





Course 2: Buddhist Refuge
Level 1 of the Perfection of Wisdom



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**Class 8:
Proofs of Emptiness**



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How things exist.

ལྷོ་གནོད་མེད་ལ་སྣང་བའི་དབང་གིས་བཞག་ཅོམ།
lo nume la nangway wang gi shak tsam

For something to exist deceptively, the thing must appear to you and must be perceived with an unimpaired mind.

Class Objectives

- Know the names of five proofs of emptiness.
- Begin to understand the proof called the “Emptiness of one or Many”

ཅིཀ་དུ་དྲེ། **The Emptiness of One or Many**
chik du drel

chik	du	drel
one	many	empty

- Do things exist as one thing or as a collection of many things?

དོར་ཇེ་སེཀ་མ།
dorje sekma

Sliver of Diamond

dorje	sekma
diamond	sliver

Things...

- Can't arise from themselves
- Can't arise from something else
- Can't arise from both (themselves and something else)
- Can't arise without a cause

ཡོད་མེད་སྐྱེ་འགོག། The denial that things that exist
yume kye gok or do not exist could arise.

yume kye gok
exist not to arise to deny

Things...

- Can't grow from a thing that exists
- Can't grow from a thing that doesn't exist
- Can't grow from both
- Can't grow from neither

སུ་བཞི་སྐྱེ་འགོག། The denial that things could arise
mu shi kye gok through any of the four possibilities.

mu shi kye gok
possibilities four to arise to deny

Denying these four possibilities:

- Multiple results could come from multiple causes
- Single results could come from single causes
- Multiple results could come from single causes
- Single results could come from multiple causes

རྟོག་འབྲེལ་གྱི་རིགས་པ། King of Reasonings
tendrel gyi rikpa

tendrel gyi rikpa
interdependence of reasoning

རིགས་པའི་རྒྱལ་པོ།
or rikpay gyelpo

rikpay gyelpo
reasoning king

- Reasoning of interdependence (dependent origination)

Things are not self-existent because they depend on other things.

Five Proofs of Emptiness

1. The emptiness of one or many.
2. Sliver of a diamond reasoning.
3. The denial that things which exist or do not exist could arise.
4. The denial that things could arise through any of the four possibilities
5. King of reasons (Reasoning of interdependence)

How to prove a statement logically.

There are three or four parts to a logical statement.

1. First part is the subject
 - Consider the sun.
2. Second part is the characteristic we are asserting.
 - It is colored.
3. Third part is the reason.
 - Because it is yellow.
4. The fourth is a supporting example.
 - It is, for instance, like a banana.

A Buddhist Logical Statement

Consider the sun,
 It is colored, because it is yellow.
 It is, for instance, like a banana.

Consider East Oakland at night,
 Walking alone is stupid, because
 it is dangerous.
 It is like walking in a crime zone
 at night.

མཚོན་པའི་རྒྱུ་ལྡན།
chik du drel

The Emptiness of One or Many

Consider the three knowledges, they do not exist really, because they do not exist really as one and they do not exist really as many. They are, for example, like a reflection of an image in a mirror.

- Basic Knowledge – perception of selflessness
- Path Knowledge – perception of emptiness
- Knowledge of all things – omniscience

Homework # 8

- Questions
- Memorization: memorize the reasoning called the “Emptiness of One or Many”
- Meditation: Review mentally the reasoning of the “Emptiness of the One or Many”.
Remember to record date and time of meditation.
