



Name:
Date:
Grade:

Sacred Classics Translator Program

Answer Key, Class 7

1) What three letters of the Tibetan alphabet function as head letters?

ར། ra ལ། la ས། sa

2) Which columns (and rows) of letters do these head letters attach to? What is the respective effect on the pronunciation of the letters of each column?

The three head letters attach to the first, third and fourth column letters (the first four rows only, in each case). They do not attach to the second column letters.

There is no change in the pronunciation of first column letters with a head letter because they already have a strong high tone pronunciation. The third column letters with a head letter change to a typical English pronunciation. The fourth column letters with a head letter change to a higher tone pronunciation.

3) Write the following in Tibetan script; RKA; SGA; LNGA.

ར། RKA ལ། SGA ས། LNGA

4) In his *Overview of the Middle Way*, Kedrup Tenpa Dargye states that if we have any mind at all then we must go for shelter to the Buddha from the hopelessness and terror of cyclic existence, and come to stay in His teachings. What is the real meaning of taking shelter here?

It is to seek protection from the pain of the cycle of life in the wisdom realizing emptiness. That is, to achieve the wisdom whereby you no longer see things as coming to you from out there of its own accord, but sees that you are actually karmically projecting everything you experience.

5) He then says that the teaching into which we should enter and stay can be divided into the 'physical teachings' and 'the teachings in the form of realizations'. Of the former, why does Kedrup Tenpa Dargye write that the perfection of wisdom sutras are the highest and most exalted?

The Perfection of Wisdom Sutras are the highest and most exalted from the point of view of their subject matter because they explicitly and at great length teach emptiness. And one must realize emptiness not only to reach full and perfect enlightenment but also nirvana. He also writes that they are the highest because underlying this subject matter is the implicit treatment of the three tracks and the nature of their realizations and so on.

6) What poetic phrase does Kedrup Tenpa Dargye use for the 'profound object'? (In either Tibetan or English.)

ཏེན་འབྲུང་གི་དེ་ལོ་ན་ཉིད།

ten jung gi de kona nyi

"the suchness of dependent origination"

7) The approach of which great master does Kedrup Tenpa Dargye follow in order to set forth a comprehensive treatment of emptiness? Also give the two specific methods used by this 'Savior' to establish the meaning of emptiness.

Kedrup Tenpa Dargye follows the way of the Savior, Nagarjuna who used both scriptural authority and logical reasoning to establish the meaning of the 'suchness of dependent origination'.

8) What are the two works (or collections of works) composed by this Savior to present these two methods for establishing the meaning of emptiness?

Arya Nagarjuna composed *The Compendium of the Sutras* for presenting scriptural authority for the meaning of the 'suchness of dependent origination'. And he composed 'The Middle-Way Collection of Six Works on Reasoning' to present the logical reasonings.