The Heart of

Wisdom Sutra





Course Topics

- The benefits of study
- An outline
- The sutra's meaning
- Application to life

Useful Books

The

Heart Attack Sūtra

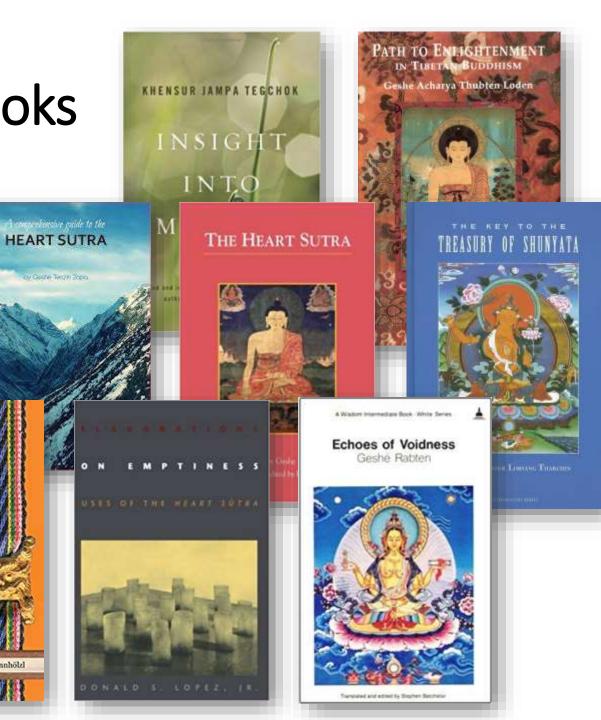
⟨⟨√⟩ Karl Brunnhölzl

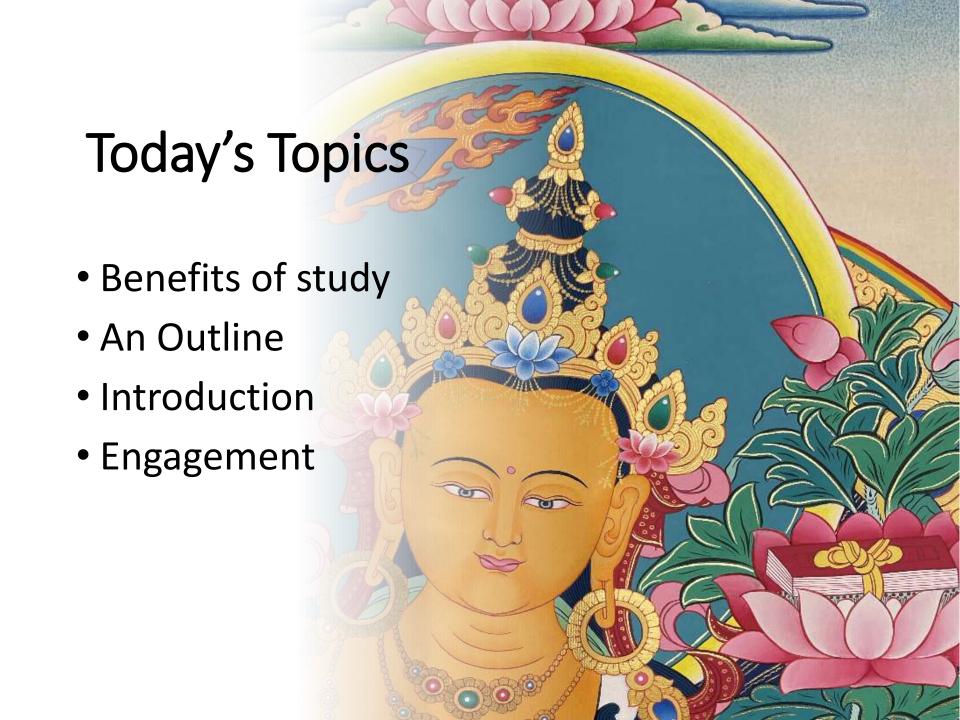
ESSENCE

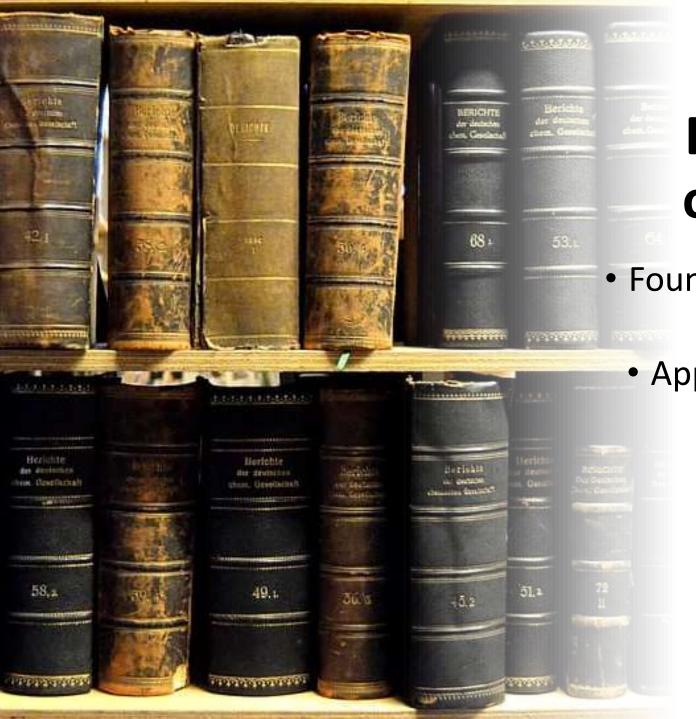
HEART SUTRA

Heart of Wisde

THE DAI







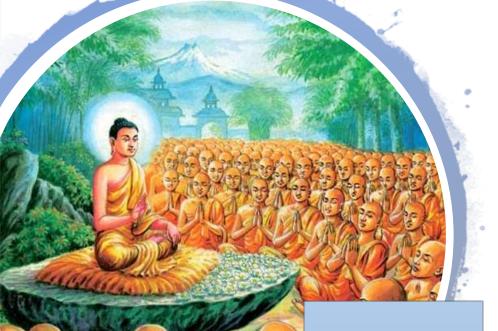
The Benefits of Study

 Foundation of all knowledge

 Appreciation of kindness

Refuge

Three Categories of Sutra



1.Buddha's body

2.Buddha's speech

3.Buddha's mind

Power of truth

Power of wisdom

Power of concentration

Words spoken by the Buddha himself

Words
spoken
with the
permission
of the
Buddha

Words that originate from the Buddha's blessing

The Perfection of Wisdom Sutras

Extensive

- Great
- Medium
- Concise 100,000 verses in 12 volumes

Middlelength

- Great 25,000 verses
- Medium 18,000 verses
- Concise 10,000 verses

Condensed

- Great 8,000 verses
- Medium 1400 verses
- Concise 25 verses



The syllable a is a negation.

The Essence of the Prajnaparamita-sutras

An Outline For Contemplation

- 1. Title
- 2. Homage
- 3. Subject matter of the text
 - 1. Prologue
 - 2. Actual sutra
 - 1. Shariputra's question
 - 2. Avalokiteshvara's responses
 - 3. Buddha Shakyamuni's affirmatior
 - 4. Assembly's delight and pledge
- 4. Conclusion



The Title In Three Languages



 รุสกรุหาโป
 Arya-bhagavati-prajnaparamita-hridaya-sutra



BCom Iden 'das ma shes rab kyi pha rol tu phyin p'ai snying po

ENGLISH The Heart sutra



Engaging in the Wisdom



- 1. Shariputra's question
- 2. Avalokiteshvara's answer
- 3. The teacher's affirmation
- 4. The assembly's delight and pledge

Avalokiteshvara's Answer



e said that, and the bodhisattva mahasattva Avalokiteshvara said this to the venerable Sharadvatiputra.

Shariputra, any son of the lineage or daughter of the lineage who wishes to practice the activity of the profound perfection of wisdom should look upon it like this, correctly and repeatedly beholding those five aggregates also as empty of inherent nature.

How The Replies Are Given



- Training for those with inferior faculties
 - A brief explanation
 - An extensive explanation
- 2. Training for those with superior faculties
- 3. Exhortation by means of summary

The Heart of the Heart

Form is empty.
Emptiness is form.
Emptiness is not other than form; form is also not other than emptiness.



In the same way, feeling, discrimination, compositional factors, and consciousness are empty.



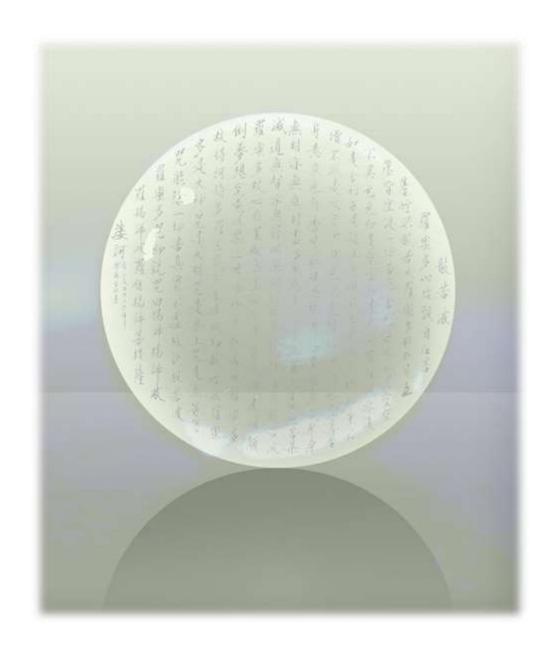
Four Profundities of Form

The profundity of ...

- 1. The ultimate
 - Form is empty
- 2. The conventional
 - Emptiness is form
- 3. Being the same entity
 - Emptiness is not other than form
- 4. Being nominally distinct
 - Form is also not other than emptiness

The Profundity of the Ultimate

The emptiness of form is nothing other than the form's ultimate nature.



The Profundity of the Conventional



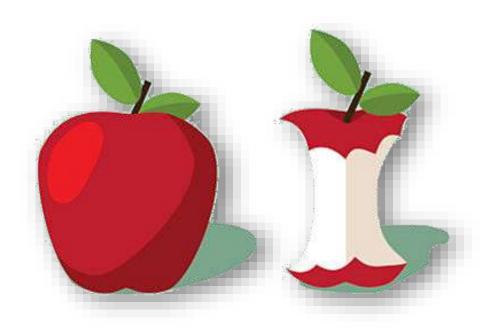
The emptiness of the inherent existence of form is the basis that allows the dependent origination of form.

The Profundity of Being the Same Entity

The ultimate nature of form, its emptiness, does not exist separate from the form.



The Profundity of Being Nominally Distinct



Form and the emptiness of form are the same entity and these two can be distinguished one from another

Defining the Heart – Path of Seeing

hariputra, likewise, all phenomena are emptiness; without characteristic; unproduced, unceased; stainless, not without stain; not deficient, not fulfilled."



Eight Empty Aspects

- 1. Emptiness nature
- 2. Without characteristic the characteristics
- 3. Unproduced production
- 4. Un-ceased cessation
- 5. Stainless defilements
- Not without stain separation from defilements
- 7. Not deficient decrease
- 8. Not fulfilled increase

Objects of Wisdom – Path of Meditation

"hariputra, therefore, in emptiness there is no form, no feeling, no discrimination, no compositional factors, no consciousness; no eye, no ear, no nose, no tongue, no body, no mind; no visual form, no sound, no odor, no taste, no object of touch, and no phenomenon.

There is no eye element and so on up to and including no mind element and no mental consciousness element.

Result of Wisdom – 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 awaken to unsurpassable, perfect, complete enlightenment in reliance on the perfection of wisdom.

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

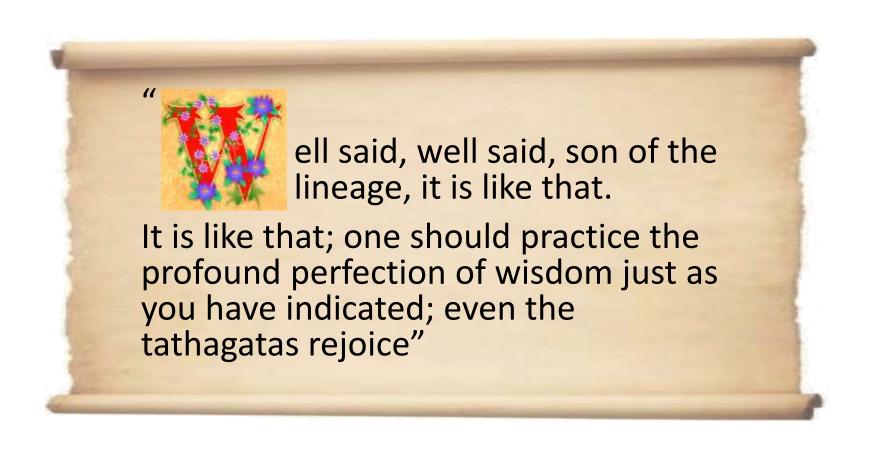


Exhortation & Summary

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

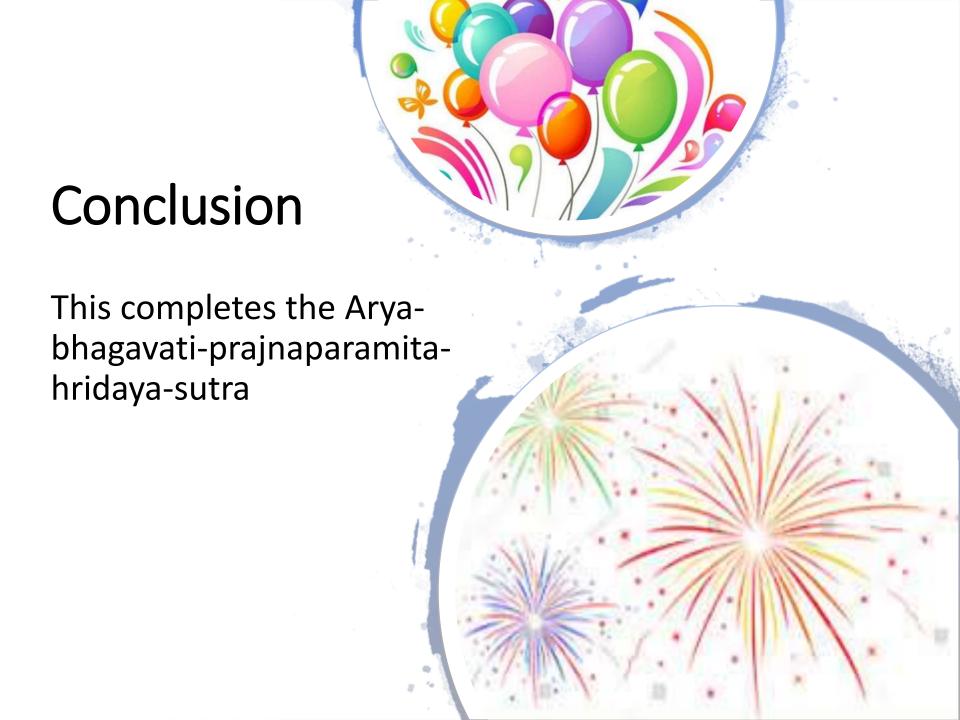
The perfection of wisdom is developed by means of progressively cultivating the five paths that culminate in Buddhahood

Affirming Words Spoken by Buddha



Delight and Pledge

he Bhagavan having thus spoken, the venerable Sharadvatiputra, the bodhisattva, mahasattva arya Avalokiteshvara, those surrounding in their entirety along with the world of gods, humans, asuras, and ghandharvas were overjoyed and highly praised that spoken by the Bhagavan.





What's The Take-Away?

- You have an outline of the text
- You know that the central theme of this sutra is the profound union of compassion and wisdom.

The Nature of

Reality





Today's Topics

- Introduction
- Engaging with wisdom
- Form is empty
- The object of negation



An Outline For Contemplation

- 1. Title
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The Title In Three Languages



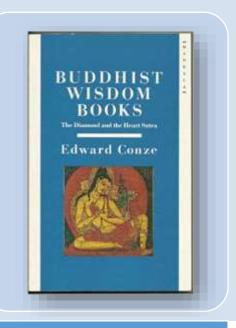
 รุสกรุหาโป
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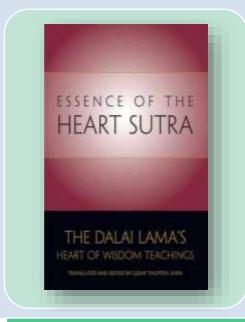


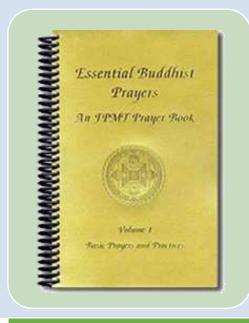
BCom Iden 'das ma shes rab kyi pha rol tu phyin p'ai snying po

ENGLISH The Heart sutra

The Forms Of Homage







Homage to the perfection of wisdom, the lovely, the holy

Homage to the Bhagavati, the perfection of wisdom

I prostrate to the Arya Triple Gem

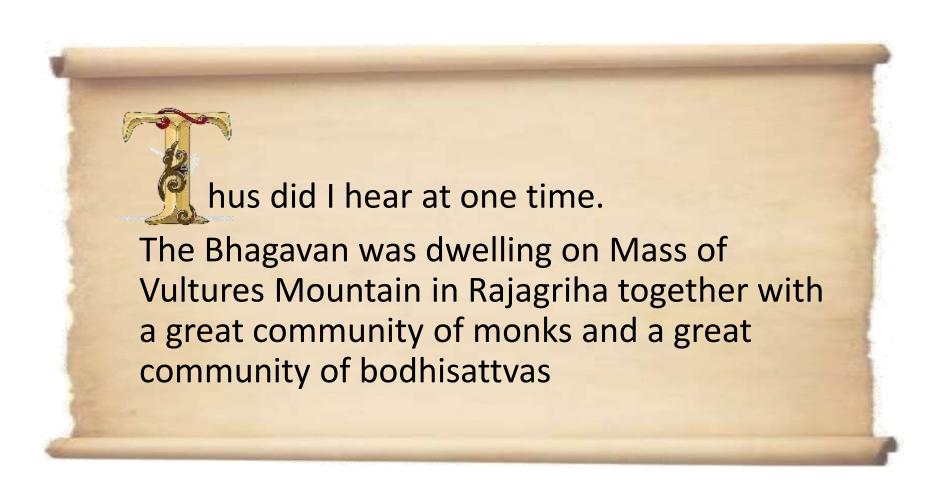
The Purpose of Homage

Dispels obstacles
Identifies the scriptural collection



- 1. Abhidharma Manjushri
- 2. Sutra Buddhas and bodhisattvas
- 3. Vinaya Omniscient mind of Buddha

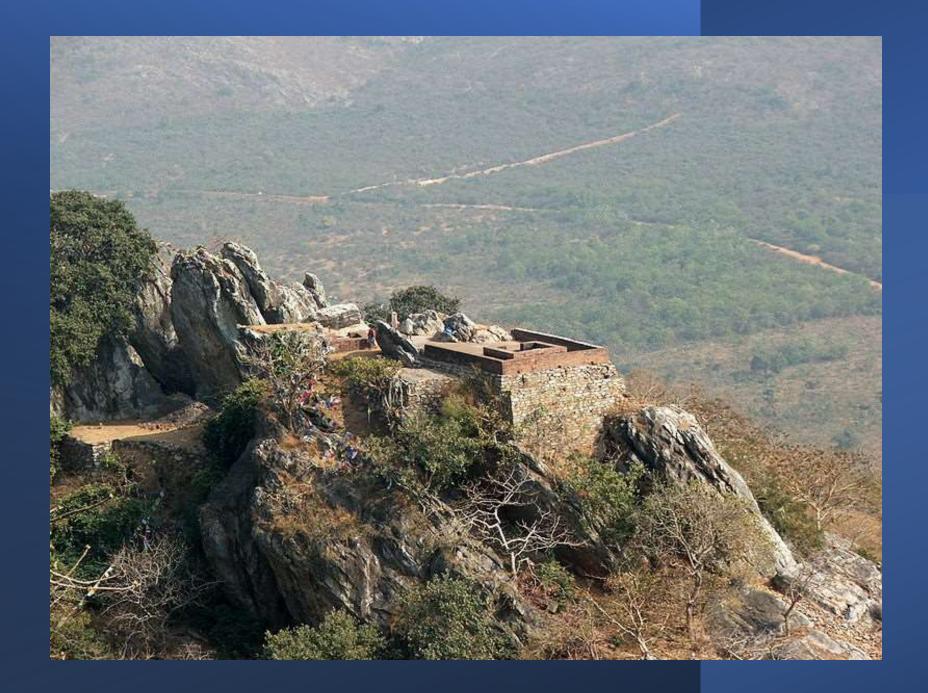
The Common Prologue



Four Excellent Features

Thus did I hear at one time – Ananda or Vajrapani or the Buddha

- 1. Teacher the Buddha Shakyamuni
- Audience the great number of fully ordained monks and the bodhisattvas who were endowed with six types of greatness
- 3. Time 60 qualities, suitable & receptive, age
- 4. Place Mass of Vultures Mountain in Rajgir



The Uncommon Prologue

t that time, the Bhagavan was absorbed in the concentration on the categories of phenomena called "Profound Perception".

Also, at that time, the bodhisattva mahasattva arya Avalokiteshvara looked upon the very practice of the profound perfection of wisdom and beheld those five aggregates also as empty of inherent nature.

Profound Perception

Profound – deep; hard to hold and understand

Perception – how the object appears to wisdom



Bodhisattva mahasattva arya – the exalted qualities

Avalokiteshvara – "the mighty one who looks down"

Very practice of the profound – empty conduct

Five aggregates also – sources etc. and the person

Empty – without; an absence of independence

Inherent nature – not imputed by conception

Those Five Aggregates also ...

- 1. Form the body
- 2. Feeling a mental factor
- 3. Discrimination a mental factor
- 4. Compositional factors mental factor
- Consciousness primary

Also – I and mine – the eighteen constituents



Engaging in the Wisdom



- 1. Shariputra's question
- 2. Avalokiteshvara's answer
- 3. The teacher's affirmation
- 4. The assembly's delight and pledge

Shariputra's Question

hen, through the power of the Buddha, the venerable Shariputra said this to the bodhisattva mahasattva arya Avalokitshvara: How should any son of the lineage train who wishes to practice the activity of the profound perfection of wisdom?

Unpacking the Question



Power of the Buddha – the blessing of concentration

Ven. Shariputra –
an arhat monk, learned
in the abhidharma

Son of the lineage – those who actively and fully engage in the buddha nature

Practice the activity – how can you conjoin what you do with emptiness?

Avalokiteshvara's Answer



e said that, and the bodhisattva mahasattva Avalokiteshvara said this to the venerable Sharadvatiputra.

Shariputra, any son of the lineage or daughter of the lineage who wishes to practice the activity of the profound perfection of wisdom should look upon it like this, correctly and repeatedly beholding those five aggregates also as empty of inherent nature.

How The Replies Are Given



- Training for those with inferior faculties
 - A brief explanation
 - An extensive explanation
- 2. Training for those with superior faculties
- 3. Exhortation by means of summary

The Brief Explanation

hariputra, any son of the lineage daughter of the lineage who wishes to practice the activity of the profound perfection of wisdom should look upon it like this, correctly and repeatedly beholding those five aggregates also as empty of inherent nature.

The Path of Accumulation

DEFINITION

"A realization of Bodhisattva who principally accumulates a collection of merit that is a method for attaining the Mahayana path of preparation"

- 1. Small
- 2. Middle
- 3. Great



Meditations Revealing Emptiness

- 1. Dependent Arising the King
- 2. Diamond Slivers
- 3. Reasoning establishing the lack of being one or many
- 4. Five-fold reasoning
- 5. Seven-fold Reasoning



The Path of Preparation

DEFINITION

"A realization of a Bodhisattva who has attained superior seeing observing emptiness that serves as the preparation for attaining the Mahayana path of seeing"

- 1. Heat
- 2. Peak
- 3. Forbearance
- 4. Supreme Worldly Dharma





Nagarjuna's Four Keys

- 1. Identifying the target
- 2. Limiting possibilities
- 3. Analyzing Oneness
- 4. Analyzing Difference



Synonyms of False Existence

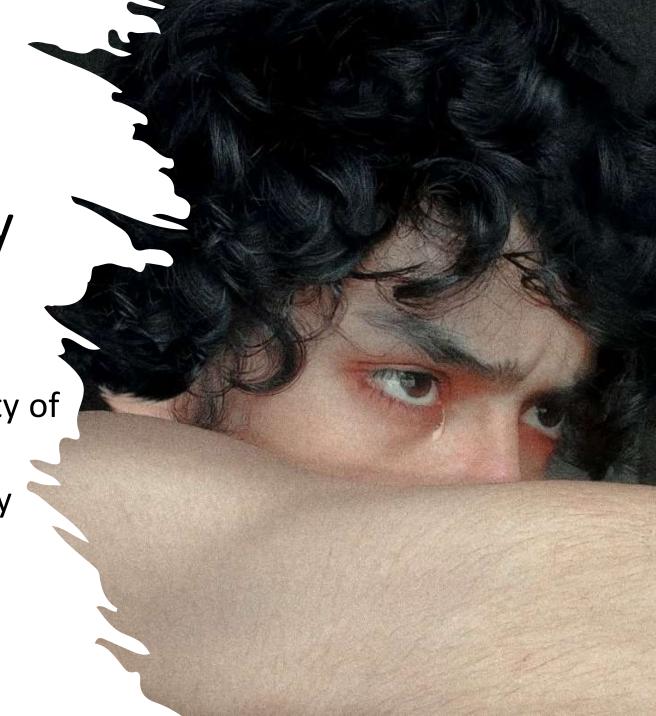
- 1. Truly Existent
- 2. Existing from its own side
- 3. By way of its own character
- 4. Inherently existent



The Profundity of Form

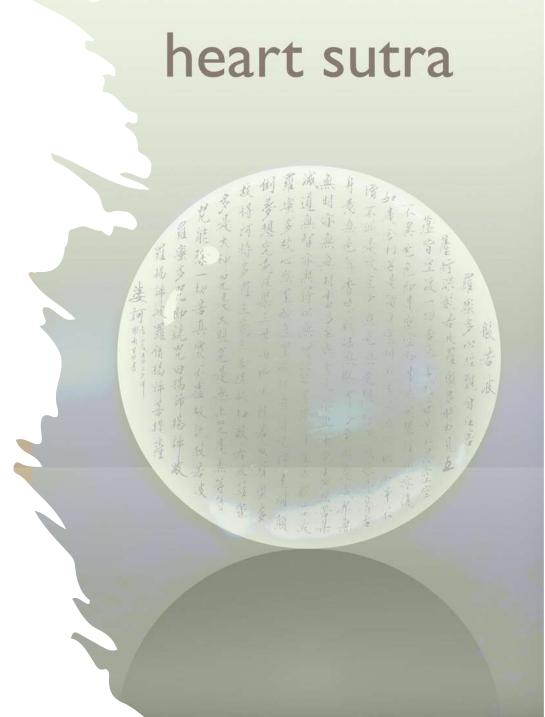
 The Profundity of the ultimate

Form is empty



The Profundity of the Ultimate

The emptiness of form is nothing other than the form's ultimate nature.





What's The Take-Away?

- You know of the object of negation inherent existence.
- You know the profundity of form form is empty of inherent existence.

The Nature of

Reality





Today's Topics

- Introduction
- Engaging with wisdom
- Form is empty
- The object of negation

The Brief Explanation

hariputra, any son of the lineage or daughter of the lineage who wishes to practice the activity of the profound perfection of wisdom should look upon it like this, correctly and repeatedly beholding those five aggregates also as empty of inherent nature.

Synonyms of False Existence

- 1. Truly Existent
- 2. Existing from its own side
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Nagarjuna's Four Keys

- 1. Identifying the target
- 2. Limiting possibilities
- 3. Analyzing Oneness
- 4. Analyzing Difference



The Four Keys

- 1. Identify the target
 - object to be eliminated
- 2. Only two possibilities
 - logical pervasion
- 3. Absence of true sameness
 - of I and the five aggregates
- 4. Absence of true difference
 - of I and the five aggregates



1. Identify the Target

- To gain certainty about the way in which the object of negation would exist, if it did exist.
- This entity cognized by the imposition of inherent existence on the mere phenomenon.



2. Only Two Possibilities

If the I exists inherently, it must be inherently one with the aggregates or inherently different from the aggregates.



If a thief is on the property, he must be indoors or outdoors.

There is no other possibility.

If the thief is in neither place, we know he isn't here at all.

If Inherent Existence Were Real...

One

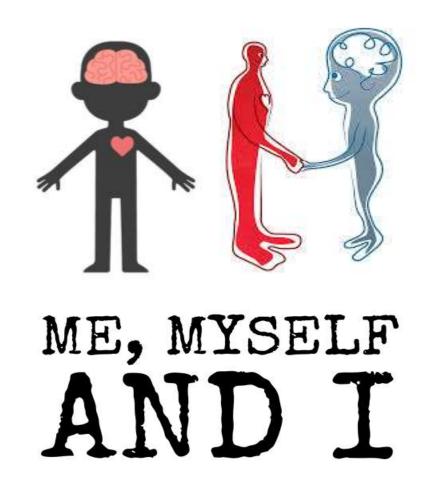
- Same
- Single

Many

- Different
- Multiple

3. (Absence of) True Sameness

- The I and the aggregates cannot be differentiated at all
- The I and the aggregates are inherently one and the same
- The aggregates and the I are the same thing





4. (Absence of) True Difference

- The I and the aggregates are totally separate and unrelated
- The I and aggregates are inherently different
- The I and the aggregates are totally unrelated and distinct from each other

Nagarjuna said

If the self were the aggregates, it would have to arise and disintegrate. If the self were different from the aggregates, it would not have the characteristics of the aggregates.

Root Wisdom, Ch 18, verse 1

The Heart of the Heart

Form is empty.
Emptiness is form.
Emptiness is not other than form; form is also not other than emptiness.



In the same way, feeling, discrimination, compositional factors, and consciousness are empty.



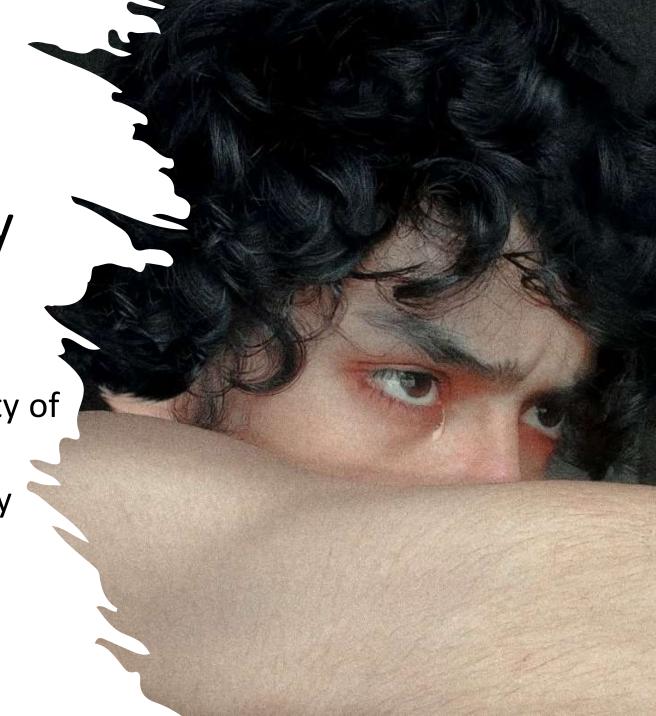
Similes For The Aggregates

orm is like a ball of foam, Feeling is like a water bubble, Discrimination is like a mirage, Compositional factors are like a Banana tree, Consciousness is like an illusion. Pali Canon, Samyutta Nikaya III 22.95

The Profundity of Form

 The Profundity of the ultimate

Form is empty

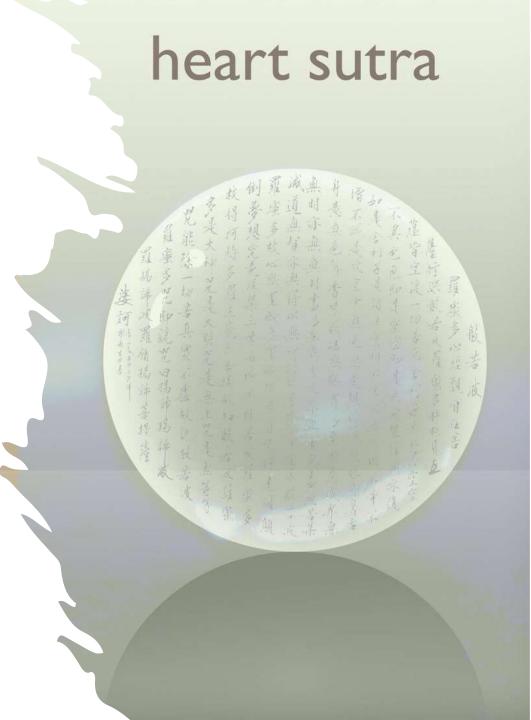




Form is deceptive, like a ball of foam

The Profundity of the Ultimate

The emptiness of form is nothing other than the form's ultimate nature.



The Profundity of the Conventional



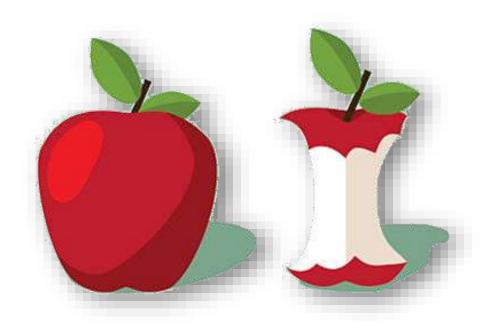
The emptiness of the inherent existence of form is the basis that allows the dependent origination of form.

The Profundity of Being the Same Entity

The ultimate nature of form, its emptiness, does not exist separate from the form.



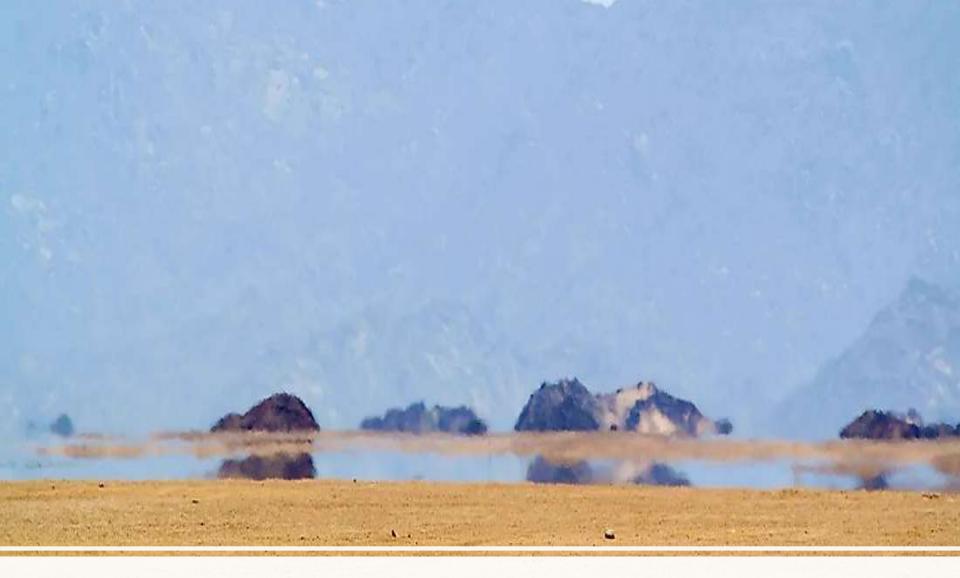
The Profundity of Being Nominally Distinct



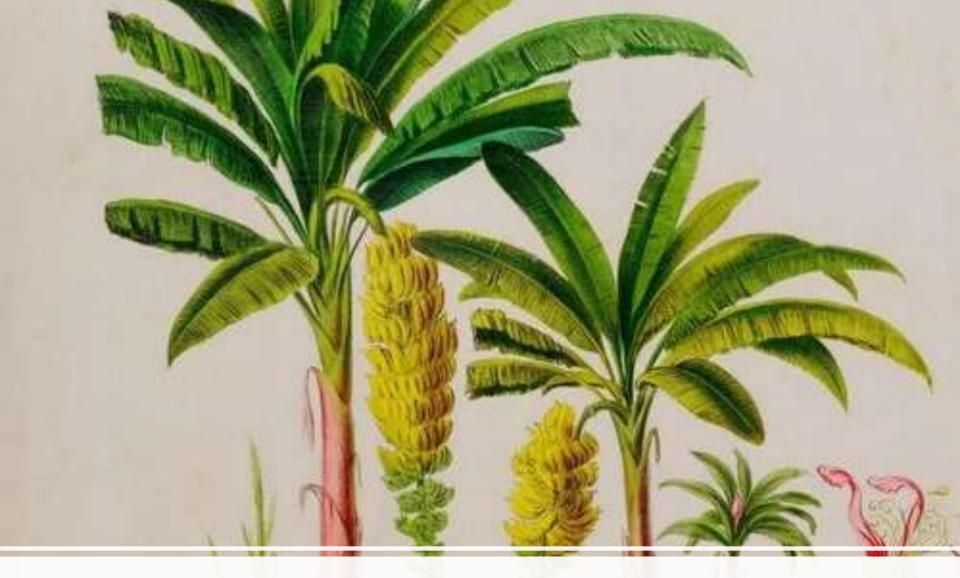
Form and the emptiness of form are the same entity and these two can be distinguished one from another



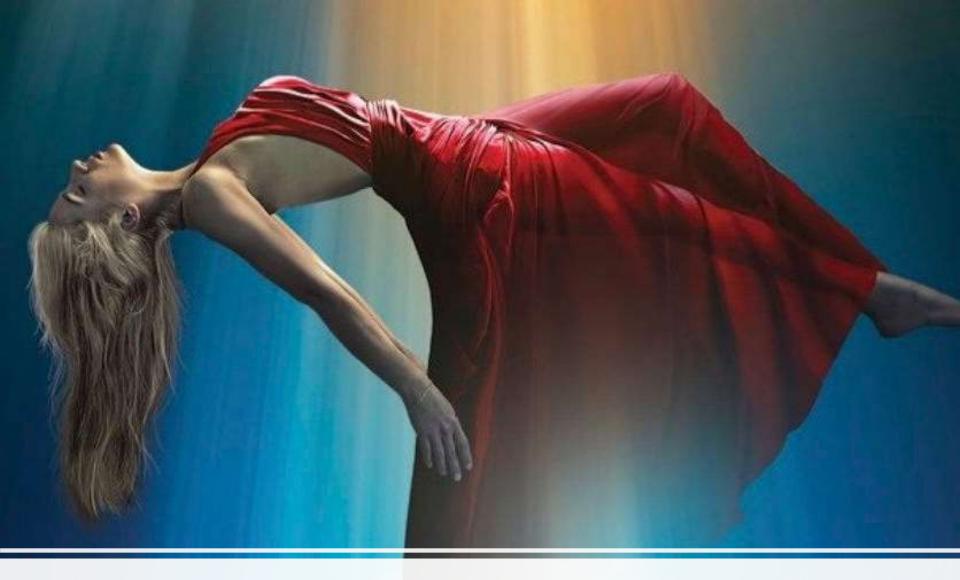
Feeling is dependent, like a water bubble



Discrimination is false, like a mirage



Compositional factors are empty, like a banana tree



Consciousness is unreal, like an illusion



What's The Take-Away?

- You know Nagarjuna's four keys.
- You know that the five aggregates are empty of inherent existence.
- You have five similes to remember

The Nature of

Reality





Today's Topics

- Discerning wisdom
- Objects of the wisdom

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



An Extensive Explanation

An extensive explanation for those with inferior faculties

- 1. Path of Accumulation
- 2. Path of Preparation

- Path of seeing
- 4. Path of meditation
- 5. Path of no more learning



If Inherent Existence Were Real...

One

- Same
- Singular

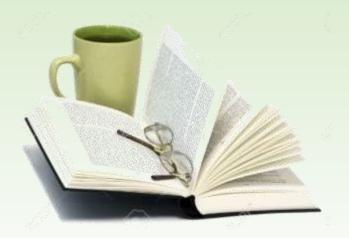
Many

- Different
- Multiple

Do You Truly Exist?

- Who is on your seat I am
- Are the aggregates also on the seat Yes
- Are you the same as the aggregates No
- Why because I am imputed to the aggregates
- Roll your body off the seat
- Who is on the seat?
- You don't truly exist





The King Of Reasonings

DEPENDENT REFUTES

Independent

Inherent/Intrinsic

True existence

Own character

Own side

ARISING REFUTES

- Nothing at all
- Non-existence



Defining Wisdom – Path of Seeing

hariputra, likewise, all phenomena are emptiness; without characteristic; unproduced, unceased; stainless, not without stain; not deficient, not fulfilled."

The Path of Seeing

DEFINITION

"A realization of a Bodhisattva who sees emptiness directly that is a method for attaining the Mahayana path of meditation"

The exalted awareness of:

- 1. Pristine wisdom of meditative equipoise.
- 2. Pristine wisdom of subsequent attainment.



Eight Empty Aspects

- 1. Emptiness nature
- 2. Without characteristic the characteristics
- 3. Unproduced production
- 4. Un-ceased cessation
- 5. Stainless defilements
- 6. Not without stain separation from defilements
- 7. Not deficient decrease
- 8. Not fulfilled increase

Objects of Wisdom – Path of Meditation

hariputra, therefore, in emptiness there is no form, no feeling, no discrimination, no compositional factors, no consciousness; no eye, no ear, no nose, no tongue, no body, no mind; no visual form, no sound, no odor, no taste, no object of touch, and no phenomenon.

There is no eye element and so on up to and including no mind element and no mental consciousness element.

The Path of Meditation

DEFINITION

"A realization of a Superior Bodhisattva who is either abandoning or who has abandoned innate true grasping by practicing meditation"

- Pristine wisdoms of meditative equipoise
- 2. Pristine wisdoms of subsequent attainment



More of the Path of Meditation

here is no ignorance, no extinction of ignorance, and so on up to and including no aging and death and no extinction of aging and death.

Similarly, there is no suffering, origination, cessation, and path; there is no exalted wisdom, no attainment, and also, no non-attainment.

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





What's The Take-Away?

- Knowledge of wisdom on the path of seeing
- You know the 8 eight objects of wisdom on the path of meditation

The Nature of

Reality





Today's Topics

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

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



The Outline For Contemplation

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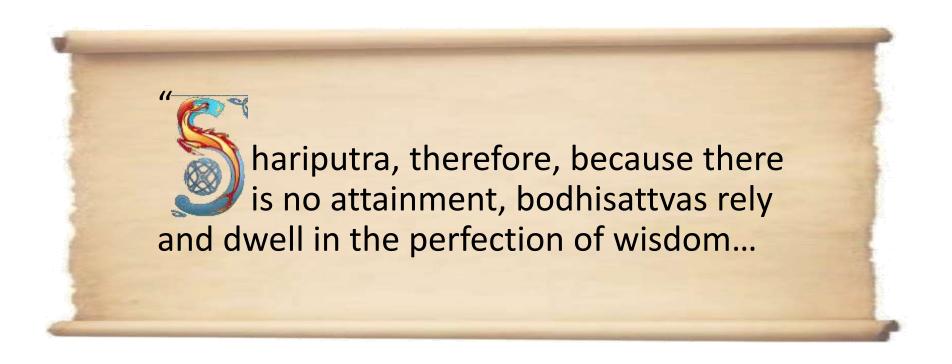
No Exalted Wisdom ...

- No exalted wisdom the wisdom realizing emptiness possessed by a superior being
- 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."



Qualities Of Wisdom – Vajra





Revealing the Meaning

No attainment – attainments are not intrinsic

Rely and dwell – scriptural, path, result, natural

The perfection of wisdom – vajra, last moment

The Path of No More Learning

DEFINITION

"An ultimate realization that has abandoned completely the two

obstructions"



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 awaken to unsurpassable, perfect, complete enlightenment in reliance on the perfection of wisdom.

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



Mantra of Wisdom

" herefore, the mantra of the perfection of wisdom, the mantra of great knowledge, the unsurpassed mantra, the mantra equal to the unequaled, 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

Qualities of the Mantra

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



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

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



Unsurpassed

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

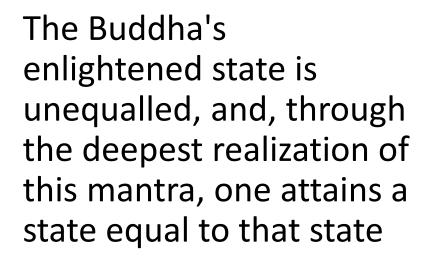




There is no mantra that is able to eliminate the totality of suffering and its causes like this one is able to

Equal to the Unequaled

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



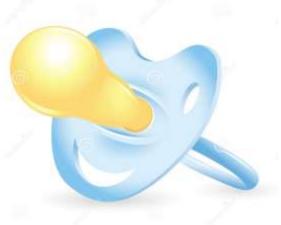


There is no mantra that is even equal to the perfection of wisdom

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



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

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

First *Gate* – Go

TEACHES

The mantra of the perfection of wisdom

MEANS

 Enter and proceed along this path of accumulating merit



Second *Gate* – Go

TEACHES

 The mantra of great knowledge



MEANS

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

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

Parasamgate – Go Totally Beyond

TEACHES

The equal to the unequaled mantra



MEANS

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

Bodhi – Enlightenment

Establish yourself firmly in the ground of enlightenment – the

state of non-abiding

nirvana



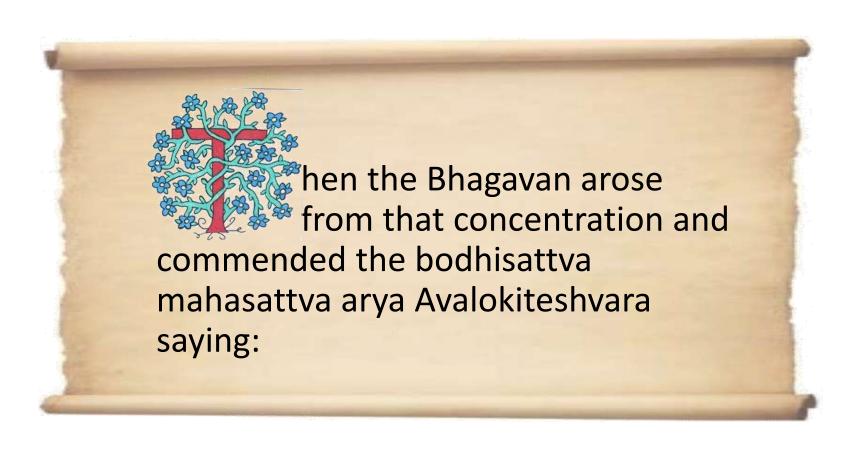


Exhortation & Summary

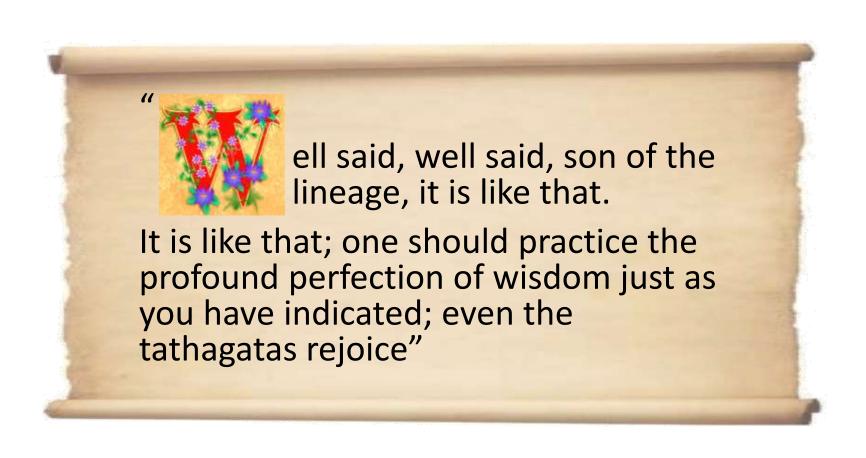
"Shariputra, the bodhisattva mahasattva should train in the perfection of wisdom like that."

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

Clearing Doubts



Words Spoken by Buddha



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

Conclusion

he Bhagavan having thus spoken, the venerable Sharadvatiputra, the bodhisattva, mahasattva arya Avalokiteshvara, those surrounding in their entirety along with the world of gods, humans, asuras, and ghandharvas were overjoyed and highly praised that spoken by the Bhagavan.





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.