



Diamond Mountain University

Depth Course 4: Setting Fire to Your Meditation

Answer Key Four: A King's Wish

1) Describe Master Kamalashila's idea of skillful means in getting people to develop the Wish:

[He is describing how to lure people into getting the wish in their hearts by telling them they don't have to worry right now about doing all the activities that go along with the wish, only the thought in their minds. Then of course, once the thought gets into their mind they will automatically start acting on it.]

2) Master Kamalashila quotes a sutra where Lord Buddha is advising a king. What kind of practice is He teaching him?

[He is teaching a rudimentary form of the meditation preliminaries.]

3) Why would we want to make offerings to Enlightened Beings?

[This makes the Enlightened Beings more real for us, and then we create the karma for Them to come to us, and help us.]

4) What karmic result does Lord Buddha describe to the king as a result of his embracing the Wish?

[Lord Buddha describes that due to the king's previous seeds planted by his embrace of the wish, he was born many times as a god or a human, and every time, he was like royalty.]

5) List the ten commitments found in the Hatha Yoga Pradipika, in Sanskrit and English:

[*tapa*: Embracing spiritual hardships; *santoshā*: being content with what we get; *astikya*: believing in higher things; *dana*: the perfection of giving; *ishvara pujana*: honoring your Lama; *siddhanta*: studying the different schools' presentation of emptiness; *vakya shravana*: listening to teachings on emptiness; *hrimat*: a sense of shame; *japa*: reciting mantras; and *huta*: doing fire offerings.]

6) How does collecting good karma through keeping these commitments help your meditative concentration?

[There is a dilemma about keeping our vows: we need a certain amount of concentration to keep them, but concentration comes from keeping our vows. So how do we even start? This is by collecting some easy good karma, which is what these commitments are. This starts us on an upward spiral, where we are keeping our vows better, and then have better concentration, and then can keep them even better, and then get even better concentration, and so on.]

Hypertext assignment: On the back side of this page, write out either the Tibetan or the Sanskrit script of the passage from *The Sutra Requested by Viradatta*, which starts "If the amount of goodness we collect...", and then write each English word underneath the corresponding Tibetan or Sanskrit word.

[།སྲུང་ལུག་enlightenment སེམས་wish གྱི་by བསོད་ནམས་goodness གང་amount,
།དེ་ལ་གལ་ཏེ་if གཟུགས་physical form མཆིས་take on ན།
།ཀམ་མཁའ་universe འི་of ཁམས་vast expanses རྗེ་ཀུན་entire གང་fill up རྟེ།
།དེ་ནི་and དེ་བས་still ལྷག་པར་more འགྲུང་would be །།

बोधिenlightenment चित्तwishद् by वै यत्amount पुण्यम् goodness तच्च रूपिphysical
form भवेद् take on यदिif । आकाशuniverse धातुंvast expanse संपूर्यfill up भूयश्
would चand stillोत्तरित moreःभवेत्would be ॥]