

Diamond Mountain University
Soaring to the Top of the Sky

Answer Key Class 6: Planting the Seeds for Perfect Purification

1. What are the four novice vows that are similar to the downfall for a full monk or nun? (Tibetan Track: Name them in Tibetan.)

Killing a Human

མི་གསོད་པ།

mi supa

Stealing

མ་བྱིན་ལེན།

ma jin len

Sexual Misconduct

མི་ཚངས་སྤྱོད།

mi tsang chu

Lying

ཏུན་དུ་མྱ།

dzun du ma

2. How many downfalls does a full monk have? How many for a full nun?

A full monk has four downfalls. A full nun has eight.

*3. What does Je Tsongkapa say “a transgression similar to a downfall” means? (Tibetan Track: give the Tibetan for this term.)

They are transgressions for a novice monk or nun that are similar to the downfall for a full monk because they are similar in function. If you commit one of these downfalls or transgressions, and hide the deed, you have

irreparably broken your vows. And, none of the individual freedom vows (pratimoksha vows) can form in your mind stream for that lifetime. So, not only have you lost your novice monk's or nun's vows, but you cannot even take layperson vows and have them form in your mind stream.

ཕམ་དྲེ་ཉེས་བྱས།

pam dre nyeje

*4. What is the difference between keeping a downfall concealed and admitting it? (Tibetan Track: give the Tibetan for keeping it concealed.)

If you keep it concealed, then you suffer the consequences described above: you have irreparably broken your vows, and, none of the individual freedom vows (pratimoksha vows) can form in your mind stream for that lifetime. If you admit it, then you can undertake a punishment assignment assigned to you by the spiritual community, and purify that breakage.

འཆབ་བཅས།

chab je

*5. How can you purify a transgression that is similar to the downfall? (Tibetan track give the Tibetan for the act that you must perform).

You willingly undertake a punishment activity that has been assigned to you such as giving up your seniority and sitting at the lowest level of the community. You must keep up this activity until you die, or until you achieve the status of an arhat.

ཆད་ལས་གྱི་བསྐྱབ་པ།

che le ki labpa