



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



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**Class 9:  
Proofs of Emptiness**



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གཅིག་དུ་བླ་མ།  
*chik du drel* **The Emptiness of One or Many**

Consider the three knowledges, they do not exist really, because they do not exist really as one and they do not exist really as many. They are, for example, like a reflection of an image in a mirror.

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### Class Objectives

- Understand the reasoning behind the proof called the “Emptiness of one or Many”

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### A Buddhist Logical Statement

Consider the sun,  
It is colored, because it is yellow.  
It is, for instance, like a banana.

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### The Three Relationships

- The reason must be a quality of the subject
  - The sun is yellow
- The characteristic you are trying to prove follows naturally from the reason
  - If something is yellow then the thing is colored
- If you negate the characteristic you are trying to prove and negate the reason their relationship is still true
  - If something is not colored it is not yellow

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*chik tu drel*

### The Emptiness of One or Many

Consider the three knowledges, they do not exist really, because they do not exist really as one and they do not exist really as many. They are, for example, like a reflection of an image in a mirror.

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### Things don't truly exist as one.

Consider the three knowledges. They don't really exist as one, because they have parts.

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### First Relationship

- Is the reason a characteristic of the subject?
- Does the three knowledges have parts?
  - We think so
  - Just to be safe we will prove that everything has parts

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Do all things have parts?

- All things
  - unchanging
  - changing
    - mental
    - physical
      - gross ✓
      - subtle

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Do all things have parts?

- All things
  - unchanging
  - changing
    - mental
    - physical ✓
      - gross ✓
      - subtle ✓

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Do all things have parts?

- All things
  - unchanging
  - changing
    - mental ✓
    - physical ✓
      - gross ✓
      - subtle ✓



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### Do all things have parts?

- All things ✓
  - unchanging ✓ ཉག་པ།
  - changing ✓ *ta kpa*
    - mental ✓
    - physical ✓
      - gross ✓
      - subtle ✓

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### Things don't truly exist as one.

Consider the three knowledges. They don't really exist as one, because they have parts.

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### Second Relationship

- Does the characteristic we are trying to prove follow naturally from the reason?
- If something has parts then does it exist independently as one?
  - No it is a collection

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### Third Relationship

- If we negate both the reason and the characteristic we are trying to prove does the relationship between them hold true?
- If something does exist as one then it doesn't have parts.
  - yes that would be a true statement

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### Things don't truly exist as one.

Consider the three knowledges. They don't really exist as one, because they have parts.

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གཅིག་དུ་ལྷན། **The Emptiness of One or Many**  
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Consider the three knowledges, they do not exist really, because they do not exist really as one and they do not exist really as many. They are, for example, like a reflection of an image in a mirror.

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### Homework # 9

- Questions
- Memorization: memorize the proof for establishing that the three knowledges do not exist as one thing really.
- Meditation: Go through each step of confirming the proof called "Emptiness of One and Many".

*Remember to record date and time of meditation.*

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