




Course 1: The Principal Teachings of Buddhism
Level 1 of the Steps to Buddhahood



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Class 2: mu-shi mu-sum & What is Buddha Nature?



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Class Objectives

- Introduction to Buddhist logic – mushi musum
- Explain what is meant by mahamudra and its relationship to the three principal paths
- Know the two main causes for buddhahood and their relationship to the three principal paths
- Give the two obstacles to buddhahood

Key Definitions

- Sutra – the open teachings of the buddha
 - the 18 ACI courses are sutra based
- Tantra – the secret teachings of the buddha
 - require an initiation and tantric vows
 - successful practice leads to buddhahood in one lifetime
 - designed for lay practitioners, especially nobility
- Mahamudra – “the great seal”
 - high level practices
 - code word for direct perception of emptiness

Introduction to Buddhist Logic

- Use logic to prove the three principal paths are necessary for successful tantric practice
- Use mushi musum a form of logical analysis to do so.

mushi musum

Any two existent things (thing “A” and thing “B”) combine in either three or four of these ways:

1. A and not B
2. B and not A
3. A and B both
4. Neither A nor B

mushi musum example

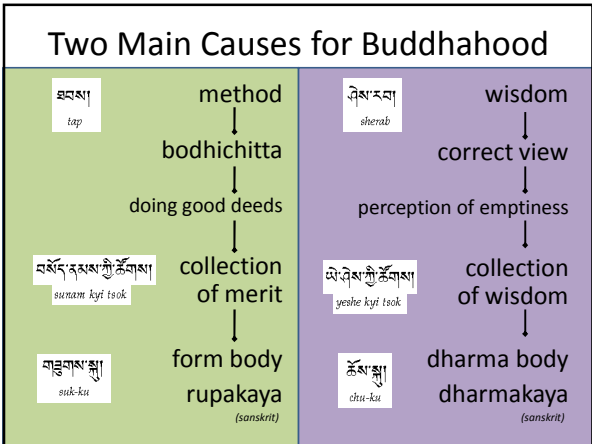
Consider the two things: Yellow and Sky

- Sky but not yellow?
 - yes, sky is blue and not yellow
- Yellow but not sky?
 - yes, banana is yellow and not sky
- Sky and Yellow?
 - no, sky is blue
- Neither Sky nor Yellow?
 - yes, a red ball

PROOF: The three principal paths are required for successful tantric practice or mahamudra

- Let A=“path” or three principal paths
- Let B=“tantra” or successful tantric practice/mahamudra

1. path with out tantra?
2. tantra with out path?
3. tantra and path?
4. neither path nor tantra?



Two Bodies of a Buddha

<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>གུ་ཀུ་སྐུ། <i>suk-ku</i></p> </div> <p>form body or rupakaya</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sambhogakaya <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – enjoyment body • nirmanakaya <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – emanation body – physical body 	<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>ཅུ་ཀུ། <i>chu-ku</i></p> </div> <p>dharmakaya</p> <p>This is the emptiness and omniscience of a buddha's mind</p>
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Two Obstacles to Buddhahood

<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>ཤེད་རྒྱུ་བ། <i>shedrip</i></p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge obstacles <p><i>lack of knowledge blocks your omniscience</i></p>	<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>ཉོན་རྒྱུ་བ། <i>nyundrip</i></p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bad thought obstacles <p><i>"bad" thoughts block your freedom from mental afflictions</i></p>
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Homework #2

- Questions
- Memorization: memorize the dedication of a good deed prayer in Tibetan
- Meditation: Fifteen minutes each day contemplate what renunciation is.

(Remember to record date and time of meditation.)
