



Name: _____

Date: _____

Grade: _____

THE YOGA OF DEVOTION

ANSWER KEY FOR CLASS THREE

1. When, according to Pabongka Rinpoche, should one investigate a prospective teacher to see if he or she does or does not have the necessary attributes of a proper teacher?

Pabongka Rinpoche says one should make such an investigation *before* undertaking to serve that teacher.

2. What are the two functions or purposes in studying the qualities of an ideal teacher?

First, such a study helps you in your own personal search for your own perfect teacher; you look for a teacher who manifests some or all of these qualities to you. Second, a list of the qualities that make up an ideal teacher gives each of us something to strive for and develop in our selves if we are to serve others by teaching.

3. What are the ten attributes of a proper teacher according to Maitreya's *Ornament of Mahayana Sutras*?

- 1) They should be "subdued," meaning the mind has been subdued by the practice of morality.
- 2) They should be "calm," having calmed all mental distraction through the practice of concentration.
- 3) They should be "quiet," which means they have quieted the erroneous beliefs in a real self through having practiced wisdom.
- 4) They should have virtuous qualities superior to one's own.
- 5) They should be energetic.
- 6) They should be learned in scripture.
- 7) They should have "realized suchness," meaning "having gained an understanding of the correct view through wisdom born of listening," specifically the view held by the Madhyamika Prasangika school.
- 8) They should be endowed with eloquence.
- 9) They should have a compassionate nature.
- 10) They should ignore weariness.

4. If teacher cannot be found who has all ten of these qualities, what are the five they should at least have?

- 1-3) A mind which has achieved self-discipline by means of the three trainings.
- 4) A compassionate nature.
- 5) A realization of suchness.



5. Pabongka Rinpoche says “If even such qualities as the five which were mentioned become rare in these degenerate times,” we should try to find a teacher who at least has three virtues. Name them.

- 1) **They should have more virtues than faults.**
- 2) **They should give more importance to future lives than to this life.**
- 3) **They should be more concerned about others than about themselves.**

6. Explain what Geshe Michael means when he says that the perfect teacher should have “a big toolbox.”

They should have a wide and deep knowledge of many different masters’ work. “You are looking to find and you are looking to become a master who knows many great methods of doing what they do, and they are very good at each of them.”

7. What does it mean to say that teacher should be like “the air we breathe?”

The teacher should be available to his or her students. “And so regardless of what qualities they may have, it doesn’t matter if they are not available. If you can’t be with them or if they haven’t made some plan for making someone available to you, then it doesn’t matter.”

8. “Teachers should be like a master sculptor of every stone, with a master plan.” Explain.

A great teacher should be able to size up a student and have a vision of what the student could become. And the teacher should have a master plan for the student, perhaps covering as much as twenty to thirty years.

9. Why is a good teacher like an echo?

They must provide feedback to the student as to how the student is doing. They should require some kind of homework of the student, and then check to see that the student did the work and how they did.

10. Why is a master teacher like a “general with orders?”

A teacher is like a general in that he or she should have an aura of authority and be in control of the class. “There should be a sense of respect for this teacher. . . [and] the teacher should try to encourage this atmosphere of respect for the teacher and for what’s being taught. Students shouldn’t interrupt the teacher frequently, or sidetrack the class. The teacher should be in control of the class.” And the teacher should have “orders,” in the sense of clear expectations of the student.

11. A teacher should be like “a chameleon on the same old rock.” Explain.

The “same old rock” refers to the fact that a teacher should be consistent in two ways: the teachings should be internally free of contradiction, and the path they show you much be consistent – starting with a good foundation and then building to higher levels. The teacher should be like a chameleon in the sense that the teacher should not be afraid to give the appearance of contradicting themselves, if



they think it would help the student learn and grow.

12. Why should a good teacher be “a teacher of learning and teaching?”

A teacher must teach a student *how* to be a good student, how to learn what the teacher is trying to teach them. “If a student can’t learn how to be a student and follow instructions, even from the first day, then it will surely fail; they will never learn anything.” And from the very beginning, a teacher should be teaching the student how to teach, especially by example.

13. Why is a good teacher “glad to go to first grade?”

Great teachers love to learn and are not reluctant to humble themselves before other teachers and learn something new. “Great teachers are never finished learning and are always willing to go back to first grade.”

14. A good teacher knows when it’s time to give “a push from the nest.” Explain.

A good teacher knows that it is easy for some kind of co-dependency to arise between him and her and the student. A good teacher remembers that the goal is to create a new master and is happy when the student goes off and starts teaching their own students.

15. Why should a good teacher practice “peer revelry?”

Great masters are never jealous of other masters, but rather “revel” in their successes. (This, by the way, is an important karmic cause for your own success as a teacher.)

16. In what ways is a master teacher like an “old pair of shoes.”

First, a teacher should not expect thanks or gratitude from the student, but rather “believe in what you’re teaching so much that you may never hear thanks, and you will never worry about it.” Second, the teacher is dependable, like a broken-in pair of shoes. A student should feel that the teacher will always be there for him or her.

17. Why should a good teacher be like “a new edition of an old book?”

A good teacher must first master the entire tradition and the masters who came before him or her. But then when it’s time to teach what one has learned, a master teacher makes it a “new edition,” making the knowledge relevant and accessible to the audience. (This is also sometimes known as “core and morph.”)

18. What is meant by the phrase “one or two gathered in the arena?”

It means that a teacher should be both happy to teach even one or two students, if that’s all that show up, but should also develop the ability to get up in front of many people and teach without being nervous, without “being so proud as to worry about how you look or what people will say.”



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19. Fill in the chart below with the good qualities you do and don't see in your teacher(s) and then a "T.D.F.O." for each.

T.D.F.O.	I DO SEE	I DON'T SEE	T.D.F.O.
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			