



Name:
Date:
Grade:

Sacred Classics Translator Program

Homework, Class 8

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

ཡ། ya ར། ra ལ། la

2) Write the first three letters of the first row with a subjoined ཡ། (ya-tak).

What effect does the yatak have on their pronunciation?

ཀ། kya ཁ། khya ག། gya

The ya-tak creates the ‘y’ sound in these letters. For example, ka - ya-tak - kya. The letters retain the characteristic of its column (that is, unaspirated, aspirated or Brazilian voiced).

3) What pronunciation effect does a ya-tak have on the letters of the fourth row?

When a ya-tak is attached to a letter of the fourth row the letter is pronounced like its counterpart letter of the same column in the second row. For example, a ba with a yatak (བ།) is pronounced like the third letter of the second row: ja (ཇ།).

4) To what rows is a subjoined ར། (ratak) attached? How are these letters pronounced?

The ར། is primarily subjoined only to the letters of the first 3 columns of rows 1, 3 and 4. The pronunciation is always a retroflex dental (formed by folding back the tip of the tongue along the top of the palate). The letters retain the characteristics of their column (that is, unaspirated, aspirated or Brazilian voiced. In this way, each letter of each column with a ratak is pronounced the same.

Rataks are also attached to ལ (sa) and ལ (ma). It does not affect the pronunciation.

5) How are letters with a subjoined ལ (latak) pronounced? What is the one exception?

They are pronounced with a high tone 'la'. The one exception is: ལ which is pronounced 'nda'.

6) In his 'Overview of the Middle Way', Kedrup Tenpa Dargye reviews the Middle-Way Collection of Six Works on Reasoning composed by Arya Nagarjuna to present logical proofs for emptiness. Name these six works and briefly explain their logical progression.

1) *The Root Text on Wisdom* refutes the notion of a truly existing working thing - as asserted by the lower three schools which hold to the view that if something performs a function / does something then it must possess some true existence.

2) *Smashing Things to Fine Dust* refutes the idea that logic itself (that what we use to establish the proof of things - specifically the sixteen different logical terms) has any inherent nature.

3) *Seventy Lines on Emptiness* specifically presents how the changing nature of working things is consistent with their lacking any self-nature.

4) *The Refutation of Argument* specifically addresses how the entire system of positive and negative objects is still quite correct.

The last two books, 5) *A String of Jewels of the Middle Way* and 6) *Sixty Lines of Reasoning* demonstrate that the wisdom realizing suchness - the wisdom which avoids the two extremes by asserting that things can exist nominally and still lack any self-nature - is in fact the path that liberates one from suffering.

7) Give Kedrup Tenpa Dargye's list of the sixteen logical terms addressed in Arya Nagarjuna's *Smashing Things to Fine Dust*? Did other sources completely agree with his division?

According to Kedrup Tenpa Dargye, the sixteen logical terms are: 1) correct perception; 2) the object considered; 3) doubt (bad logic); 4) necessity (good logic); 5) philosophical school; 6) parts; 7) logic (general); 8) establishment (set forth reason); 9) debate; 10) statement; 11) refutation; 12) opponent; 13) false logic; 14) their words; 15) reason; and 16) termination.

We checked other Sungbum and a Tengyur sources and found slightly different lists. They included 'example' as one of the 16 and listed 'refutation' and 'opponent' together as part of one term.