भ्या | अड्डया | mandel

|रे.रप:स्रीट:पक्षेत्रे:सुर्यःपक्षुत्रःपःवरी|
rirab lingshi nyinde gyenpa di,

sangye shingdu mikte ulwar gyi,

|त्र्ज्ञेंगुर्द्रस्य द्वालिट त्य र्श्वेद प्रमः र्व्जा । | drokun namdak shingla chupar shok.

ाक्षे दे त्यु दु र इ अड़ य मैं वैठू ह प्य हो।

Idam guru ratna mandalakam niryatayami.

Offering the Mandala

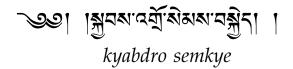
Here is the great Earth, Filled with the smell of incense, Covered with a blanket of flowers,

The Great Mountain, The Four Continents, Wearing a jewel Of the Sun, and Moon.

In my mind I make them The Paradise of a Buddha, And offer it all to You.

By this deed May every living being Experience The Pure World.

Idam guru ratna mandalakam niryatayami.



|প্রধ্যক্রিপ্রভূপ,২৮.পুর্যাপ,শ্রী,পপুর্যা,রপ্রপারো

sangye chudang tsokyi choknam la,

|चु८:कुव:वर:रु:वर्गाःदे:श्रुवशःशुःअकेश|

jangchub bardu dakni kyabsu chi,

| บารุการกุลาลักลาสฏิลานวิ เฉลัราสุมลาฏิลา dakki jinsok gyipay sunam kyi,

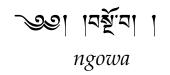
| तर्ज्ञाः ताः प्रवाद्याः अद्याद्याः प्रवाद्याः प्रवाद्याः विवाद्याः विवाद्याः विवाद्याः विवाद्याः विवाद्याः व

Refuge and The Wish

I go for refuge To the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha Until I achieve enlightenment.

By the power Of the goodness that I do In giving and the rest,

May I reach Buddhahood For the sake Of every living being.



| इस्में प्रति प्

เปล่า เลี้ยง เล้ยง เลี้ยง เล้ยง เล

รunam yeshe lejung way,

| द्रमः सः भुः निष्ठेशः वर्षेनः धरः विन्। । । dampa kunyi topar shok.

Dedication of the Goodness of a Deed

By the goodness Of what I have just done May all beings

Complete the collection Of merit and wisdom,

And thus gain the two Ultimate bodies That merit and wisdom make.

ञ्जा ।सर्केर्:या । chupa

|क्रेंब:य:ब्र:बोद:बदश:क्रुब:देव:यें:के|

tonpa lame sanggye rinpoche,

ब्रिंच यः त्वः येऽ : ५ यः कें यः रे दः यें के ।

kyoppa lame damchu rinpoche,

विदेशमास्यासेनानयो वित्तर्भने संस्कृ

drenpa lame gendun rinpoche,

।श्चित्रशः वाद्यशः नृग्वितः सक्त्याः वासुसः तः सक्ति ।

kyabne konchok sumla chupa bul.

A Buddhist Grace

I offer this To the Teacher Higher than any other, The precious Buddha.

I offer this To the protection Higher than any other, The precious Dharma.

I offer this
To the guides
Higher than any other,
The precious Sangha.

I offer this
To the places of refuge,
To the Three Jewels,
Rare and supreme.



The Asian Classics Institute Course VIII: Death and the Realms of Existence

Level Two of Higher Knowledge (Abhidharma)

Class Syllabus

Reading One

Subject: Review of syllabus, schedule, and class rules; introduction to the

desire and form realms.

Reading: The Treasure House of Higher Knowledge (Abhidharma Kosha) of

Master Vasubandhu (c. 350 AD), Chapter III, lines 1-8; with commentary from the *Illumination of the Path to Freedom (mDzod-tik thar-lam gsal-byed)* by Gyalwa Gendun Drup, His Holiness the

First Dalai Lama (1391-1474).

Reading Two

Subject: Introduction to the formless realm; the five different births; the

ways of taking birth; pre-knowledge of your birth

Reading: The Treasure House, Chapter III, lines 9-16, 31-36, 61-68; with

commentary from the *Illumination of the Path*.

Reading Three

Subject: The lives of craving spirits, and animals.

Reading: The Great Book on the Steps of the Teaching (bsTan-rim chen-mo), by

Geshe Drolungpa (c. 1100 AD), folios 83b-86a.

Reading Four

Subject: The lives of humans, and pleasure beings.

Reading: The *Path of Ease (bDe-lam)*, by His Holiness the First Panchen

Lama, Lobsang Chukyi Gyeltsen (1567?-1662); with a selection from the *Chest of Riches (Rin-chen bang-mdzod)*, a commentary on this work by Master Ngulchu Dharma Bhadra (1772-1851), folios

61a-64b.

Course VIII: Death and the Realms of Existence Course Syllabus

Reading Five

Subject: All about the beings living in the intermediate state (the *bardo*):

their basic natures; logical and scriptural proofs for their existence; what their bodies look like; their other features; and

how these beings find their next birth.

Reading: The *Treasure House*, Chapter III, lines 37-60; with commentary

from the Illumination of the Path.

Reading Six

Subject: The types of sustenance, and a general description of the physical

world.

Reading: The *Treasure House*, Chapter III, lines 152-158, and 177-230; with

commentary from the Illumination of the Path.

Reading Seven

Subject: The lives of hellbeings.

Reading: The *Treasure House*, Chapter III, lines 231-238; with commentary

from the Illumination of the Path.

Reading Eight

Subject: A description of time and space; the concept of an eon (*kalpa*); an

explanation of the eons of destruction, formation, and

continuation; a great eon, and the coming of a Buddha.

Reading: The *Treasure House*, Chapter III, lines 358-376; with commentary

from the Illumination of the Path.

Reading Nine

Subject: The meditation on death, part one: problems of not thinking

about death; benefits of thinking about death; how to start

thinking about death; first of the three principles of death.

Reading: The Great Book on the Steps of the Path, by Je Tsongkapa (1357-

1419), pages 98-108.

Reading Ten

Subject: Second and third of the three principles of death; and the three

resolutions.

Reading: The *Great Book on the Steps of the Path*, pages 108-114.

The Asian Classics Institute Course VIII: Death and the Realms of Existence

Reading One: Introduction to the desire and form realms

The following selection is taken from the Illumination of the Path to Freedom, a commentary by Gyalwa Gendun Drup, His Holiness the First Dalai Lama, on the Treasure House of Higher Knowledge (Abhidharma Kosha), written by the Buddhist master Vasubandhu in the fourth century AD. Master Vasubandhu's root text verses do not appear in the original of the commentary, and have been inserted at the appropriate points. Parts of these verses woven into the commentary have been printed in bold to show the close connection of the two works, and section headings have been provided for clarity.

यशियारीयात्रियात्

The third chapter [of the *Treasure House of Higher Knowledge*] is called "A Presentation of the World," and our discussion of it has two parts: (1) an explanation of the world of living beings—those who are taking birth, and (2) an explanation of the world that acts as their container—the place in which they're born. The living beings we will treat in three steps: their different divisions, various features, and an in-depth explanation of their basic nature. The first step itself covers first the division of beings into those of the three realms, and then their division into the five types of birth.

1
The Desire Realm

Hell beings, craving spirits, animals, Men, six different types of pleasure beings: These are the realm of desire. They are twenty By dividing up hell and the continents.

[III.1-4]

यस्त्रम् व्यक्ष्यस्य व्यक्ष्यस्य व्यक्ष्यस्य व्यक्ष्यस्य व्यक्ष्यस्य व्यक्ष्यस्य व्यक्ष्यस्य व्यक्ष्यस्य व्यक्षयस्य विषयस्य विषयस

One may begin with the following question:

Above, [in line 292 of the second chapter,] you mentioned "states of mental affliction with three realms." With these and other references you have been indicating that the mind and mental functions, as well as other objects, may be divided into categories that relate to three different realms. Just what are these three realms?

These three are the desire realm, the form realm, and the formless realm. We'll start by describing the first of them.

द्यायः यः श्रेन् प्रस्यः व न्यायः यः यो न्यायः व न्यायः यः श्रेन् प्रस्यः व न्यायः यः प्रस्यः व न्यायः यः प्रस्यः व न्यायः व न्यायः यः व न्यायः व न्यायः यः व न्यायः व न्य

धीव:र्वे।

Hell beings [Sanskrit: naraka] are so called because they live without [Skt: na] any comfort [Skt: rañj]. Craving spirits [preta] are so called either because they come to their state without turning back [apunarāvṛt] or because they are overcome [parīta] by thirst. Animals [tiryañca] are given this name because they go along on all fours, in a bent-over position [tiryac]. Men get their name from their mental prowess [the Sanskrit etymology also holds in English], and the six different types of pleasure beings or gods [divaukas] of the desire realm are so called because their homes are in the sky [div]. These are the realm of desire.

The realm of desire may also be divided into **twenty** different classes of beings. **By dividing hell** into the eight hot hells, we get a total of ten different births of misery. **By dividing** human beings up into those belonging to each of **the** four **continents**, we get a total of ten happy kinds of birth. There is a reason why we make no separate count of the eight cold hells and various partial hells: the former are not the principal hells, and the latter are indefinite as to lifespans, locations, and so on.

The *Actual Level* explains the desire realm as being divided into thirty-six parts. In this count animals are excluded, since their location is nothing definite. The others are the eight hot hells, eight cold hells, craving spirits, and lesser

pleasure beings, making a total of eighteen—and on top of this humans split into those on each of twelve continents, and six types of desire-realm pleasure beings.

Consider now these hell beings and the others, along with their particular locations and the rest. They are the desire realm, for they are a realm of objects with which mental afflictions which are non-virtues can develop. Someone may then pose the following question:

What about the state of mind used to produce an emanation? Isn't this something possessed by beings who are free of desire? How could mental afflictions develop with this?

Someone else could hear that the person had such an ability, and gain desire towards this state of mind. Or the person himself could begin to worry that he might lose the ability and thus gain desire towards it. Still again, someone might catch sight of some exquisite emanation, think how wonderful the state of mind behind it was, and thereby start to desire it. Finally, even if this state of mind doesn't directly cause mental affliction to develop in someone's mind, it is still "an object with which mental affliction can develop"—since smells and tastes of the desire realm can be emanated in this state.

रुषुरावर्रेनामम्बर्धालेशामुःलिन्। वर्रेनायान्यास्यापितामम्बर्धास्यासान्ते

सत्यानुर्वे। सर्देर्याने मार लेखा यहिया सर्मिया अश्वेर मिश्रा हो हो र

Someone may ask why we call it the "desire realm." We do so because it is a realm full of desire. And what is desire? Craving aimed at getting sex or food.

2 The Form Realm

The seventeen locations above it
Are the realm of form. The levels of
The various concentrations for it, three.
Eight different levels correspond to the fourth.

[III.5-8]

|याबियाकाः अक्ट्र्याः मृत्याः प्रवाधिकारः प्रवाधिकारः विद्वाधाः विद्वाधाः प्रवाधाः विद्वाधाः प्रवाधाः विद्वाधाः विद्वाधाः प्रविद्याः प्रवाधाः विद्वाधाः विद

Consider now the seventeen different locations above it—above the desire realm. This is the realm of form, for it is first of all beyond the level of the desire realm and can lead to the development of the particular mental afflictions of this level. Secondly, it is a realm where form reaches its height.

यश्चर्यायात्रयः ने त्यात्र्यः यहित्रः स्त्रीः यश्चर्यायात्र्यः स्त्रीः यश्चरः स्त्रीः यश्चरः स्त्रीः यश्चरः स्

यवै राषे प्रमुन या प्रमुन प्रवे सुन है।

This realm of form has seventeen parts in that there are **three levels** each corresponding to each of the first three **of the various** types of **concentration** that act as causes **for** a birth in "it"—that is, the form realm. And there are **eight different levels** that **correspond to the fourth** and final type of concentration. These correspondences are as follows.

One may engage in three different degrees of causal meditation relating to the first concentration level: these are the greater, the medium, and the lesser. These three degrees of meditation cause one to take birth, respectively, into the levels known as "Class of the Pure," "Reciting Before the Pure One," and "the Great Pure One."

पिक्री क्षिया प्रति स्वास्त्र स्वास

Meditation on the same three degrees, relating to the second concentration level, leads to respective births in the levels known as "Lesser Light," "Immeasurable Light," and "Clear Light." Meditation again on the three degrees, those related to the third concentration level, leads to respective births in the levels known as "Lesser Virtue," "Immeasurable Virtue," and "Widespread Virtue."

Meditation on the stained parts of the fourth concentration level by ordinary beings leads them to a birth at one of the three stages. They are known as "Cloudless," "Birth of Merit," and the "Great Result." When realized beings meditate on five different stages of the fourth concentration level, they take their respective births in what are called the "Five Pure Places." The five causal stages are known as "the lesser" (three alternations), "the medium" (six alternations), "the great" (nine alternations), "the very great," (twelve alternations), and "the really very great" (fifteen alternations).

One may ask why we call it the "form realm." It is so named because the characteristic which distinguishes it is the extraordinary form there. The Detailist group called "Under the Sun" claims that there are seventeen distinct locales within the form realm because the god known as the "Great Pure One" has a lifespan, feelings, and conceptions which are totally separate from those of the beings who sit before him reciting their religious books.

The Kashmiri Detailists claim, on the other hand, that there are only sixteen distinct locales in the form realm, since although the Great Pure One is enthroned in a slightly elevated position at the head of those who recite before him, there is really no separate location. Further, the Arya Master [Asanga] has stated that there are eighteen distinct locales to the form realm, as it includes the level known as "Below None" which is also a paradise.

The Asian Classics Institute Course VIII: Death and the Realms of Existence

Reading Two: Introduction to the formless realm; the five different births; the ways of taking birth; pre-knowledge of your birth

The following selections are taken from the Illumination of the Path to Freedom, a commentary by Gyalwa Gendun Drup, His Holiness the First Dalai Lama, on the Treasure House of Higher Knowledge (Abhidharma Kosha), written by the Buddhist master Vasubandhu in the fourth century AD. Master Vasubandhu's root text verses do not appear in the original of the commentary, and have been inserted at the appropriate points. Parts of these verses woven into the commentary have been printed in bold to show the close connection of the two works, and section headings have been provided for clarity.

3 The Formless Realm

|याञ्चयाश्वास्त्रीत्वस्त्रात्वस्त्रम्

There is no place for the formless realm; Four kinds, depending on that given rise. In this one the mental continuum Is based on the discrete type and life as well.

[III.9-12]

|ग्राञ्चर्यायाः सेन्।प्रस्थायः यात्रयायात्वयः व्यायायः सेन्। याञ्चर्यायाः सेन्।ग्रीः हैनः देः

याः स्वीकाताः सक्षाताः चित्रे स्वीत् वित्ते स्वीत् वित्ते स्वीत् वित्ते स्वीत् वित्ते स्वीत् वित्ते स्वीत् वित्ते स्वीतः वित्वे स्वतः स्वावित्ते स्वीतः वित्वे स्वतः स्वावित्ते स्वतः स्व

There is no other, separate place for the formless realm. A person who is born there must first have attained single-pointed concentration relating to the formless realm, and must not have lost this ability since that time. When such a person dies and migrates, he is born into the formless realm at the very place where he died, the four "name" heaps of the formless realm coming into existence there. There are however four kinds of levels to the formless realm, depending on the relative quality of that meditation to which one had given rise and which had caused his birth there. These are the levels known as the "Door of Limitless Space" and so on.

श्यानातातात्तरत्तर्वे स्तरावस्त्र स्त्राच्यान्तर्वे।

याच्चियान्तर्वे । । प्रमाले स्त्राच्यान्तर्वे । स्त्राच्यान्तर्वे । प्रमाले स्त्राच्यान्तर्वे । प्रमाले स्त्राच्यान्तर्वे । स्त्राच । स्त्राच्यान्तर्वे । स्त्राच्यान्त्रयं । स्त्राच्यान्तर्वे । स्त्राच्यान्त्रयं । स्त्राच्यान्त्रयं । स्त्राच्यान्त्रयं । स्त्राच्यान्त्रयं । स्त्राच्यान्यान्त्रयं । स्त्राच । स्त्राच्यान्तर्वे । स्त्राच्यान्त्यान्त्यान

"If there's no form in the formless realm," one may ask, "then what provides a basis for the stream of mind there?" **In this one**—in the formless realm—the continuum of the mind is based on the continuation of a discrete type of being and upon life, as well. The words "as well" are meant to indicate that this stream of mind is also based on the ordinary being, on the factors not linked with mind, on holds, on the characteristics of birth, and so on.

र्ष्ट्रियशःग्रीशःयाञ्चयाश्चाग्रीःयनुःविशःन्दः व्यायशःश्चित्रः श्वेशःन्दः श्वेत्रः विश्वः विश

"Well then," one might ask, "couldn't the stream of mind in one of the two lower realms then also rely on the discrete type of being involved, or upon life, without depending upon form?" It could not, because the mind in these cases is of little force, as it is not yet free of the conception of form. The mind of the formless realm, on the other hand, need not rely on form: because of the power of its single-pointed concentration, the mind is free of the conception of form and thus possesses considerable force.

याप्रयायतः श्राच्यः त्यायाः स्त्रीः स्त्राच्यः स्त्राच्यः स्त्राच्यः स्त्राच्यः स्त्राच्यः स्त्राच्यः स्त्राच्य याप्रयाः स्त्राच्यः स्त्रीच्यः स्त्राच्यः स्त्राचः स्त्राच्यः स्त्राच्यः स्त्राच्यः स्त्राच्यः स्त्राच्यः स्त्राच्यः स्त्राच्यः स्त्राच्यः स्त्राचः स्त्

Consider these different levels—the "Door of Limitless Space" and the others. They are the formless realm, for they are first of all beyond the lower two realms. Secondly, they consist of objects that can lead to the development of the particular mental afflictions of the formless realm. And why is this realm called the "formless realm"? It is given the name because it is a realm which is absolutely devoid of form.

|मानेश्यायादी | मारायात्रायात्रायात्रीयात्रायात्रायात्रायात्रायात्रायात्रायात्रायात्रायात्रायात्रायात्रायात्रा

Having thus presented the division of living beings into those of the three realms, we now turn to a grouping into the five types of birth.

4 *The Five Types of Birth*

|देर-दे-द्युत्य-र्स्याय-दर्यो-च-ट्या |र--यो-से--योय-चम्द्र-दे-द्या |देद-से-स-उद-सेद-सु--स्यु--सम्द्र-सेद्या |सेसय-उद-विय-ग्र--सेद-सेदा

Five types of birth, hells and the rest, in them. Indicated by their names. They're not The affliction, but rather neutral ethically. Known as "sentient beings"—the inbetween not.

[III.13-6]

विष्णः व्यान्त्रः विष्णः विष्

Now there are **five types of birth**, those of a **hell** being **and the rest**, **in them**—in the three realms. They are **indicated by their** own separate **names**: hell beings, craving spirits, animals, humans, and pleasure beings. [Refer to the Sanskrit etymologies for these types listed in the commentary to the first verse of this chapter.]

What, in their essence, are they? Not virtue, because there are individuals among them who have lost their core of virtues; and not mental affliction, since there are those among them who have eliminated all their mental afflictions. Thus we can say that they are, rather, ethically neutral things, of the type that is not an impediment.

मी तम्, य.भारा क्रांचा वर्षेत्र तम् वर्षेत्र तम् वर्षेत्र त्या वर सूर्य स्था वर्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र तम् वर्षेत्र तम् वर्षेत्र क्षेत्र तम् वर्षेत्र क्षेत्र तम् वर्षेत्र क्षेत्र तम् वर्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र तम् वर्षेत्र क्षेत्र क

The five types are part of living beings, so they are **known as "sentient beings."** Those beings **in between** death and rebirth are sentient beings but **not** considered here as a separate type of birth. As *Comment on Wisdom* says,

|याट.भ.यर्बेश.य.सुट.त.यर.भर्। ।उर्जे.य.कंश.सु.यायश.यकु.भ.यर्बेश.स्। ।सु.यायश.यबुश.उर्जे.य.कं.यर्बेश.ग्री।

बिश्यासुदश्यायदे सुर-५८।

The four ways of birth cover all five types Of birth, though the five don't cover all four. Which is left? The being in between.

য়ৢ৴৻৸৻য়ঢ়ৢয়৻য়য়ৢয়৻৸য়৾৻য়য়ঢ়

The sutra called *The Seven Types of Lives* states as well:

श्रीत्रायत्र वर्षे । त्रुषायत्र श्रीत्र यात्र । यो त्रुषायाणे श्रीत्र यात्र । त्रुत्र श्रीत्र यात्र । यो त्रुष्य यो त्रुष्य

There are seven types of lives: life as a hell being, life as a craving spirit, life as an animal, life as a human, life as a pleasure being, life as a category of deeds, and the life in between.

यस्यामाराष्ट्रयामान्त्रेयामान्त्रेयामान्त्रेयामान्त्रेयामान्त्रेयामान्त्रेयामान्त्रेयामान्त्रेयामान्त्रेयामान्य

"If there are only five types of birth," one may ask, "then in which of these two types do you include the lesser pleasure beings?" According to realized master Asanga,

बुबान्सवायान्यान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्र याक्षेत्र-श्व-त्त्रान्त्रान्त्रीत्र। द्व-ग्रीट-क्षेत्र-क्ष्य-त्यात्र-क्ष्र्यात्तान्त्रा क्षेत्र-क्षेत्र-वट-तु-वाक्ष्यात्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्रान्त्र

...They are to be included among the full-fledged pleasure beings. This is because they vie with these beings in their physical appearance and material wealth, and belong to the same family. The lesser pleasure beings are though inferior in their qualities to the complete pleasure beings, and thus we refer to them as "pleasure beings" but [in Sanskrit and Tibetan] with the negative attached to their name, to indicate inferiority.

। अर्दे : द्वर्यः केरः वालवा : यश्यः अः धेदः धेर्यः वाशः द्वरः द्वर्यः वाहेवाशः यः दरः। अर्दे : विः क्वेवाः कृः वर्षे : वर्षे वाद्वयः यश्यः यदः विदः दे।

The sutra called *Constant Recollection* explains that the lesser pleasure beings should be grouped with craving spirits or among the animals. A number of other sutras also teach them as being a sixth type of being.

As for harmful spirits, some may be counted among the pleasure beings, and others among the craving spirits. The spirits known as "those who live on smells" are grouped into the pleasure beings, as they serve as their musicians. The great *garuda* birds, the "big-belly" and "humanoid" spirits, as well as the serpent-like *naga* creatures are all explained as belonging to the animal type.

The spirits known as "flesh-eaters," "crazy-makers," and "those who cause forgetfulness," as well as the *ma-mo* spirits, are all considered different kinds of craving spirits.

यावक्षः न्या। । इस्र विकायावका यावि। वनुवान विकायाः यावका या

This completes our discussion of the different divisions of living beings. Now we continue to a presentation of their various features. This presentation will cover four topics: the seven states of consciousness, the nine states of living beings, the four states of consciousness, and an analysis of how the seven and four states overlap.

9
The States of Birth

Here the states of birth for living beings
Are counted as four: birth from an egg and the rest.
Four exist with humans, and animals.
Hell beings and the beings of pleasure as well
As beings between their lives are born complete.
Craving spirits are also born from the womb.

[III.31-6]

One may begin with the question: "How many states of birth are there for beings of the three realms?" Here in the three realms the different states of birth for living beings are counted as four: birth from an egg and "the rest"—which refers to birth from the womb, birth from warmth and moisture, and instantaneous birth as a complete being.

"What kinds of beings," one may ask, "have which of the different states of birth?" All **four** types of birth **exist with humans.** An example of instant, complete birth would be humans of the very first eon. The king called "Let-Me-Nurse-You" would typify birth from warmth and moisture. A case of humans born from eggs would be the elders Drak and Nyedrak, who were offspring of a shipwrecked merchant who coupled with a female crane. Another such instance would be that of Sagala, a woman with laywoman's vows, who gave 32 eggs from which 32 boys sprang forth. Yet another case would be that of the queen of King Panchala, who gave 500 eggs. These were put into a chest that was thrown into the Ganges River. A Lichavi youth saw the chest while washing—and when he opened the lid, 500 boys sprang forth. Examples of birth from the womb would be the majority of humans of present times.

१८८८ वर्ग् त्यः क्षे याय वयः ययः यवि । ययः ययः ययः क्षेटः क्षे यायकः यवि । ययः वि । ययः यवि । ययः वि । ययः यवि १८८८ वर्ष्

All **four** types of birth **exist with animals**—we see an explanation that "The great *garuda* birds, who can be born in any of the four different ways, devour the serpent-like *nagas*, themselves born in all four different ways."

त्रश्यायाः स्थ्याद्या भूत्र । भूत्यायाः स्थात्ते भूतायाः स्थात्ते । भूत्यायाः स्थायाः स्थात्ते । भूत्यायाः स्थायाः स्थायाः स्थायः । भूत्यायाः स्थायाः स्थायः । भूत्यायाः स्थायः । भूत्यायः स्थायः । भूत्यायः । भूत्यायः स्थायः । भूत्यायः । भूत्य

अदयः दशः श्रीः चवदः प्येदः यः प्येदः है। प्येः द्वावाः श्रेः द्वियाः योषाः चर्रुदः यः श्रेर्द्वा व्यः श्रीः तु केदः यें त्या

Hell beings and the beings of pleasure, as well as beings between their lives, are born instantly, complete in every way. This is because they possess tremendous energy coming from their past deeds. The majority of craving spirits are born complete, but there are also those that are born from the womb. As a certain craving spirit, a female one, said to the great and revered Maudgalyayana:

यन्ताः वीश्वास्त्रस्य स्थाः निः पिले दे ते दे त्याः स्थाः स्थाः पश्ची नः दे त्याः स्थाः स्थाः स्थाः पश्ची नः दे त्याः स्थाः स्थाः स्थाः प्रस्ति स्थाः स्याः स्थाः स्थाः

উষাবরুদানরীশ্বীদা

By night I bear five sons, By day another five. Even though I eat them, Never satisfied.

One might ask the following: "Which of these kinds of birth are better?" Complete birth, birth from warmth and moisture, birth from the womb, and birth from an egg are each a better type of birth than the next. This is because the first is a way to take birth without hurting anyone, neither oneself nor another. With the next type, there is no harm to another. And with the last two types of birth, you undergo pain yourself, respectively, either once or twice.

Someone may raise the following objection:

If complete birth is a better way to take birth, then why didn't King Siddhartha take birth complete? After all, he was a bodhisattva in his final life, one who had achieved the power to take any birth he pleased. What purpose was served by taking birth from the womb?

He did have a purpose: first of all, he wanted to lead his relatives of the Shakya clan to the Teaching. Secondly, his human followers would be inspired to emulate him. Lastly, he wanted to avoid any possibility of raising suspicions in people who might think to themselves that our Teacher was a wizard, or something similar, if they saw him display great miracles or mystic power.

बिश्वासुरार्श।

प्रति । सुरानुरायक्ष्यायस्य प्रति प्रति । सुरानुरायक्ष्यायस्य प्रति । सुरानुरायक्ष्यायस्य प्रति । सुरानुरायक्ष्यायस्य । प्रति । सुरानुरायक्ष्यायस्य । सुरानुरायक्ष्य । सुरानुरायक्ष्य । सुरानुरायक्ष्य । सुरानुरायक्ष्य । सुरानुरायक्ष्य । सुरायक्ष्य । सुरानुरायक्ष्य । सुरायक्ष्य । सुरायक्ष । सुरायक्ष्य । सुरायक्ष । सुरायक्य । सुरायक्ष । सुरायक्ष । सुरायक्ष । सुरायक्ष । सुरायक्ष । सुरायक

Some people claim that the Buddha took birth from the womb in order to be able to leave his bodily relics behind and thereby attract even more followers than if he hadn't done so. This is because a person born through instant, complete birth leaves behind no corpse. Master Vasubandhu though states that "This is not a correct answer to the question, for we accept that relics are left behind by force of the holy person's own blessing."

तदः हुर।

यदः हुर।

यदः हुर।

वदः ह

Someone may object to the above explanation that beings born complete leave no corpse: "Doesn't it contradict the statement that `the great *garuda* birds, born complete, devastate the serpent *nagas* (also born complete) by devouring them'?" But keep in mind that the expression is "by devouring them"—not "by having devoured them." You could also say that they devour them only until they die.

द्र्यं श्री योष्ट्र योट्र अट्र हो योट्र य बट्ट य पहित्र अट्र

One might ask which kinds of birth are the most common. The better the birth as explained above, the more types of beings born that way.

16 Knowledge of One's Birth

विक्तिः देन्यः विकायितः विकायितः विकायितः विकायितः विकायितः विकायः विका

One is cognizant while entering,
Another so while staying too; others
As they issue. One more ignorant all.
This is always the case with those from eggs.
Three are the types who enter the womb or such:
Wheel emperors and the two self-born,
Respectively, due to the vastness of their
Deeds, their wisdom, or the both of them.

[III.61-8]

"In the lines above," one may begin, "you mentioned beings' entering the womb because of a mistaken impression.' Does this hold true in every case?" **One** type **is cognizant** of what they are doing **while** they are **entering** the womb, yet lose this awareness during their stay there. **Another** type is cognizant not only of entering the womb but **while** they are **staying** there **too**. Still **others** are moreover cognizant **as they issue** from the womb as well. **One more** type is **ignorant** of **all** three, cognizant of neither entering, nor staying in, nor issuing from the womb. **Those** who are born **from eggs**, even if they are selfmade victors, are **always** of this last type, and it alone—ignorant. This is what they say.

ल.चेश.ग्री.क्र्योश.टेट.चब्र्ट.चेशश.टेट.ल.चेश.ग्री.क्र्योश.चाक्षेश.चान्त्रेश.च.चे.क्र.च्यां.च्यां.चेश्य.चेश्

"Just who is it," one may ask, "that represents each of these three types—those who are cognizant of entering the womb but not staying there, and so on?" Three are the types who enter the womb as such; respectively, wheel-

empowered **emperors and the two "self-born"**—referring to self-made victors and Buddhas. They enter as they do **due to** the fact that they have been able, respectively, to amass **vast** collections of **deeds** (referring in this case to merit), **wisdom, and** merit and wisdom **both**.

The Asian Classics Institute Course VIII: Death and the Realms of Existence

Reading Three: The lives of craving spirits, and animals

The following selection is taken from the Great Book on the Steps of the Teaching, composed by the Kadampa Geshe Drolungpa, Lodru Jungne (c. 1100 AD).

I have already explained how the deeds which lead to a life as a craving spirit or an animal are precisely medium or lesser instances of the ten wrong actions. Now I will describe these two kinds of beings themselves, from the point of view of specific characteristics.

Now I will address the lives of craving spirits from the point of view of what causes them to be.

 | र्यः यह्याश्रः श्रद्धाश्रः यश्याश्रः श्रेष्ठः । । स्वाद्ध्याश्रः यश्याश्रः श्रेष्ठः । । स्वाद्ध्याश्रः यश्याश्रः स्वाद्धः यश्याश्यः स्वाद्धः यश्याश्यः स्वाद्धः यश्याश्यः स्वाद्धः यश्याश्यः स्वाद्धः यश्यः स्वादः स्वादः यश्यः स्वादः स्वादः यश्यः स्वादः स्वादः यश्यः स्वादः स्वतः स्वादः स्वतः स्वादः स्वतः स्वादः स्वादः स्वतः स्वादः स्वादः स्वतः स्वादः स्वादः स्वादः स्वादः स्वादः स्वादः स्वतः स्वादः स्वादः स्वादः स्वादः स्वादः स्वादः स्वादः स्वादः स्वतः

It comes from a part or parts of the ten paths of deeds,
But mostly because the person's misled by his cheapness
Or jealousy and forgets the three kinds of giving.
He neglects to share with all who were offered a thing,
Reduces what was earmarked, or never gives it at all,
Redirects it, prevents it, or anything of the like.
A mind full of this dirt collects a mass of loathsome deeds;
Awesome strong, they drag him down to the life of a craving spirit.

|भ्रो.रच].य.यथे.स्.एयंत्रेर.री. योबय.लार.रेय.त.क्रेय.योबयो.लाक्रा २८.। क्रत्या.क.रचो.रेर.। योबय.लार.रेय.त.क्रेय.योबयो.लाक्षा

Here a "part" of the ten bad deeds can refer to performing them to a medium extent, or else to a "part" in the sense of some residual karmic energy from having performed them to a greater extent. A part or parts like this lead to this particular rebirth, as do the following deeds described in the text called *Constant Awareness:*

पर्श्वित्रः या निर्मा त्व्रवार्धे निर्मा नि

श्चें पर वर्गुर है। यवा केर थी द्वाया केर स्थान सुर्वे । विश्वाया सुर या श्री

Most of these are people who were misled by their own cheapness, or by their desire for the miserable possessions of this world, or who were overwhelmed by a hope for the miserable offerings that are all someone here can present you with. And because of this they found they could not give to others. They could not give to any of those who might come to ask: they gave neither to practitioners of the Dharma, nor to Brahmins, nor the poor, nor needy, nor destitute. They did no good deeds. They observed nothing of that great sea of ethical living, neither for this life, nor for the life beyond. They provided nothing for their children, or for their wives, or to the men and women who served them, or to all the others whom it was their responsibility to sustain with meat and bread. Their cheapness swindled them out of all they could hope for, in this world and the next. They are people too who were swindled by their quarreling, or by jealousy. These for the most part then are the kinds of people who take birth as craving spirits; and most of them turn into those craving spirits who are witches.

१२.यब्रेष.२.यर्क्र्स.४४.४१.व्री४.त.ज.स्योश.त.जश.८४.त.स.स.स्य.योश.गीर.ट्र.

In addition to these kinds of actions there is failing to hand over offerings that were earmarked for a certain virtuous purpose, and all the rest: a whole mass of different bad deeds that can lead you to this kind of birth.

ৠবার্ষাগ্রী'ন্ত্রির'মম'রী

Here next is some detail from the point of view of where it is that craving spirits live.

One place they stay is the world of our daily life, And the other is their land, 500 yojana under the ground, And 3600 from the borders of our place.

Cravings spirits live in two different places, described as follows:

There are those who roam about our world, and then there are those who stay in their own land. It is sometimes possible for human beings to catch sight of the first kind, at night. Their own land is 500 yojana under the ground; except for extraordinary circumstances, this land is located 3600 yojana from the borders of Dzambu Continent. This distance though is variable.

क्षेत्रिया.चर्चला.ची.चिर.तर.यी

Here is some detail about the suffering experienced by these beings.

।श्र.लूश्चर्यायर्टरः क्रियो.यर्जला,ययंटः लग्नः वर्षा ।क्ष्मः यश्चिमः यीकः योकः भ्रमः क्ष्मः स्त्रीयः सः लू। ।ज्ञरः भ्रमः भ्रमः योकः योकः भ्रमः स्वाः सः लू। ।ज्ञरः भ्रमः भ्रमः योकः प्रमः योकः भ्रमः सः लो।

They're of three types, distinguished by the obstacles to what They live on: outer problems and inner, problems with food Or drink. All of them share though the infinite pain Of hunger and thirst, intense as the flames of a fire.

म्र्रीयःतः २४ दे.के.भ्रयाः २८ म्र्रेटः यम् स्वास्यास्य स्वास्य स्वास्य स्वास्य स्वास्य स्वास्य स्वास्य स्वास्य विष्ठे त्याः स्वास्य स

र्रे.शुरे.तज्र्। इयोश्वातश्चर्यायोत्तारीटा। की.जा.श्योश्वाशातयराक्ष्योशायश्चर्याश्चरीयोत्ताराज्ञ्याश्चरायश्चेत् यारियोश्चर्यात्र्यायोत्तारीत्तात्त्र्याश्चर्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्या

The sufferings of these craving spirits can all be reduced to three different kinds. First are those with outer obstacles to what they need to live on. People like this approach a place like a mountain spring, or a pond or stream, and catch sight of something that they could eat or drink. They race ahead to get it, only to be forced back by beings cutting them with knives, or beating them with clubs and such. Or else they come to the side of some water and find themselves unable to drink of it, for then it looks to them like blood and pus or the like.

यवतः यर्ने र मुद्रायात्र व्यास्त्री योयात्र मुद्रायात्र स्थात्र स्थात्य स्थात्र स्थात्र स्थात्र स्थात्य स्थात

Those craving spirits with inner obstacles have mouths no bigger than the eye of a needle, spouting with flame. Their throats are the size of a guitar string, but their bellies are huge. Even where there is no one to stop them, and even when they can locate something to eat or drink, they find themselves unable to get it down.

तब्दरशः श्रेष्ट्रियाः योषाः स्ट्रेष्ट्रयोषाः भ्रेष्ट्रयोषाः भ्रेष्ट्रयोषाः भ्रेष्ट्रयोषाः भ्रेष्ट्रयाः विष्ट्य १ वर्षे द्रयाः श्रेष्ट्रयाः योषाः स्ट्रेष्ट्रयोषाः भ्रेष्ट्रयोषाः भ्रेष्ट्रयाः विष्ट्यः विष्ट्यः विष्ट्यः विष्ट

Next are the craving spirits with obstacles to what they can eat or drink. An example would be the spirit whose name was "The Necklace of Flame." Every single thing this spirit tried to eat, and every single thing it tried to drink as well, would burn it instead; and whatever went down would anyway never relieve those feelings of hunger and thirst.

यार्च्र-ताझ्र-तानुःक्षाः श्रुंन्यमः वुषायव्। । याः विषाः वैषाः वः मान्यः वः विष्यः याः विष्यः वः विष्यः वः विषयः विषयः

विदः अत्या वार्वदः चवसः चर्केन् सः या वे क्वेन् स्य स्थाने वे

Some of these spirits are referred to as the "ones who eat filth." This refers to the fact that they are forced to eat feces, and drink urine; they are completely unable to partake of anything other than putrid, poisonous, disgusting excrement. Others are constantly cutting off pieces of their own flesh to get something to eat; they can never find anything which is clean, or fresh.

चर्षीयो.त.यह्यान्न.श्री.श्रीट.च.रेया.म् छेत्र.तयु.चलुष्ट.रेट.वि.तुष्ट.प्रै.चश्रेन्नन्न.ता.वेत्र.चत्र्या.ता चलुष्ट.चर्योन्न.श्रेन्न.चयः चश्रेन्नन्न.कृत्र.प्रेन्न.कृता.त.यर्ट.जा यार्ट्ट.श्रेन्नाव्यम्न.तुट.चर्योन्न.श्रेन्न.च्येन. विश्वमन्न.वर्ट.योट.चर्यान्न.त.रट.श्रेन्न.तन्न.याच्यान्न.वर्ट.वर्ट.वर्टाचयाग्रीयः

All of them have the look of a scorched piece of wood; the searing pain of hunger and thirst have dried up all their skin and flesh and blood. Their entire look has changed: their faces are covered with hair; their visage is gaunt, from hunger and thirst; their tongues pass over their lips, dry, and parched. They run from place to place, terrified, and aimless.

%।५व्रे:व:दे।

Next we cover all the different types of craving spirits.

मि.कुर्यायाग्री, रेष्टी, यश्चायायायायाया । यत्र च.मीय, यङ्गेय, ट्री. च.ता. श्र्यायायाया । व्री. यीया, रेट. यु. (यया. क्रिंस. से. ययु. (या । अर्ट्र प्राया अर्थाया अर्थायाया ।

In brief, they can be divided into thirty-six different types: The "pot-bellies," "needle-throats," "eaters of shit," "Take-anythings," "smell-eaters," and the rest. More broadly, The types are endless, according to the kinds of karma.

१२ेग्रार्गी:रवि:यःश्वेरःवशुःयःश्व्रार्श्वःश्वःश्वाःश्वे। र्वे:ग्रुगःर्रः। विवियःस्रःस्यः

खुश्राचित्वः संश्रक्षां श्री विद्यान्ता विद्यान्तः स्त्राच्याः स्त्राचः स्त्राच्याः स्त्राचः स्

In a brief way, these craving spirits can be divided into thirty-six different types, with the following names: (1) pot-bellies, (2) needle-throats, (3) eaters of shit, [from Chim Jampey Yang: (4) show-anythings, for above "take-anythings"] (5) smell-eaters, (6) thing-eaters, (7) offering-eaters, (8) water-drinkers, (9) the ones who live off thoughts, (10) spit-eaters, (11) bead-eaters, (12) blood-drinkers, (13) flesh-eaters, (14) smoke-eaters, (15) the savage, (16) the opportunity-takers, (17) the undergrounders, (18) the power spirits, (19) the night-shiners, (20) those who await their chance for a person, (21) the enticers, (22) the ones who stay around islands, (23) the bludgeons of the Lord of Death, (24) the baby-eaters, (25) the Brahma-witches, (26) the husk-eaters, (27) the scum-eaters, (28) those who stay on well-travelled roads, (29) the voracious ones, (30) the flame-eaters, (31) the poison-eaters, (32) the spirits who stay in trees, (35) the spirits who stay at crossroads, and (36) the devil legions.

क्र्याबारुव,र्ययाः में यो स्वान्यक्र्याः इंग्रह्माबारुव,रायाः में यो प्रकान्यक्र्याः स्वान्यक्रायः स्वान्यक्रायः स्वान्यक्रायः स्वान्यक्रायः स्वान्यक्र

For more detail on the karma and suffering of these spirits, you should study further the sutras themselves. The further divisions of the spirits into a multitude of different types all come from particulars of the karma involved in creating them, which comes itself from the great variety of motivations present in their past deeds. As such, the full range of different kinds of suffering, and thoughts, and migrations, and locations of these craving spirits is simply beyond all reckoning.

दशकाश्वीति क्षेत्रा हुर त्या हुँ त्या

The great majority of these beings have fallen to their current state because of cheapness and jealousy; they have created the karmic power of the ten bad deeds, in their actions and speech and thoughts, to an overwhelming degree. What was the cause of these deeds? All of them are performed relative to other living beings; it is towards them that we act; and the karma we collect comes through the way we relate to them, flows from our interaction with others. We may be wandering again and again through births of misery, but it seems that still we are not tired of it.

यक्ष्यांश्वरः विद्यां स्वरः श्रेश्यां भीत्र विद्यां स्वरः विद्यां स्वरं विद्यां स्वरः विद्यः विद्यां स्वरः विद्यां स्वरः विद्यां स्वरः विद्यां स्वरः विद्या

Our minds, like restless monkeys, have lived in the circle of suffering life for time with no beginning. We have grown accustomed to staying out in a rain of all kinds of suffering. Weighted down in the shackles of a whole variety of different bodies, we drag ourselves again and again up the great mountain of the wheel of rebirth. But still this is something we find hard to realize, to recognize, for our minds are filled with the habits of our suffering past. We must seek, from the beginning, to control this restless monkey—the mind flitting constantly from one thing to another. If we fail in this task we will only come to the unstoppable torment of the lower realms; locked in the circle of birth by the enemy of our own minds, we will forever lose any kind of happiness.

ग्रीकार्स्न पार्टी प्रें प्राप्त का की की की प्राप्त की प्राप्त की की प्राप्त की प्रा

If you want to know then what it is that brings a person to the birth of a craving spirit, it is primarily the failure to perform the three kinds of giving, and being overcome by the emotions of cheapness, and jealousy. [The three kinds of giving are: giving material needs, giving freedom from fear, and giving the Dharma.]

|स्र्वसः ५८: ख्रुं स्वरे स्वरः स्वरः द्याः वीका |ल्यायः सः प्येयः वे द्वि ५: सः ५८: | |स्वयाः योवः वे स्रे तः ये स्वरः याः न्या |सुषः ५८: के स्वरः ये स्वरः के रः यः दे यः ने । |स्वरः द्वयाः त्वः वे स्वरः के रः यः दे यः ने । |स्वरः द्वयाः त्वः वे स्वरः के रः यः दे यः ने ।

Their heads are caught in the noose of incredibly Powerful karma, which drags them helplessly on; Neither spiritual guides, nor their children or wife, Nor other loved ones can help them in the least. On the whole, their size and lifespan are nothing fixed; The longest is five hundred days that are made of months.

इट.चयु.यु.श्रुय्.श्रुय्.युश्यःकर.ग्रीश्राश्चर्यात्रेश्वायः स्थाः स्थाः स्थाः स्थाः स्थाः स्थाः स्थाः स्थाः स्थ त्रुश्राग्रीट.के.चर.वर्ग्युर्यः द्रिश्चर्याः प्रिश्चर्याः स्थाः स्थाः स्थाः स्थाः स्थाः स्थाः स्थाः स्थाः स्थाः विश्वराष्ट्रे स्थित् स्थाः स्थाः

The bodily dimensions of beings in all three of the lower realms are nothing that are fixed; the size of the body they possess, and the suffering that they can therefore feel, increase according to the power of the karma they have collected previously. On the whole, the lifespans of craving spirits are nothing which is fixed; the very longest they can live is five hundred days which each last as long as a month among human beings.

%।२५.५मूदुःश्चे.वा४४.ग्रीःश्चे.२८.श्वे.वर्षताग्रीःवि२.तर.यु।

Next we will describe the lives of animals, first from the point of view of what causes this type of birth, and what types of suffering they have.

निवर्भित्वे व्यास्ति विक्ता विक्रा विक्र विक्रा विक्र विक्रा विक्रा विक्रा विक्रा विक्रा विक्रा विक्रा विक्रा विक्र विक्रा विक्र विक्रा विक्रा विक्रा विक्रा विक्रा विक्रा विक्रा विक्रा विक्र

Next is what comes from a part or parts of bad deeds, And mainly from lesser forms of the acts of fools, Collecting bad karma from disregarding, and such. You fall to an animal birth, killing and eating each other, Or becoming the property of pleasure beings or men, Helplessly slaughtered, or forced to do their bidding.

विश्व के के नित्र विश्व के स्वर्थ के स्वर्थ के स्वर्थ के स्वर्ध के स्वर्थ के स्वर्थ के स्वर्थ के स्वर्थ के स्व विश्व के स्वर्थ के स

द्यात्म भ्रमातामायीयाताताम्यात्म भ्रमाताम्यात्म भ्रमात्म भ्रमात्म भ्रमात्म भ्रमात्म भ्रमात्म भ्रमात्म भ्रमात्म

What causes a person to be born as an animal are the parts of the ten bad deeds which are considered lesser forms of these deeds. In particular are cases where especially ignorant people disregard minor rules of morality, and do so on a continual basis; or else where they collect a great number of wrong deeds such as failing to act with respect towards those who are worthy of such respect.

तत्।

यद्वा

यद

How is it that these animals suffer? They kill each other, and use each other for food: the ones that are bigger, or more powerful, slay and devour the others, swallowing them even before they have stopped breathing, and such. Or else they hurt each other, in every imaginable way. Some kinds of animals become possessions of humans or other types of beings, and are slaughtered for their meat, or skins, or bones and the rest. Or else they are forced to do the bidding of their masters; mercilessly and helplessly they are sheared or milked or herded or saddled or dragged along—whatever their owners wish.

४।५वी:य:दी।

Here next are the different types of animals.

বিষ্ণাব্দ ক্ষিত্র স্মূর্ণ বিষ্ণা প্রায় করে বিষ্ণা করিছ

Three hundred and sixty million kinds of animals; Their forms, and colors, and the ways they're born are various. They get along, or not; have wings, or not; and so on, Endless different types, from deeds and motivation.

कूर्याकार्यः क्रिंस्यान्यः क्रिंस्याकाः क्रीं चीत्रायाः क्रीं क्रिंस्यान्यः क्रिंस्यान्यः क्रिंस्यान्यः क्रिंस्यान्यः क्रिंस्याः विश्वेष्यः विश्वेषः विश्वे

Generally speaking, there are some three hundred and sixty million kinds of animals: it is stated in scripture, for example, that the human body is itself home to eighty thousand different animal forms. They come in all different kinds of appearances; they have all different kinds of bodies; they are born in all four different ways; they use all four kinds of sustenance; they may get along with each other, or fight; they may rage, or be peaceful; they might be friendly, or dangerous; they live in communities, or alone; they have wings, or have no wings, and so on—there are endless different types, all depending on the different types of deeds they committed, and the motivations they had.

ৠয়য়য়য়ৣয়ৢৼয়ৼয়

Here are the places where animals are located.

विद्याम् व्यवस्थान्त्रः क्षेत्रः क्षेत्रः स्त्री व्यवस्थाः विस्थाः वि

विंदी अर्केना रेट नम्नय पर नामका पर्वे।

The "place in the depths" is the ocean, immense, while others Live above ground, in the sky, and the rest—they're found everywhere. The size of their bodies, and span of life, are not fixed either; Those with the very longest lives remain for an eon.

The location of animals known as the "place in the depths" refers to the immense ocean. The "place of the scattered" is nothing fixed, and so we find animals living above ground, below ground, in the sky, in water, on the bodies of other creatures, and the rest—they're found virtually everywhere.

|याट.टी.ट्र्ट्रेट्र.क्रेट्र.क्याव.येवट.युट्र |श्रु.स्.श्रु.चर.यु.व्याव.येवट.युट्र |याट.टी.ट्रंट्र.क्रेट्र.क्याव.येवट.युट्रा

देशम्बर्धरकात्म पुर्वित्वे के स्वयं के राध्य देशम्बर्धिर स्वा विकामी क्ष्रेरकात्म के दिन्द स्वयं के राध्य के र

It is stated that—

There is no piece of land or the like Where those who are born from warmth And moisture cannot be born.

This is true because the vast majority of animals as well are born from warmth and moisture. As for the size of their bodies, there is no fixed size. Their lifespans too are for the most part indefinite; those with the very longest lives remain for an eon.

द्वित्र-४-१ क्रियाय स्थान्य स

You must consult the sutras if you wish to know more about the places, or the bodies, or the things they use, or other details about the animals that live in the depths of the sea, and so on. There too you will find all about the details of the pleasures and pains these beings undergo, all according to the specific types of karma they have collected. My intention here is to present a refutation, something to challenge the mistaken viewpoint of those worldly people who say the world is some glorious, wonderful place.

The Asian Classics Institute Course VIII: Death and the Realms of Existence

Reading Four: The lives of humans, and pleasure beings

The following selection is taken from the Chest of Riches, by Master Ngulchu Dharma Bhadra (1772-1851), an important link in the lineage leading from Je Tsongkapa, through Pabongka Rinpoche, and down to our own root lama, Khen Rinpoche Geshe Lobsang Tharchin. The work is a commentary on the Path of Ease, a famous lam-rim text by His Holiness the First Panchen Lama, Lobsang Chukyi Gyeltsen (1567?-1662).

हे.चिश्चरश्चात्र प्रचित् प्रचित् प्रचित् प्रचित् प्रचित् प्रचित्र प्रचित् प्र

Here first is the contemplation of the sufferings of cyclic life in general, and then the contemplation of the individual sufferings of this life. The first of these is covered in the *Great Book on the Steps of the Path* in three progressive stages: the contemplation of the eight kinds of suffering, the contemplation of the six kinds of suffering, and the contemplation of the three kinds of suffering. In the *Path of Ease* though the contemplation of the six sufferings is presented at this point, and then the first seven of the eight kinds of suffering are applied specifically to humans in the contemplation of the individual sufferings of life. As such I will give my own explanation in this same order.

यन्यायो'भ्रो'न्यो'म्रुःर्श्नेर्प्य'न्र्प्य'न्य्युःश्चृय्य'म्रुव्य'म्ब्रुक्य'म्ब्रिक्'नुर्प्यदे न्यर'नुष्य

First comes the following resolution, made in the practitioner's mind:

Suppose I am able to give up doing the ten bad deeds, and then follow the ten good deeds in the proper way. And suppose that, for this very reason, I pass beyond the suffering of the lower births and reach up to the level of the higher ones. If though I fail to reach a freedom where I have eliminated suffering from its very root, it doesn't matter what kind of body I may be able to attain in the higher births. The fact that I have not yet gotten rid of the mental afflictions means that I will never enjoy even a single instant of happiness.

Right after this, the metaphor of the terrible criminal is presented.

Here the text includes the phrase that begins, "Even though we don't at the present moment have the suffering of being beaten with a club..." Prior to this point in the work, two different punishments—the torture of having molten wax dripped slowly over your body, and being beaten with a club—have been explicitly mentioned. As such we see nowadays a custom where, when the text is recited out loud, people add a few words and say, "Even though we don't at the present moment have the suffering of being tortured with drops

of wax, or beaten with a club..." Nonetheless it appears to me that the point of this phrase is that, first of all, we who live the life of a pleasure being or human in the desire realm are free of any constant pain like the torture of molten wax. Those who live in the higher two realms have neither feelings of pain nor of [so-called] pleasure, and are thus free of both the suffering of the wax and the club.

श्रीट्राचर्यात्राच्यात्राच्यात्रात्राच्याः विद्याः वि

All this is a metaphor for life in the higher states of birth; no matter how good a rebirth you may gain there, the good karma you have collected in the past, and which has projected you there, eventually wears out. Then you fall to the lower births, and begin to experience infinite varieties of pain. The final end of such a birth then is always something gruesome.

|र्स्याःवर्षाः द्वाःवर्षाः यः दर्शः द्वी वर्षेत्रराया

Here next is the actual contemplation of the six forms of suffering. A summary of these in verse goes as follows:

|स्या'यश्याद्व्यादे'देशसीद्द्र्यासीदिया |ध्यदःधदःख्रुर्यादेद्द्रःधदःधदःहिदःसर्वस्यसःह्युर्या |ध्यदःधदःख्रुर्यादेद्द्रःधदःधदःस्थ्रित्स्यस्यसःह्युर्या

Life has no certainty, we know no satisfaction, and shed our bodies Over and over, take birth again, over and over, go over and over From high to low, with no companion: and so we suffer, six ways.

है। र्या.योश्वर.टी.यर्यीर.य.र्टट.खेश.श्योश.हे। यप्त्रा.श्चीटश.ताश्वा ग्री.ट्र.च्.श्ची.य.खेया.येटश.त्रीय.यर्थत्यश्चीय.यर्ज्य.य्योग्यर्थत्य्यी.प्रट.यखेथ.ताश्वर.यर्थत्या विश्वर.त.क्षेत्र.ट्रश.त.श्चर.य.व्रेश.य्येश.य्येश.य्येश.य्येश.य्येश.य्येश.य्येश.य्येश.

The first of the sufferings mentioned here is [1] the fact that life has no certainity. We have taken birth here, in the cycle of suffering, and by its very nature our birth has two causes: the pair of our own past deeds, and our mental afflictions. The only result that can ever come from these two causes is something which is, in its very essence, pain. And the kinds of pain that come to us are those in the words that include the line, "Enemies turn to those we love..." The *Letter to a Friend* describes this suffering as follows:

विक्रियाम् क्रिन्य क्रियाम् क्रियाम क्रियाम

Your father turns to your very own son, your mother to your wife; And the one who was your enemy becomes a relative dear to you. The complete reverse of this happens too, and thus it is we say That in the circle of life there is no certainty at all.

त्राः स्रीयाश्चालयः ल्वां त्राः स्रीयः स्रीयाः स्रीयः स्र

तर्थः वर्ष्णः क्योशः स्टः स्त्रीः चः चयोयोः स्टेः वर्षिरः चर्षः क्रेशः वः स्त्रें चीर्यः स्वादः व्यादः स्तरः स्तरः स्त्रे

What this verse is saying is that it is possible for the person who was your father in your last life to turn into your son in this life. Your mother in your last life then can turn to your wife in this one. Your worst enemy can turn into your dearest relative, and the complete reverse of all these can happen as well: your son in your past life turns into your father in this one, and all the rest—there is no absolutely no certainty who is who. And that's not all. Even in this present life, we can see with our own two eyes how uncertain life can be: a person who was ready to murder someone the year before becomes in the following year their bosom friend, and so on. People though grasp to the occasional appearance that these relationships are something that are certain, and then begin to feel strong emotions of attachment, or anger. These lead them to spend their lives helping some people, and hurting others. They act like some kind of animal, dazed and confused, wandering aimlessly across some great wasteland. The animal runs, with no idea what it does, exhausting itself in the pursuit of what seems to be some great goal. And then some man appears and shouts at it, "What are you doing!" And then the animal reverses direction, and runs just as purposefully the opposite way. So give up now this tendency you have of making any distinction between your friends and your enemies, this habit of liking the friends, and disliking the enemies. Come to realize that there is not a single object in this entire suffering life that you can trust. Study to find disgust for this kind of existence.

The next suffering, [2] the fact that we can never find any sense of satisfaction, is described in the words that include, "No matter what kind of happiness you find here in the circle of suffering life..." The verse here is:

Each one of us has fed upon a massive amount of milk Exceeding the water in all four seas; and those still living within This suffering life, who follow the way of ordinary beings, Can still expect to drink a measure infinitely more.

पर्टिट्रम्ब्रास्तुः र्र्युः स्वास्तुः स्वस्तुः स्वस्तुः स्वस्तुः स्वस्तुः स्वस्तुः स्वस्तुः स्वस्तुः स्वस्त

The point of the verse is as follows. Suppose that you could manage to bring back, and collect together all the mothers' milk that you had ever fed upon in all the different bodies you have taken upon yourself. The massive amount of this milk would exceed the water in all four seas. The "four seas" here are different parts of the greater outer ocean, named from the four different hues of its four quarters as the colors of Mount Supreme reflect upon them.

Even the deepest parts of these seas, and their other distances, are something that it is possible to measure; yet the number of births that you and I have taken are limitless in number. As such we have already drunk more milk of our mothers than the water these seas hold in them. And if we continue the way we are, if we go on following the life of ordinary beings, failing to practice the path, then we can still expect to drink a measure of milk which is infinitely more.

१२.७४.त.५४.४.भी.भक्त्.त७.तमाया.म्.चर.भी.ची.क्री.क्रं.क्रंर.पर्वेद्याताया.क्र्य.प्रथ्या.मं.

The meaning of the words "a measure infinitely more" is not "infinitely more than what they drank before," since the milk we have sucked in the past is itself beyond all measurement. The point rather is that we will from this point on be forced to drink again a quantity that is greater than all the water in the four seas.

|यदे-यायार्थेदशार्श्वेदायादे प्येदाळेठायते स्वेदाय्येदायायाः स्वेदायते यदे यदे यदे स्व स्वेदायुद्ध स्वेदायदे स्वावदायायाः स्वेदायायाः स्वेदायदे यदे स्वेदायायाः स्वेदायदे यदे स्वेदायायाः स्वेदायदे य

दे.रेयो.योश्र.क.श्र.रे.त्यो.र.यह.क्रेयो.यक्त.तेष.पे.श्र.य=र.त.रे.श.पड्रेय. तर.यो.

The whole point of enjoying things which are pleasant is to bring ourselves some kind of contentment. The fact though is that, no matter how much pleasure we may feel with a thing in this cycle of suffering, we never reach any sense of satisfaction. Much less; for the normal reaction is that our feelings of attachment grow more, and this forces us to wander around even longer in the circle of life. And what the pleasures end up bringing to us are great many different kinds of suffering—unbearable pains that dwarf the pleasures themselves.

यश्चर्यन्त्रभ्याणुः क्ष्र्वस्य विद्यन्त्रभ्याणुद्रः कुः त्यस्य द्यानुः त्यस्य विद्यन्त्रभ्यः विद्यन्त्य विद्यन्य विद्यन्त्य विद्यन्त्य विद्यन्त्य विद्यन्त्य विद्यन्त्य विद्यन्य विद्यन्त्य विद्यन्त्य विद्यन्त्य विद्यन्त्य विद्यन्त्य विद्यन्य विद्यन्त्य विद्यन्त्य विद्यन्त्य विद्यविद्यम्य विद्यन्त्य विद्यन्त्य विद्यन्त्य विद्यवस्य विद्यवस्य

So too there was in days long ago a wonderful child who was born from the head of a king named Gupali. The child was named "Headborn," and known as well as "Nurse-from-me." The astrologers foretold that he would someday be the emperor of the world.

This prince sought to make great efforts in doing good deeds, in order to provide for the food, clothing, and other needs of his people. After inquiring into the ways of bringing this about, he made great prayers that his subjects would be able to find the food, clothing, and other needs without any effort at all. As a result, people began to get anything they wished for: crops sprang forth without anyone ever planting them; jewels fell like raindrops from the sky; clothing grew like leaves from the branches of wonderful trees; and the like.

Because of the incredible force of the good deeds he had done, Headborn came to be emperor over our entire world, the continent of Dzambu.

श्र्मिकार्यात्रः की द्रेशात्रमा तकु त्यंद्र की द्रे त्यात्रमा की स्वीयात्रात्रः की त्यात्रमा विकास की द्रेशात्रमा की द्रेशात्रमा की द्रेशात्रमा की त्रात्रमा की त्रेशात्रमा के त्रेशात्रम के त्रे

Dissatisfied with only this much, he then went to the eastern continent of Greatbody, and took it over as well. Dissatisfied with only this much, he then went to the western continent of Cattle-Users, and took it over as well. Dissatisfied with only this much, he hen went to the northern continent of Unpleasant Sound and took it over as well. Dissatisfied with only this much, he went to the Heaven of the Thirty-Three, and appropriated half the throne of Shakra, the king of the full pleasure beings. He reigned there with this being, for the length of 137 years.

Then, during the time of the Buddha named Kashyapa, a war with the lesser pleasure beings broke out. Even Shakra found himself unable to repulse them, but Headborn was successful. Then an evil thought began to form in his mind: dissatisfied with the idea of continuing to share his power with Shakra, he decided that he would have to murder the being.

This single thought erased all the good energy that was keeping Headborn in this realm, and he fell back to Dzambu Continent. Not long after that he was on his deathbed, ready to pass on to the next world. His ministers crowded around him, and asked the mighty being what it was that could force him to

leave them so. And then it was that he gave his famous reply, describing how his bad thoughts had brought him to death, and so on.

श्चेर-कुचा-कुन्न-त्र-कुन्-त्र-क्ष्य-त्र-हुन्-कुन्-त्र-कुन्-त्र-कुन-त्

The next suffering is [3] the fact that we have to shed our bodies, over and over. This is indicated in the lines that include, "It doesn't matter what wonderful kind of body I may be able to attain..." The point here is that, regardless of all the bad deeds we might accumulate in order to maintain this body we have now, it is an absolute certainty that—in the end—we will be forced to shed it. The power of the wrong deeds we did for the sake of the body though we carry along in our mind, and they bring to us the eventual result of unbearable pain.

Beyond this are the lines that say,

The size of the stack of rotting corpses belonging to each of us
Would exceed an equivalent to the height of Mount Supreme itself.

Suppose that you could put together a huge stack of all the skeletons left from the bodies that any particular person had ever taken on, and then left behind. This stack would be more immense than Summit, the great mountain at the middle of the world.

The difficult expression *nyechik* here is meant to indicate "a quantity equivalent to the height," which is then exceeded.

तदः र्रेट्यं व्या स्तरः केटः या स्तरः या स्तर

The next suffering is [4] the fact that we have to take birth again, over and over. The text at this point includes the line, "Since we have, for time with no beginning, been forced to take birth again, over and over..."

The Tibetan expression for "taking birth again" here is *nying tsam jorwa*, and is somewhat unusual. The *nying* means "again," and appears with the same sense in a number of other terms. One is *nying-gu*, "ultimate goal," or the further goal within a goal. Another is *nying-lak*, "appendage," meaning a further limb [such as a finger] splitting off from what is already a limb [such as an arm].

The point of the expression *nying tsam jorwa* then is to emphasize that, during our lives in this circle of suffering, we have not just crossed the border [*tsam jorwa*] between death and life at some isolated instance in the past, but rather that we have done so again and again [*nying*].

Beyond this we see the lines that say,

Suppose you tried to count the mothers all the way back to the beginning, using tiny balls
Of earth the size of juniper berries; the fact though is that the planet would not be enough.

Suppose, says the verse, that you took tiny bits of dirt from this massive planet Earth and rolled them up into little balls the size of juniper berries. Then you

used them to count all the mothers: you start with the one who was your mother this time, and then her mother, and then her mother's mother, and so on. The dirt contained in the entire planet would run out before you finished your counting.

लट्चरकेट्टिवर्चेर । विष्ट्राचेर विश्वान्ति । विष्ट्राचेर विश्वान्ति । विष्ट्राचेर विश्वान्ति । विष्ट्राचेर विश्वानि । वि

The next suffering is [5] the fact that we have to go from a high position to a low position, over and over again. This is indicated in the lines that include, "No matter how many good things you get in this cycle of suffering..." As the verse says,

First you reach the level of the one named Shakra, and merit the gifts of everyone in the world;
Then because of the force of past deeds done you fall again to the surface of the earth.
First you reach the level of an emperor who with the wheel reigns over all the world;
Then in the realms of the circle of birth you become again the lowest of slaves.

यदुः क्ष्याः व्यम्भाः श्राम्यः यद्भः यद्भ

As the Word of the Discipline says,

A high position eventually leads to a fall, And relationships always come to separation; Life itself leads in its end to death.

The point here is that any good thing that ever happens here in the circle of suffering life eventually turns into some kind of problem. Try to concentrate

on this pattern that life shows us: how we always go from something high to something low. Try to develop a healthy disgust for this kind of existence.

The final suffering is [6] the fact that we have no companion. This suffering is indicated in the lines about "going by oneself, alone, with no companion at all..." As the *Bodhisattva's Life* says,

Consider even just the body we have; If the flesh and bone that come with it Must one day rot and be parted from it, What need then to talk of our other friends?

All who are born are born alone, And all who die by themselves; Since they can't share the slightest bit of your pain, What use are the friends that hold you back?

As the verse points out, we tend to collect a great variety of different bad deeds for the sake of our friends. But when the time comes to experience the consequences of these actions, none of these same friends can participate in our pain at all. And in those situations where we try to practice some Dharma, these friends tend to hold us back. So what use are they, anyway?

The Asian Classics Institute Course VIII: Death and the Realms of Existence

Reading Five: Beings in the intermediate state (the bardo)

The following selection is taken from the Illumination of the Path to Freedom, a commentary by Gyalwa Gendun Drup, His Holiness the First Dalai Lama, on the Treasure House of Higher Knowledge (Abhidharma Kosha), written by the Buddhist master Vasubandhu in the fourth century AD. Master Vasubandhu's root text verses do not appear in the original of the commentary, and have been inserted at the appropriate points. Parts of these verses woven into the commentary have been printed in bold to show the close connection of the two works, and section headings have been provided for clarity.

10
Basic Nature of the Intermediate Being

वित्रेरःम्दःवक्षःत्रःश्चेःवःषी विर्मेदःयवेःचरःतुःवत्तुदःवर्वे। विर्मेदःयवेःष्ययःतुःसःश्चेरःष्टेर। विर्मेदःयवरःसःगुदःवःस्रेर।

These are the beings who occur between
The being at death here, and the one at birth.
Because they have not reached their destination,
The beings between are not yet arrived.

[III.37-40]

यर्न्यान्यक्रिमते श्रीन्यान्यश्री विश्वायवित्या नेत्रे में प्रत्यान्य विद्या विद्या विद्या विद्या विद्या विद्य

"You have stated," one may begin, "that the inbetween being is born complete. What is the basic nature of those beings who are between lives?" They may be described as **those beings who occur between** the point of **the being at death here** with the present stream of heaps **and** the point of the being **at birth.** These between beings are though not yet "arrived," for they have yet to reach the destination towards which they travel.

Next come the proofs for the existence of such beings. These consist of two types: proofs based on logic and proofs based on scriptural authority.

11 Logical Proof of Inbetween Beings

विष्ठ्याः स्टूर्यं स

Because it's a thing like grain continuing, It doesn't occur from that being's end. Because this image does not exist, and since They are dissimilar, it's no example. First, there are no two together in one. Second, not the continuation, by two.

[III.41-6]

त्रविद्यान्त्रः क्षेत्रः कष्टे क्षेत्रः कष्टे क्षेत्रः कष्टे क्षेत्रः कष्टे क्षेत्रः कष्टे क्षेत्रः कष्टे कष्टे क्षेत्रः कष्टे क्षेत्रः कष्टे क्षेत्रः कष्टे क

Now a member of the "Majority Group" of philosophers might come and say that there is no being between death and birth—that the being at birth comes right from the end of the being at death. Consider though the being at birth. It doesn't just occur from the end of the being at death, because it is a thing that goes along in a stream of consecutive stages, continuing on like the seeds for crops of grain. [That is, a seed turning into a fully developed plant requires the inbetween stage of a young sprout. Just so, an inbetween life is required for the being to move from the location of death to the location of rebirth. (This explanation is from the famed commentary of Chim Jampay Yang.)]

Someone may make the following objection:

A continuum doesn't necessitate a medium. The reflection of some image in a mirror is, for example, a continuation of that image—yet goes on cut off from the image.

We reply in the classical form of a proof:

Consider all existent things.

Isn't the way in which in which the reflection of an image in a mirror is a continuation of that image <u>not</u> a good **example** to describe how the being at birth can go on cut off from the being at death but still be its continuation?

Because doesn't the reflection of **the image** in a mirror **not** even **exist** in the way that the image does? Because isn't it true that **there are no two** separate things that both have form and can both stand **together in one** point in space at the same time?

And isn't our argument sound for yet another reason? **Since are**n't **they** two **dissimilar** things—the way in which the reflection of the image in the mirror is the continuation of that image, and the way in which the being at birth is a continuation of the being at death? Because isn't it true that the reflection is **not** really **the continuation** of the image? Isn't it also true that the reflection of the image is brought about **by two** principal causes—the image itself and a good, clean mirror; whereas the being at birth is something that comes from the being at death, not from any combination of two different principal causes?

याक्षेत्रायादी।

We turn next to the scriptural proof.

12 Scriptural Proof of Inbetween Beings

য়য়ৢৼয়য়য়য়ৼয়ড়ৼয়ড়ৢৼড়৾ৼড়৾ৼয়ৢয় য়য়ৢৼয়য়য়ৢৼয়ড়ড়ড়ড়৾ৼয়৾ৼৢড়য়ৼয়ৢৼয়ৢয়

They are, from his lips, who live on smells. Five taught. Proof too from the sutra on births. [III.47-8]

Beings in the state between death and rebirth **are** something that exist, as we hear **from** the Victor's own **lips** in the sutra on *The Seven Types of Lives*, where it mentions "There are seven types of lives: life as a hell being," and so on.

Another sutra concurs:

If three conditions are present, a child will form in the mother's womb. These are (1) a being suitable to be a mother, and who is still menstruating; (2) a feeling of desire and then sexual contact between the prospective parents; and (3) the proximity of one of the beings who live on smells.

This proves the existence of the intermediate being first because it comes from the Buddha, and secondly because the phrase "beings who live on smells" in the quotation refers to none other than the intermediate being.

तर क्रीर तरी किल रूपाबर वृषा यात्रा यथा चेत्र राष्ट्र स्वाबर बाद्य स्वाबर स्वावर स्वा

Someone may object to the last point, citing the common reading that goes "...the proximity of the cessation of the heaps." This position though is mistaken. The sutra called *Son of Talen* states:

Your "being who lives on smells" stands in close proximity, whether he be one for royalty, one for the Brahmin caste, for aristocracy, or for the common man; whether he stands to the east or...

The end of some heaps could hardly be described this way.

यथःस्त्रीन् भेन्द्रेन्त्रे स्वीतः स्

The intermediate being can also be said to exist in that **five** different types of non-returners, including those who "pass beyond" during the intermediate state, are **taught** in scripture. Some may claim that this type only refers to a certain kind of pleasure being, but if this were the case then other types such as "those who pass beyond after rebirth" would also have to be some kind of pleasure being.

Proof of the intermediate being comes **too** from the sutra called *The Seven Births of the Holy,* where types that pass beyond during the intermediate state are further divided into those that pass quickly and so on.

क्षेत्र. स्रोत्यात्र साम्यात्त्र स्ति । स्त

श्रश्चर्स्स्र है। रश्चितायर श्रीशायर प्रविदायाद्य विषय

Someone might raise the following objection:

If intermediate beings did exist it would contradict the teaching about the demon named "Destroyer," who with a fist of stone cracked the skull of Wiseman's Delight, a disciple of the Buddha known as Light Protector. The disciple died and flames immediately enveloped the body of the demon, who then took birth in the hells.

र्यक्षाश्चीर विश्वास्त्रीय प्राप्त क्ष्याय क्ष्याय क्ष्याय क्ष्याय क्ष्याय क्ष्याय क्ष्याय क्ष्याय क्ष्याय क्षय क्ष्याय क्षय क्ष्याय क्ष्य क्ष्याय क्षय क्ष्याय क्

There is though no contradiction. The flames were not part of a result that ripened in the next life from a misdeed in this life—that came later. They were, rather, one of those results of a deed that ripens and returns to one in the very same life.

म् श्रुंब भर्य म्यायाय स्थान विषय प्रत्या स्थान स्थान

Yet another objection may be raised: if there is supposed to be a state between death and rebirth, what about the explanation that one takes birth in the hells "right after" he commits any one of the five **immediate** misdeeds? Yet there is no problem. The word "immediate" here is meant to refer to the fact that a person who has committed such a deed can take his next birth only in the hells, and nowhere else. Otherwise a person would logically take his birth in the hells the moment after he actually committed the deed.

कूर्याचिर चुर स्वायत्रा । वर्ष्य क्षेत्र वर्ष्य क्षेत्र चित्र चुर्या । वर्ष्य क्षेत्र वर्ष्य क्षेत्र चित्र च

यार्यायाः प्राप्तायाः विद्याः । विद्याः विद्या

One last objection could be offered, that the postulation of an intermediate being is at odds with the statement that

The Transcendent Victor spoke these words to the evil Brahmin:

Brahmin, you will come into the presence of the Lord of Death, Ere you live to any old age, or meet with some kind of sickness. There will be no place between, nowhere you can stop and stay; No need for you to prepare provisions for the journey.

यश्चितः सेन्द्री ने ने से से ते नित्र सेन्द्र प्याप्त सेन्द्र से स्वाप्त सेन्द्र से स्वाप्त सेन्द्र सेन्द्र से सेन्द्र सेन्द्

Again though there is no problem. The only point of the words was to tell the Brahmin that he hadn't long to remain among humans.

Having thus completed proofs for the existence of intermediate beings, we turn to a description of their bodily images.

13
Bodies of Intermediate Beings

।ते.वे.वस्वयः यात्राष्ट्रयाः यात्रः स्त्रीरः।
।क्षेत्रः तुः याः स्त्रीतः यात्रः स्त्रीरः याः विद्यासः उत्राः
।ते.वे.वक्षेत्रः यात्रः स्त्रेतः रेवासः उत्राः
।क्षेत्रः वक्षेत्रः यात्रः स्त्रेतः रेवासः उत्राः
।क्षेत्रः वक्षेत्रः यात्रः स्त्रेतः यात्रः स्तरः विद्यासः उत्राः

Because the force projecting them's the same, He has the image of the being "before." This is the one that's after the moment of birth, Before the point that one has already died. [III.49-52] यदः श्रदः श्रवाः यद्विशः व्यव्यव्यव्यः हैं । श्रृं व्यव्यः यद्वे । व्यव्यः यदः श्रवः यदः व्यव्यव्यः यदः व्यव्यव्यः यदः व्यव्यः यदः व्यव्यव्यः यदः व्यव्यः यद्वे । यदः श्रवः व्यव्यः यद्वे । यदः श्रवः व्यव्यः यद्वे । यदः श्रवः यदः यदः । यदः यद्वे । यदः श्रवः यद्वे । यदः श्रवः यद्वे । यदः श्रवः । यदः ।

What does the body of an inbetween being look like? The being between death and rebirth has the image of the being "before," or the being which is going to come into existence. This is because both the intermediate being and the being of the next life are thrown into the future by the same projecting force—the deeds they did in the past. This expression, the "being before," is meant to refer to the one that consists of the five (or four) heaps that exist before the point that one has already died (up through the moment of death) but after the moment of birth (the second moment of birth and so on).

त्त्रं । याच्चेयाश्वर्शनियाद्द्याद्द्रः स्वरः राष्ट्रः स्वरः राष्ट्रः त्याच्याश्वरः स्वरः स्वरः

What color is an intermediate being? An inbetween being headed for the hells has the color of a scorched stump of wood. Those to be animals are the color of smoke; craving spirits have a look like water. Those to become pleasure beings of the desire realm, or humans, possess a golden color. Inbetween beings for the form realm are white. No intermediate being exists for the formless realm, as there is no form there.

म्राप्तिकान्त्रीयः म्राप्तिकान्त्राच्याः व्याचवः प्रतायक्षः याद्री व्याचितः स्रोत्ताः स्राप्तिकान्त्रेयः स्रोत स्रोत्त्राच्याः स्रोत्राचितः स्रोत्ताः स्रोत्ताः स्रोत्ताः स्रोत्ताः स्रोत्ताः स्रोत्ताः स्रोत्ताः स्रोत्ताः स

How big are intermediate beings? Those to become pleasure beings of the desire realm, or humans, are the size of five or six-year old children. Those headed for the form realm possess more of a sense of shame and conscience than not, so have the body of a mature adult and are fully clothed at birth. Those of the desire realm have a greater share of shamelessness and a lack of conscience, so are naked at their birth. There was though the nun known as "Lady of White," who was born with clothes by force of her former prayers to that effect. Bodhisattvas in their final life are as well from infancy possessed of the special bodily signs and marks, and clothing.

वित्तास्य स्त्री स्वर्ण वित्ता स्त्री स्त्र

"Your above description of intermediate beings," one may object, "appears to contradict the dream that the Buddha's mother had, of a white baby elephant entering her womb prior to the Buddha's birth." There is though no such inconsistency. The dream was only meant to represent certain symbolic points—something like the ten portents that were shown in the dreams of King Kirki.

लुब-वि, वे, वु, शबका जान्य स्थान श्री श्री श्री विश्व प्रश्नित स्थान स्यान स्थान स्यान स्थान स्थान

Someone might continue the argument, citing the verse from the venerable saint, Subhuti:

He made his entry, taking his place in the womb of the Mother with Full knowledge, cognizant as saints who know where they'll be born, And having first assumed the form of an elephant of white, A body embellished with six tusks of ivory, and four legs.

This reading though is only meant to match the Mother's dream.

हेर्र्सुंक्षे क्षा चेरा विष्या वर्षे स्वाप्त क्षेत्र पर्षे स्वाप्त क्षेत्र पर्षे स्वाप्त क्षेत्र पर्षे स्वाप्त स्वाप्

"How long then," one may ask, "does a being stay in the intermediate state?" The Sutrist called the "Venerable Layman with Vows" makes the claim that "There is no fixed time: the intermediate being remains in this state until all the factors necessary for birth have come together." And the master Vasumitra claims that "they stay for a period of seven days. If by the end of this time they have failed to find a new birth, they die and migrate into yet another intermediate state." Still others claim that the intermediate being stays for seven weeks—a total of 49 days.

चर-श्र-द्रश्-व्यान्त्र्यात्राचित्र-द्रश्चे-ब्रे-द्र्याः चर्त्र-स्यान्त्र-प्रम् विद्र-भ्रे-विद्याः विद्र-भ्रे-विद्याः विद्र-भ्रे-विद्याः विद्र-भ्रे-विद्याः विद्याः विद्र-भ्रे-विद्याः विद्याः विद्याः

The Detailists make another claim:

A being in the intermediate state is one in an active search for his rebirth, so his conception into a new birth occurs relatively quickly, before he has spent any great amount of time in this state. If his birth in a certain place is a fixed thing but the necessary factors have not yet assembled, the force of his past deeds will pull these factors together and he will take birth there. If his birth in the particular place is not a fixed thing, he will then simply take birth somewhere else.

श्वर त्यात्र त्यात्र स्थित स्थात स्थित स्थात स्था स्थात स्थ

वर्रेरकम्बार्श्वेरा वेंदावुरुबार्धेनपुर्श्वेरप्यवार्वेदावुराश्चे।

Suppose too that it is winter and someone has reached an intermediate state from which he is supposed to take rebirth as a cow. Since cows mate in the summer, he will instead take birth as a similar animal without a definite mating season. If in winter also a person has come to an intermediate state from which he is meant to take birth as a horse, we will instead be born as a donkey—since donkeys mate in any season, but horses in spring.

If again in summer a person has reached the state between death and rebirth and is supposed to be born as a bear, he will take birth as a *dre-creature*. They mate in no particular season, while bears mate only in the winter. If, finally, it is summer and a person has become an intermediate being meant to be born as a dog, he'll take his rebirth as a wolf: they mate any time, dogs only in autumn.

यिषयः त्राश्चीट्र त्रयीयः त्राप्ता विष्यः च्रम् । विषयः यो विषयः

This all supports the quotation that says, "They turn from what they were; they collect new forces of the kind that come from deeds." Moreover, the "collection of new forces" mentioned here refers to a collection of new forces of the kind that come from deeds in this life and produce their results here in the very same life. This confirmation that the inbetween being is capable of collecting new deeds that will bring him a result in this life itself confirms that he can collect the other two types: those that produce a result that is experienced in the very next life, and those that lead to a result experienced in lives beyond the next. This is what they claim.

।यहीयादी।

We now turn to the fourth of our five points on intermediate beings. Here we discuss their various special features.

14
Other Features of Intermediate Beings

नियः संग्रीय क्रांस्याया स्वास्त्र । नियः संग्रीय क्रांस्याया स्वास्त्र । नियः संग्री हैं व्युत्यः श्वीयाया स्वास्त्र अर्थे । नियम् संग्री हैं व्युत्यः श्वीया स्वास्त्र अर्थे र ।

Seen by the same type, with a clear god's eye. Miraculous feats from deeds, a special strength. All their powers complete, cannot be stopped. Never diverted, those ones live on smells.

[III.53-6]

चर-र्रा दरा रिश्वायद्वायर-ब्रीट-क्ष्मश्चात्रीश-क्ष्मश्चर्या क्षेत्र-त्यात्र-क्ष्मश्चर

"Who," one may ask, "can see an intermediate being?" Intermediate beings, at least those of **the same type**, can be **seen by** each other. Some people have claimed that intermediate beings headed for a birth as a pleasure being can see those for all the other types of beings, and that intermediate beings to be born as humans, craving spirits, animals, and hell-beings can each see all but the preceding types.

 श्रम् मार्ट्स के स्वाप्त के स्वा

Intermediate beings can also be seen **by** using what is called the "eye of a god." It must be one which is **clear**, free of the eleven typical faults. These eleven are (1) doubt, (2) failing to direct one's attention properly, (3) improper physical states, (4) a feeling of dullness or sleepiness, (5) mental excitation, (6) an excessive application of effort, (7) vacant mental wandering, (8) anxiety, (9) too many different ideas, (10) talking too much, and (11) trying too hard to meditate.

Intermediate beings have a capability to perform **miraculous feats** that comes **through** the power of **deeds**. They can fly through the sky, and display **a special strength**, or capacity to travel at extraordinary speeds. **All their powers**, those of the eye and the rest, are **complete**—and they have the ability to pass through mountains and so forth **without being stopped**. Evidence of this fact is the presence of frogs and other types of creatures found in the middle of rocks with no openings at all.

"Is it then possible," one may ask, "for a person to be diverted to another type of birth after he has already taken form as an intermediate being headed for the hells?" You are **never diverted** to another birth: the energy of one's past

deeds which is throwing forth the intermediate being headed for the hells is the same energy that will project the being "before"—that is, the hell being itself.

One can however reach the state of an intermediate being headed for the level known as "Class of the Pure" and still not have to take birth there: cases where one achieves nirvana between death and rebirth, as just such a being, do exist.

One may ask whether intermediate beings of the desire realm eat any physical types of food. It is stated that **those ones** eat no gross kinds of physical food, but rather **live on** mere **smells**. And the more powerful consume the good smells, while the less powerful must eat the poor ones.

<u>जि.त.यु।</u>

The fifth and final point in our treatment of intermediate beings concerns how they enter the state of birth.

15 How Intermediate Beings Find Birth

।र्स्च निष्ठ निष्

Because of a mistaken impression he passes To his destination to play, to enjoy; Others from attraction to smells or the place. Those for the hells are upside-down.

[III.57-60]

चरःश्रेनःनेःश्रुःमादशःशुःवहमाःर्ख्यःहःसःमुःविःदा श्रेवेःचरःश्रेनःयःविमाःधेदःदः

ग्री.यट्ट.ट्र.वर्ग्री अ.य.ट्ट.ट्याय:यद्य:यश्रश्रामश्चर्य्य,यद्य:लीयःस्य.ट्ट.ज्यूट.यद्याश्चरी ये.सूट. वया:ट्ट.त्याय:यद्य:यश्चरात्रश्चर्यःयद्यं.यद्य:लीयःस्य.ट्ट.ज्यूट.यद्यःयोश्चरी ये.सूट.

"How does an intermediate being," one may begin, "enter his particular state of birth?" If he is an inbetween being headed for a birth as a human, he sees his parents from a distance, having sex together. Because of a mistaken impression, and imagining that he can play and enjoy himself, he passes to his destination within the womb, lodged in the midst of the mother's abdomen and entrails.

देवा.म् । वर्या । शर्षर श्री. य. त्रुव. त्र

If the child is to be a boy, it lies crouched up on the right side of the mother's abdomen, facing her back. If it is to be a girl, the child lies to the left side of the abdomen, facing the front. A child to be born as a neuter lies in either position, depending on whether masculine or feminine types of desire dominate his personality.

As for the **other** types of intermediate beings, those headed for a birth from warmth and moisture pass to their destination **from an attraction for the smells** there. Those to be born complete come to their destination **from an attraction for the place** itself.

Someone might object: "How could anyone be attracted to the hells?" Yet they are—all based on a mistaken impression.

त्र्योत्र। विश्वामश्रीत्रात्रः स्त्रीत्र। त्राञ्चीत्रात्रेत्रम्याः । निः त्रमाञ्चीतुः र्ख्यायः त्रमान्तः द्वीतः उद्या । त्राध्याः स्त्रात्रः स्त्रयः स्ययः वर्षेतः त्रदेत्ययः । निः त्रमाञ्चीत्रः स्त्रयः स्त्रयः स्त्रयः स्त्रयः वर्षेतः त्रवेतः त्र्योः त्रवेतः त्रवेतः त्रवेतः स्त्रयः स्त्रयः वर्षेतः त्रवेतः त्र

What does an intermediate being look like as he travels to his goal? **Those** headed **for the hells** travel **upside-down.** As sutra states,

Those who berate the saints—accomplished ones With vows unstained and mighty asceticisms—Can only fall, travelling down into the hells, Passing with bodies upside-down.

मिलियः भ्रे. श्रेयात्रा स्वर्गात्रः वर्गोर्या । श्लेयः दर्गे त्यात्रः श्लेयः यात्रीयः । भ्रेतः वे. त्योत्रः स्वर्गेतः वर्गेत्रं । श्लियः दर्गे त्यातः श्लेयः वर्गे । त्यात्रः स्वीयः वर्गे ।

It is stated that intermediate beings to be born as pleasure beings travel along in an upward direction. All of the others, those to be humans and the rest, travel on a level plane. The master Purnavardhana states that inbetween beings headed for a birth as a craving spirit go along like craving spirits themselves, facing backwards.

The Asian Classics Institute Course VIII: Death and the Realms of Existence

Reading Six: The types of sustenance, and a general description of the physical world

The following selection is taken from the Illumination of the Path to Freedom, a commentary by Gyalwa Gendun Drup, His Holiness the First Dalai Lama, on the Treasure House of Higher Knowledge (Abhidharma Kosha), written by the Buddhist master Vasubandhu in the fourth century AD. Master Vasubandhu's root text verses do not appear in the original of the commentary, and have been inserted at the appropriate points. Parts of these verses woven into the commentary have been printed in bold to show the close connection of the two works, and section headings have been provided for clarity.

45
Introduction to
the Various Types of Sustenance

বির্বাবি: একা শূরী কা বার্কা বা ভারি।

Beings are kept alive by sustenance.

[III.152]

"What," one may ask, "keeps beings alive in these three realms?" **Beings are kept alive by sustenance**, for as sutra states:

Not long after the Teacher had become enlightened, he gave voice to a certain teaching, to the effect that beings are kept alive by sustenance.

यक्षियायायायाय्युमा अयाग्रीप्यस्यविद्या व्यस्याययः श्रीत्राग्रीस्याय्यस्या त्रीत्र्यायोष्टियायर्थे

We next treat this point in greater detail, in three divisions concerning (1) the nature of sustenance; (2) incidentally, different names used to refer to intermediate beings; and (3) a rationale for the number of the different types of sustenance.

46
The Nature of Solid Food

|प्रश्नि:=र्स्स्यः विद्याः वि

Solid food exists in the desire; Combination of three of the doors of sense. The door of sense that's form is not, because It neither aids its power nor the free.

[III.153-6]

ग्री:बर्श्-इंग्लंद्र-प्रदे:ब्रीमा दे:जायिक्:ल्र्-दी विश्वश्चात्रीश्चशा मेवा:पदे:बर्शा श्रेश्रश्चशा द्रश्चशी द्रश्चशी प्रदःस्त्री दर्मे:वा:बर्श्-प्रदे:ब्रीमा

"In the lines above," one may begin, "you mentioned that `beings are kept alive by sustenance.' Just how many kinds of sustenance are there?" There are four different kinds: sustenance in the form of solid food, contact, mental movement, and consciousness.

यश्चित्रःश्ची

वश्चःत्रेत्रःश्ची

वश्चःत्रेत्रःश्ची

वश्चःत्रःश्चान्यःश्चान्यःश्चित

"In what realms are they found?" one may ask. Solid food exists in the desire realm, but not in the realms above it, for it is just those beings who have freed themselves of desire for solid food who are born in these upper realms. Someone may ask how there can be any solid food in the great hells. And yet there is, for it is said that flaming iron balls and molten copper are forced into the mouths of the beings living in these hells. Moreover we can understand from the accounts of Gendun Sung and Shrona that in the partial and adjacent hells there are kinds of food resembling those of the human realm.

च्या.ग्री.शक्ष्य.क्षेट्.ट्ट.क्ष्य.ताय.क्ष्रीम।

ग्री.च्या.ता.ट्यूट्य.ता क्ष्याया.ह्य.त्याया.ल्यू.व्याया.क्ष्याया.ह्याया.क्ष्याया.ह्याय

Some may object that this explanation seems to contradict the following words of the *Treatise*:

What is solid food? Any portion of a substance which, when used as food, nurtures the various powers, and supports and promotes the development of the major elements of the body.

Yet there is no contradiction. This explanation was given only with reference to food as part of a nurturing process; iron balls or the like can be said to satisfy the definition of food in that they do exhibit the ability to remove a feeling of hunger. "What," one may ask, "is the basic nature of solid food?" It is a **combination of three of the doors of sense:** smell, taste, and the tangible. Why is it referred to as "solid food" [literally, "portion food"]? It is so named because it is food which is ingested only after it has been divided into portions by three agents: nose, tongue, or body.

१६७ सन्दर्भाताः साथाः प्रिन्यवे दे दे दिन्य । स्वाप्त स्वापत स्वाप्त स्वाप्त स्वाप्त स्वाप्त स्वाप्त स्वाप्त स्वाप्त स्वाप्त स्वाप्त स्वाप्त

"Consider then," one may object, "the smells and tastes of sunshine or shade. Are they then not a kind of solid food? Because isn't it impossible to ingest them by cutting them first into portions of some certain size?" It's true that this would be impossible; nonetheless, they do fit the general description of solid sustenance. You could also say that our description is intended to fit only the majority of instances.

याञ्चयात्राणुःश्चेष्ठाः सक्षाः सक्षाः स्वार्थः स्वर्थः स्वार्थः स्वरं स्वर

The door of sense that is form is not a kind of solid food, because it does not aid in the nurturing process of "its power" (i.e., the power which takes this form as its object) or of the power's basis. Nor is it similar to the general class of things that do perform such a function.

यर त्यीर यद दीर (बे.स) हे.से.चश्राचित्र प्राप्त प्रमाण प्रम प्रमाण प्रम प्रमाण प्रमाण प्रमाण प्रमाण प्रमाण प्रमाण प्रमाण प्रमाण प्रमाण

या अश्र श्र श्रेंद्र प्राप्ते विष्ठे वा चुवा श्र क्षें प्राप्त विष्ठे श्रेंद्र विष्ठे श्रेंद्र प्राप्त विष्ठे श्रेंद्र विष्ठे श्रेंद्र प्राप्त विष्ठे

"To this I disagree," one may reply. "Isn't it possible for sensations of pleasure and happiness to arise when one looks upon a meal laid out in a particularly attractive manner?" In this case though we would describe the sustenance as that consisting of contact involving an experience of pleasure through focussing on the meal. The point is not that this form, the object of the eye, is functioning as sustenance. If it were, it would also have to produce some beneficial effect even in beings that are **free:** enemy destroyers or those that need never return. The fact though is that such form **does not** in any way **aid** them.

47 *Three More Forms of Sustenance*

Contact, mental movement, and consciousness With stain are sustenance.

[III.157-8a]

रेगायदे : ब्रुश्य संग्राय संग्राय संग्राय स्थाय स्याय स्थाय स्थाय

"You have mentioned," one may begin, "sustenance consisting of contact, and so on. Just what is the nature of each of these types of sustenance?" **Contact, mental movement, and consciousness** that come **with stain are** each a kind of **sustenance**. In their unstained form they can't be called sustenance, for sustenance is defined by its function of perpetuating this suffering life, whereas the stainless act to bring it to a stop. As sutra says,

It functions to keep alive those beings who have already come out, and to nourish them; it functions to provide aid to those still in the state of seeking their next life.

|बेशःमश्चर्याःया वयाःसेन्दिःश्वःस्यःधेन। ।मःविदेःम्वेगःधेनःसेन्दिः

It also states,

The four types of sustenance are the very root of sickness, cancer, agony. They help bring about old age and death.

Stainless things could hardly be described this way.

त्रुर्। विष्णः च्रान्यः क्षेत्रः व्यान्तः व्यानः व्यान्तः वयान्तः व्यान्तः व्यान्यः व्यान्तः व्यान्तः व्यान्तः व्यान्तः व्यान्तः व्यान्तः व्यान्तः

One may ask how many of the different types of sustenance function to keep beings alive, and to provide aid to them. All of them do. One then might ask again:

Let us admit that movement of the mind (since it is, after all, by nature a deed) acts—along with the consciousness and contact linked up with it—to bring a being into existence, and to provide aid to those who are still in search of a rebirth. How can solid food though work to bring a being into existence?

But it can: solid food can bring one into a new existence by power of his craving for it.

لعא: عم، حد، على على على المناقل المناهد الم

प्राणुका क्षेत्रका क्ष्रका क्

One may pose still another question:

Admitted that solid food and contact involving an experience of pleasure, as well as the consciousness linked with this contact, can all function to keep a sentient being alive. But how can movement of the mind perform this function?

र.च.र्ट.च्रुश्नावि.श्रुश्नावि.च्रुश्नावि.च्रुश्नावि.च्रुश्नावि.च्रुश्नावि.च्रुश्नावि.च्रुश्नावि.च्रुश्नावि.च्रुश्नावि.च्रुश्नावि.च्रुश्नावि.च्रुश्नावि.च्रुश्नावि.च्रुश्नावि.च्रुश्नावि.च्रुश्नाव.च्रुश्चाव.च्रुश्चच.च्

The answer is that movement of the mind involving the emotion of hope can actually keep one alive. We see for example the story of a father who couldn't bear the thought of dying, along with his two sons, during a famine. He took a bag full of powder and tied it fast, telling his sons that the chaff was flour. As long as they entertained this hope, it kept them from dying. When they opened the bag and saw the chaff, they lost hope, and thus expired.

द्या अद्भन्दः द्याः चरः चत्र्यः प्रत्रां चर्षाः चर्यः चर्षाः चर्यः चर्षाः चर्षाः चर्यः चर्यः चर्षाः चर्यः चर्षाः चर्षाः चर्यः चर्यः चर्षाः चर्यः चरः चर्यः चर्यः चर्यः चर्यः चरः चर्यः चर्यः चर्यः चरः चर्यः चर्यः चर्यः चर्यः चरः चर्यः

We also see mention of shipwrecked merchants adrift in the sea, who mistakenly took far-off whitecaps to be dry land. As long as they had hope it kept them alive, but when they realized their mistake and lost this hope they straightaway died. The *Types of Beings* also describes certain great creatures that crawl up out of the water to bury their eggs beneath the sandy beach. As long as the mother creature keeps her eggs in mind, they remain fresh. If she forgets about them, so it is said, they spoil.

The Master though objects to this explanation:

If this were true, then the movement of the mother's mind would have to be sustenance for the young, which is illogical. The point is, rather, that the beings in the eggs are kept from spoiling as long as they recall their mother, and spoil when they forget.

The Pandit makes a counterclaim that "This position is itself mistaken: the root text itself states that `one is ignorant all,' and that `this is always the case with those from eggs." He is himself in error though, for the mental states of failing to recall something on one hand and total ignorance on the other are not exclusive of one another.

48 *Realms and Three Types of Sustenance*

"'বাশ্বুম'ব্বা'ৰা

These in three.

[III.158b]

र्यः संस्कृत्यस्य स्वात्त्र स्वात्त्र स्वात्त्र स्वात्त्र स्वात्त्र स्वात्त्र स्वात्त्र स्वात्त्र स्वात्त्र स्व स्वात्त्र स्वात्त्य स्वात्त्र स्वात्त्र स्वात्त्र स्वात्त्र स्वात्त्र स्वात्त्र स्व

In what realms are these three types of sustenance found? **These** are found **in** all **three** realms. One might ask whether everything that can be made into portions can also act as sustenance which nurtures the powers and their basis. All four combinations are possible in this regard. First consider types of smells, tastes, or tangibles which come in portions but do harm to the powers and their basis. They are an example of something which exists in portions but which is not a kind of sustenance which nurtures the powers and this basis.

संयो यक्षेत्रायाः साम्रीयाः साम्रीयाः साम्रीयाः सम्याः सम्यः सम्याः सम्

The final three types of sustenance provide an example of something which is sustenance nurturing the powers and their basis but which is not something made into these physical portions. An example of both would be any kind of sustenance which, once taken in portions, produced a nurturing effect upon the powers and their basis. A case of neither would be, finally, something like sound or suffering with its attendant phenomena.

"If something produces a deleterious effect upon the powers and their basis," one may assert, "it could never be referred to as `solid food."" Even if it produces a harmful effect at some future date, we may nonetheless properly refer to something as solid food on the basis that, for the time being, it has a beneficial influence. This is because the food is performing a function on two different occasions.

दे.चार.बे.वे। चि.क्रेच । वह्माचेद्रः सूर्यः चत्रः स्त्रीयः चित्रः चित्र

"Now the Victorious Buddha," one may continue, "spoke that the result of offering food to a single ordinary being staying in the *dzambu*-tree grove was greater than that of the same offering of food to a hundred non-Buddhist sages who had managed to free themselves of desire for the objects of the senses. Who was he referring to in the expression `ordinary being staying in the *dzambu*-tree grove'?"

Some claim that the reference is to everyone on *Dzambu* with a stomach, but this is incorrect since it contradicts the specific mention of a *single* being. Moreover the force of the comparison would be lost, there being no great wonder that giving to so many people would outweigh the other act.

यत्त्रेन । त्रुट्र शेश्वराद्य यात्र श्राचित्र श्रीत्र । त्रीत्र क्ष्यराद्य । त्रीत्र क्ष्यराद्य । त्रीत्र क्षय व्यात्र क्षय व्यात्र क्षय । त्रीत्र क्षय व्यात्र क्षय व्यात्र क्षय । त्रीत्र क्षय व्यात्य

Others have claimed that the words refer to a bodhisattva who has reached the point where only a certain, fixed time remains before he achieves the final goal. The Detailists on their part claim that this interpretation is incorrect, since giving to such a being would be an act of much greater merit than that of making offerings to ten million enemy destroyers, and that the words are therefore meant to refer to bodhisattvas who have reached the state conducive to certain separation from suffering [i.e., the path of preparation].

स्वार्यात्र्यं ने ने से त्वर्रे । तर् ने से स्वार्यात्र्यं स्वार्यं स्वारं स्वरं स्वारं स्वारं

र्स्यायान्द्रेन्यायान्द्रेन्यायायर्द्र्न्यक्ष्यायान्यात्यः वित्यायः वित्या

The Master though rebuts this position:

This could never be correct—first because of the incongruity between the being to which the name supposedly refers and the nature of the name itself. Moreover, in no sutra or classical commentary at all do we see bodhisattvas who have reached the state conducive to their certain separation from suffering referred to as bodhisattvas residing in the *dzambu*-tree grove. Therefore the being in question is a bodhisattva who has managed to develop the first concentration level sitting at the base of a *dzambu* tree, and who has gained his every goal. From the point of view of his having overcome any desire for the objects of the desire realm, the bodhisattva is in no way distinguished from the non-Buddhists mentioned. His vast superiority is nonetheless reflected in the fact that giving to this single person constitutes so much greater merit than giving to the hundred others.

योशालुश्वात्त्रः द्वीरः खेशायाश्वीरः। श्रीश्वात्त्र प्रमान्त्रः विश्वात्त्र विश्वात्त्र विश्वात्त्र प्रमान्त्र विश्वात्त्र प्रमान्त्र प्रमान्त्य प्रमान्त्र प्रमान्त्र प्रमान्त्र प्रमान्त्र प्रमान्त्र प्रमान्य

Someone might ask whether making offerings to such a person wouldn't be a greater merit than giving to an absolutely infinite number of the non-Buddhists mentioned. Admittedly it would be, he says; the word "hundred" is employed here first to maintain a continuity in composition, since in passages of the sutra preceding the one in question the word constantly appears: "You could give something to a hundred beings living in the animal state of birth, yet still look forward to results a hundred times more powerful maturing from the deed of offering something to a single human being, even an immoral one."

54 The Great Disc of Wind

नि.ल.र्श्वेन्गीःवह्याःहेन्शी मान्नश्चार्याःवर्तेन्याःवेयाःनयायो । मह्मार्योःन्गीयःवर्षिरःहस्रश्चाःनी । स्मार्थःचीःनगीयःवर्षिरःहस्रश्चाःनी ।

Here the beliefs on how it stays, this great Vessel of the world: below, a great Disc of wind, a million six hundred thousand Thick, by another without count.

[III.177-80]

ग्री: इस माल्या द्वर : बर्गा द्वर्गा यह ते : स्वर : स्वर

Having thus explained the world of living beings, we turn to the other world—the great outer vessel itself. There are a limitless number of planets, planets of countless different descriptions—we could never cover them all. We will thus touch, and only briefly, on the details of the planet connected to the Saha Paradise of our own precious Teacher.

त्या श्रीत्यीत्रात्यात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्या

Here then are the beliefs of the Knowledge school of philosophers on how it stays, this great vessel of the world. According to their system, the foundation that lies below this world first consisted of nothing but empty space. Then began a portent of the formation of a new world: a gentle force of wind, swirling about itself over a period of very many years. Eventually it turned into a great disk of wind, so fierce and solid that even a massive diamond could never crack it. In thickness, this disc measures one million, six hundred thousand yojana [about 7 million miles]. Its diameter runs one "countless" of yojana [about 4.5 times 10 to the 60th power (60 zeroes) miles].

55
The Disc of Water and Gold

। विस्थयात्वर्भः स्वाः चर्डः चार्डवाः द्राः । विस्यः स्वाः चर्डः स्वाः चर्डः चर्डः चर्डः स्वाः स्वाः चर्डः स्वाः स्वाः स्वाः चर्डः स्वाः स्वाः

The measure of the water in its thickness Is equal to one million, twenty thousand. Eight hundred thousand, the thickness externally; All of the remainder turned to gold. The measurement of the radius

Of this massive disc of water and gold Is just about a million two hundred And three thousand, four hundred and fifty. Three times this for the circumference.

[III.181-9]

क्र-तियंश्वास्यान्यः योष्ट्रयाद्यः नेतः क्ष्रेटः स्यान्याक्षेः के. पुः प्रेटः स्यान्याः विदः र्ष्याः यात्रः यात्रे व्याः यात्रः यो यात्रे व्याः यात्रः यात्र

As for the disc of water and gold, a pillar of rain so dense it looks like the shaft of a oxcart falls then upon that massive disc of wind. This causes the formation of a great disc of water possessing an inner base of gold. The measure of this water in its thickness is equal to one million, twenty thousand yojana [about 4.6 million miles].

क्ष्यान्त्रः भ्रात्वे विश्वाचे । वाष्ट्रियाः भ्रात्वे विश्वाचे । विश्वाचे विश्वचे । विश्

One may ask why this water doesn't just roll off the edge of the disc of wind. Some claim that what holds it on is the power of the past deeds of all living beings; food that you've eaten, for example, stays without dropping into the intestines until the stomach has finished dissolving it. Others claim that the suction of the wind below keeps it on.

दर्यशस्यात्मिर्द्रात् सैयाःश्याश्चित्रात्वेश्वर्यात्रेश्वर्यात्रेश्वर्यात्रेश्वर्यात्रेश्वर्यात्रेश्वर्यात्र्य वद्यायाश्चरः म्योःश्वर्याव्यव्यव्यव्यत्र्ये । । देदः स्त्रेश्वर्यः देव्यः द्यम् स्त्रेशः स्वर्यः स्वर्यः स्वर्

Next a great wind stirs up the surface of this water, so much that it gains solidity and a great disc of gold takes shape. The **external thickness** of this formation is as follows. The thickness of the disc of water is now **eight hundred thousand** yojana [about 3.6 million miles]. **All of the remainder,** three hundred and twenty thousand yojana [about 1.4 million miles], has **turned to gold.**

One may ask about the measurement of the radius of this massive disk of water and gold. It is just a single million and two hundred and three thousand, four hundred and fifty yojana [5.4 million miles]. The circumference, since the disc has a circular outline, would be three times this.

|मानेश्रायाया रे.मन्। सर्क्र्यन्ता श्रीटामन्दर्यो । इटार्स्ये

Having thus explained the foundation of the world, we will now describe what rests upon this foundation. We'll first treat the mountains, then the oceans, and finally the various continents.

56 *Mountains of the World*

ाने त्या सुन र्यो मानवः विदायहें न।

प्राप्ति स्वाय प्रवासी प्राप्ति स्वाय प्रवासी प्राप्ति स्वाय स्व

।ढ़ॖॱऒॱढ़ॸॱॸॖॱॸक़ॖॸॱॿॎ॓ॱॸॺ ।ढ़ॖॖॖॖॖॸॱॸ॔ॱॸऀॿढ़ॱऄॗॸॱॸॖॱॴॸॱ। ।ॸॖॖॖॖॺॻॱक़॔ॸॱॸॺॱढ़ऀॱॸक़ॖॸॱॿॎ॓ढ़॔। ।ॸ॒ॸॖॺॱॸ॔ॱढ़ॺॸॱॸॖॱऄॖॸॱऄॗॸॱॸॿ॓। ।ॸॖ॓ॱॸॺॱॾॖॖॖॺॾढ़ॸॱॸॾॴ

Here then Mount Supreme and also Yoke, Plowshare next and after it Khadira, Just so that referred to as Mount Lovely, Ear of the Horse, and then the Perfect Bow. Next is Rim of the Wheel, and after that The various continents, and on the outer Side of them the range Encircling. The seven are of gold; this one iron. Mount Supreme of four different precious things, Standing in the water at a depth of Eighty thousand, eighty thousand too Above the water line, in yojana. The height of eight decreases by a half, In length across the same as altitude.

[III.190-203]

Next in the formation of the world comes another great rain, like the one before, falling upon the disc of water and gold. This leads to the formation of an outer ocean composed of various primeval elements. A great wind rises and agitates the highest order of the elements, thereby creating the first of the great mountain areas,

1) **Mount Supreme:** so called because of its supremacy, its eminence, over all the other mountains.

विश्व त्या स्त्र त्या क्षेत्र त्या कष्त्य क्षेत्र त्या कष्त्र क्षेत्र त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्टि त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्य त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्य त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्य त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्य त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्य त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्र त्या त्या कष्त्य त्या कष्त्य त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्य त्

As the wind agitates the middle-order elements, other great ranges come into being. They are

- 2) the range of The **Yoke**, mountains embellished with a peak of a pleasing outline that strikes the eye like the yoke between two oxen pulling a cart;
- 3) the range of The **Plowshare**, mountains with the attractive look of a plowshare of gold; **after it**
- 4) the **Khadira** range, embellished with a forest of *khadira* trees;
- 5) **just so that referred to as** the **"Lovely"** range, with a peak that is lovely to look upon;
- 6) the **Ear of the Horse**, mountains embellished with the shape of a horse's ear; **and then**
- 7) **the Perfect Bow,** a range of mountains topped with a peak shaped like a person bending over in a bow. **Next is**
- 8) **Rim of the Wheel,** a range with peaks arranged like a wheel's rim. All of these last-mentioned mountain ranges lie like concentric circles around Mount Supreme.

विर्यास्त्रमानीः रेवे। विर्यास्त्रमानीः रेवे। विर्यास्त्रमानीः रेवे। विर्यास्त्रमानीः रेवे। विर्यास्त्रमान्यस्त्रम् विर्यास्यास्त्रम्

After that the lower-order elements of the ocean are agitated by the wind, leading to the formation of the various continents. On the outer side of them lies the Encircling range of mountains, which take their name from the fact that they circle around the area of the four continents.

वर्त्वः में प्रमुश्येतः दें मिन् प्रमुग्ना मानुवः विदः वहा स्त्राम् स्त्राम् । विदः वहा मानुवः विदः वहा स्त्राम । विदः प्रमुग्नाम । विदः

One may ask what materials make up these nine kinds of mountains. The seven from the Yoke out to Rim of the Wheel are made of gold, while "this one"—the Encircling range—is iron.

सर्ज्या के स्थान के

Mount Supreme is made **of four different precious things:** its eastern side is silver, the southern side is lapis, the west of ruby, and the north of gold. (*The Comment* states that it is the east side that is made of ruby, while the west is the one with silver.) The color of the sky in each of the quarters running out from Mount Supreme is determined by the particular precious material on that side of the mountain: therefore the sky over Dzambu, the southern continent where we live, appears blue.

ब्र्यायां । द्वित्रास्य्यास्य स्वित्रः स्वेतः स्वेतः द्वितः द्वतः द्वितः द्वितः द्वितः द्वितः द्वितः द्वितः द्वितः द्वितः द्वित

One may ask about the distances involved with these mountain ranges. Mount Supreme stands in the water at a depth of eighty thousand yojana [360,000 miles]. It rises eighty thousand yojana too above the water line. The height of the remaining eight mountains decreases by a half, which makes them forty thousand, twenty thousand, and so on. The length across these ranges, that is their breadth, is exactly the same as their altitude.

|याद्येश्रायादी|

Next we'll describe the oceans of the world.

57
Oceans of the World

१२.८च.चर.चर्षःस्ताः अष्ट्रः त्राचाः व्याः व्याः

The seven between them are the Seas of Sport. The first of them consists of eighty thousand; It is the one we call the Inner Sea,

Three times longer in circumference. The other Seas of Sport then half by half. That remaining, the Great Outer Sea; In its measure some three hundred twenty And two thousand.

[III.204-11a]

There are **seven** different seas lying **between** the concentric mountain chains from Mount Supreme out to Rim of the Wheel. They **are** known as **the** "**Seas of Sport,**" so named because they are filled with water possessed of the eight wonderful qualities, and are bodies of water where the kings of the serpent-like nagas play and sport.

विश्वास्त्री विश्वास्त्रीत्वास्त्रित्वास्त्री

What are these "eight wonderful qualities"? As the verse goes,

Cool and delicious, light and soft as well, Sparkling clear, with no odor at all, Never a harm to the stomach when it's drunk, Never either unpleasant to the throat.

विंत्र-दे-द्रवानीक्र-हि-सु-तु-ले-ता अर्के-द्र-हे-द्रवानक्र-हे-हे-ह्रवानक्र-हेर्वानक्रित-क्रिक्-विवानक्र-हेर्वा ।दे-ते-ह्री-त्र-विक्-त्री-त्र-त्रकान्द-विक्-त्री-क्रिक्-त्री-क्रिक्-त्री-विक-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक्-त्री-विक-त्रि-विक-त्रि-व

"What," one may ask, "are the dimensions of these seas?" **The first of them consists of eighty thousand** yojana [about 360,000 miles]. Of the Inner and

Outer Seas, it is the one we call the "Inner," and it is three times longer than its length in circumference. The measures of the other Seas of Sport then are each half less than that of the sea inside of it.

The **remaining** ocean area, that from Rim of the Wheel out to the Encircling range, is known as **the Great Outer Sea**. It is **in its measure some three hundred** and **twenty-two thousand** yojana [about 1.5 million miles].

मर्ते । १८-स्तु। वर्षे । १८-स्तु।

Our last section here concerns the various continents. We treat first the major continents, then the subcontinents, and close with a description of the particular features of our own continent—that of Dzambu.

58
Continents and Subcontinents

| र्स्याक्ष्यात्म्यक्ष्याः व्यक्तं |
| र्स्याक्ष्याः व्यक्तं व्यवक्तं

नियान श्रीत्र स्वास्त्र स

Among each of these, The continent of Dzambu runs two thousand On three sides. It has a wagon's shape, On the one, three and a half yojana. The Eastern, Greatbody, like half a moon, Three sides similar to those and one With three hundred and fifty yojana. The continent of Cattle Users round, Seven and a half thousand around: Through its center, just two and a half. Terrible Sound, eight, even square. Eight the continents that lie between: Body and Greatbody, Terrible Sound, The Matching continent of Terrible Sound, Oxtail Fan, the Other Oxtail Fan, Moving and the one called Path Supreme. [III.211b-26]

रे'क्शकी श्चीरक्ष्यश्येवकी विश्वायवित्व। श्चीरक्ष्यश्यायतिवित्व। श्चीरक्षिः रे'क्शकी श्चीरक्ष्यश्येवकी विश्वायवित्व। श्चीरक्ष्यायादिकात्वाकि चित्रं।

यित्रः मुन्द्रः प्रित्रः प्रति । वित्रः मुद्रः । वित्रः । वित्रः मुद्रः । वित्रः । वित्रः मुद्रः । वित्रः । वित्

"In the lines above," one may begin, "you spoke about `the various continents' that came `after that.' Just what are these continents?" **Among each of these** continents, the first is known as **the** "Southern **Continent of Dzambu.**" The name derives from the fact that, first of all, it lies south of the ultimate mountain—Mount Supreme. "Dzambu" comes from the sound that comes when the fruit of a *dzambu* tree drops into the water. And since this mass is surrounded by water, we call it a "continent." [This is a play on words in the Sanskrit, where the word for "island" or "continent" is $dv\bar{v}pa$, meaning "that which divides the water (ap) into two (dvi)."] The continent **runs two thousand** yojana [about 9,000 miles] **on** each of **three** different **sides**. **It has the shape of a wagon**, with **three and a half yojana on the one** remaining side.

चर्मी किंच्येश्र्वे। चर्मा र्यायाः क्र्रेस्यं यात्राः विश्वाः विश्व

The Eastern Continent, Greatbody, is so named because it lies to the east of this mountain, and since the size of its inhabitants' bodies is twice that of those living here. Like a half moon in its outline, this continent has three sides similar to those of our own continent: two thousand yojana each in measure. It has one remaining side with three hundred and fifty yojana.

यालवा मः न्यया र्यतः श्रेंदः स्या स्वेनः नदः याशुसः श्रें।

The name of **the** Western **Continent, Cattle Users**, comes from the fact that it lies to the west of this mountain, while its inhabitants enjoy the use of cattle and jewels. It is also, of course, surrounded by water and thus called a "continent." It is **round**, shaped like a circle, measuring **seven and a half thousand** yojana. This means that, measured straight **through its center**, the continent is **just two and a half** thousand yojana.

श्री
निविद्यान्त्र स्थान्त्र स्थान्

Next is the Northern Continent, **Terrible Sound**, so named because it lies to the north of this mountain and because, seven days before they die, people there hear a terrible sound telling them in advance. The total outer measure of the continent is **eight** thousand yojana; it has the shape of **a square**, with four **even** sides of two thousand yojana each.

श्रीयः स्वाय्यात्र्याः श्री श्रीटः याद्याः स्वाय्याः स्वायः स्वाय्याः स्वायः स्वायः स्वायः स्वायः स्वायः स्वयः स्वयः

As for the subcontinents, there are **eight** of these ancillary **continents that lie between** the four principal ones. Ancillary to the Eastern Continent are the subcontinents named **Body and Greatbody**. Those ancillary to the Northern Continent are the subcontinents of **Terrible Sound** and **Matching Terrible Sound**. The subcontinents related to the Southern Continent are known as **Oxtail Fan** and **the Other Oxtail Fan**; those around the Western Continent we call **Moving and Path Supreme**. Thus there are four pairs of subcontinents, totalling eight. Humans live on all of them; harmful spirits inhabit Oxtail Fan.

।বার্ষ্ক্রম:ম:द्री

We turn lastly now to the particular features of the Southern Continent, our own.

59
Description of the Southern Continent

वित्तः वश्चात् द्वात् स्त्रः वित्तः व्याः वित्तः व्याः व वित्तः व्याः व

North from here, the Nine Mountains of Black; Past them stand the Mountains of Snow. Next The Scent of Incense; to its near side lies The Lake with banks the length of fifty. [III.227-30]

यद्रात्वे स्त्रीट मी द्रव्या स्त्रात्व स्त्री मार्या व्याप्त स्त्री स्त्रात्व स्त्र स्त्र स्त्र स्त्रात्व स्त्र स्त्

North from "here"—that is, from the Seat of the Diamond here in India, at the very center of Dzambu Continent—are the Nine Mountains of Black. Past them stand the towering Mountains of Snow. Next, still travelling north, we come upon the mountain they call Scent of Incense.

Ten yojana [about 45 miles] **to the near side of this** peak **lies Lake** Neverwarm, the home of the *naga* king of the same name. It is filled with waters having the eight wonderful qualities, and covered with various flowers such as the blue, red, and night lotuses. It has **banks the length of fifty** yojana each and, being four-sided, measures two hundred [900 miles] all around.

The Ganges River descends from a rock formation on the east side of the lake shaped like the mouth of an elephant. From a formation on the southern side with an outline like the beak of the great *garuda* bird flows the Sindhu. The Pakshu River falls from an aperture to the west shaped like a horse's mouth; the Sita finally comes from the lake's northern section, from a formation which bears a resemblance to the mouth of a lion. These currents run a circle around Lake Neverwarm seven times in a clockwise direction, joining with some five hundred smaller currents, and flow down to the Great Outer Sea. As *Comment on the World* relates,

ब्रुट्टिलट के क्या के स्ट्रिटि के के स्ट्रिट्टि के स्थार के स्ट्रिट्टिट के स्ट्रिट के स्ट्रिट्टिट के स्ट्रिट के स्ट्र के स्ट्रिट के स्ट्रिट के स्ट्रिट के स्ट्रिट के स्ट्रिट के स्ट्र के स्ट्रिट के स्ट्रिट के स्ट्रिट के स्ट्रिट के स्ट्रिट के स्ट्र के स्ट्रिट के स्ट्रिट के स्ट्रिट के स्ट्र के स्ट्रिट के स्ट्र के

The rivers of the Ganges and the Sindhu, Pakshu
And the Sita fall, currents sporting garlands strung
With bubbles of the froth, and each with cool refreshing waters.
They spring forth from the outer edge in each of four directions:
From the eastern side the Ganges, flowing to the sea;
Passing there as well the Sindhu, from the southern quarter;
From the west the Pakshu, heading also to the ocean;
Lastly to the seaside too the Sita from the north.
These, the four most mighty torrents, greatest of all rivers,
Make each one their separate descent in a way most grand,
Each one also taking with it some five hundred more,
All these currents flowing then to meet the Greater Sea.

Twenty yojana [about 90 miles] north of Scent of Incense mountain stands a great golden crag covered with overhangs providing nesting places for birds. Known as "Obelisk of the Lesser Pleasure Beings," it is square and measures fifty yojana [225 miles] to a side, or two hundred all round. In height the crag stands three and a half yojana [about 16 miles]; it possesses a special beauty very pleasing to the eye. An additional hundred thousand golden crags with similar overhangs surround the principal one.

स्र-म्यम्भःभ्।

15.यम् म्यान्तः द्वान्यः क्ष्र-त्वान्यः क्ष्र-त्वान्यः क्ष्र-त्वान्यः व्यान्यः व्याव्यः व्याव्

Another twenty yojana [90 miles] to the north stands the King of the Sala Trees, otherwise known as "Steadfast." Its roots penetrate the earth to a distance of forty cubits [60 feet], and seven rows of *sala* trees ring it all around. Its branches tower into the sky with leaves that overlap each other so tightly that they almost seem to cover the sky.

प्रत्ये में प्रत्ये प

Still another twenty yojana, this time to the east, lies a great pool of water known as Gentle Currents. Its dimensions are the same as those of Lake Neverwarm. A hundred lesser pools surround it, and all are covered by extraordinary lotuses with stems the size of plows, leaves the size of cowhides, and blossoms big as wagon wheels.

र्श्वर्यक्षित्राचित्राच्छाः व्याप्त्याः स्ट्राच्याः स

Here too is another "Steadfast," the war-elephant of the pleasure-being named Hundred Offerings. His body is white, his head blue with a reddish center, and he sports six tusks. The elephant stands two and a half yojana in height, and one full yojana in breadth. Two and a half in length, he measures then seven yojana all round. Another hundred thousand elephants serve as his attendants, and they reside for the four months of the winter, spring, and summer seasons at a different one of the locations just mentioned.

मर्मिस्याया नर्द्रसन्दा नेन्नामी र्मेस्यायती । न्दर्सिया द्रर्स्स्या न्दर्स्या । न्दर्स्य । न्दर्स्य । न्दर्स्य । न्दर्य । न्दर्स्य । न्दर्य । न्दर्स्य । न्दर्य । न्दर्य । न्दर्स्य । न्दर्स्य । न्दर्स्य । न्दर्स्य । न्दर्य

Having completed a description of the physical bodies atop the foundation of the world, we turn to a more particular explanation of the various locales of living beings. Here we will first complete a basic presentation and then follow it further to related points. The presentation itself begins with the locales of those in births of misery and proceeds to the places inhabited by those of the higher births. Within the births of misery we treat first the hot hells, and after that the cold.

The Asian Classics Institute Course VIII: Death and the Realms of Existence

Reading Seven: The lives of hellbeings

The following selection is taken from the Illumination of the Path to Freedom, a commentary by Gyalwa Gendun Drup, His Holiness the First Dalai Lama, on the Treasure House of Higher Knowledge (Abhidharma Kosha), written by the Buddhist master Vasubandhu in the fourth century AD. Master Vasubandhu's root text verses do not appear in the original of the commentary, and have been inserted at the appropriate points. Parts of these verses woven into the commentary have been printed in bold to show the close connection of the two works, and section headings have been provided for clarity.

60 The Hot Hells

वित्रे वित्रेष्ट्रियः स्त्रीयः क्षेत्र्याः स्त्रीयः स्त्रीयः स्त्रीयः स्त्रीयः स्त्रीयः स्त्रीयः स्त्रीयः स्त् वित्रास्त्रीयः स्त्रीयः स्

Twenty thousand deep beneath of us, That of No Respite, just the same. Seven are the hells atop of it.

[III.231-3]

सदर्भी वह्मानुस्य । विष्ठेमानुरः यदेश्यविः भ्रूपका स्रेत्यमान्ने । भूता यस्य स्रेत्या विष्ठेमानुरः यदेश स्रित्य । स्र्या प्रेत्य प्रस्य । स्र्या प्रस्य । स्रम्य । स्र्या प्रस्य । स्रम्य । स्र

Twenty thousand yojana deep [about 90,000 miles] beneath of us here on Dzambu Continent lies the ceiling of the hell known as No Respite. Its height and depth are just the same: twenty thousand yojana each. The hell is known as "No Respite" because the beings living there experience unlimited sufferings without the slightest interruption. Some have claimed that "No Respite" [Skt: $av\bar{\imath}ci$] takes its name from the fact that there is no [Skt: a] occurrence of pleasure [Skt: $v\bar{\imath}$] here.

Seven are the hells atop of No Respite:

1) "Revive," so called because the beings living here strike each other with various weapons until they all lie still as death. Then a voice comes from the sky, commanding them to "Revive!" This makes them rise and start all over again.

युरायराष्ट्रियाः द्वापाद्याः द्वापाद्याः

2) In the hell called "Lines of Black," hellguards first cover beings' bodies with black lines and then use various kinds of blades to slice them open along these lines.

५८। त्याः सुरम्भ सम्बर्धाः मुक्तः विदःवर्षेत्रमः प्रमः निदःपन्नः प्रमुनःवर्षेत्रमः प्रमुनः विद्यमः प्रमुनः विद

3) The hellguards in "Gather and Smash" gather the beings here together and smash them to a pulp.

क्षःचतुः श्रृयाः चश्रूयाः ग्रीशः क्षेत्रः त्रश्रः क्षेत्रः यदे चर्श्वाः यश्रः दुः वदे द्रारः ।

4) "Screaming" hell is named from the shrieks of pain by the beings there, seared by heat.

दे'चर्थागुद्रःश्रुवा'चश्रूव्याके'चर्याव्यानुद्रश्याद्याकेंदि'केद'र्ये'वदेवर्थायश्चादुःवर्वेदः केद'र्ये'द्रदः।

5) In the "Great Screaming Hell," the heat that burns those living there is much greater, their screams of pain more horrible too.

त्रैयोश्राग्री,विटाताश्रायवरायदुःबेटारी.क्ष्यदुःक्रैयो.यक्ष्याश्रीटायकावःक्ष्यःयर्टा

6) The next hell is simply "Heat," named from the fact that its inhabitants burn stuffed in red-hot iron chambers.

देश्यकाश्चर्यात्वेत्रात्वेत्स्वराष्ट्रस्य स्थान्यः स्यान्यः स्थान्यः स्थानः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थानः स्थान्यः स्थानः स्थान्यः स्

7) Those of the next hell, "Superheat," roast in an even more unbearable heat, jammed in ceramic chambers of single or double walls.

61 The Adjacent Hells

|नकुर्रांगुर्याय्याः वृत्यायः द्वा |श्रुः व्येत्रः व्ययः श्र्यायः कुर्यः ध्येत्र| |श्रुः व्येत्रः व्ययः श्र्यायः कुर्यः ध्येत्र| |त्रुः व्यायाः वृत्यः व्ययः वृत्यः व्यायः

Sixteen extra with the entire eight,
Standing at their four individual quarters:
Hells by the name of Embers and Corpse Rot,
Razor Road and the rest, the River as well.

[III.234-7]

Sixteen extra, adjacent hells come with each of the entire eight, standing around them in a circular arrangement. At each of their four individual

quarters we find then first a hell by the name of Embers. These embers reach up to one's knees: when he sets his foot down, all the flesh and bone of his leg are burned away. When he raises his foot again, it all grows back.

Next is the **Corpse Rot**, a swamp hell of rotten corpses. You sink down to your waist and out come creatures called Sharpbeaks, with white bodies and black heads, to spear your body. Right up against the Swamp is the **Razor**-Studded **Road**, where again the flesh and bone of your feet are sliced away as you set your feet down, constantly regenerating as you raise them again.

स्वाभागी,श्रक्त,योशाजीशाज्यशाक्तात्रां सार्टा हेशावह्योशावशा वशाजीरशाचशाच्यात्रां श्रव्याच्यां स्वान्त्रां सार्टा क्षाः देशाचीशाचभीर स्वानात्रां श्रव्यानात्रां श्रव्याचीशाच्यां स्वान्त्रां सार्टा हो स्वान्त्रां सार्व्याची सार्व्याच

"The rest" refers first to the Forest of Swords, where the leaves of the trees are actually swords. A breeze blows through the forest and stirs the sword-leaves, which fall and lacerate your body. Great speckled dogs live in the forest and attack, tearing the flesh away with fangs of iron. Terror drives you to the Wood of Shalmali.

त्रुक्षायत्र्वेष्णक्षायः व्रीत्याः व्याप्तः व्रीत्याः व्याप्तः व्यापतः व्याप्तः व्यापतः व्य

The *shalmali* are huge trees with trunks many miles in height, covered with spines some sixteen inches long. As you climb a tree to escape the dogs, its spines point downwards and stick into your body. When you reach the top, ravens with steel beaks are waiting to pluck your eyeballs away from the sockets. In desperation you begin to climb back down, only now the spikes turn their points upward to spear your body again.

वयाश्चर्याक्ष्याः व्याच्याः व्याचः व्याच्याः व्याच्याः

Last comes the River Uncrossable, filled with burning ashes and almost impossible to pass. Now the three hells of the previous paragraphs are counted only as one because the instruments of torture in each of them are of the same general type. The dogs and ravens are considered characteristics of the Forest of Swords and the Shalmali Wood.

इ.र.जीयो.यो.यो.यो.यो.येर्ट.त.२४.याध्रेय.हुय.रश्चात्र्यंयात्रम् अश्चात्र्यंयात्रात्रम् व्यीट.य.जश्चाय्येयात्रम् व्यीट.य.जश्चाय्येर.तयु.यिर.तर.व्यात्रम् अश्चाय्येयात्रम् यो प्रती रश्चितः व्यीट.य.जश्चाय्येर.तयु.यिर.यर्थ्यात्रप्रेयात्रम् अश्चाय्येत्रम् व्यीप्त.यर्थ्यात्रम् अश्चाय्येत्रम् व्यीप्त.यर्थ्यात्रम् व्याप्त.यंत्रम् व्याप्त.यंत्रम्यः व्याप्त.यंत्रम् व्याप्त.यंत्रम्यः व्याप्त.यंत्रम्यः व्याप्त.यंत्रम्यः व्याप्त.यंत्रम्यः व्याप्त.यंत्रम्यः व्याप्त.यंत्रम्यः व्याप्त.यंत्यम्यः व्याप्त.यंत्रम्यः व्याप्त

In front of these hells stand the hellguards of the Lord of Death, weapons in hand to stop any of the hellbeings from running somewhere else. One may ask whether these guards are a kind of living being or not. The Sutrists claim that they are not, that they are merely constructs of the elements and their derivatives, like mountains that resemble the head of a goat or sheep.

ह्रीय-त्रास्त्रम् । विद्यायक्ष्यः प्राप्त । विद्यायक्षयः व्याकः विद्याः विद्य

Some might say that this explanation seems to contradict a verse from the venerable Dharmika Subhuti:

Those who delight in anger, cruelty, Those who find their pleasure in bad deeds, Those who love to see some suffering, Take their births as demons of Lord Death.

त्रश्चारात्र्यं देशकार्य्यं वित्राह्यं क्ष्यात्र्यं वित्राह्यं वित्राहयं वित्राह्यं वित

And yet it does not. Here the expression "demons of Lord Death" is meant to refer only to those craving spirits who act as attendants to the Lord of All Things, the Lord of Death, and whose job it is to lead beings to their places in the hells.

The Detailists on their part claim that the hellguards are a kind of living being, and that after their deaths they take birth as hellbeings themselves, this being the ripened result of their having done such harm to the beings in the hells. They say the reason why the guards themselves are left unharmed by the hellfires and so on is that their past deeds prevent it.

|यादेश:यादे।

Next we describe the cold hells.

62 The Cold Hells

|कु:तुर:ठब:श्रेंय|श:याद:पक्किर:य|बबा

The other eight, cold, starting with Blisters. [III.238]

There are **eight** more hells, **other** than the hot ones. These are the **cold** hells, and they **start with** the hell called **Blisters**. The names of the eight are Blisters, Blisters Bursting, Chattering, Moaning in Cold, Screaming in Cold, Splitting Open like a Blue Lotus, Splitting Open like a Red Lotus, and Breaking Wide Open like a Red Lotus.

द्रंबःश्चीटःवर्देवेःद्वाःमुःअवरःअन्याःयःश्वाशःयःहेःसूरःकुन्छःव। कुन्ने। श्चीटः द्रंबःश्चीटःवर्देवेःद्वाःमुःअवरःअन्याःयःश्वीशःयःहेःसूरःकुन्छेःव। कुन्ने। श्चीटः

One might ask how all these different hells, No Respite and the rest, could ever fit under this one continent. And yet they do, for the continents are all much wider at the base, shaped like a pile of grain.

विश्वान्ता विश्व निर्मान्त्रात्म कार्य निर्मान्य विश्व निर्मान्त्रात्म कार्य निर्मान्त्रात्म कार्य निर्मान्त्र विश्व निर्मान्त्र निर्मान्त्र निर्मान्त्र निर्मान्त्र निर्मान्त्र निर्मान्त्र कार्य निर्मान्त्र न

र्देवार्याचेर द्वी प्रशाद्वीर प्राप्ता द्वार प्राप्ता द्वीर प्राप्ता केरा ही हिंदा हिंदा ।

Now the principal habitat for animals is supplied by the Great Outer Sea: their numbers here are great, their suffering limitless. Those that live in the lands of men and pleasure beings are spread all over, with no one particular location. The main place for craving spirits lies beneath the area of Rajagirha here on our continent, some five hundred yojana [about 2,250 miles] deep. Here lives the Lord of Death, known also as the Lord of All Things. He has the body of a craving spirit, for the past deeds that have thrown him into this place were non-virtuous. The deeds that determined the finishing details of his life, though, were virtuous—so he enjoys a kind of eminence, like one of the greater pleasure beings.

His job is to inform beings who are headed for the hells, those who are ignorant of why they must go there, just what they did to deserve such a birth. He is attended by some thirty-six types of craving spirits. These spirits may, in general, be divided into three different groups: those with outer obstacles, those with inner obstacles, and those with obstacles in the very nature of what they try to eat or drink. Such spirits who live in the lands of men or pleasure beings have no particular place, and are found throughout these areas.

यानुष्यायान्ते । प्रत्यंत्या यान्याक्षेत्रायाः स्वतः यानुष्यान्ते । प्रत्यायन्त्राः यानुष्यायन्ते । प्रत्यायन्त्राः स्वतः यानुष्यायन्त्राः स्वतः यानुष्यायन्त्रायन्ति स्वतः यानुष्यायन्ति स्वतः स्वत

Having thus discussed places where beings in the births of misery live, we turn to the locations of those in the higher births. Since we have already described the places where humans live, we begin with the lands of the pleasure beings. These fall into two types: those actually related to an area of solid ground, and those not so related. In the first category fall the lands of those in the class of the Four Great Kings, as well as those of the Thirty-Three. Pleasure beings in the class of the Four Great Kings may themselves be divided into those of the mansions, and those of the mountains.

The Asian Classics Institute Course VIII: Death and the Realms of Existence

Reading Eight: Time and the coming of a Buddha

The following selection is taken from the Illumination of the Path to Freedom, a commentary by Gyalwa Gendun Drup, His Holiness the First Dalai Lama, on the Treasure House of Higher Knowledge (Abhidharma Kosha), written by the Buddhist master Vasubandhu in the fourth century AD. Master Vasubandhu's root text verses do not appear in the original of the commentary, and have been inserted at the appropriate points. Parts of these verses woven into the commentary have been printed in bold to show the close connection of the two works, and section headings have been provided for clarity.

79 Introduction to Eons

Many different types of eons are taught. [III.358]

तयु.ह्येर। यक्ष्यान्नात्तयु.पञ्चलाता यान्ननात्तयु.पञ्चलाता पञ्चलाताःक्रेन्यं,मन्ननात्त्रात्त्र्यं,प्रमान्यः। १८८.त्.म्.म् पञ्चलाता यान्ननात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त

By way of introduction, we may say that **many different types of eons are taught.** These include the eon of destruction, the eon of formation, the eon of continuation, and the great eon.

Our detailed treatment of eons covers four topics, which correspond to the four different types of eons just mentioned.

80 The Eon of Destruction

|युद्यायदे:पश्चराय:दशुवाय:धो| |युद्यायदे:पश्चराय:दशुवाय:धो|

An eon of destruction from the point Of no more hell births to the vessel's end. [III.359-60]

श्रमश्रक्ष व्यक्तिया स्थान स्

"In the line above," one may begin, "you mentioned that `many different types of eons are taught.' Can you now describe the `eon of destruction' and other kinds of eons?" **An "eon of destruction"** starts **from the point of** where there are **no more** beings taking **births** in the **hell** called "No Respite." And it lasts up **to the** point where that great **vessel**, the outer world, has come to its **end**.

भग्रेंश्याम्बर्धाः स्थान्य स्

Four different events then occur simultaneously: (1) the discontinuation of all births by living beings into the hell of No Respite; (2) the increase of lifespans among humans of Dzambu Continent up to eighty thousand years in length; (3) the close of the eon of continuation, and (4) the opening of the eon of destruction.

र्रेशियायराष्ट्रीयरायण्येर। रेशियायायिष्यः सम्मार्थः स्वार्थः सम्मार्थः यो सम्मार्थः यो सम्मार्थः यो सम्मार्थः समार्थः सम्मार्थः सम्मार्थः सम्मार्थः सम्मार्थः समार्थः समार्थः

यद्र, रेट. त्य्र्, रट. त्रु. रेयाश. रेयाश. रे. रे. रेया. रट. प्रथेश. रे. रे. क्षेत्र. त्य्रीं रे। क्षेत्र प्रयोग क्षेत्र य्ये रे. रे. य्योग व्याप्त क्षेत्र प्रयोग व्याप्त क्षेत्र व्यापत व्यापत

At this stage all the beings living in the hell of No Respite come to the end of their lives—they die and move on. And even those who have collected new karma that would normally bring them a rebirth in this same hell take their birth instead in the hell on another planet. The same process follows for the beings in the other hells, as well as for the animals and craving spirits living in the depths of the seas. And the same thing happens, at the same time, with the animals and craving spirits living in the lands of pleasure beings and humans.

है'नश्रामित्र'द्रास्ते श्री। विश्वापह्रियाम्बित्र'मेर्स्य श्रीशामिश्चर्या हिन्द्रम्य स्थानित्र'द्रास्ते स्थानित्र स्थानित्य स्थानित्र स्थानित्र स्थानित्र स्था

At this point one of the human beings living on Dzambu Continent automatically attains the first concentration level. When he comes back out of it, he exclaims: "Wonders! The bliss and pleasure that come from this deep solitude are truly happiness!" Other inhabitants of the continent hear these words, and then attain the first concentration level which is achieved automatically. Subsequently they all take birth at the same level.

त्रश्च हु.श्च.त्र.वहेर.केर.श्चे.जा श्रंथ.त.र्थश.श्चेथ.की.श्चेत.त.२४.लुथ.तश्च क्र.ट्र.ज.उर्ट्र.क्यश.ट्र.चंज.च.श्च.श्चेर. ह.वश.रू.श.चंब्रथ.वर्ट्र.केर.श्चे.जा

The very same process then occurs, in respective order, with the inhabitants of the eastern continent and those of the continent to the west—Cattle Users. The beings who live on the northern continent of Terrible Sound though possess a special obstruction that has ripened from their past deeds, and are completely incapable of ridding themselves of attachment for the kind of life they have. Thus the process for them is that they first take rebirth as pleasure beings of the desire realm.

यिष्ट्र-द्राः स्त्राः स्त्रेः स्त्राः स्त्र

The six classes of desire-realm pleasure beings each then go through the same process, one by one. One of them attains the first concentration level automatically. When he comes out of it, he exclaims: "Wonders! The bliss and pleasure that come from this deep solitude are truly happiness!" Again the others hear about it, and reach themselves the first concentration level achieved through an automatic process. This leads them to take a birth into the level known as "Class of the Pure."

देश्यान्यस्थान्त्र्याक्ष्याः विवान्त्र्याः विवान्त्र्याः विवान्त्रः विवान्त्यः विवान्त्रः विवान्त्रः विवान्त्रः विवान्त्रः विवान्त्रः विवान्त्रः विवान्त्रः विवान्तः विवान्त्रः विवान्तः विवान्तः विवान्तः विवान्तिः विवान्तः विवान्तः विवान्तः विवान्तः विवान्तः विवान्तः विवान्त

Next one of the beings residing at the first concentration level achieves the second concentration level, again through an automatic process. He comes out of it and exclaims, "Wonders! The bliss and pleasure that come from single-pointed concentration are truly happiness!" Still again the others hear about it, and reach themselves the second concentration level achieved by an automatic process. This brings about their birth at this second level.

र्ट. क्षेट्या क्ष्मा स्था स्था क्ष्मा क्ष्म

The events described above go on for some nineteen intermediate eons. At this point the great pleasure beings begin to stop sending rain at its proper time; all the vegetation and forests of Dzambu Continent dry up and die. After an extremely long period of time, a second sun rises in the sky, creating tremendous heat. All the lesser bodies of water and small ponds turn dry.

यान्त्राच्यान्त्राच्या योश्चेत्राच्याः विद्यान्त्राच्याः विद्यान्त्राच्याः विद्याः वि

This leads to the rising of a third sun, which causes all the streams and rivers to evaporate. A fourth sun rises, and even the huge Lake Neverwarm disappears. Then comes the fifth sun, drying the Great Outer Sea as well. With the rising of a sixth sun, the four continents and Mount Supreme dissolve in a cloud of smoke. Finally a seventh sun comes up, engulfing the world in a single flame, destroying it in fire.

देशः मुद्राय्यः स्वर्धः प्रथाः प्रथा

This fire then triggers a parallel fire in the first concentration level. The mansions of this first level, empty of inhabitants by this time, are burned completely. It is not actually the fire in the desire realm that burns down the mansions here, for they are separate levels.

र्म्स केर ग्रीस स्वास्त प्रमास्त्री वहमा हेत वहमा स्वास्त प्रमाय प्रमास्त्री प्रमास्त्री वहमा स्वास्त्री स्वा

यश्या सुरायीशायहैयान्यायश्यापात्रम्यात्रियारान्या र्केशान्तेराणीशार्चेयायदेः यश्यापात्रम्यात्रेराचीशायहैयास्यापात्रम्यात्रेरायाः सुर्वे

These last events require a single intermediate eon, which means that the destruction of the world takes a total of twenty intermediate eons. The above description, by the way, pertains to the destruction of a world by fire. In cases where the planet is destroyed by water, beings living at the second concentration level attain the third level of concentration by an automatic process. This leads to their subsequent birth at the third level. In an instance where the world is, finally, destroyed by wind, inhabitants of this third level reach the fourth concentration level by an automatic process and then take birth there.

|गानुषायायकगाषायवे पङ्गावायाचे

We turn next to the eon of formation.

81 The Eon of Formation

বিষ্ণান্ত শ্বীন্দ্রী ক্রিন্দ্র ক্রিন্দ্র বিষ্ণান্ত শ্বীন্দ্র ক্রিন্দ্র ক্রিন্দ্র

That of the formation begins from the first Wind, on up to a birth within the hells.

[III.361-2]

यद्यः त्रम्भः त्रम्यान् । विष्यः द्रमः भ्रमः विष्यः विषयः विष्यः विषयः विष्यः विष्यः

Now an **eon of formation begins from** the rising of **the first** gentle **wind on up to** the **birth** of a single living being **within the hell** of No Respite. At the very beginning, space is completely empty—then a gentle wind rises, a portent of the formation of a new planet. The force of this wind alone would never be enough to create that great vessel, the outer world—although the levels from Class of the Pure down to Free of Conflict do take shape.

यान्य प्रमुखाम्बिन विकास्य प्रमुखाम्बिन विकास्य प्रमास्य प्रम्भवाम्बिन विकास्य प्रमास्य प्रमुखाम्बिन विकास्य प्रमास्य प

This same wind from before then gathers strength over a period of a great many years, until all the parts of the world from the foundation disc of wind up to the land of the Thirty-Three have formed, one by one, working up from the bottom. All these different events require one entire intermediate eon.

Next there is a certain being who was living at the level of Clear Light, and whose life, merit, and power of past deeds have all run out. He takes a rebirth into the empty mansion of the Pure One; for it is the nature of things, that what was destroyed last is the first to take form. Then come all the other inhabitants of the world, one by one, up to those of Dzambu Continent.

These first human beings to dwell on Dzambu Continent are born instantaneously, all complete. For food they need nothing but the feeling of bliss, and their bodies shine with a radiant light. They have miraculous

powers that allow them to fly in the sky, and live for an "inestimable" number of years. This entire process, up to the point where a single living being takes birth into the hell of No Respite, requires some nineteen intermediate eons.

Four different events then occur simultaneously: (1) a drop in the lifespan from a "inestimable" number to eighty thousand years; (2) the birth of any single being into the hell of No Respite; (3) the close of the formation eon; and (4) the opening of the eon of continuation.

|गशुक्ष:पःगवर्षःपदे:पङ्गवःपःदे।

Our next subject is this very "eon of continuation."

82
The Eon of Continuation

विर्याक्षेत्रया प्रमानिक्षेत्रया विर्याक्षेत्रया प्रमानिक्षेत्रया विर्याक्षेत्रया विष्यविष्ये विष्ये विष्यविष्ये विष्ये विष्यविष्ये विष्यविष्ये विष्यविष्ये विष्यविष्ये विष्यविष्ये

Intermediate eon from an "inestimable"
Down to when the spans of life are ten;
Eighteen other eons after that,
Each an increase followed by decrease;
Last of all is one which is an increase,
Up until they're eighty thousand long.

[III.363-8]

क्र. मु. पक्किर विद्या विक्र. क्री. प्रक्षा क्र. प्राचित्र प्राचित्र प्रक्षा क्र. प्रचित्र प्रक्षा क्ष. प्रचित्र प्रक्षा प्रचित्र प्रक्षा क्ष. प्रचित्र प्रक्षा प्रचित्र प्रक्षा क्ष. प्रचित्र प्रचित्र प्रक्षा क्ष. प्रचित्र प्रचित्र

Now the length of an eon of continuation is twenty intermediate eons, with the length of each **intermediate eon** figured as follows. One such eon consists of the period during which average lifespans drop **from an "inestimable"** number of years **down to when the spans of life are** only **ten** years. There are **eighteen other** intermediate **eons after that, each** consisting of **an increase** in lifespans up to eighty thousand years **followed by a decrease** back to ten. **Last of all is one** intermediate eon **which is** another **increase** alone. How far is the increase? **Up until they're eighty thousand long.**

देशकाश्चिरः तर त्यूं त्वतः हीर। बिरः रे. त्यीर रे. ह्या श्रीव श्रीव श्रीव स्थार प्रधिका त्या प्रधिका त्या प्रधिका स्थार स्था स्थार स्थार स्थार स्थार स्थार स्थार स्थार स्थार स्थार स्था स्थार स्थार स्थार स्थार स्थार स्थार स्थार स्था स्था स्थार स्था स्थार स्था स्था स्थार स्थार स्थार स्थार स्थार स्थार स्थार स्थार

One may make the following objection: "According to you then, the first and final members of any such set of twenty intermediate eons represent only half a curve apiece—whereas each of the eighteen between consist of full curves. Wouldn't this imply a difference in the lengths of these different eons?" It does not, for the first and final ones move along their half curves relatively slower, while the eons in between these two move along their full curves relatively faster.

83
Relative Durations and the Great Eon

|दे.क्षेत्र.यह्या.सेष.क्याब्य.त.यही।

१२४म् म्यू ५२४ त्ये त्य स्याध्यात्यः १ त्याः स्याध्याः स्याधः स्याध

Thus the process of the world's formation Goes on twenty intermediate eons. This formation, then destruction and The state that follows it are equal all. One great eon made of eighty of these.

[III.369-73]

दे.क्ष्र-विवाहेब.वक्ष्यायावदे.चरःश्चीःचश्चतायाके.व्यर्गायरःचश्चता विद्याः हेब.वक्ष्यायाद्यत्वे.वह्यायाद्या वियावयायद्यायाद्यायरःचश्चताके.व्यः व्यर्भव्यक्ष्यःभ्रां

Thus we can say that the process of the world's formation goes on for twenty intermediate eons. This formation of the world, then its destruction, and the state that follows this destruction are all equal in duration: each lasts for twenty intermediate eons.

|पर्ले.त.से| पर.पश्चेतातम्बर्दे,दी.ता.पश्चेताक्षेत्रक्षेत्राचिद्

As for the fourth and final type of eon—one great eon is made of eighty of these intermediate eons.

या शरशःशिशा रटःशिया वर्ष्ट्ररःस्थाःश्चिरःश्चितःवर्थेटःस्याःस्। विश्वान्ताः वर्ष्ट्रयाः वर्ष्ट्रयाः वर्ष्ट्रयाः वर्ष्ट्रयाः वर्ष्ट्रयाः वर्ष्ट्रयाः वर्ष्ट्रयाः वर्षेत्रः वर्षे

Having thus concluded our main explanation of eons, we turn to several incidental points. These include further information relating first to great eons, then to eons of destruction. The former treats the occurrence of three types of beings: Buddhas, self-made victors, and wheel emperors.

84 Occurrence of a Buddha

<u>। ব্রব্যার্থ রাজ্বর রাজ্বর রাজ্</u>য |त्तुट:टें:अर:वे:वर्ष्]प:य:थे| |चक्कि.लू.चर.ज.टु.रचा.वर्चेर.।

The occurrence of a Buddha, for three countless Of these. They make their appearance during The drop that goes down 'til a hundred is reached.

[III.374-6]

| १८८: सं. दे। यञ्जाता: याद्यारका स्रोत: सामाशुस: ५: स्रेमाय: यसमाय: सामाय: सामाय: सामाय: सामाय: स वर्त्युद्राचराम्बद्राच्यूत्राच्यूत्राचारान्ते वाद्राच्यूत्र्याच्यूत्राच्यूत्राच्यूत्राच्यूत्राच्यूत्राच्यूत्र्यत्याच्यूत्र्याच्यूत्र्याच्यूत्र्याच्यूत्र्याच्यूत्र्याच्यूत्र्याच्यूत्र्याच्यूत्याच्यूत्याच्य क्र्यात्रायत्रयात्रात्रात्रात्रात्रात्रात्रीत्रात्यीराट्टी

One may begin with the following question: "It is explained that Buddhas come from the act of accumulating merit and wisdom for a period of three `countless' eons. Just what type of eons are referred to here?" A Buddha occurs from the act of accumulating merit and wisdom for a period of three "countless" numbers of these great eons.

|ग्रम्थासेन्द्रियासुस्रान्द्रयायालेखा क्रिक्सेन्द्रो ग्रम्थाग्रीसामग्रम्सस्रीत्रस मुडेमायामुद्रशासेन्द्रम्यहेन्यदेधुरा

Some may object that it is a contradiction of terms to speak of "three" that are "countless." And yet it is not. Here we are not talking about the "countless" that refers to something that is beyond numbers. Rather, what we call a "countless" is the name of a specific number, the highest of our numbers with separate names, corresponding to ten to the sixtieth power.

नम्भवायावर्ने वानम्भवायान वरार्या क्षेत्र स्रोदे नम्भवाया लेखा गुरानु हो। द्रसार्केका यर्'अ'र्गार'र्ये'यशा

Now the present eon is also known as the "Eon of Good Fortune," the "Eon of Light." As the *Holy Teaching of the White Lotus* states,

During the formation of the world, a thousand lotus blossoms of gold with a thousand petals each appear within the great disc of water. They pique the curiosity of the pleasure beings of the Pure Places, who investigate the phenomenon and come to learn that it portends the appearance of a thousand Buddhas. "Wonders!" they proclaim, "a thousand different Buddhas are to come—this eon is truly an eon of good fortune!" Thus it is that everyone calls this time the "Eon of Good Fortune."

तःबन्ना कु.ज्.चमै.तदु.चर्रःजान्नरमःमैन्नानु.र्याःवर्वेरःजा समन्नात्त्र्यःचाःमुं.पेन्नाक्ररःचदुःद्वेर। चमैर्।व्राचन्नाम्यःनदुःमम्। रिन्नानमानुःकुःवर्वेरःय। त्नारात्रुत्ताः चिन्नर्विरःम्ने। रेद्रःकुःम्नान्यः

One may ask just when it is that Buddhas like this appear. They never come while the average lifespan is rising, for during this period beings feel less disgust with the circle of life. Rather, they—these Buddhas—make their appearance during the time that starts from the drop of lifespans from eighty thousand years, and which continues as they go down, until a hundred years is reached.

निस्त्रायते सूर्त्रा से स्त्रीया स्त्र

Buddhas do not appear subsequent to this period, as lifespans are decreasing even further. Since the five degenerations have spread fairly widely by this time, beings then are no fit vessels to receive the teachings.

The Asian Classics Institute Course VIII: Death and the Realms of Existence

Reading Nine: The Meditation on Death, Part One

The following selection is taken from the Great Book on the Steps of the Path (Lamrim Chenmo), by Je Tsongkapa (1357-1419).

The second part, the instruction on how to get the very essence out of life, includes three different sections: the teaching on how to train one's mind in the steps of the path that are shared with those of lesser scope; the teaching on how to train one's mind in the steps of the path that are shared with those of medium scope; and the teaching on how to train one's mind in the steps of the path for those of greater scope.

The first of these three sections has three divisions of its own: the actual teaching for training one's mind in the attitude of a person of lesser scope; how to know when you have succeeded in reaching this attitude; and clearing up some misconceptions about the attitude. The first of these divisions has two parts: learning to develop the attitude of focusing on the life hereafter; and learning to make use of the various ways of achieving happiness in these future lives.

We will cover the subject of focusing on the life after death in two stages. The first is the contemplation of how to maintain an awareness of death; that is, the fact that we have not long to stay in this present world. The second is the contemplation of the relative happiness and pain of the two broad categories of living beings; that is, the question of what will happen to us when we reach our future life.

ज्री वक्षः प्रत्यात्र में हि स्यान् क्षेत्र प्रत्ये क्षेत्र प्रत्ये प

There are four steps to the contemplation of death. These are:

- 1) Considering the problems of not meditating on death.
- 2) Considering the benefits of meditating on death.
- 3) Identifying just what kind of death awareness we seek to develop.
- 4) How to meditate and develop this awareness of death.

त्युर्रो देख्र-द्यापदेक्षेत्रायक्षेत्रायक्षेत्रायक्षेत्रायक्षेत्रायक्षेत्रायक्षेत्रायक्षेत्रायक्षेत्रायक्षेत्र विष्णुर्देशे देख्यायक्षात्र्यक्षेत्रायक्षेत्र

Here is the first of the four. Above we spoke of getting the very essence out of this life, where now you have a whole range spiritual opportunities. The one thing that could damage your ability to do so, from the very beginning, is the first of what we call the "four misconceptions." This is the misconception where you grasp to impermanent things as being permanent.

There are two versions to this wrong idea. One is more subtle, and one is more gross. The one that could damage your practice is the grosser one, where you look upon your own impermanence, your own mortality, and imagine for some reason that you are *not* going to die.

Now it is true that in your life up to now you have had some awareness that eventually you would have to die. Everybody has this kind of death awareness. But at the same time you tend to be of the opinion that you won't die, because with every day that passes you say to yourself, "It won't be today, today is not the day that I will die." And you keep this attitude all the way up to the moment of your death.

नितः मिन्ने निर्देश्या मिन्ने निर्देश मिन्ने मिन्ने

Suppose you let this kind of attitude go on, suppose you fail to apply the spiritual antidotes that would stop these sorts of thoughts. The thoughts then create a kind of spiritual blindness: you begin to get the idea that you are going to be able to stay here in this life, and then you start to obsess on this life. All you can concentrate on then is how to get what you want, and how to escape what you don't want, in this life. Your life becomes, "Today I need this, and this, and next this."

यम् त्यां व्याप्त्र प्राप्त्र प्राप्त क्षेत्र क्षेत्र प्राप्त क्षेत्र प्राप्त क्षेत्र क्षेत्र

And then even if—by some remote chance—you do engage in spiritual activities like learning, or contemplation, or meditation, they all become something you are doing only for this life. Whatever good deeds you do this way are of very little strength. And because they are then typically connected with some bad deed, some breaking of morality or transgression of a vow, it is quite unusual to find any good activities of this type that are not interlaced with the very causes that would take you to one of the births of misery.

क्रम् स्थान्त्र स्थान्त्र स्थान्त्र स्थान्य स

Suppose even that you do decide to do something for your future life. Without this awareness of death you find yourself unable to stop the kind of laziness where you put your practice off, where you say to yourself, "I'll get to it later, I'll do all these things eventually, one at a time." You begin to pass the time of your life with all kinds of distractions: with sleep, or lazing around, or wasted talk, or food or drink, or the like. You won't be able to reach a point where the practice that you do has any great energy behind it.

द्यार्यः सम्भ्राक्तंत्रः क्ष्यार्यः क्ष्यः त्रिक्षः त्राक्षः त्राक्षः व्यार्थः स्थ्यः व्याक्षः व्याकष्ठः व्याक्षः व्याकषः व्याकषः व्याकषः व्याकषः व्याकषः व्याक्षः व्याकषः व्यावकषः व

This kind of hope that you will be able to live for a long time deceives you. You start to have strong attachment to gain, to being honored by other people, and the like. You begin to feel a strong dislike for anything that prevents you, or anything that you think might prevent you, from having these things. There grows in you a dark ignorance that cannot understand the problems these thoughts then give you.

These lead to a steady torrent of mental afflictions, strong ones, and all the different varieties of them, major and minor: pride, and jealousy, and all the rest.

These afflictions in turn lead you to harmful deeds done in your acts, your words, and your thoughts: deeds like the ten non-virtues, and the five "immediate" deeds, and the five that are close to these, and giving up the highest Dharma, and on and on. Every single day then deeds like these, of tremendous power, capable of leading you to the sufferings of the three lower realms and the like, will tend to increase, further and further.

The antidote for all these deeds is the nectar of the Dharma, spoken so true, and the further you turn from it then the more tightly you strangle your chances for the higher realms, and ultimate good. Death will rip away your life, and the wrong deeds you have done will drag you to the lower realms, to a fearful place of mighty and savage suffering, to the fires. And so I ask you, where could you find any thought more disastrous for you than this idea, that what is impermanent could be permanent?

द्येत्र । विश्वान्त्र स्वान्त्र स्वान्त्र स्वान्त्र स्वान्त्र । विश्वान्त्र स्वान्त्र । विश्वान्त्र स्वान्त्र स्वान्त्र । विश्वान्त्र स्वान्त्र स्वान्त्र । विश्वान्त्र स्वान्त्र । विश्वान्त्र स्वान्त्र । विश्वान्त्र । विश्वान्य । विश्वान्त्र । विश्वान्त्य । विश्वान्त्र । विश्वान्य

On this point the Four Hundred concurs:

What could be more a disaster than someone Who with no other Lord of Death to kill him Was acting as this Lord of Three Realms For himself, asleep as if all were well?

[The "Lord of the Three Realms" is the Lord of Death; he has total control over all living things except those who are travelling on the path of the realized, those who have seen emptiness directly. If we could reach this path we would have a chance to reach deathlessness, but instead we lazily act as if everything were all right, and end up inviting Lord Death, who otherwise would have to pass us by.]

विश्वानश्चर्याः व्याप्त व्याप्त स्त्रान्त्र स्त्रान्त्र स्त्रान्त्र स्त्र स्त

The Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life says as well,

You must leave it all behind and go, with your karmic baggage, But because you do not understand this, You undertake an entire variety of wrong deeds, Reacting to your friends, and your enemies.

Here secondly is the contemplation of the benefits of meditating upon your death. Suppose on the other hand that you are able to develop a real awareness of your mortality. You would then be like a person who knew he or she were going to die within the next day or two.

If this person had even a feeble understanding of the Dharma, or of course anything more than that, then he or she would quickly realize that none of their loved ones, nor any of the things they owned or anything else, could go on the journey with them. All their attachment to these things would stop. The great majority of such people at this point would automatically start to feel some desire to get the essence out of the life they had left to them, and they would start to engage in acts such as charity and the like.

ख्याःस्री स्रम्भान्त्रा वर्षेत्रः स्रोत्त्रा स्रम्भान्यः स्रम्भान्यः स्रम्भान्यः स्रम्भान्यः स्रम्भान्यः स्रम् स्रम्भान्त्रा स्रम्भान्तः स्रोत्तः स्रम्भान्यः स्रम्भान्यः स्रम्भान्यः स्रम्भान्यः स्रम्भान्तः स्रम्भानः स्रम्भान्तः स्रम्भान्तः स्रम्भान्तः स्रम्भान्तः स्रम्

You now should be the same. Think of the gain and honor, the fame and other such things you hope for from others—all these worldly hopes and dreams. Try to see that all the efforts you put into these things are empty, meaningless, like useless shells of wheat once the grain has been taken out. Try to understand how these thoughts deceive you, how they wait to snare and trap you. Stop all your bad deeds.

Exert yourself now in the opposite—in good deeds, such as going for refuge, and observing an ethical way of life, and the like. Amass these kinds of deeds constantly, and with a sense of reverence and joy. This body and the rest may be meaningless, but you can give them the highest meaning; you can use them to climb to the highest state there is, and then you can lead others there as well. And then I would ask you another question: Where could you find any more important deed you could do, than this?

न्त्रम्भ उन्गी न्द्रम्भ म्या स्वाप्त । विका स्रम्भ उन्गी न्द्रम्भ विद्रम्

यो:ह्रेश्रासर्क्रयाः यो । १८५:विश्रायस्य ४५:ग्री: ४८:४८८:स्री:५ग:४८८:स्री:पर्यः वर्षः वरः वर्षः वर्षः वर्षः वरः वर्षः वर्षः वरः वर्षः वरः

This is why the awareness of death is praised in so many places, with so many metaphors. We see for example the following, from the *Sutra of the Great Nirvana*:

Of all the crops plowed in the ground, the crops of autumn are greatest.

Of all the tracks left on the ground, the elephant's are greatest.

Of all the thoughts a person can have, the thoughts of impermanence and death are the greatest ones,

For these are the thoughts that clear away the desire, ignorance, and the pride of all three of the realms.

तःतःश्याश्याशः यहित्यश्यातः विश्वाशः वर्षेत्रः वर्यः वर्यः वर्येत्रः वर्षेत्रः वर्षेत्रः वर्यः वर्षेत्रः वर्षेत्रः वर्षेत्रः वर्यः वर्य

The awareness of death has been praised in other similes as well, sometimes for example compared to a great hammer, which can smash in a single stroke all your mental afflictions, and harmful deeds. It is also compared to a huge gateway, where all good and pure things can come through to you, all in a single rush.

यर्याक्चित्रार्यक्षायत्वेरात्तर्भा । यर्प्त्यो । विकार्यः। । विकार्यः विकार्यः। । विकार्यः विकार्यः। । विकार्यः विकार्यः। । व

The Anthology too states,

Come to see that this body of yours is fragile as a piece of china,
And that all other things that exist are something similar to a mirage.

If you can, then the rain of spears thrown by the demons, the flowers,
Are stopped short, and the Lord of Death hungering for you dies himself.

र. भेषे । बिका योशेटका क्र्रा विषय महत्रात्त्र प्रकृष्ट प्रत्यात्र प्रिका श्री प्रत्या प्रत्या प्रवृत्त श्री प्रत्या प्रवृत्त श्री विका योश्य प्रत्य प्रवृत्त श्री विका योश्य प्रत्य प्रवृत्त श्री विका योश्य प्रत्य प्रवृत्त स्था श्री विका योश्य प्रत्य प्रत्य प्रवृत्त स्था श्री विका योश्य प्रत्य प्रत्य प्रत्य प्रवृत्त स्था श्री विका योश्य प्रत्य प्रत्य

It says as well that,

Those who have seen what it is to grow old,
who have seen the suffering of disease,
Those who have seen what it is to die,
who have seen the mind depart and leave,
They can give up the family life,
so much like a prison hard and fast;
Don't ever dream though that normal people
of the world could ever give up desire.

पांच्यकाक्ष्यं मुंद्रां विकासिक्ष्यं प्राप्त स्वाप्त स्वाप्त

To put it briefly, the time for a person to do something of value is now, and only now—now while we possess a body and life like this, so full of spiritual leisure. You and I have spent most of our time in the births of misery, and we come up now and again to the better births; but the vast majority of the time was in the realms where we had none of the necessary opportunities, and so we had no chance at all to undertake any spiritual practice.

And the fact that in this moment here, when we *have* found the kind of life where we could do some practice, we nonetheless do nothing the way it should be done, is all in the final analysis due to our belief that we will not die, just yet. We can say then that our natural bias towards thinking that we won't die is the root of every trouble we have. The antidote for this way of thinking—that is, to stay aware of our imminent death—is then the root of anything good that could ever come to us.

र्याकारीयोकाराः इकाराः श्रीट्रां व्यानाः स्थान्य स्थितः वर्षे स्थान्यः वर् स्थान्यः वर्षे स्थान्यः वर्यः स्थान्यः वर्यः स्थाः

This being the case, you should never let yourself think, "This is one of those practices meant for people who have nothing more profound to meditate upon." And you should never let yourself think that, "It is admittedly something we should meditate upon, but only at the beginning of our practice, and only for a bit at that; it's not something that warrants a continual effort to put into practice." Rather you should try to develop a true understanding, from the depths of your heart, where you realize that this is a meditation which you need at the start, at the end, and all throughout the path. With this understanding established within you then, you must meditate upon your death.

वाश्वास्य विक्रास्य विक्र

Here now is the third step—identifying just what kind of death awareness we seek to develop. Now there is a kind of terror that a person can feel when he or she fears that they are about to be torn away from their loved ones and such. This fear stems from a very strong attachment for those around you, and is the natural fear of a person who has never attempted any kind of practice of the path. As such, it is *not* the awareness of death that we are talking about having to develop here.

श्रुर्ट्रिंग्याम् स्त्रीत्र्याम् स्त्रीत्राम् स्त्रीत्र्याम् स्त्रीत्रम् स्त्रीत्र्याम् स्त्रीत्रम् स्त्रम् स्त्रीत्रम् स्त्रीत्रम् स्त्रम् स्त्रीत्रम् स्त्रम् स्त्रम्यस्त्रम् स्त्रम् स्त्रम् स्त्रम् स्त्रम् स्त्रम् स्त्रम् स्त्रम् स्त्रम् स्त

What then is this awareness? There is not a single being who has taken on a body like ours—one created by the force of our past deeds and mental afflictions—who is exempt from the absolute certainty of death. It is true that, in the short run, trying to develop some fear about this fact might not enable you to stop it. Nonetheless you really must try to develop some fear that you might die before you have been able to achieve your goals for your future life: that you might die before you have managed to put an end to anything that might cause you to be born in one of the lower realms, or before you have achieved all those things that would lead you to the higher realms, and to ultimate good.

रियो.यदु.लब्ग.योट.लुयोब्य.तर.लूट्ब्य.झ.येश । व्रि.श्रदु.कू.ज.र्रेयो.यर्ज्ञ.वरीट. वह्या.सुर्य.कूब.कुट.जा.यस्योबायो । शु.क्ष्य्य.दायेबातायेबात्तवात्त्र.वर्येट्य. यो । वह्योबा.कुट.र्ज्य.यह्योबा.या.कु.यु.च्य.या.कु.व्य.दा.कु.व्या.लूट्। । प्रे.क्ष्य. स्थ.वर्य्य. क्ष्रेट.यबा.वरह्योबा.येबा.वर्ज्ञ.यु.कु.वर्य्य.कु.व्य.त्य.वर्य्य.कु.व्य.कु.व्य.लूट्। । प्रे.क्ष्य. वह्या.सुर्य.कु.व्य.वर्या.चर्या.वर्ष्या.या.वर्ष्या.या.वर्ष्या.या.वर्ष्या.या.वर्ष्या.या.वर्या.या.वर्ष्या.या.वर्या.या.व्या.या.व्या.या.वर्या.या.वर्या.या.व्या.या.व्या.या.वर्या.या.व्या.या.व्या.

दह्ममा विमानस्त्राप्तः प्रत्याप्तः प्रत्यापतः प्

If you had this kind of fear, over these kinds of things, then it would help you to do something about them, and at the moment of death itself you would have no reason to be afraid. If on the other hand you find yourself unable to achieve these goals, then when death comes you will be tormented by regret, of two different kinds. In a general sense, you will realize that you were unable to free yourself from the circle of suffering life. More specifically, you will begin to feel sheer terror over the possibility of having to drop into the realms of misery. As the *Birth Stories* say,

You concentrate your every effort,
but there's no way to stay;
What possible benefit can it be
to feel a sense of fear
And tremble over something that
you can now never repair?

You can tell yourself by looking at the nature of this world,
That those who did bad deeds are at this point consumed by regret;
They realize then that they didn't at all do good the way they should,
And begin to suspect that in the life beyond they will come to suffer.

The fear that you begin to feel
as you die confuses you,
Making it difficult to recall
the very deeds there were
That you did before, and that you feel
such strong regret for doing.

So make it now a habit in your life to undertake those deeds that are pure white; For where would you ever find a person who, living the Dharma, still needs fear Lord Death?

यह्मान्या विद्याम्बर्धरम्यस्य स्त्रीत्रः स्त्रीत्र । विद्याम्बर्धान्य स्त्रीत्र । विद्याम्बर्य स्त्रीत्र । विद्याम्बर्धान्य स्त्रीत्र । विद्याम्बर्धान्य स्त्रीत्य स्त्रीत्र । विद्याम्बर्धान्य स्त्रीत्र । विद्याम्बर्धान

The *Four Hundred* too has the following verse:

Anyone who's truly sure, Who says to themselves, "I'll die," Leaves every kind of fear behind; How could they then fear Death?

द्विर्या स्थान्त्र स्यान्त्र स्यान्त्र स्यान्त्र स्थान्त्र स्थान्त्र स्थान्त्र स्थान्

Suppose then that you are able to contemplate your impermanence, and think to yourself, over and over again, "There is absolutely no doubt that I am quickly going to be ripped away from my body, and from all of my possessions." This would allow you to block the kind of desire that still entertains some hope that you will be able to avoid losing all these things. And then you would feel none of the fear of death that comes when your mind is tormented by the thought of this loss.

त्राचित्रम्भाग्वीद्राक्षेत्रम्भान्त्रम्भान्त्रम्भान्त्रम्भान्त्रम्भान्त्रम्भान्त्रम्भान्त्रम्भान्त्रम्भान्त्रम् यत्रवस्त्रम्भान्यम्भान्त्रम्

Next we cover the fourth step, which is how to meditate and develop this awareness of death. You should do the meditation in three stages, going through the three principles, the nine reasons, and the three resolutions. We will proceed then through the three of (a) contemplating how it is certain that

we will die; (b) contemplating how there is no certainty when we will die; and (c) contemplating how, when we do die, nothing but the Dharma can be of any help to us.

ष्ट्रियःश्र्रा अम्ब्र्यःग्रीः अभुःतुमःवर्देःमे अभुःत्यःयःभ्रम् अभुःत्यःयःभ्रमः यदःर्भ्रममःयम् वर्षःयदःद्विवाःवोःश्चेःवःस्यःग्रीःवर्षःवःद्वःयःमे अ। मिरमःश्चेमःमम्मः यदःस्यायम्भःवःमे व्यवःवर्दःद्विवाःवोःश्चेःवःस्यःग्रीःवर्षःवःद्वःवःद्वःश्चेमःम्यः । निरःस्यायम्भःवन्ते वर्षःवर्वाःदेशःवरःवर्षःवःवरःविमःविभःविभःविभःवर्वेनःविभःव

The first of these has three parts; here is the first, which is (1) contemplating how the Lord of Death must certainly arrive and, when he does, how nothing at all can stop him.

No matter what kind of body you take on yourself, death must come to you. As the *Anthology on Impermanence* states,

If total Buddhas, and self-made Buddhas as well, And the listeners who are the followers of the Buddha, All must eventually leave their holy forms, Why should we need then speak of normal people?

मक्कुत्रचर-यःस्रो । प्र.च्.यंभ्रमाक्रीः योश्चर्यः प्रंतियान्यः प्रतः स्त्री । विष्यः स्त्री । विषयः स्त्री । विषयः स्त्री । विषयः स्त्री । विषयः स्त्री । विष्यः स्त्री । विषयः स्त्री ।

We can say too that death will come to you, no matter where you go. The same text says,

It doesn't matter where you go; the place does not exist Where death would find it difficult to intrude. There is no such place in the sky, nor at the bottom Of the sea, nor deep within a mountain keep.

। क्रॅन् १८८ स्वे अदे पुरावया पुरायर को सम्बन्ध सम्बन्ध सम्बन्ध सम्बन्ध सम्बन्ध सम्बन्ध सम्बन्ध सम्बन्ध सम्बन्ध

क्रिंग्यायाम्बर्गात्ते। ने क्षेत्रायमा श्रुत्या श्रित्रा । विश्वार्ये। विश्वार्ये। विश्वार्ये। ने क्षेत्रायमा श्रुत्रायमा श्रुत्रायम् श्रित्रायमा श्रूत्रायमा श्रूत्रायमा श्रूत्रायमा श्रूत्रायमा श्रूत्रायमा श्रूत्रायमा श्रूत्रायमा श्रूत्रायमा श्रूत्रायमा श्रूत्रायम्यमा श्रूत्रायम्यमा श्रूत्रायमा श्रूत्रायमा श्रूत्रायमा श्रूत्राय

So too death makes no distinction at all for the proper order of young and old when it comes to destroy its victims. On this the same work says,

Those who are now, and those who are yet to be, All must give up this body, and travel on. Realize, you wise ones, that all this dies; Live the Dharma, and do what must be done.

म्रीश्राचर्ज्ञ्च्यात्त्रयाह्म्यान्द्रस्यान्द्रस्यान्द्रस्यान्न्द्रस्यान्यान्द्रस्यान्द्रस्यान्द्रस्यान्द्रस्यान्द्रस्यान्द्रस्यान्द्रस्या

Beyond this is the fact that no one can free themselves from the Lord of Death by outrunning him, nor turn him back with magic words or the like. As the scripture known as *Advice to the King* states,

Suppose for example that you were surrounded on all four sides by four great mountains, solid, firm, hard to the core, indestructible, unbreakable, indomitable, adamantine and massive, stretching to the highest limits of the sky. And then suppose suddenly that they caved in on you. Every trace of vegetation—from the roots, to the stalks, to the branches, to the twigs, and out to the leaves, would be crushed to powder. And

every living creature there, every sentient being, every spirit too, would be smashed to dust. And as the mountains fell in it would happen in a minute, and no one would be able to outrun them, or force them back, or buy them off. Nor but with the greatest difficulty could you use any kind of magic substance, or magic words, or any sort of elixir to stop them.

र्ट क्रियोश्चर्ट श्रिक् श्रीश्चर श्रीयाच्चर श्रीयाच्यर श्रीयाच्चर श्रीयाच्चर श्रीयाच्चर श्रीयाच्चर श्रीयाच्चर श्रीयाच्यर श्रीय श्य

Here, great King, our life is the same. When the four great terrors make their appearance, no one can outrun them, nor force them back, nor buy them off. Nor but with the greatest difficulty could you use any kind of magic substance, or magic words, or any sort of elixir to stop them.

विश्वःश्री

योशः पर्श्वेयाः प्रत्यः स्थाः निर्म्याशः निर्म्यः स्थाः प्रत्यः स्याः स्थाः स्याः स्थाः स्याः स्थाः स

And what are these four terrors? They are aging, and sickness, and death, and trouble. Great King, I say to you: aging is the fact that our vitality is inevitably obliterated; sickness is the fact that our health is inevitably obliterated; trouble is the fact that any good thing that ever comes to us is inevitably obliterated; and death is the fact that our very life is inevitably obliterated. All four of these come to us, and we cannot outrun them, nor force them back, nor buy them off. Nor but with the greatest difficulty could you use any kind of magic substance, or magic words, or any sort of elixir to stop them.

भ्याः स्वायः विद्याः स्वायः द्वाः दक्षः प्रसः द्वाः स्वायः सः विद्याः दक्षे । दक्षः प्रसः स्वायः द्वाः । दक्षः प्रसः स्वायः दक्षः प्रसः स्वयः दक्षः प्रसः स्वयः दक्षः । दक्षः प्रसः स्वयः दक्षः प्रसः स्वयः दक्षः । दक्षः प्रसः स्वयः । दक्षः प्रसः । । दक्षः प्रसः स्वयः । दक्षः प्रसः । । दक्षः प्रसः स्वयः । दक्षः प्रसः । । दक्षः प्रसः स्वयः । दक्षः । । दक्षः ।

Kamawa too once said,

A person is supposed to be frightened of death now, and then unperturbed when it actually comes. You and me though act the opposite: we feel no concern for it now, and then when it actually comes we will tear at our chest in agony.

ब्रियाध्येत्रभूत्। व्याध्येत्रभ्यः व्याध्येत्रभ्यः व्याध्यः व्याधः व्याधः व्याधः व्याधः व्याधः व्याधः व्याधः विष्यः व्याधः व्याधः व्याधः व्याधः व्याधः व्याधः विष्यः व्याधः विष्यः व्याधः विष्यः व्याधः विष्यः व्याधः विष्यः व्याधः विष्यः विषयः विष्यः विषयः विषयः

The second reason here is (2) the contemplation of how it is impossible to add any time onto your life, and how it continually leaks away, without a pause. The scripture entitled *Entering the Womb* describes the longest you could live as follows:

Nowadays the longest you can live, supposing you are able to take care of yourself in the very best way possible, is a hundred years, or a touch more.

प्राचित्रम् स्वाण्याम् देवे प्रम्थे स्वाण्याम् स्वाण्याम्याम् स्वाण्याम् स्वाण्याम्याम् स्वाण्याम् स्वाण्याम्याम् स्वाण्याम् स्वाण्याम् स्वाण्याम् स्वाण्याम् स्वाण्

Even if you could live for a hundred years, the time would pass very quickly. This is because years pass in months, and months in their turn pass in days, and days pass in daytimes and nighttimes. These too pass in the shortest

periods, of mornings and evenings and the like. So a human lifespan in general is something which is very short.

You and I can see for ourselves, moreover, that we've already used up a good number of these days. As for the days we have left, we know we are helpless to add a single moment to them. They leak away, twenty-four hours a day, without the slightest pause. On this the *Guide to the Bodhisattva's Life* says,

Our lifetime constantly leaks away, Day and night, without a moment's pause. If your life is leaking away, and never being replenished, Then how can you imagine, that you will never die?

त्त्रप्तिन्द्रिक्ष्ण्यात्र्वे व्याप्त्रिक्ष्ण्यात्र्यं विष्ट्राच्याः वि

There are many examples you can use during your contemplation of these points. Think of weaving a carpet: you are building it up with rows of yarn, and each row is nothing more than a few threads of wool. But if you work steadily, it all adds up and soon you've finished an entire carpet.

Think too of a flock of sheep. When they are led to the slaughter house, they go forth with only one very short step at a time. But every single step brings them inexorably nearer to their death.

Think too of the rapids of a great river, or of a waterfall as it leaps from the top of a high cliff. The moments of your life are rushing away, just the same. सुग्राराद्या प्राप्त वर्षा स्याय वर्षे यो या इस्या स्याय स्याप्त स्याप्त स्याप्त स्याप्त स्याप्त स्याप्त स्याप भ्रेवायाप्तर वर्षात्राच्याययार्यात्राच्यायाः वर्षात्राच्यायाः वर्षात्राच्यायाः वर्षात्राच्यायाः वर्षात्राच्या र्द्याः इस्रारं क्षेत्राः स्वापक्षेत्राः प्रमान्त्रे क्षेत्राः स्वाप्ताः वे वमुररायाय। सिर्वाने वारापरायह्यायये। सिर्वाचीरायिकराया स्मा । हो दुरुष स्र्रीय गुर रे पत्रिव में । दुरेर दे र र र र र पर पर पर द्या । ये हा यःवारः दरः वारः वेरः वर्षा । वर्षा द्रायदे दुरः दः वर्ष्क्षेत्रः यः सूरा । व्रीः इर्ष्काः र्श्वेवाः ग्राटः ारु:ग्रुट:इम्'ह्:वनव:धरे:कुरा ।र्थेम:ध:बे:ध:वरा ।रे: चलेब से भे भे ते हैं न । सिर है हैं वा सर द की र न से री । र या द न है र र र हिर यः १८। १२ व्यरः सूर्या पर्स्याः स्वरः यः १व । सुरः यः विष्यः विष्यः विष्यः विष्यः विष्यः विष्यः विष्यः विष्यः ल.रचैं.यीअ.चुर्यात.पधुरी ।रतुर.य.सैंयाश.ह.रचैंया.ब्र्यात्र.ग्रीश ।सैंयात्र.पंत्रा यात्रवासुर्धितः द्वीदः सूर्या । देः यत्नेत्रः तः दरः ताः यः धौवा । व्योः त्रव्यवः वक्रः यद्याः दुरः दः श्रेवा विश्वाम्बुद्यायासूरःरी

A cowherd takes a club up in his hand and drives the cattle, totally helpless, to their destination. Just so do sickness and the natural aging of our bodies drive us, totally helpless, into the presence of the Lord of Death. You must use a whole variety of such examples in your meditation upon death; as the *Anthology* again says,

When for example you start to weave a carpet, You build it up, a string of wool at a time— Eventually then you weave it to the end. Human lives are just the same.

Those condemned to death are another example, Passing along with a single step at a time, Drawing ever closer to the slaughter. Human lives are just the same.

The rapids of a mighty river Rush unstoppable to their end; The passing of a human life Is just as irreversible.

Our lives are simple hardship, short, And something full of suffering; In simple speed we are all destroyed, Letters written with a stick on water.

A cowherd for example grasps a staff, Then drives the cattle to their destination. Just so sickness and the ravages of age Transport us to the presence of Lord Death.

त्य्। विश्वन्त्रित्र्यात्र्यं स्वयाय्यः स्वायाय्यः स्वायाय्यः स्वायाय्यः स्वायाय्यः स्वायाय्यः स्वायाय्यः स्वायाय्यः स्वायायः स्वायाय्यः स्वायायः स्वयायः स्वयः स्वय

They say as well that the great Lord Atisha would go to the edge of a stream and meditate there on the death; he would comment that "Sitting here and watching a trickle of water pass by is a wonderful way to meditate on life's impermanence." The *Sutra of the Cosmic Play* uses a lot of similes as well:

The three realms are impermanent,
like a cloud in the autumn sky;
Watching as people are born and die
is the same as theater.
The passing of a person's life
is a single flash of lightning;
We rush on our way to the end with speed,
like a waterfall off a cliff.

ग्रिशः वः वरः तुः खुरः बरः प्रश्नायायायायाः वर्षेयाः र्ख्नुरः प्रश्नियाः यः सुविः दर्दशः प्रांश्वस्रशः छरः ग्रीशः स्रोः स्याः प्राः स्रेवः प्रश्नेवः यास्य राष्ट्रियः यो स्रोतः प्रश्नेवः प्रश्नेवः प्रश्नेवः प्रश्नेवः य

स्ति त्यात्रम् स्वर्धः स्वर्धः स्वर्धः स्वर्धः स्वर्धः स्वर्धः स्वर्धः स्वर्धः स्वरं स्वर

It has been said that, "For a person who has the least bit of ability to reflect and draw some inferences on the inside, there is nothing outside of them that doesn't speak of impermanence." As such, you should try to find in your life a whole variety of examples for the fact of impermanence. Use these examples for your contemplation—and when you have contemplated thus on a regular basis, you will gain a true recognition of your impermanence. Just thinking these things over once or twice is not enough to reach this recognition. As Kamawa once said,

Here's a question for all you people who say you tried to do this contemplation but didn't get any result from it. Just *when* was it that you were contemplating? All day long you were distracted by other things. At night all you did was sleep. Perhaps you should stop lying to yourself.

यर क्रेट जा उर्यो यद्ध स्रोयका दे जा रया द्या द्या र स्रो द्र का या यहित क्रों यर स्राय प्राय क्रिय यह या स्रो या प्राय क्रिय यह या स्रो या स्राय क्राय यह या स्रो या स्राय क्राय क्री या प्राय क्रिय यह या स्रो या स्राय क्राय क्र

At the end of our life, the Lord of Death comes and destroys us, and we travel on to our next life. But there is something else too that happens all during the interim, during every hour of our life here. There is not a single moment at all when our lifetime is not slipping away, when it is not getting shorter and shorter, even as we go somewhere, or stay somewhere, waking or sleeping. So in a sense we are always on our way to our next life, we are travelling there now, and we have been on the move every second from the day we first entered our mother's womb.

Therefore even in these days, while we still live, we are living only to die: those emissaries of death, the ones called Sickness and Aging, are dragging us towards him. Don't take any comfort then in the fact that you haven't died yet, don't get the idea that you are staying anywhere, and that you haven't yet started off on your journey to the next life. You are like a man who just fell off the edge of a great rock crag; you would be foolish to take some comfort from the fact that you are still in mid-air, and haven't hit ground yet.

क्षेत्र-रेनिल्यम् । पर्वोद्यान्यक्ष्यान्यक्ष्यान्यक्ष्यः विष्यान्यः विष्यः विषयः विष्यः विषयः विष्यः विषयः विष्यः विष्यः

The following lines too are quoted in the commentary on *The Four Hundred:*

This warrior amongst men, from the very first night, From the moment of entering the womb in this world Walks with each passing day, with ne'er a delay, Into the presence of the Lord of Death.

यशिरश्राश्चा । दे.र्यायोश्चरीश्चर्यात्रायश्चार्यः देश्चर्यः स्थायः यश्चर्यः स्थायः वश्चर्यः स्थायः वश्चर्यः स्थायः वश्चर्यः स्थायः वश्चर्यः स्थायः वश्चर्यः स्थायः वश्चरः स्थायः वश्चरः स्थायः स्यायः स्थायः स्थायः स्थायः स्थायः स्थायः स्थायः स्थायः स्थायः स्थाः स्थायः स्थायः

The Words on Stopping the Four Misconceptions also speak to this point:

Suppose you had fallen from the peak
of some high mountain top,
And were just about to die—would you then
in the free-fall feel content?
From the moment of their birth they race
to one goal only, death;
How before they reach there then
could any living being relax?

All of the above is meant to show how it is certain that we will die quickly.

Next is contemplating (3) how certain it is that you will die without having had any time to practice the Dharma, even while you were alive. Suppose you were able to live to the end of one of those longest lives that we described above. Even so it would be wrong to think that you would have any free time all that time. So far in your life you have squandered a great deal of time meaninglessly; as for what remains, you will pass half of it in sleeping.

The other half you will also spend meaninglessly, your mind filled with a great many other distractions. You will while away your days of good health and then arrive at old age, your body and mind worn out, and lacking any energy to do any Dharma, even if you wanted to. The point is that the window of opportunity during which we can undertake our spiritual practice is nothing more than a very brief period. As *Entering the Womb* relates,

You spend half of it wrapped in sleep. Ten years is wasted by childhood, and another twenty in old age. From what's left you have to subtract the time you spend in grief, and the time you spend crying in anguish, and the time you spend in physical pain, and the time you spend in deep unhappiness, and the time you spend in strife. Subtract too the time that you spend going through all those thousands of different diseases which the body is subject to.

यर्ष्यायः क्र्यायाः वर्षाः वर्षः वर्षाः वर्षः वर्षाः वर्षाः वर्षाः वर्षाः वर्षः वर्षाः वर्षः वर्षाः वर्षः वर्षः

The Words on Stopping the Four Misconceptions concur:

Suppose you live to a human's longest life;
it can never be more than a hundred years.

Of these you spend the beginning, your youth,
and the end, old age, in a meaningless way.

In the days that are left, all your hopes and plans
are smashed by sleep, and disease, and the rest;

Tell me then how much time is left over, for those
who live as humans, to feel any kind of contentment?

Chekawa too has said,

I have been alive for sixty years; and if you take away the time that I spent feeding myself, and sleeping, and being sick, there were not even five years left that I had for spiritual practice.

And so all the good things of this life are like the happiness within one night's dream: you wake, and then it's nothing more than a memory. The time comes to die, and everything good you ever had lives only in a dim remembrance.

This great enemy, death, will surely come; nothing can stop him. You should contemplate this fact—try to wonder, "Why do I take such pleasure in the lie of this life?" Make up your mind that you absolutely must now practice some Dharma; swear it to yourself, continually. Remember the *Birth Stories*, where it says:

Alas, you worldly ones so full of affliction of the mind; Why do you take such pleasure in a land of shifting sands? The shining glory of the kumuda bloom, opening to the moon, Soon enough turns nothing more than a simple memory.

It's something of a pure amazement too that all of us Thrust into a life like this are not consumed by total fear; Damn the Lord of Death, who stands and blocks all pathways out, While we oblivious feel content, and have an enjoyable day.

We all share enemies, dreadfully powerful, ones we cannot stop: Their names are sickness, age, and death; they attack us even now. If it's certain that we are headed for agony in the world beyond, How could anyone with a mind be content in the one here now?

यश्राश्ची

प्रमादिःश्चीरशाययरश्चा । त्रिश्चीरप्रायदेता । त्रिश्चाययः स्त्राच्ची । त्रिश्चीरप्राययः स्त्राच्ची । त्रिश्चाययः स्त्राच्ची । त्रिश्चायः स्त्राच्ची । त्रिश्चयः स्त्राच्ची । त्रिश्चयः स्त्राच्वी । त्रिश्चयः स्त्राच्ची । त्रिश्चयः स्त्राच्ची । त्रिश्चयः स्त्

Go now and contemplate these lines, from the Epistle of Kanika:

The Lord of Death, the heartless one, Lays waste to the efforts of a lifetime; With such a death on its way to him, What man of wisdom would sit and wait?

This merciless warrior stands and aims His detestable merciless arrow at you; In the time before he lets it fly then Try to make something of your life.

The Asian Classics Institute Course VIII: Death and the Realms of Existence

Reading Ten: The Meditation on Death, Part Two

The following selection is taken from the Great Book on the Steps of the Path (Lamrim Chenmo), by Je Tsongkapa (1357-1419).

यक्षास्त्रान्त्रभाविद्या नेतिः प्रकार्यक्षेत्र प्रकार प

Here next is the second of the three principles: contemplating how there is no certainty when we will die. It is an absolute certainty that death will come to us at some point between today and a hundred years from now. It is not certain though which day between these two he will choose. As such, we would have to admit that it's impossible to come to a definite conclusion whether or not we will die, for example, today itself.

Nonetheless, if you are going to try to think more on the mortal side, then you will have to develop the attitude that you will die today. If you tend to think more on the side that denies your mortality—that is, if you tend to think that you won't die today, or that you probably won't die today—then you will constantly be acting on the assumption that you will continue to be here, rather than doing something to help your future life. Right in the middle of

everything then the Lord of Death will come to take you, and you will have to die in anguish.

च्यान्य स्थान्य स्थान

If you spend every day getting ready to die, you will find yourself able to achieve many goals that relate to your future lives. This is an excellent thing to do regardless of whether you actually die that day or not. And it is an absolute necessity if you *do* happen to die that very day.

This truth can be illustrated with the following example. Suppose you have a sworn enemy, a very powerful one, and that he is planning to make some vicious attack on you. Suppose too that the general timeframe for this attack has been decided: you know that he is going to come for you sometime between this date and that date. You're not sure exactly which day he's going to appear, but you would certainly have to be on your guard every single day. The case with our death is exactly the same.

वियान्ते स्वयान्ते स्वयाने स्वयान

Suppose you are able to develop this attitude where you believe that you are going to die today, or at least that it is very likely that you will die today. The result is that you will start getting things ready for what is surely going to come—that is, for your next life—and you will stop concentrating on arranging things in your current life.

If you are unable to develop this attitude, then you will continue to believe somehow that you are going to be staying here in the present life, and you will continue to concentrate on organizing things for this life. You will continue too to ignore what's needed for your future life.

If for example you believe that you are going to be living in a certain house for a long time to come, you concentrate your time on making the house a nice place to live. If one the other hand you believe that you are moving to another house, if you believe that you will not be staying in the house where you are, then you naturally begin to concentrate on getting everything ready for the place you're going to go. Again, our case is just the same.

This proves that you must develop the attitude that you are going to die today, every day.

There are three reasons to prove this second principle, that there is absolutely no certainty when you are going to die. The first is the contemplation that (4) here on the continent of Dzambu, lifetimes are anything but fixed. Looking at things in a broad way, we can say that the length of a life on the continent of Unpleasant Sound is something which is fixed. And although on the other continents the span of life is not fixed, there are many cases where a certain length of life is normally the case.

Here on the continent of Dzambu though a person's life is anything but fixed. There are times at the beginning of the world when people can live up to an

"inestimable" number of years. Eventually though there comes a time when the the longest life we can point to is only ten years. Even nowadays we can see with our own eyes how indefinite lifetimes can be, as death comes for the old, and the young, and those inbetween, at random.

१२.५२.लट.भहूर.लका वर्.य.म.ट्रश.च.म.ची ।ज्य.पर्.रट्र.तं.रत्या.मे.मु. विभारता क्रियायया मार्ने मेर्ने मेर्ने स्थान स्थाने विभिन्ने प्राचित्री स्थान वर्चेत्र। ब्रि.ट्र.श्रे.च्र.भर.भब्र्ट.च। कि.ट्र.चि.क्रच.भब्र्ट.श्र.वर्चेत्र। ब्रिक.टर.। श्रीश्रायात्वद्रास्त्रेद्रास्त्राच्या ।द्रमायायव्यव्यक्रियत्युमास्त्रा ।देःव्यास्रीयदे मर्विदः विद्याने। । मार्थेदः पदेः मार्नेदः र्देन् छैः विमाः थेन। । । मार्छमाः अदयः नुः पद्येः चरः चलेव।यःरुवा:र्थेटशःसुवा:व। ।यःयःसवः ५८:यःयःवालेव। ।यःयः ५८:यःववः ततु.श्री ।रुश्राग्रीश्वर्यार्य्युत्वर्ग्युर्यग्वरहो ।वन्नश्चर्यःश्चेत्रःयःस्ट्रिरःयःवित्रा ।विश्वः यश्चिर्याने। सुःसदसःर्मेवायायार्सेवायायार्देवे सबर्यायुक्तियर स्त्रीं चुर प्राप्ते प्राप्त दरायी. वक्षः भेषे ये ग्रीका तक्षका ताका ह्रियोका तर रही ताका हुरा राष्ट्रका हुका ता प्रकार होरा जा वन्वागुररेशयररे भ्रम्य विते के श्रास्त के सुरान्य पर नर्या प्र **24.01** বশ্বশ্বশ্বরে ক্রেন্ডি ক্রিন্ডি ক্রিন্ডির

As the Treasure House says,

Here indefinite: at the very end, Ten years; at the beginning "inestimable."

The *Anthology* too states,

In the morning a lot of people were standing here; By evening some of them were missing. In the evening a lot of people were standing here; By morning some of them were missing.

So too it says,

We see men die, we see women die, We see those in the bloom of health die; So how on earth could you point to someone And say, "He's young, he'll certainly live."

Some people die still in the womb, Some people die in the moment of birth, Some people die standing still, Some people die on the run.

Some are old, some are young, Some are strong ones in between, They walk and then drop, in a steady stream, Like ripe fruit falling from a tree.

Think of great lamas you've known, or friends, or anyone—the people that you've seen yourself, or heard about from others—who died before their time. Something on the outside, or something on the inside of them, came and killed them suddenly, before they were able to do all the things they were hoping to do.

You must think to yourself, "I'm in exactly the same situation now that they were in when they died..." Try to think this truth over again and again; try your best to reach this realization of your death.

त्ययः तत्रः व्हंतः इससः ग्रीटः विचान्तः विचान्य

Next is the contemplation that (5) the things that can kill you are very, very many; whereas the things that can keep you alive are very few. There are many things that threaten the kind of life we live: threats that are living beings, and threats that are inanimate objects. Humans and inhumans, beings of the

spirit realm, do harm to us in many different ways. Beings of the animal realm threaten our body and life in a variety of ways as well.

You have to try to contemplate thoroughly all the ways in which these living things can hurt you; and how too that inner things like sickness, and outer things made of the various physical elements, attack you constantly.

Moreover, your body consists by necessity of the four elements. Their nature is to be in conflict with each other, which causes the energies of the four to fall out of balance, some asserting themselves too strongly, and some becoming too weak. This situation triggers then illness within the body, and this eventually rips out your life. And so in a way you are under attack by the components of your own body. Since these elements are a very part of you, life is by nature a very fragile thing.

The Sutra of the Great Nirvana says as well,

And then there is the conception of death: see your life as standing there, surrounded all the time by a mass of hate-filled enemies, life leaking away with every moment, and no hope at all of ever filling back what was lost.

यर्या.श्रम् अ.यंबुधा बिश्चार्या यवुश्चाश्चीरश्चात्रश्चात्रात्रा क्र्युत्यांस्त्रितः वर्षेत्रः वर्

यीक्षःयम्यः प्राप्ते । क्षुः प्राप्ते । स्वाप्ते । स्व

The String of Jewels also states,

The tools of Lord Death are the very world around us; Our lives are candles standing in a tempest.

The Letter to a Friend mentions,

Our lives are filled with danger, and we are more fragile Than a bubble of water swept along in the wind. The fact that we live long enough to exhale after inhaling, Or wake again from a night of sleep, is truly a miracle.

बिश्वाम्बर्धित्यः श्री वर्षीयः हो। वियोजायः देशशाजायहेत् बिश्वा विश्वास्त्रीयः हिवदः श्रीः ह्याश्वाश्रीः यक्षे वर्षीयः वात्राज्ञात्वाद्वा विश्वासः श्रीः विश्वासः विश्वासः विश्वासः विश्वासः विश्वासः विश्वासः विश्वास

The Four Hundred again says,

Alone they have no power to give us birth; Only as a group can the elements in us work. It would be totally wrong for a person to say That this inner war could ever feel good.

यर. ५६ द्याय. ७८ ५ ५ वर्ष. यह. ५ वर्ष. ५ वर्ष

श्र्राक्षाक्षः वर्ष्याक्षः विद्यात् । व्यान्यस्य वर्ष्याक्षः वर्ष्याक्षः विद्यात् । व्यान्यस्य वर्ष्याक्षः वर्ष्याक्षः विद्यात् । वर्ष्याक्षः वर्ष्याकष्यः वर्ष्याक्षः वर्ष्याक्षः वर्ष्याकष्यः वर्ष्याक्षः वर्षः वर्यः वर्षः वर्षः वर्षः वर्षः वरः वरः वर्षः वरः वर्षः वरः वरः वर्षः वरः वर्षः वरः वरः वरः वरः वरः

These are the days when the five degenerations have spread to a very great extent, when it is infinitely difficult to find anyone who is capable of amassing the powerful good karma necessary for producing any very long lifetime. Food and other kinds of medicinal substances have little potency, and lack any great power to stop diseases.

The general ability of the body to break down easily the things we eat and drink, so that the great elements within the body can be properly nourished, is declining. We find it difficult to digest these things, and even after they are digested they have little beneficial effect on our bodies.

There is an additional problem caused by the fact that we are able to collect only small quantities of good karmic energy, whereas we commit massive amounts of bad deeds. These diminish greatly the power of practices such as repeating a number of mantras, and so it is extremely difficult to use these methods to lengthen our lifespan, and such.

मुद्र-द्र-त्वीर-त्रकाच-त्रकु-त्रकु-त्र-द्र-भुद्र-द्र-त्र-त्रकु-त्र-कु-त्र-द्र-न्न-त्र-त्र-त्र-विक्र-त्र-त्र-त्र-विक्र-त्र-त्र-विक्र-त्र-त्र-विक्र-त्र-त्र-विक्र-त्र-त्र-विक्र-विक्र-त्र-विक्र-त्र-विक्र-त्र-विक्र-त्र-विक्र-त्र-विक्र-त्र-विक्र-त्र-विक्र-त्र-विक्र-त्र-विक्र-त्र-विक्र-तिक्र-त्र-विक्र-त्र-विक्र-त्र-विक्र-तिक्र-त्र-विक्र-त्र-विक्र-त्र-विक्र-त्र-विक्र-तिक

Beyond all this is the fact that there is nothing at all that we use to keep ourselves alive that cannot also turn into something that kills us. We spend our lives searching for food and drink, or a place to stay, or friends or the like, with the intent that they help keep us from dying.

But they can all turn into something that kills us instead. If we eat or drink too much, or too little, or ingest something which is not clean or the like, it can kill us. Our house can collapse on us, and our friends can cheat us, and they can all in the end lead us to our deaths. You literally cannot find anything that is supposed to keep you alive that cannot kill you as well.

|ग्राब्द्याप्तः म्याः केत्रां विष्यं विषयं व स्रात्मा विषयं विषय

Moreover, life itself is directed at dying; even if there were more objects that were supposed to function to keep us alive, we could hardly put any faith in them. As the *String of Jewels* says,

The things that can kill us are many; Those that keep us alive are precious few, And act as well to kill us. We must as such do all the Dharma we can.

Next is the contemplation that there is no certainty when we will die, for the reason that (6) our bodies are extremely fragile. Our bodies really are very fragile, very much like a bubble, and it requires no great injury to destroy our life-force: even something like the prick of a thorn, if we disregard it, can kill us. The point is that none of the things that can kill us has to try very hard to kill us. The *Letter to a Friend* says,

Great edifices like the earth itself, and the mountain At the center of the world, and the seas, all burn When the seven suns rise, and not even dust remains. Who needs to mention then that fragile thing called man? बु.श्रुट.वर्गीयःचतु। ।श्रट.ट्र.योट्स्यःश्रः चाययःव्रूटः। ।ख्रिश्चटः। श्रु.श्चेट.वर्गी ।श्रट.ट्रयाचि.ख्रुशा ।चि.यःश्रु.लःचचटःव्र्यःश्रुपे। ।यश्रःख्रियः विश्वःव्याः यययःवर्गीयः वर्णा ।श्रट.ट्याःचि.ख्रुशः यायाख्रेशः वर्णः याव्यः व्याः वर्षः श्रुपः वर्णः वर्षः वर्णः वर्णः वर्षः वर्णः वर्णः

Once you have taken this contemplation to its end, it will occur to you clearly that there is no certainty at all when the Lord of Death will decide to come and destroy your body and life. You will realize that you have no time left; and then you must make many solemn vows to yourself, you must resolve to practice the Dharma here and now. As the *Epistle of Kanika* states,

The Lord of Death is partial to no one; When he strikes, he does so suddenly. Don't ever say then you'll "Do it tomorrow"; Practice the Dharma instead with speed.

It's no good thing for a human being Ever to say, "I'll do it tomorrow"; The tomorrow when you are no longer here Is a day that beyond any doubt will come.

That lord of accomplished practitioners, Shri Jagata Mitra Ananda, has also spoken:

The spirit lord will take this form you rent, In health, in its prime, in an hour of contentment, And rip away in this very moment its heart.

You sit there now unconcerned by disease or death, By decline and the like, but when the day arrives To meet them face to face you'll know nothing to do.

Of all the three principles, this one, the contemplation that it is totally uncertain when you will die, is the most important. Since this attitude is the critical one, you must do your best to grow it within you.

विष्ठिर-र्रे.श्रेर-द्री क्षेत्र-क्ष्मा श्रीका ताद्र-ति-र्या क्षेत्र-व्या विष्ठ-ति-र्या हित्र-व्या हित्य व्या हित्र-व्या हित्य हि

Here finally are the three reasons behind the third principle, which is that—when you do die—nothing but the Dharma can be of the least help to you.

So we have seen that we will be forced to pass on to a future life. When the day comes, you can be surrounded by any number of friends and relatives, by people who love you and whose hearts are torn, but (7) there is not a single one of them that you can take along with you. You can be the owner of a great heap of lovely riches, any amount of them at all, but (8) you cannot carry along with you a single molecule. When you die (9) you must give up even the flesh and bone that are part of your very being; it's ridiculous to think then that you could keep anything else.

नेश्वान्त्रे त्रित्ते सुम्रार्के वाश्वान्त्र वाश्वन्त्र व्यान्त्रे वाश्वन्त्र विवान्त्र विवान्त्

स्ट्रिंट्रिंश-भ्र. तय्द्रात्तम् । भिष्ठियः तमः अहूर्यः ताः जुवाश्वासः तमः श्रुप्ता । विवादः त्याः । विवादः तमः । विवादः । व

We can say then that each and every good thing of this life will send us away, and we too will send them away, and pass on to our next life: this is, simply, quite certain to happen. You must contemplate how this is coming to you today, and you must contemplate how, when the moment comes, it is only the Dharma which will be your refuge, and your protector, and your one true friend. As the *Epistle of Kanika* says,

The karma ripens, and all your deeds From before abandon and leave you alone. Driven by all the new karma now, You're forced ahead by the Lord of Death.

Everyone you've ever known
Is left behind, and only the good
Or bad you've done comes with you.
Please understand, and do only things that are right.

स्ट्रां । सर्र्राकृता । याद्याः द्याः स्ट्रेनः स्ट्रेनः स्ट्रेनः स्ट्रेनः याद्याः स्ट्राः वाव्यः स्ट्राः स्ट्र याद्यं स्त्राः स्ट्रेनः स

মাধ্যমের প্রমার্

It's just as Shri Jagata Mitra describes it:

Now matter how wealthy you are, Your Highness, Once you die and slip to the world beyond, It's like standing defeated in an empty desert—

Alone, without the Prince, without the Queen, Without a stitch of clothing, without a friend, Without a kingdom, without a country at all; Solitary, single, not a trusted servant in sight.

To put it simply, how could you hope for more In a land where you no longer own your own name?

पर्ट्या विश्वास्त्र स्वरं स्व

Thus it is then that you must contemplate upon the awareness of your death: the spiritual leisure you now possess is extremely valuable; it is extremely difficult to find; and beyond its being so hard to find it is also extremely easy to lose.

Suppose we fail even to attempt reaching something of ultimate benefit, for our next life and beyond; suppose instead we spend all the time from now up to the moment of our death in the pursuit of the things that make us feel good, and in avoiding the things that cause us pain.

Common animals are more skilled at this endeavor than we could ever be; we need to engage in some kind of activity that distinguishes us from beasts. Otherwise achieving the kind of life in a higher birth that we enjoy now is essentially the same as never having found it at all. As the *Guide to the Bodhisattva's Life* puts it,

There are certain insignificant gains That are not a difficult thing to attain Even for a cow if he tries;

Yet there are those who suffer from karma And waste this perfect leisure and fortune, Achieved with such effort, on nothing more.

And so even though the awareness of your death may sometimes seem a difficult thing to attain, you must still make great efforts to do so, for it is the very foundation of the path. Potowa too has said,

My guiding lamp is nothing but this meditation on my own impermanence. It helps me to clear away all my concern about the things of this life—my friends and possessions and so on—and realize that I will be flying away to my next life, alone, with no one to come along with me. Then I am truly able to stop my attachment to my current life, and maintain an intention never to do anything which is against the Dharma. As long as you find yourself unable to reach this state of mind, you will find too that the road to each and every part of the teaching is shut off to you.

र्र्यायदेः लया द्रवागुरा वराया केंग्राया वेंग्याया वेंग्याया केंग्याया केंग्याया केंग्याया केंग्याया केंग्याया

त्यार्थ्यायः वर्ते प्रस्तात्वेतः स्वार्थितः प्रस्तात्वेत्रः प्रस्तात्वेत् । वर्षे प्रस्तात्वेत् । वर्षेत्रः प्रस्तेत् । वर्षेत्रः प्रस्तात्वेत् । वर्षेत्रः प्रस्तेत् । वर्षेत्रः प्रस्तेत्व । वर्षेत्वेत् । वर्षेत्रः प्रस्तेत्व । वर्षेत्रः प्रस्तेत्व । वर्षेत्रः प्

Dolpa once stated,

You must along the way undertake practices to amass the energy of good deeds, and to purify yourself of spiritual obstacles. So too you must make supplication to the angels, and to your Lama. If then you put all your heart into contemplating this attitude, if you focus on it, you will be able to attain it. Things produced by causes have a basic nature that they can never just stay the same, and you will find that you can arrive at certain kinds of attitudes that you thought you could never develop in a thousand years of trying.

त्या विद्रा वि

They say too that when someone would ask Kamawa if they could move on to a new spiritual topic he would say, "Work again on the old one." When they asked if he could finish up the old one, he would say, "There is no finish to the old one." So if your mind can handle it, do the meditation as I have described it above. If your mind cannot handle it, then try to absorb as many of the nine reasons for the three principles as fits your capacity.

Meditate over and over on your death until you gain a complete disgust for the activities of this life; until you can think of them like a man on his way to the site of his execution, stopping to put on some fine jewelry.

The subjects of how to serve a spiritual guide, of the spiritual fortune and leisure of this life, and of our impermanence are found throughout the supreme form of speech, the word of the Buddha, and the commentaries upon it. You must come to realize that these are instructions to be put into practice at each point where they occur, and so you should actually undertake them at each step.

If you do so, then you will be able to grasp the true intent of the victorious Buddhas quite easily. You should apply this advice to each of the other sections here as well.

This brings us to our second major division, which is the contemplation of what will happen to us in our next life. This involves thinking about the relative happiness and suffering of the higher and lower realms.