


**Course 2: Buddhist Refuge**  
Level 1 of the Perfection of Wisdom



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**Class 4: Classifications  
of Bodhichitta**



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**Class Objectives**

- Name and describe the five paths to Buddhahood
- Have a general understanding of the bodhisattva levels.
- Classify bodhichitta by
  - spiritual realization level
  - the way the bodhisattva thinks of achieving enlightenment
  - the state of being of the bodhisattva

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### The Five Paths to Buddhahood

- Accumulation
  - Renunciation and Bodhichitta
- Preparation
  - Having a good understanding of emptiness
- Seeing
  - Direct perception of emptiness
- Habituation
  - Getting rid of the inborn habit of seeing things as self-existent
- No More Learning
  - Buddhahood

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### Bodhisattva Levels

- Ten Levels (referred to as bodhisattva bhumis)
- First level reached when perceive emptiness directly with bodhichitta in your mind/heart
- The first six levels are aligned with the perfections
  - Level 1 = perfection of giving
  - Level 2 = perfection of ethical living
  - etc.
- In levels one to seven you see things as self-existent.
- In levels eight to ten you no longer see things as self-existent.

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### Bodhichitta classified by Realization

- The belief wish
- The personal responsibility wish
- The ripened wish
- The obstacles eliminated wish

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### The Belief Wish

- This is bodhichitta before one perceives emptiness directly.
- The person sees things as self-existent, but believes that they are not really as they appear.

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### The Personal Responsibility Wish

- This is bodhichitta that begins when one sees emptiness directly and ends after the seventh bhumi.
- This person see things as self-existent, but knows they are not self-existent.

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### The Ripened Wish

- This bodhichitta level encompasses the eighth, ninth and tenth bhumis.
- This person doesn't see things as self-existent, but still has the karmic "seeds" to do so.

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### The Obstacles Eliminated Wish

- The bodhichitta of a buddha.
- Buddhas don't see things as self-existent and no longer have "seeds" to see them that way.

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### Bodhichitta classified by the way one thinks.

- The king-like wish
  - Enlightenment first, then help everyone else do it
- The shepherd-like wish
  - Enlightenment for everyone else first, then do it
- The ferryman-like wish
  - Everyone gets enlightened as a group

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### Bodhichitta Classified by State of Being

- munsem – Wish Bodhichitta
  - The wish in the form of a prayer
  - Thinking like a bodhisattva
  - Wish to become enlightened to help all beings
- jukse – Engaged Bodhichitta
  - The wish in the form of actions
  - Acting like a bodhisattva

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### Another way to Divide Bodhichitta

- Apparent bodhichitta (or deceptive)
  - the ordinary way we speak of bodhichitta
- Ultimate bodhichitta
  - direct perception of emptiness

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### Homework #4

- Questions
- Memorization: Memorize the definitions of the wish of prayer and the wish of engagement.
- Meditation: Fifteen minutes each day contemplate how close you have come in the last 24 hours to exchanging yourself and others.

*Remember to record date and time of meditation.*

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