

Module XIII - Class 9
June 16, 2016
Talk 6 – Identification with the Teachings

This is the last talk in the book *The Complete Teachings of Mahayana*
But there is one more class in this module: Tonglen practice. Download instructions.

Identification with the Teachings

- Teachings are internalized. One manifests the dharma as a way of being in the world, rather than needing to refer to a set of instructions.
- This depends on having Refuge and Bodhisattva vows in one's heart, whether one has had formal vows or not.
- Going beyond intellectual speculation on the teachings.
- Spiritual friend and teachings are complimentary.
- The Bodhisattva Path is working with Aggression.
- Doctrine is a friendly message rather than a menu.

Three Obstacles to Identification with the Teachings

- A Business-Like Mentality: What is most efficient? What am I going to get from it?
- Insult to Personal Dignity: These teachings are humiliating *me!*
- Wanting to impress people (friends, students etc.) with the dharma.

The Six Paramitas

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| • Generosity | Dana |
| • Discipline | Shila |
| • Patience | Kṣānti |
| • Energy | Virya |
| • Meditation | Samadhi |
| • Knowledge (sometimes Wisdom) | Prajña |

Summary of Mahayana Path

- Sense of Heroism
- Skillful means are necessary
- Without complete identification with teachings, nothing is effective – like shooting arrows in the dark
- Experiencing what is needed in a situation rather than relying on blind faith or having to be smart
- Intelligence becomes greater and greater and begins to eat through layers of ego-manufactured walls and barriers
- Mahayana is all about waking up rather than being saved

Strong hint that the Six Paramitas should be studied soon