



Name: _____

Date: _____

Grade: _____

TEACHER TRAINING: PART I (Fall Term)

ANSWER KEY FOR CLASS ONE

1. Quote from memory the opening verse from Je Tsongkapa's short *lam rim* entitled *Begging for a Mountain of Blessings* (popularly known as *The Source of All My Good*) on the importance of finding and serving a Lama.

**The source of all my good
Is my kind Lama, my Lord;
Bless me first to see
That taking myself to him
In the proper way
Is the very root
Of the path, and grant me then
To serve and follow him
With all my strength and reverence.**

2. Discuss the karmic relationships between being a good student, having a good teacher, being a good teacher, and having good students.

One of the important karmic causes for finding and having a good spiritual teacher is being a good student – being appreciative and respectful of the teacher and what he or she is teaching you, doing your best to learn well what is being taught to you and put it into practice, and understanding who the teacher really is for you. This attitude and behavior also plays an important karmic role in creating the causes for you yourself being a good teacher and having good students.



HOMEWORK FOR CLASS ONE, cont.

3. Give at six reasons for why there is a blessing to studying from a live teacher, and not just from books or audio or video recordings.

- a) **You receive the blessings of a lineage that has been passed down from many generations.**
- b) **Master teachers teach you the pitfalls and warn you in advance. Such guidance saves you years of pain from doing something the wrong way.**
- c) **Master teachers show you tricks that you could not learn just on your own or from books or recordings.**
- d) **When you find a living master, you have a companion for life and a family of other students who are like you and also teach you.**
- e) **“When you find a real master, suddenly you enter a whole different world. They know everywhere to go, they know everyone who is close, they have resources.”**
- f) **They take you “outside, beneath, and beyond yourself,” meaning that the master stands outside you and corrects your faults, you learn humility by admitting that there are things the master knows better, and the master pushes you to go beyond what you thought you could do.**

4. What is the best way to “hook” a great master?

The way to hook a great master is with service. Throw yourself at their feet and serve and help them with their mission.



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HOMEWORK FOR CLASS ONE, cont.

5. Discuss the meaning of the following verse:

But first be clear
That what you want to learn
Is what They teach,
Or the marriage will never last.

You must first decide what it is you want to learn so you go to the right teacher. Otherwise, you might go to a teacher who is not teaching what you want to learn and then get disillusioned with that teacher.

6. What, arguably, was Lord Buddha's greatest teaching?

"Lord Buddha's great teaching was that all the world around us, every single object you see, is a creation of your mind."

7. Discuss the difference between "I come to learn to serve" and "I come to serve and learn."

Service must come first, before the learning. Understand that all happiness comes only from serving others, and you can only succeed in learning if you have creating the causes for that success through service.