



Course 1: The Principal Teachings of Buddhism
Level 1 of the Steps to Buddhahood



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Class 4:
What is an Authentic Student and Dharma?



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Class Objectives

- List and describe the three qualities of authentic dharma.
- Have a general idea what the Kangyur and Tengyur are.
- List the three qualities of a good student.

The Three Qualities of Authentic Dharma

སངས་རྒྱལ་གྱིས་གསུངས་པ།
sanggye kyi sungpa

པཎ୍ଡི་ཏེན་ལ་པམ་པ།
pandite ten la pappa

བྱུང་པའི་ཐུགས་རྒྱན་ལ་འབྲུངས་དང་མིའི་གྲིས་བརྒྱན་པ།
druppay tukgyu la trung dang ringyi gyupa

1) Taught by the Buddha.

སངས་རྒྱལ་གྱིས་གསུངས་པ།
sanggye kyi sungpa
him by spoken

The Tibetan Buddhist Canon

Kangyur

Speech of the Buddha

Tengyur

Collection of commentaries

Kangyur

- Speech of the Buddha
- 300,000 to 400,000 books to begin with
- 8th and 9th century decline in Buddhism with extinction in 13th century (Muslims arrive in India)
- 1108 books left
- The losses are discussed in the Abhidharmakosa
- Tibet has the most extensive library and best preserved collection

Sections of the Kangyur

- Vinaya (dulwa in Tibetan)
 - vowed morality
- Prajnaparamita
 - perfection of wisdom
- Three Sections of Sutras
 - open teachings
- Tantra
 - secret teachings

2) Sages have scrutinized it.

པཎ্ডིཏེན་ལ་པཎ་པ།

pandite ten la panna

It should have been cleaned of any errors:
sages must have brought the teaching to its
authentic final form, having examined it to
determine whether any wrong ideas crept into it
after the Buddha taught it.

Tengyur

- Collection of commentaries
- 3,400 Treatises
- Each 3 to 1000 pages long
- Organized into 11 sections

Sections of the Tengyur

- Tantra
- Four Schools of Buddhism in Ancient India
 - Perfection of Wisdom – Madhyamika
 - Middle Way - Madhyamika
 - Sutra School
 - Mind Only
 - Abhidharma
- Vinaya
- Jataka Tales – birth stories of the Buddha
- Epistles/Letters
- Logic and Perception
- Minor Sciences: Sanskrit, Medical Scriptures, Fine Arts, Etc.

3) Master practitioners have tested it and gotten results.

ལྷུབ་པའི་སྐྱབས་རྒྱུད་ལ་འཁྲུངས་དང་རིམ་གྱིས་བརྒྱུད་པ།
druppay tukgyu la trung dang rimgyi gyupa

“It should have brought true realizations to the hearts of master practitioners, once they have heard, considered, and meditated upon it. And then it must have passed to us through the various generations of an unbroken lineage.”

The Three Qualities of Authentic Dharma

- The Buddha taught it.
- Sages have scrutinized it and removed errors.
- Master practitioners have used it and gotten results.

If all three are present the dharma is authentic and will not fail you.

Three Qualities of Proper Vessel

གཟུང་གནས། ལྷོ་ལྷན། རོན་གཉེར་བ།
surme london dunmyerwa

From the 400 Verses on Emptiness by Master Aryadeva (~ 200AD)

Three Qualities of A Good Student

- གཟུང་གནས། • impartial, open-minded
surme
- ལྷོ་ལྷན། • intelligent
londen
- རོན་གཉེར་བ། • ambitious and capable
dunmyerwa

Homework #4

- Questions
- Memorization: memorize the first line of the Three Principal Paths
- Meditation: Fifteen minutes each day contemplate renunciation.

(Remember to record date and time of meditation.)
