

Together on the Path

13-Apr-2021

Take a few minutes to get to know each other :)

Questions

1. Why do we need a Mahayana teacher?
2. What are the qualities of the dharma teacher? ([flip to next page for help](#))
3. What are the qualities of the student? ([flip to next page for help](#))
4. How should the student approach the teachings? ([flip to next page for help](#))
5. What are the four reliances you need to apply to your guru? Why are they necessary?
([flip to next page for help](#))
6. When have you experienced that the four reliances were put into practice when listening to your guru?
7. If you have a Mahayana teacher: Discuss how your teacher helps you in your Dharma practice.

2. The qualities of the teacher:

1. Endowed with discipline, the teacher is gentle
2. Endowed with samadhi, the teacher is at peace
3. Endowed with wisdom, they have thoroughly pacified the afflictions
4. Possessing qualities that surpass all others, they possess superior qualities
5. Free of laziness when it comes to benefiting others, they are diligent
6. Having studied extensively, they are rich in terms of scripture
7. Knowing the true nature as that which is to be known, they are realized with respect to reality
8. They are eloquent and skilled in teaching
9. They are loving in nature and not influenced by concerns for material wealth
10. They have relinquished weariness with regard to teaching the dharma.

3. The qualities of the student

1. unbiased / impartial / open-minded
2. intelligent
3. with great endeavor / joyous effort
4. attentive mind
5. respect for the teacher and the teaching

4. The way to approach the teachings, the helpful attitudes

1. Think of yourself that you are like a patient
2. Think of the holy Dharma as being medicine
3. Think of your spiritual guide as a skillful doctor
4. Think that diligent practice will cure the illness
5. Think that buddhas and bodhisattvas are holy beings
6. Think that this tradition should be preserved for a long time

5. The four reliances

1. Rely on the message of the teacher, not on his personality
2. Rely on the meaning, not just on the words
3. Rely on the real meaning, not on the provisional one
4. Rely on your wisdom mind, not on your ordinary, judgmental mind