

The Nature of Reality

Class 5 – 2022



formation consciousness suffering Thus Avalokiteshvara mahasattva profound great Shariputra bodhisattva since prajnaparamita emptiness noble One Form dhatu way son


1

Refuge & Bodhichitta

I go for refuge until I am enlightened

To the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Supreme Assembly

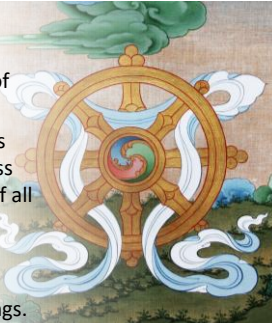
By the merits I create through listening to the Dharma, May I become a buddha to benefit all sentient beings.



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



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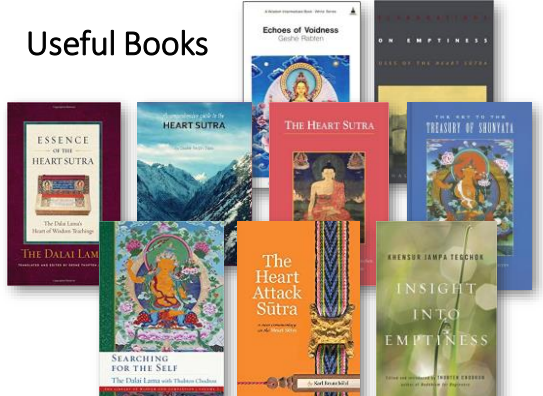


Today's Topics

- The qualities and result of wisdom
- No-more-learning and the mantra

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Useful Books



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Perfections of Wisdom

- 1. Scriptural Perfection – the texts
- 2. Path Perfection – conceptual or perceptual
- 3. Resultant Perfection – emptiness in the continuum of an enlightened being
- 4. Natural Perfection – emptiness



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The Outline For Contemplation

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Engaging in wisdom
- 3. Definition of wisdom
- 4. Object of wisdom
- 5. Quality of wisdom
- 6. Result of wisdom
- 7. Mantra of wisdom
- 8. Clearing doubts
- 9. Words spoken
- 10. Conclusion



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No Intrinsic ...

- 1. Five aggregates
- 2. Six sense powers
- 3. Twelve sources
- 4. Eighteen constituents
- 5. Twelve links on the afflicted side
- 6. Twelve links on the pure side
- 7. Four truths of noble beings
- 8. An Arya's abandonments, qualities, & emptiness



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No Exalted Wisdom ...

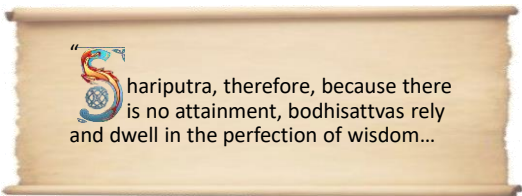
- 1. No exalted wisdom – the wisdom realizing emptiness possessed by a superior being
- 2. No attainment – the temporary and ultimate attainments
- 3. No non-attainment – the abandonments and cessations

“There is no exalted wisdom, no attainment, and also no non-attainment.”



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Qualities Of Wisdom – Vajra



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Revealing the Meaning


- No attainment – attainments are not intrinsic
- Rely and dwell – scriptural, path, result, natural
- The perfection of wisdom – vajra, last moment



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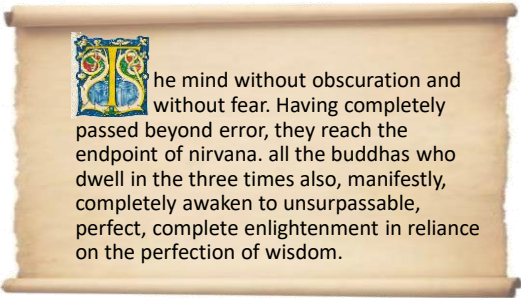
The Path of No More Learning

DEFINITION
“An ultimate realization that has abandoned completely the two obstructions”



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Result of Wisdom – the Path of No More Learning




he mind without obscuration and without fear. Having completely passed beyond error, they reach the endpoint of nirvana. all the buddhas who dwell in the three times also, manifestly, completely awoken to unsurpassable, perfect, complete enlightenment in reliance on the perfection of wisdom.

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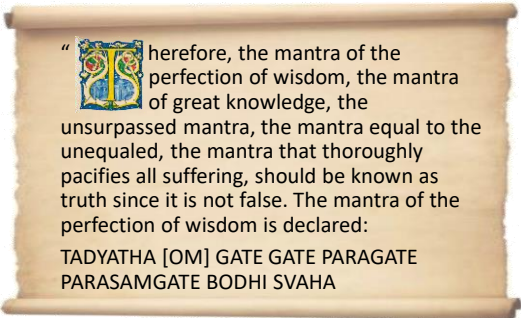
Revealing the Meaning

Without obscuration and without fear – overcome the two obstructions to Buddhahood
Passed beyond error – overcome all faults
Endpoint of nirvana – the state beyond sorrow
The tree times –
• Past (Kraccuchchanda, Kanakamuni, Kashyapa)
• Present (Shakyamuni)
• Future (Maitreya)
Reliance – scripture and causal



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Mantra of Wisdom




“ herefore, the mantra of the perfection of wisdom, the mantra of great knowledge, the unsurpassed mantra, the mantra equal to the unequalled, the mantra that thoroughly pacifies all suffering, should be known as truth since it is not false. The mantra of the perfection of wisdom is declared:
TADYATHA [OM] GATE GATE PARAGATE
PARASAMGATE BODHI SVAHA

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Qualities of the Mantra

1. Perfection of wisdom
2. Great knowledge
3. Unsurpassed
4. Equal to the unequalled
5. Thoroughly pacifies



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Perfection of Wisdom

It has the ability to remove every single and external obstruction



It protects our mind from the two obscurations and the fears associated with them

18

Great Knowledge

Through it we are able to overcome all distorted perceptions of external reality

It has the ability to totally destroy the root of ignorance



19

Unsurpassed

It can destroy not only the distorted perceptions of external reality, but the distorted perceptions of every aspect of reality



There is no mantra that is able to eliminate the totality of suffering and its causes like this one is able to

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Equal to the Unequaled

It is able to bring all sentient beings to the level of omniscience, a state equal to Buddhahood

The Buddha's enlightened state is unequalled, and, through the deepest realization of this mantra, one attains a state equal to that state



There is no mantra that is even equal to the perfection of wisdom

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Thoroughly Pacifies

Since it is capable of uprooting all the causes and conditions of suffering, it is given the name the mantra that totally pacifies all suffering

It quells manifest suffering and also removes all propensities for future suffering



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Known as Truth

Because it is:

- A practice that will never lead to any further confusion or deception
- An infallible and true path
- The ultimate truth
- There is no disparity between appearance and reality
- The object, emptiness, is not false



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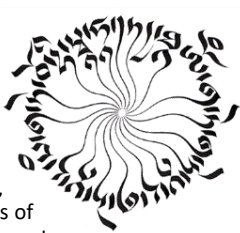
The Meaning of the Mantra

Tadyatha – *it is thus*, “one should develop the perfection of wisdom in the following way”

Om – The body, speech, and mind of the person travelling to great enlightenment

Gate, gate, paragate, parasamgate, bodhi

Svaha – May my mind receive, absorb, and keep the blessings of the mantra and may they take root



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First Gate – Go

TEACHES

- The mantra of the perfection of wisdom

MEANS

- Enter and proceed along this path of accumulating merit

An illustration of a winding yellow path through a green landscape with trees. At the start of the path, there is a small gate made of stacked suitcases.

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Second Gate – Go

TEACHES

- The mantra of great knowledge

MEANS

- Enter and proceed along this path which prepares the mind to deeply perceive emptiness

An illustration of a winding yellow path through a green landscape with trees. At the start of the path, there is a small gate made of a clipboard with a checklist that says 'GET IT DONE!' with items 'Plan', 'Organize', and 'Perform'.

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Paragate – Go Beyond

TEACHES

- The unsurpassed mantra

MEANS

- Enter and proceed, go beyond this path of seeing reality, the direct and unmediated realization of emptiness which is a path superior to ordinary paths

An illustration of a winding yellow path through a green landscape with trees. At the start of the path, there is a small gate made of a large, colorful eye.

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Parasamgate – Go Totally Beyond

TEACHES

- The equal to the unequal mantra

MEANS


- Enter and proceed, and “go totally beyond”
- Indicating the path of meditation wherein one becomes deeply familiar with emptiness through constant practice

An illustration of a winding yellow path through a green landscape with trees. At the start of the path, there is a small gate made of a person sitting in a meditative posture.

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Bodhi – Enlightenment

Establish yourself firmly in the ground of enlightenment – the state of non-abiding nirvana

An illustration of a winding yellow path through a green landscape with trees. At the start of the path, there is a small gate made of a glowing circular frame containing a Buddha figure.

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Exhortation & Summary

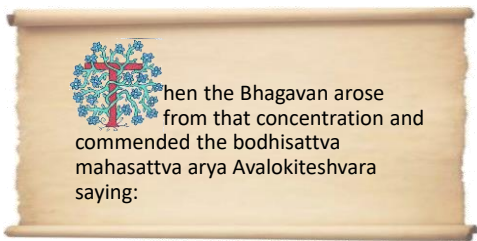
A circular inset image showing a statue of a Buddha figure in a meditative posture, wearing orange robes.

“Shariputra, the bodhisattva mahasattva should train in the perfection of wisdom like that.”

The perfection of wisdom is developed by means of progressively cultivating the five paths that culminate in Buddhahood

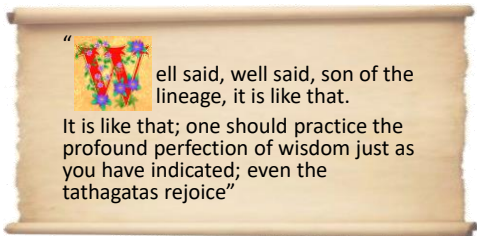
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Clearing Doubts



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Words Spoken by Buddha



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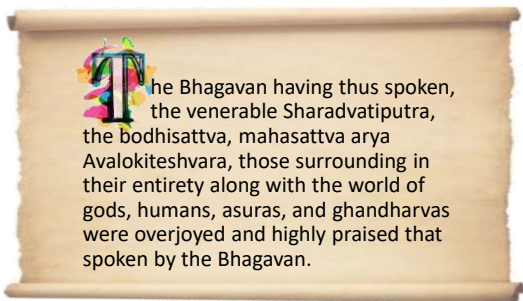
Unpacking the Spoken Words



- Well said – approval of causal aspects explanation
- Well said – appreciation of the resultant state explanation
- It is like that – explanation accords
- It is like that – confirmation of practice
- Even the tathagata's rejoice – if you practice this way the Buddhas would be thoroughly pleased

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Conclusion



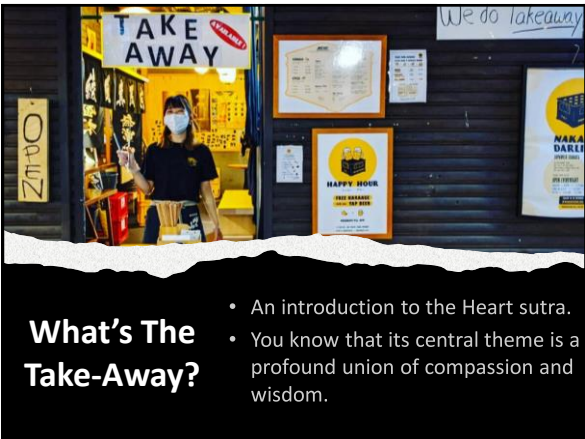
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Colophon

(This completes the Arya-bhagavati-prajnaparamita-hridaya-sutra)



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What's The Take-Away?

- An introduction to the Heart sutra.
- You know that its central theme is a profound union of compassion and wisdom.

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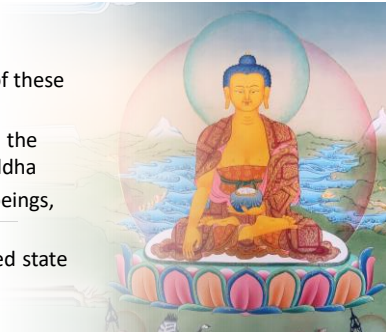


- NEW COURSE on equanimity
- Training oneself in equanimity to be able to appreciate others equally.
- Learning to care for all beings equally.

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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 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



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