




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





**Class 9:
 What is the Correct View of Emptiness?**



Seven-Step Cause-and-Effect Method

- Preliminary Stage is to develop a feeling of neutrality towards all beings.

1. Recognize all beings as one's mother
2. Feel gratitude for their kindness
3. Wish to repay that kindness
4. Loving-kindness towards all beings (The desire that they are happy)
5. Great Compassion (The desire that all beings are free of suffering)
6. Resolve to personally help everyone else, even if no one else helps
7. Bodhichitta – The desire to become a buddha to benefit all beings

Class Objectives

- Understand what the two truths are and why they are not truths.
- Understand what is meant by dependent origination.
- Know the four great Buddhist Schools of ancient India and how they differ in terms of dependent origination.
- Describe “no-self”

The Third Path: Correct View

ཡང་དག་པའི་ལྷ་བ།

yangdakpay tawa

Perception of emptiness.
First indirectly using logic,
then directly in deep meditation.

The Two Truths

གུན་རྫོབ་བདེན་པ།

kuntzob denpa

དོན་དམ་བདེན་པ།

dundam denpa

The First Truth

གུན་ཚོབ་བདེན་པ།

kuntzob denpa
completely deceptive truth

- Conventional reality
- Things appear different from how they are.
- e.g. A cylinder appears to be a pen

The Second Truth

དོན་དམ་བདེན་པ།

dundam denpa
ultimate truth

- Things appear how they really are (to a buddha).
or (in other words)
- Things do not appear how you think they are.
- e.g. The cylinder is not a self-existent pen.

The Two Truths

གུན་ཚོབ་བདེན་པ།

kuntzob denpa
deceptive truth

དོན་དམ་བདེན་པ།

dundam denpa
ultimate truth

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • positive view | • negative view |
| • what a thing is or has | • what a thing isn't or lacks |

རྟེན་འབྲེལ། Dependent Origination

tenürel

Dependent origination is a way to explain the deceptive reality of things.

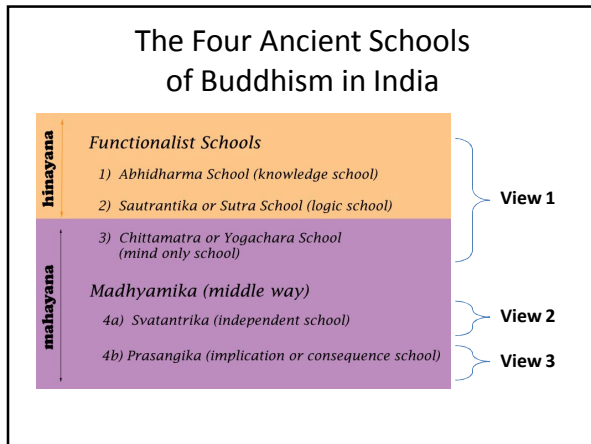
It is the "positive" way explaining the way things are.

Three Views of Dependent Origination

1. Things are dependent on their causes.
 - but space and emptiness are not caused
2. All things exist dependent on their parts.
 - greater depth of understanding
3. All things exist dependent on you calling them and thinking of them as you do.
 - the most subtle understanding

Emptiness is the Absence of.....

1. Things are dependent on their causes.
 - 1. things do not exist independent of their causes**
2. All things exist dependent on their parts.
 - 2. things do not exist independent of their parts**
3. All things exist dependent on you calling them and thinking of them as you do.
 - 3. things do not exist outside of your mind and your calling them or naming them**



བདག	self	आत्मन्
<i>ḍāk</i>		atman

“Self” is defined as an essence of things that doesn’t depend on others; an intrinsic nature.

This is similar to the Western concept of “soul”. It is a permanent unchanging thing.

དགག་བྱ།	The Object We Deny
<i>gakja</i>	

1. Functionalists
 - the self that has no causes
2. Independents
 - the self that exists independent of its parts
3. Consequence or Implication School
 - the self that exists independent of my thinking about it or naming it

Homework #9

- Questions
- Memorization: memorize the tenth verse of the Three Principal Paths
- Meditation: Fifteen minutes each day analytical meditation on the three meanings of interdependence.

(Remember to record date and time of meditation.)
