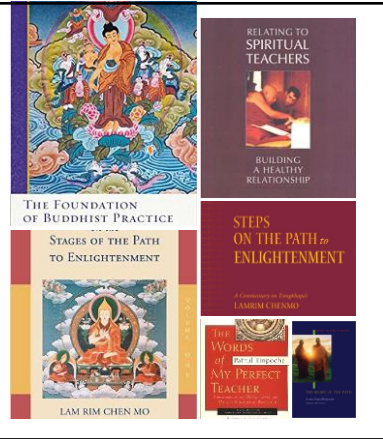


What We've Covered So Far

- Acknowledging the need for a teacher
- The different types of teacher and training
- The qualities of a teacher and student
- Benefits of devotion & faults of wrong devotion
- The teacher as Buddha

5

Useful Books



6

Today's Topics

Student attitudes:

- Devotion in action
- Responding to difficulties



7

Devotion to the Guru with Actions

1. Making material offerings
2. Offering respect and service
3. Carrying out the advice




8

Yeshe Tsondru said ...

It is said that making offering to one pore of the guru Who has revealed to us the unmistakable path Collects greater merit than honouring and making offering to the multitudes of aryas: Hearers, self-conquerors, bodhisattvas and buddhas.

-The Essence of Nectar

9



Making Material Offerings

Disciples should offer whatever is most pleasing

10



Four Requisites for Sangha

- Robes
- Food
- Lodging
- Medicine

11

Yeshe Tsondru said ...

Therefore, I shall strive to reverently to serve my Guru's with body and speech by praising and speaking respectfully to them, massaging and bathing them, and offering whatever cherished wealth I have.

12



Do these with the attitude of guru-yoga, appreciating the teacher as a buddha

Respect & Service
with body and speech

13

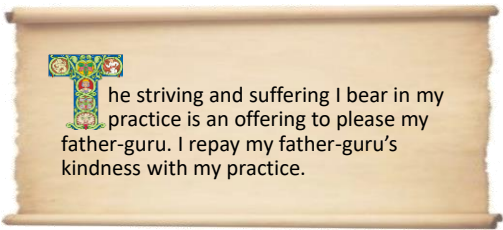
Offering
Respect and
Service

- Feed them
- House them
- Carry things for them
- Provide transportation
- Massage them (*)
- Speak well of them



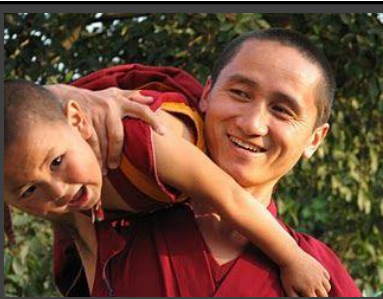
14

Milarepa said ...



The striving and suffering I bear in my practice is an offering to please my father-guru. I repay my father-guru's kindness with my practice.

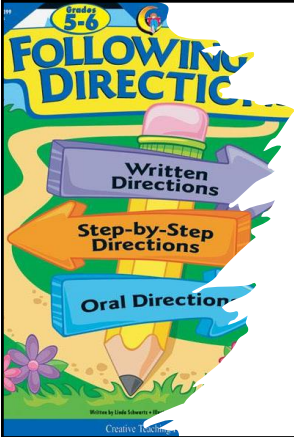
15



Carrying Out The Guru's Advice

This is the best way to purify negativities and to accumulate merit – it is the quick path to enlightenment.

16



Carrying Out The Guru's Advice

1. Avoid harming others
2. If possible, help others
3. Subdue your mind
4. An altruistic attitude

17

Is Absolute Obedience Required?


- Is it against the law?
- Is it contrary to the Dharma or your vows?
- What if it's just a small negativity?



18

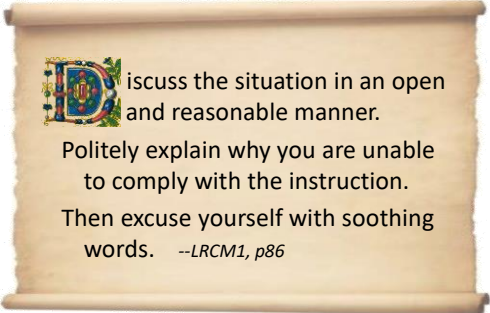
How to Respond

- Refer to the teachings, rather than the person
- If you are not capable of doing the action politely, explain why
- Respond without irritation or anger




19

Lama Tsong Khapa says...



Discuss the situation in an open and reasonable manner.
Politely explain why you are unable to comply with the instruction.
Then excuse yourself with soothing words. --LRCM1, p86


20



What's the Take-Away?

- Three devotional actions are possible.
- There are ways to respond when difficulties arise.

21



Read

- FPMT Notes, p15-26.pdf
- Berzin article, p1-8.pdf

Memorise

- Guru devotion in action


Coming up

- Respecting other lineages
- Crises – what if nothing works?

22

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



23

Bodhicitta Verse

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



24