

The Stages in the Meditation on the Emptiness of Self in PERSONS

Chandrakirti's Seven-fold Analysis

Preliminary Stages:

- Ascertaining the object to be negated
- Ascertaining the pervasion of the options

The Seven Stages:

1. Realizing that the self is not other than the skandhas
2. Realizing that the self is not the same as the skandhas
3. Realizing that the self does not possess the skandhas
4. Realizing that the self does not depend upon the skandhas
5. Realizing that the skandhas do not depend upon the self
6. Realizing that the self is not the mere collection of the skandhas
7. Realizing that the self is not the shape of its parts

The Stages of Meditation on the Emptiness of Self in PHENOMENA

The Absolute Bodhicitta Slogans of Atisha

Translated by the Nalanda Translation Committee

1. Regard all dharmas as dreams.
2. Examine the nature of unborn awareness.
3. Self-liberate even the antidote.
4. Rest in the nature of alaya, the essence.

Mipham's Four Stages of the Dawning of the Middle Way

Translated by Douglass Duckworth in *Mipham on Buddha Nature*

1. Empty (*stong*)
2. Unity (*zung 'jug*)
3. Freedom from constructs (*spros bral*)
4. Equality (*mnyam pa nyid*).

The Four Stages of Pointing out in the Mahamudra Tradition

1. Appearances are mind – Cittamatra
2. Mind is empty – Madhyamaka - while appearing, empty
3. Emptiness is spontaneously present – Madhyamaka - while empty, appearing
4. Spontaneous Presence is self liberating – Sugatagarbha Madhyamaka or Shentong

The Buddhist Schools

1. Vaibhashika and Sautrantika
2. Cittamatra and Yogacara
3. Svatantrika and Prasangika Madhyamaka
4. Shentong and Great Madhyamaka

CHARTS FROM INSIGHT INTO EMPTINESS

TYPES AND STAGES OF SELFLESSNESS

Selflessness of persons

- 1) Emptiness of a permanent, unitary, and independent person
 - a) Basis of designation -
- 2) Emptiness of a self-sufficient, substantially existent person
 - a) Basis of designation -
- 3) Emptiness of an inherently existent person
 - a) Basis of designation -

Selflessness of Phenomena

1. Emptiness of existing by its own characteristics as the basis or referent for its name
2. Emptiness of form and so forth and a valid cognizer of it being different substances (different substantial entities)
3. Emptiness of true existence (existing without being posited by the force of appearing to a nondefective consciousness)
4. 4. Emptiness of inherent existence (existing from its own side, existing by its own characteristics, and so on)

STAGES IN THE ILLUSTRATION OF THE PERSON

School	Illustration of the person
Many non-Buddhist schools	Permanent, unitary, and independent person that is separate from the aggregates
Vaibhashika	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Five aggregates• Consciousness aggregate• Inexpressible as either one or separate from aggregates
Sautrantika Following Scripture	Continuum of the aggregates
Sautrantika Following Reasoning	Mental consciousness
Chittamatra Following Scripture	Foundation consciousness
Chittamatra Following Reasoning	Mental consciousness
Sautrantika-Svatantrika-Madhyamaka	Subtle, neutral mental consciousness
Yogachara-Svatantrika-Madhyamaka	Continuum of mental consciousness
Prasangika-Madhyamaka	Mere I