



Diamond Mountain University
Soaring to the Top of the Sky

Answer Key 2: Planting the Seeds for Limitless Compassion

*1) List the second vow of a novice monk or nun, and give the four elements for this vow. (Tibetan Track: give the Tibetan for the vow.)

Striking Something which Contains Animals:

Foundation: Transgressor is a novice monk or nun, as described previously. The object is something that you need to make use of (such as wood, soil, water) that contains animals.

State of Mind: Recognition is that you either know or suspect that the article contains animals. Intention or motivation is that you are doing this for the sake of others, or for a common goal. You have a sustained desire to use this article regardless of the fact that it contains animals. Your focus is on the activity, not on the act of killing.

Undertaking: You set out to use the object. In other words, you pick up the shovel to dig, scoop up the water to drink, cut the tree down, etc.

Completion: When the animals die. You get one transgression for each animal that dies.

དུད་འགྲོ་དང་བཅས་པ་བརྟེན་པ།

dundro dang chepa dekpa

*2) In order to commit this wrongdoing, how large must the animal be? (Tibetan Track: give the Tibetan for this.)

The animal must be large enough to see with the ordinary eye.

ཐ་མལ་པའི་མིག་ལ་སྒྲུང་དུ་རུང་བ།

tamelpay mik la nang du rungwa

3) Give the third vow of a novice monk or nun, and explain the four elements.
(Tibetan track: Give the vow in Tibetan.)

Acting Toward Something which Contains Animals.

For this vow, the foundation, state of mind, undertaking and completion are the same as for Vow #2 (see above), except that you undertake the action solely for yourself.

དུད་འགྲོ་དང་བཅས་པ་ལ་སྒྲོད་པ།

dundro dang chepa la chupa

4) Explain the difference between the second and third vows in terms of who benefits from your action (Tibetan track: give the Tibetan for this.)

In vow number two, you are performing the activity either for the benefit of others or for a common goal. In vow number three, you are doing the deed for yourself alone.

གཞན་དོན་དུ།

shen dun du

རང་འབའ་ཞིག་གི་དོན་དུ།

rang bashik gi dun du

*5) Give the fourth vow of a novice monk or nun, and explain the four elements
(Tibetan track: Give the vow in Tibetan, and give the Tibetan that defines completion.)

Killing an Animal

དུད་འགྲོ་གསོད་པ།

dundro supa

Foundation: Transgressor is the same as above. The object is an animal that you can see with the ordinary eye.

State of Mind: Recognition: You know or suspect that this is a living thing.

Intention or Motivation: You have a sustained desire to kill the animal.

Undertaking: Either you, or someone that you appoint, set out to kill this animal with a weapon or poison, etc.

Completion: When the life force stops, when the animal dies, you have completed this deed.

སློབ་གླིང་དབང་པོ་འགགས།

sok ki wangpo gak

6) What is another way that these vows could be numbered, if you were thinking of them in terms of order of severity?

Killing an animal is the most serious, so it could be written as #2; acting towards something which contains animals, for your own purposes alone, would be next, #3; and striking something which contains animals would be #4.

7) In planning and building a spiritual community, what steps would you take to protect life? What vows would you like to live by?

There is no one answer to this question. Given that these vows, about killing, were developed by an enlightened being who knows exactly what we should take up and what we should give up, in order to become enlightened ourselves, it would be good to practice these vows. We should be careful about how we use materials. We should check our motivation, and proceed with caution. We should drive with care, etc.