



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**TEACHER TRAINING: PART I (Fall Term)**

**ANSWER KEY FOR CLASS TWO**

1. Quote by memory the passage from the *Shorter Sutra on the Perfection of Wisdom* that speaks of the importance of the Lama for attaining the goals of the path.

**The Victorious Buddhas,  
Who posses the highest  
Of all good qualities,  
Speak as one when They say:  
'Every single part of the Buddhist way  
Depends on a Spiritual Guide.'**

2. What did Geshe Potowa say about the need for a Lama?

**“To reach liberation, there is nothing more important than a lama. Even in simple things of this present life, with things that you can learn just by sitting down and watching someone, you can’t get anywhere without a person to show you. So how on earth are you going to get anywhere without a lama, when you want to go somewhere you’ve never gone before, and you’ve only just arrived from a journey through the lower births.”**

3. What did Gampopa in his *A Precious Ornament for Liberation* say about the role of a Lama?

**“Just as a traveler needs a navigator for traversing an unknown route, an escort for making a dangerous journey, and an oarsman for crossing a mighty river, a spiritual seeker needs a mentor for treading the path to enlightenment. As a navigator, a spiritual mentor supplies correct information so that a disciple knows the way. As an escort, he or she remains close throughout the journey so that a disciple does not wander astray. As an oarsman, the person provides the energy that drives the disciple on to reach his or her goal.”**



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HOMEWORK FOR CLASS TWO, cont.

4. Describe the analogy of the magnifying glass used by Sakya Pandita to describe the ways the spiritual teacher inspires the student.

**Sakya Pandita said that without a magnifying glass to focus the rays of the sun, the sun cannot itself ignite a flame. In like manner, unless a student finds and works with a spiritual teacher to focus the Buddha's teachings and influence, the latter cannot themselves spark the student's enlightenment.**

5. Name the eight advantages of properly serving a spiritual teacher as they are enumerated in Pabongka Rinpoche's *Liberation in Our Hands*.
  - a) **We will be closer to Buddhahood**
  - b) **We will please the Conquerors**
  - c) **Demons and evil companions will not be able to harm us**
  - d) **Our mental afflictions and bad deeds will automatically come to an end**
  - e) **All our realizations of the paths and their levels will develop further**
  - f) **We will never lack a spiritual teacher in all our future lives**
  - g) **We will not fall into lower states**
  - h) **We will achieve all temporary and ultimate aims effortlessly**
  
6. Name the eight disadvantages of improperly serving a spiritual teacher according to Pabongka Rinpoche.
  - a) **In scorning our guru, we scorn all the Conquerors**
  - b) **To become angry with our guru destroys so much virtue that we will have to remain in the hells for as many kalpas as the number of instants that the anger lasted**
  - c) **Though we practice the Mantrayana, we will not attain the supreme goal**
  - d) **Even if we try to practice tantra diligently, it will be as if we were striving to be born in the hells.**
  - e) **We will generate no new knowledge and lose what knowledge we may have developed previously**
  - f) **We will be afflicted in this life by illness and other adversities**
  - g) **In future lives we will wander endlessly in the lower states**
  - h) **We will be without a spiritual teacher in all our future lives**