

**TWO COMMENTARIES ON THE
SAMDHINIRMOCANA-SUTRA
BY ASANGA AND JNANAGARBHA**

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**Translation of Jñānagarbha's
Commentary on Just the Chapter
of the Superior Maitreya
(Ārya-maitreya-kevala-parivarta-bhāṣya)**

With respect to explaining a little the “Maitreya chapter” from the *Superior Sūtra Explaining the Thought*, [this is] the first part. Homage to the Superior Maitreya.

Beginning with the presentation of designations of doctrines, [the passage —] “You should know the divisions of the path of calming (*zhi gnas*, *śamatha*) and insight (*lhag mthong*, *vipaśyanā*), which are included within yoga.”⁴⁷ — indicates the path of yoga through delineating the designations of: (1) nature; (2) cause of application; (3) development; (4) methods of attainment; and (5) non-degeneration. With respect to that, whatever is included within [the topic of] yoga is of the nature of the path of calming and insight.

[The phrase,] “This is yoga”⁴⁸ is [spoken] thinking of the category of ethics. You should know that the division of the path of calming and insight by way of the nature of the categories of meditative stabilization (*ting nge 'dzin*, *śamādhi*) and exalted wisdom (*ye shes*, *jñāna*) — which are included within the category of ethics — is [included within] nature and so forth.⁴⁹

⁴⁷This passage is not found in either D or Stog (or any other Tibetan text of the sūtra that I have consulted).

⁴⁸This phrase is also not found in any of the Tibetan versions of the sūtra.

⁴⁹In other words, these are included within the first division listed above. According to Geshe Yeshe Thabkhe, this means that ethics is the foundation (*sa gzhi*) of meditative stabilizations and exalted wisdom.

Moreover, yoga is reasonable; it is associated with the path of calming and insight, which is included within the four analyses.⁵⁰

"*Samdhinirmocana*" means 'cutting the knots of the afflictive obstructions and the obstructions to omniscience' through definitely freeing (*nges par dkrol bas*) the profound thought [of Buddha]. It is a "sūtra" because it is simply a complete statement of what is definite..

With respect to the Bodhisattva Maitreya's posing questions to the Bhagavan [i.e., Buddha]: This path of calming and insight is the cause of approaching great enlightenment, and because the Superior Maitreya is also close to great enlightenment, he poses questions to the Bhagavan.⁵¹

After having settled the nature of the path of calming and insight in this way, [Maitreya's question —] "Bhagavan, abiding in what [and in dependence upon what] do Bodhisattvas..."⁵² — asks about the causes of practice. The causes of practice are indicated by the abode, the basis, and the object of observation (*dmigs pa, ālambana*). [319a] [Buddha's response —] "Maitreya, abiding in and depending upon an unwavering resolution to expound designations of doctrines and to become unsurpassably, perfectly enlightened"⁵³ — indicates the causes of practice by way of [the discussion of] calming and insight and indicates the conditions of practice by way of [the discussion of] conditions. Because the statement concerning designations of doctrines is [an exposition of] the collections of doctrines that are explained, it is the cause of abiding. Because unsurpassed, perfect enlightenment is

⁵⁰Yeshe Thabkhe says this means they are purified by the four analyses; (1) analysis of nature (*chos nyid kyi rigs pa*); (2) analysis of functions (*bya ba grub pa'i rigs pa*); (3) analysis of dependence (*ltos pa'i rigs pa*); and (4) analysis establishing logical proofs (*'thad pa sgrub pa'i rigs pa*).

⁵¹This seems to contradict the contention of Gung thang dkon mchog bstan pa'i sgron me (in his *Drang nges rnam 'byed kyi dka' 'grel rtsom 'phro legs bshad snying po'i yang snying*; Sarnath: Mongolian Lama Guru Deva, 1965, pp. 74.6-75.13) that the Bodhisattvas in this sūtra (who are all on the tenth Bodhisattva level) do not actually have these questions, but are questioning the Buddha for the benefit of other beings for whom the questions and answers are relevant. Since all these Bodhisattvas have attained the initiation of "great light rays", according to Gung thang, they have nothing to learn that they do not already know, and so they ask questions for the benefit of trainees less advanced on the path.

See also Rgyal ba dge 'dun gya mtsho's *Rje btsun thams cad mkhyen pa'i gsung 'bum las drang nges rnam 'byed kyi dka' 'grel dgongs pa'i don rab tu gsal bar byed pa'i sgron me* (the copy I have consulted is a blockprint from the library of H.H. The Dalai Lama, n.d.), p. 6a.3.

⁵²D p. 51.1; Stog p. 72.6.

⁵³D p. 51.2; Stog p. 72.7.

the realized truth body (*chos kyi sku*, *dharma-kāya*), aspiration to that is the cause upon which one depends. This is because aspiration is the prerequisite for all of the qualities that lead to great enlightenment.

The statement — “The Bhagavan [said,] ‘The four things that are objects of observation of calming and insight are...’”⁵⁴ — indicates the cause of practice by way of the object of observation. With respect to [Buddha’s statement,] “analytical images (*rnam par rtog pa dang bcas pa’i gzugs brnyan*, *savikalpa-pratibimba*); (2) non-analytical images (*rnam par mi rtog pa’i gzugs brnyan*, *nirvikalpa-pratibimba*); (3) the limits of phenomena (*dnegos po’i mtha’*, *vastvanta*); and (4) accomplishment of the purpose (*dgos pa yongs su grub pa*, *kṛtyānuṣṭhāna*)”:⁵⁵ “image” (*gzugs brnyan*, *pratibimba*) means⁵⁶ “similitude” (*’dra ba*, *sadrśya*).⁵⁷ If you ask, “Of what is it an image,” [I reply,] “Of mind”: this is because all appearances are just that. With respect to the object of observation, what is present in front of [the observer] is the analytical image. What is included among internal [objects of observation] is the non-analytical image. “Thing” (*dnegos po*, *vastu*) [refers to] the basis-consciousness (*kun gzhi rnam par shes pa*, *ālaya-vijñāna*), because in that minds and mental factors that have bases and objects of observation abide due to things that are causes and effects.

Because of subsuming the limits of those, that [term] “limits of phenomena” means “transformational truth body”. Also, because “accomplishment of the purpose” accomplishes the aims of oneself and others, entry into [a path of]⁵⁸ seeing — that is not obstructed with respect to all objects of knowledge and is non-attached exalted wisdom — is said to be “accomplishment of the purpose”.

⁵⁴D p. 51.3; Stog p. 73.1.

⁵⁵D p. 51.3; Stog p. 73.1.

⁵⁶The Tibetan word is *tha tshig*. Yeshe Thabkhe equates it with meaning (*don*).

⁵⁷Yeshe Thabkhe says that this is because the image (e.g., a Buddha’s truth body) is just visualized internally, through the medium of a meaning-generalality (*don spyi*, *artha-sāmānya*), and one only observes it without analyzing it in terms of its final mode of subsistence (*gnas lugs*).

⁵⁸The words in brackets are added in accordance with an oral explanation by Yeshe Thabkhe, who connects this with the three things that are abandoned by a path of seeing (*mtshong lam spangs gsum*): (1) the imputation of true personhood (*’jig lta kun btags*); (2) adherence to ethical conduct (*tshul khrims brtul zhugs phyogs ’dzin*); and (3) having afflicted doubt (*the tshom nyon mongs can*).

[Maitreya's question,] "with respect to those..."⁵⁹ asks, "With respect to those four objects of observation, which paths [are connected] with which objects of observation?" [The passage — "the Bhavagan] said: 'One is [an object of observation of calming]: non-analytical images'"⁶⁰ — [indicates] that these are objects of observation of calming, since [319b] calming is internal viewing. They are included among internal [objects of observation] because of how [the mind] engages them.

The passage — "How many are [just] objects of observation of insight?...[The Bhagavan] said, 'Only one is: analytical images'"⁶¹ — [indicates that] they are [objects of observation] of insight because one apprehends signs due to scattering⁶² with respect to the object of observation.⁶³

The passage — "How many are [just] objects of observation of those two?; [The Bhagavan] said: Two are; what are the two? They are: the limits of phenomena and accomplishment of the purpose"⁶⁴ — [indicates that] because these two are of the nature of abandonment and exalted wisdom, they are said to be just objects of observation of a path that is a union of calming and insight. This is because they are final fruits.

After having settled the nature of the path of calming and insight and the causes of practice, in order to teach that a Bodhisattva should seek calming and how [that Bodhisattva] should become skilled in insight, the passage — "Bhagavan, how is it that Bodhisattvas abiding in and depending upon these four phenomena that are objects of observation of calming and insight seek calming and become skilled in insight?"⁶⁵ — asks about the attainment of these two. Because calming is of the nature of pacification of mental turmoil, Bodhisattvas should seek it. Because insight is of the nature of differentiation of phenomena, in order to indicate that they must be skilled in that, [Buddha] said, "Maitreya, [designations of doctrines that] I [have stated to Bodhisattvas are]...."⁶⁶ "Designations of doctrines [that I] have stated" is

⁵⁹D p. 51.3; Stog p. 73.2.

⁶⁰D p. 51.4; Stog p. 73.3.

⁶¹D p. 51.4; Stog p. 73.3.

⁶²This is translated in accordance with the Peking text (p. 197.1.6), which inserts the instrumental particle *kyis* here; this is omitted in the Sde dge text.

⁶³In other words, because one fails to focus on the object of observation and to perceive its final nature of emptiness, one instead becomes involved in perception of signs and characteristics.

⁶⁴D p. 51.5; Stog p. 73.4.

⁶⁵D p. 51.5; Stog p. 73.5.

⁶⁶D p. 51.6; Stog p. 73.6.

the general instruction. Through designations of collections of names, collections of words, and collections of letters, [Buddha provides] a general presentation of doctrines. [The phrase,] “sūtra collections...”⁶⁷ is the specific instruction.

Question: In what way does hearing well these general and specific teachings of sūtra collections and so forth, apprehending them well, repeating them, analyzing them well with the mind, and realizing them well with insight facilitate (*rgyur gyur*) the practice of calming? [320a]

[**Response:**] [Buddha] says, “Remaining alone in an isolated situation...”⁶⁸ [They are] “alone” due to physical isolation (*lus dben pa, kāya-viveka*); [they are] “isolated” due to mental isolation (*sems dben pa, citta-viveka*). In order to indicate both that the mind through which they mentally contemplate those doctrines is of the nature of [those] doctrines and that those doctrines are also of the nature of mind, [Buddha] says, “engaging [in this practice] in this way and abiding in that many times...”⁶⁹ Physical pliancy (*lus shin tu sbyangs pa, kāya-prasrabdhi*) arises from physical isolation. Mental pliancy (*sems shin tu sbyangs pa, citta-prasrabdhi*) arises from mental isolation.

Moreover, because of diminishing the afflictions that are objects of abandonment of meditation by way of obtaining mental contemplation of antidotal doctrines in accordance with how they are taught, [one attains] physical pliancy. Because of diminishing the afflictions that are objects of abandonment by [a path of]⁷⁰ seeing, [one attains] mental pliancy. Because [those afflictions] do not exist in that body and because mental turmoil does not exist [in the mind,] physical and mental pliancy are called “calming”. [The phrase,] “in this way...”⁷¹ makes it definite that “Bodhisattvas seek calming just through taking doctrines to mind, and not through other [practices]”.

Also, in order to indicate that Bodhisattvas are skilled in insight, [Buddha] says, “They [attain] physical pliancy and...”⁷² “They” refers to Bodhisattvas. Those

⁶⁷D p. 51.6; Stog p. 73.6.

⁶⁸D p. 52.1; Stog p. 74.2.

⁶⁹D p. 52.2; Stog p. 74.3.

⁷⁰The words in brackets are added on the basis of an oral explanation by Yeshe Thabkhe, who explains that this practice refers to the preliminary training for the path of seeing.

⁷¹D p. 52.2; Stog p. 74.4.

⁷²D p. 52.3; Stog p. 74.5.

Bodhisattvas abide in and depend upon the attainment of physical pliancy and mental pliancy. [The phrase,] “In accordance with how those doctrines have been considered”⁷³ [indicates] non-mistaken mental contemplations. “Just those”⁷⁴ [refers to the doctrines] indicated previously. “Internally”⁷⁵ [means] not externally.

Individual analysis — with respect to phenomena that are mental images which are meditated on as images that are objects of activity of meditative stabilizations — is differentiation. Belief is ascertainment (*nges par byed pa*).

Question: Since, at the level of realization, aspectless phenomena function unitarily with a mind that has aspects,⁷⁶ how are individual analysis [320b] and belief suitable?

[**Response:** Buddha] states, “Therefore, having abandoned the aspects of mind....”⁷⁷ This is because aspects of mind are mistaken appearances.

Objection: Because meditative stabilization and wisdom are⁷⁸ mental factors (*sa mang po ba*)⁷⁹ due to being always related with mind, if mental aspects do not exist, in what way do these two arise in relation? Such calming is meditative stabilization, and insight is wisdom; therefore, if those two do not exist, how are phenomena suitable to be individually analyzed as mental images?

[**Reply:**] Here, according to the Proponents of Yogic Practice (*rnal 'byor spyod pas smras pa, yogācāra-vāda*) — since at the level of understanding [one realizes that] all minds, meditative stabilizations, wisdoms, and phenomena are not external objects [and arise] from mind — mind similarly lacks inherent existence (*ngo bo nyid med pa, niḥsvabhāva*). The lack of inherent existence of mind is just mind’s absence of being mind [by way of its own character]. It is also said in the *Perfection*

⁷³D p. 52.3; Stog p. 74.5.

⁷⁴D p. 52.4; Stog p. 74.5.

⁷⁵D p. 52.4; Stog p. 74.5.

⁷⁶Yeshe Thabkhe explains that this means that the mind has no actual external objects (*phyi rol med*), but it appears to have them. Thus the mind takes on the appearances of aspects of external objects, but mind and its objects are of the same entity.

⁷⁷D p. 52.3; Stog p. 74.6.

⁷⁸The Sde dge text has a negative particle *ma* here, which the Peking text omits. Yeshe Thabkhe thinks that the Peking reading is the correct one.

⁷⁹Literally: “many-grounders”; Yeshe Thabkhe glosses this as referring to mental factors (*sems byung, caitta*).

of *Wisdom* [Sūtra,] "That mind is non-mind; the nature of the mind is clear light."⁸⁰ Therefore, [Buddha] says, "Having abandoned the aspects of mind..."

"Images that are objects of activity of meditative stabilization"⁸¹ are [arisen] from mind and are not external objects. "In those"⁸² [means] just in those. "Objects that are known"⁸³ are non-dual objects. "Differentiation"⁸⁴ is understanding. "Thorough differentiation"⁸⁵ etc. [refer to] excellence in terminological enumeration.⁸⁶ "Forbearance" is just mental freedom with respect to ascertaining phenomena that are countless non-dual objects. In [the phrase,] "That is insight",⁸⁷ "insight" [means] that because one eliminates the phenomena that are associated with specifically and generally characterized phenomena, this view is an "insight". [The words,] "in that way..."⁸⁸ mean that when Bodhisattvas are just like this, it is definite that 'they are skilled in insight, and otherwise they are not.'

After having settled the attainment of calming and insight, in order to about the method of attaining it, [Maitreya] asks, "Bhagavan, [321a] prior to...that Bodhisattva..."⁸⁹

[The passage,] "...that is observing the mind"⁹⁰ refers to "observing signs". "Internal"⁹¹ [refers to] taking to mind what is not an external object. Prior to attaining physical and mental pliancy, one is at the level of practice.

[When Maitreya] asks, "What is that mental contemplation called", [Buddha] answers, "It is not calming."⁹² It is said to be belief that is concordant with calming and to be a similitude [of calming] because it is a means of attaining calming.

⁸⁰In other words, the term "mind" is merely a conventional designation, and there is no essence or entity of mind. The designation "mind" is given to a constantly changing series of mental events, but mind is actually empty of inherent existence, and so is said to be of the nature of clear light.

⁸¹D p. 52.4; Stog p. 74.5.

⁸²D p. 52.4; Stog p. 74.5.

⁸³D p. 52.4; Stog p. 74.6.

⁸⁴D p. 52.4; Stog p. 74.6.

⁸⁵D p. 52.4; Stog p. 74.7.

⁸⁶Yeshe Thabkhe says this means that the mind becomes more skilled in understanding differentiations of phenomena.

⁸⁷D p. 52.5; Stog p. 74.7.

⁸⁸D p. 52.5; Stog p. 75.1.

⁸⁹D p. 52.5; Stog p. 75.1.

⁹⁰D p. 52.6; Stog p. 75.1.

⁹¹D p. 52.6; Stog p. 75.1.

⁹²D p. 52.6; Stog p. 75.2.

In [the passage,] “Bhagavan, at what point do Bodhisattvas...”,⁹³ [Maitreya] says, “prior to attaining physical and mental pliancy,” because “body and mind have not become serviceable”.

[Maitreya] asks, “When [a Bodhisattva] is doing internal mental contemplation with respect to the images that are objects of activity of meditative stabilizations, in accordance with how those phenomena are contemplated...”⁹⁴ because this is not the completion of preparation. When [Maitreya] asks, “What is that mental contemplation,” [Buddha] answers, “It is not insight,”⁹⁵ because it is a means of attaining insight. You should know that prior to this there are many ways in which one ascertains designations [of doctrines] by way of not forgetting [Buddha’s instructions].

Ascertainment of designations [of doctrines] due to not forgetting meditative stabilizations that are based on non-conceptual exalted wisdom [is the focus of Maitreya’s question,] “Bhagavan, are the path of calming and the path of insight different or not different?”⁹⁶ [Buddha] answers, “Why are these two not different? Because [insight] observes the mind that is the object of observation [of calming]....”⁹⁷ The path of calming is not different from the path of insight, because insight observes the mind that is the object of observation [of calming]. With respect to the path of calming: since insight observes just the mind that is its object of observation, both the object of observation and the observer are just not different, because they are of the nature of mind. [The rhetorical question and answer —] “Why are they not non-different...”⁹⁸ — indicates that they are simply not non-different. Therefore, [Buddha] says, “Because [insight] observes an analytical image.”⁹⁹ [321b]

The path of calming and the path of insight are different, because that [i.e., insight] observes analytical signs and analytical images in that way.¹⁰⁰ The statement

⁹³D p. 52.6; Stog p. 75.1.

⁹⁴D p. 52.7; Stog p. 75.3.

⁹⁵D p. 53.1; Stog p. 75.3.

⁹⁶D p. 53.1; Stog p. 75.5.

⁹⁷D p. 53.2; Stog p. 75.6.

⁹⁸D p. 53.2; Stog p. 75.6.

⁹⁹D p. 53.3; Stog p. 75.7.

¹⁰⁰This passage (*‘di ltar de ni rnam par rtog pa dang bcas pa mtshan ma dang bcas pa’i gzugs brnyan la dmigs pa’i phyir ro*) is translated in accordance with Yeshe Thabkhe’s oral explanation, in which he glosses *dang bcas ba* as meaning *yod pa*, to have.

that those two are of the nature of mind indicates that they are just one; and because [one is] conceptual and [the other is] non-conceptual, [Buddha] states that “they are just different”.¹⁰¹ With respect to non-conceptual exalted wisdom’s not losing understanding, [Maitreya] says, “Bhagavan, is that image that is the object of activity of meditative stabilization which is a viewing consciousness different from the mind or not different?”¹⁰² This asks, ‘Are those two — the mind that is an observer and the observed object, the image that is the object of activity of meditative stabilizations — different or non-different,’ and [Buddha] answers, “they are not different”.¹⁰³

By way of indicating the reason [that answers] the question, “why”, [Buddha] says, “Because that image is simply cognition-only.”¹⁰⁴

This indicates that mind appears as an object of observation that is like an image; [and so Buddha] teaches, ‘It is not different from mind.’ In order to indicate the reason, [Buddha] says, “I explain that consciousness is distinguished by [the fact that its] object of observation is cognition-only (*rnam par rig pa tsam, vijñaptimātra*).”¹⁰⁵ An object of observation is an appearance of mind in the aspect of an object and, moreover, it is not different from cognition because it is observed simultaneously.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰¹This appears to refer to D p. 53.2 and Stog p. 75.6.

¹⁰²D p. 53.3; Stog p. 75.7.

¹⁰³D p. 53.4; Stog p. 76.1.

¹⁰⁴D p. 53.4; Stog p. 76.1.

¹⁰⁵D p. 53.4; Stog p. 76.2.

¹⁰⁶This statement accords with the statement in chapter five of the sūtra that an eye consciousness arises “engaged with, in one instant with, and in the same range as” a mental impression of it. This is significant in that it indicates that there are at least two places in the text that can be read as propounding similar statements about the relation of the mind and its objects, statements that imply that mind and its objects are non-different. This is important because some Western scholars think that the section in the eighth chapter of the *Samdhinirmocana* that discusses the doctrine of cognition-only is a later interpolation, but the plausible link between this section and chapter five suggests that this doctrine is integral to the thought of at least two parts of the text, thus calling into question the idea that this is a later interpolation.

In an oral commentary on this passage, Yeshe Thabkhe expressed the same idea, saying that if the appearance of an object and its cognition by the mind are simultaneous, then mind and its objects must be of the same entity (*ngo bo gcig*), since if they were different substantial entities there would have to be a temporal succession.

[**Objection:** The passage —] “If that image which is the object of activity of meditative stabilization...”¹⁰⁷ — offers a basis of opportunity for dispute because, if the signs that are realized are agents and the images that are investigated are actions, then how could those two be suitable to be non-different, since in the world agents and actions appear differently?

[**Reply:**] Because they are established as being just non-different in reality, [Buddha] says, “Maitreya, with respect to that...”¹⁰⁸ “No” indicates an agent, and “any” indicates an action.¹⁰⁹ Because just one phenomenon is not also several, [322a] if realizers, analyzers, and actions were real — since individual subtle particles do not appear among minds and mental factors — then conventionalities that are agents and actions would also not exist. This is so because of their being conventionalities [that appear] among compounded phenomena,¹¹⁰ their having relations, and their being powerless. Moreover, if some autonomous (*rang dbang can*) things were non-existent, then due to exaggerated adherence to an agent, deeds would just be doers, because an agent would not be suitable. Agents, actions, and deeds would also not be suitable.

Objection: How could the mind that cognizes the aspects of apprehending subject and apprehended object appear?

Reply: [Buddha] says, “The mind that is generated that way appears as such.”¹¹¹ This indicates that ‘such cognitions — which arise from seeds of cognition that from beginningless time are infused with the predispositions for designating apprehending subjects and apprehended objects — appear in the aspects of apprehending subjects and apprehended objects.’ In order to clarify the meaning, [Buddha] teaches the example [of a mirror,] “It is like this: for example....”¹¹² This indicates that ‘an image in a round mirror does not arise [as a real substantial entity]. But

¹⁰⁷D p. 53.4; Stog p. 76.2.

¹⁰⁸D p. 53.5; Stog p. 76.3.

¹⁰⁹D p. 53.5; Stog p. 76.3.

¹¹⁰I have translated this in accordance with the most probable meaning. The passage reads: ‘*dus pa dag la yang kun rdzob yin pa’i phyir*. I assume that ‘*dus pa* refers to ‘*dus byas*, compounded phenomena.

¹¹¹D p. 53.5; Stog p. 76.4.

¹¹²D p. 53.6; Stog p. 76.4.

form itself produces the mistaken image. Therefore, the mind thinks, "I see an image."

[**Qualm:**] With respect to that, there are also proponents [of truly existent external objects] who say, ['You assert that] in dependence upon a basis — a round mirror — and a sign — a form — an image that is just like a substantial entity arises. If all of those bases were non-existent, then how could this example be suitable?'

[**Response:**] In response to them, [Buddha] says, 'Because objects that are different from cognitions of aspects of forms and images do not exist.' If you ask, 'How can objects not exist,' [Buddha replies,] 'Because although objects do not exist, production of cognitions appears.' Although objects in the past, in the future, and in dreams and so forth do not exist, productions of cognitions of those appear as such [i.e., as existent].

Moreover, because one observes different cognitions through the power of believing in concordance of objects,¹¹³ [322b] just mind definitely appears as an image. As an example: with respect to one phenomenon — a river and so forth — animals perceive it in the form of an abode. Hungry ghosts (*yi dags, preta*) perceive it in the form of pus, etc. People similarly perceive it in the form of water; and gods similarly perceive it as a place having a nature of *vaiḍūrya*.¹¹⁴ [The phrase,] "Likewise..."¹¹⁵ [indicates] that, just as the two — form and an image — are not different but appear to be different, likewise — because they appear simultaneously with their ascertainment — one ascertains that 'the two, objects of observation and observers, are determined to be just non-different.'

In [the passage —] "Bhagavan, [are the forms and so forth] of sentient beings..."¹¹⁶ — [the phrase,] "forms and so forth" [refers to] substantial entities like

¹¹³In other words, the reason for the fact that we tend to perceive similar objects is that we expect to do so: our minds create realities that make sense and that accord with our expectations. Just as in dreams we create images and rules that accord with the logic of dreams, so in waking life we create images and events that accord with the logic of waking "reality".

¹¹⁴According to Chandra Das (*A Tibetan-English Dictionary*; Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1970, p. 877), *vaiḍūrya* can refer to three different types of lapis-lazuli: (1) a yellow lapis-lazuli called a *mañjuri*; (2) a green lapis-lazuli called a *sugata*; and (3) a white lapis-lazuli called a *sūnya*. Wonch'uk (vol. *ti* [118], p. 107.2), quoting Ācārya Paramārtha (Slob dpon Yang dag bden pa), states that "*vaiḍūrya*" is a precious substance of blue color that does not disintegrate when burned.

¹¹⁵D p. 53.7; Stog p. 76.5.

¹¹⁶D p. 53.7; Stog p. 76.6.

blue and so forth. “Images of the mind” are [images] appearing to the mind. “Abide in the nature” [means that they] abide in its entity. “Moreover” [refers to] things that are external objects. What is not different from mind [includes] ‘actions and afflictions’ and so forth, from which consciousness [gives rise to] actions, afflictions, and even Demons (*bdud, māra*).¹¹⁷

Because those actions¹¹⁸ do not operate differently, one also apprehends them as being threefold due to the differentiations of virtuous, non-virtuous, and neutral¹¹⁹ phenomena. With respect to that, [if one asks,] ‘Are virtuous actions and afflictions [different from mind] or [not,] Buddha’s response is, “Maitreya, they are not different.”’

Qualm: Why do they appear to be different?

[**Response:** Buddha] says, “With respect to those images, because childish beings with distorted awareness do not know cognition-only just as it is in reality, they consider [them] wrongly.”¹²⁰ This indicates that those childish beings — not perceiving reality just as it is, corrupted by faulty vision — ‘perceive non-existent external objects as existing in that way’.

In answer to [Maitreya’s] question — “At what point do Bodhisattvas solely cultivate insight?” — [Buddha] says, “At the time of continuous mental contemplation”.¹²¹ Regarding uninterrupted mind: ‘interrupted’ [means] obstructed, and ‘not obstructed’ [means] uninterrupted. [323a] This is the meaning of ‘focusing on the object of observation’.

With respect to [the question,] “At what point [do Bodhisattvas cultivate] the two, calming and insight?”¹²² Insight is simply mental one-pointedness with respect to the object of observation. Calming is simply internal mental one-pointedness.

By way of asking about the signs of mind, [Maitreya] says, “What are the signs of mind?”¹²³ [Buddha] answers with the statement, “Maitreya, objects of ob-

¹¹⁷This whole paragraph is omitted in the Peking text, p. 198.4.

¹¹⁸Text correction: Sde dge reads: *lam*; Peking p. 198.4 reads: *las*.

¹¹⁹Literally: non-fluctuating, *mi g.yo ba*.

¹²⁰D p. 54.1; Stog p. 76.7.

¹²¹D p. 54.2; Stog p. 77.1.

¹²²D p. 54.3; Stog p. 77.3.

¹²³D p. 54.4; Stog p. 77.4.

servation of insight...."¹²⁴ Whatever is an object of observation of insight — a mental image that is a conceptual object of activity of meditative stabilizations — is a sign of mind, because [mind] apprehends different types of signs.

In answer to the question, "What is an uninterrupted mind,"¹²⁵ [Buddha] says, "Maitreya, it is the object of observation of calming...." Whatever internally focuses on an object of observation of calming that observes an image is an "uninterrupted mind", because this includes all internal objects of observation.

In answer to the question, "What is mental one-pointedness," [Buddha] says, "that image which is the object of activity of meditative stabilizations...."¹²⁶ This indicates that whatever phenomena appear in the aspect of mental images to meditative stabilizations are not different from mind, because their inherent existence is not established. Therefore, in [the passage,] "this...is cognition-only",¹²⁷ [Buddha] indicates that this is 'realization of the reality-limit' (*yang dag pa'i mtha'*, *bhūta-koṭi*). "Realization" [refers to] individual knowledge.

In [the phrase,] "Having realized that, it is also mental contemplation in that way",¹²⁸ "realized that" [means] that one has realized that it is just cognition-only. After having realized that, realization of suchness is the establishment of mental one-pointedness, because cognition-only has eliminated [false adherence to] aspects. This is because the suchness of mind abides in just its own sphere.

The question concerning the divisions of insight asks, "Bhagavan, how many kinds of insight are there?"¹²⁹ In answer to the question, [Buddha] says, "There are three kinds." [323b] With respect to the [unspoken] thought, 'What are the three,' [Buddha] says, "(1) that arisen from signs (*mtshan ma las byung ba*, *nimitta-mayī*); (2) that arisen from searching (*yongs su tshol ba las byung ba*, *paryeṣaṇā-mayī*); and (3) that arisen from individual investigation (*so sor rtog pa las byung ba*, *pratyaवेक्षणā-mayī*)".¹³⁰ That arisen from signs is arisen from hearing. That arisen

¹²⁴D p. 54.4; Stog p. 77.4.

¹²⁵D p. 54.4: *bar chad ma mchis pa'i sems*; Stog p. 77.5: *de ma thag pa'i sems*.

¹²⁶D p. 54.5; Stog p. 77.6.

¹²⁷D p. 54.5; Stog p. 77.6.

¹²⁸D p. 54.5; Stog p. 77.7.

¹²⁹D p. 54.6; Stog p. 77.7.

¹³⁰D p. 54.6; Stog's translation (p. 78.1) of these terms is different, in that *las byung ba* is omitted: *mtshan ma can dang / kun tu tshol ba dang / so sor rtog pa'o*.

from searching is arisen from thinking. That arisen from individual analysis is arisen from meditation.¹³¹

Moreover, four purities are explained: (1) purity of object of observation; (2) purity of actions;¹³² (3) purity of non-defilement;¹³³ and (4) natural purity. From among those, differentiation in accordance with purity of object of observation is [insight] arisen from signs. Differentiation in accordance with purity of actions is [insight] arisen from searching. Differentiation in accordance with purity of non-defilement and differentiation in accordance with natural purity are [insight] arisen from individual analysis.

Moreover, whatever is engaged in the four analytical procedures — (1) analytical procedure [looking into] dependence, (2) analytical procedure [looking into] performance of functions, (3) analytical procedure [looking into] logical correctness, and (4) analytical procedure [looking into] the nature — in dependence upon what has the signs of the analytical procedure [looking into] dependence and the causes of the analytical procedure [looking into] performance of functions, is [insight] arisen from signs. Whatever is engaged in searching in accordance with the analytical procedure [looking into] logical correctness is [insight] arisen from searching. Whatever arises from individual investigation of nature (*chos nyid*, *dharmatā*) in accordance with the analytical procedure [looking into] the nature is [insight] arisen from individual analysis.

¹³¹This refers to an important idea in Buddhist meditation theory, that there are three stages involved in understanding doctrinal teachings. The first, wisdom arisen from hearing (*thos pa las byung ba'i shes rab*, *śrutamayī-prajñā*), occurs when someone hears and studies doctrines. The second, wisdom arisen from thinking (*bsams pa las byung ba'i shes rab*, *cintāmayī-prajñā*), occurs when one understands those doctrines through further contemplation. The third, wisdom arisen from meditation (*bsgoms pa las byung ba'i shes rab*, *bhāvanāmayī-prajñā*), occurs when analytical meditation and stabilizing meditation are in harmony, that is to say, when there is a union of calming and insight. These are discussed at length by Wonch'uk (vol. *thi* [119], pp. 339-347). See also: Jeffrey Hopkins, *Meditation on Emptiness* (London: Wisdom, 1983) pp. 92-94; Louis de la Vallée Poussin, tr., *L'Abhidharmakośa de Vasubandhu* (Paris, 1924), ch. 6, pp. 143 and 159; and Walpola Rahula, tr., *La Compendium de la Super-Doctrine d'Asaṅga* by Walpola Rahula (Paris, 1971), p. 134. Étienne Lamotte provides a bibliography of these terms in *La Somme du Grand Véhicule d'Asaṅga* (Louvain, 1973) notes p. 7*.

¹³²Text correction: the Sde dge text (p. 323b.2) reads: *lam rnam par dag pa*; emended to *las rnam par dag pa* in accordance with the Peking text (p. 199.2.2).

¹³³Text correction: the Sde dge text reads: *dri rnam par dag pa*; emended to *dri ma med pa rnam par dag pa* on the basis of its occurrence in the next sentence as *dri ma med pa*.

In response to the question, "What is [insight] arisen from signs", [Buddha] says, "It is that insight which takes to mind just an analytical image that is the object of activity of a meditative stabilization."¹³⁴ This indicates that — with respect to phenomena such as heard objects of meditative stabilizations that are conceptual and analytical and so forth — any insight that takes to mind any image having the signs of a pure object of observation is "arisen from signs".

In response to the question, "What is [insight] arisen from searching," [Buddha] says, "With respect to this and that..."¹³⁵ [The phrase,] "with respect to this and that" [refers] to the entities of mental images.

In [the passage,] "...understood well through wisdom [just those phenomena that] were not well understood":¹³⁶ [324a] Wisdom [means] a pure path. It [operates] with respect to non-observational phenomena. "That" is said to [refer to] "phenomena". "Just those" [means] 'just mental images.' Any insight of Bodhisattvas which mentally contemplates [its object] through understanding it well is [insight] arisen from searching.

In answer to the question, "What is [insight] arisen from individual investigation," [Buddha] says, "With respect to this and that..."¹³⁷ "With respect to this and that" [means] 'with respect to differentiation by way of cognition-only.' "Through wisdom" [means] 'through supramundane wisdom.' Because — with respect to meditational phenomena that are realized well as they are ascertained — liberative objects of knowledge — purity of non-affliction and natural purity — abandon the afflictive obstructions, the mind is liberated. Thus, due to the purity of non-affliction and abandonment of the obstructions to omniscience, wisdom is liberated. Thus, that natural purity connects one with complete, perfect happiness. Thus, [Buddha] says, "That insight which takes to mind [its object] is [insight] arisen from individual investigation."

[In response] to the question, "With respect to calming, how many kinds are there," [Buddha] says, "through engagement with that uninterrupted mind..."¹³⁸

¹³⁴D p. 54.6; Stog p. 78.1.

¹³⁵D p. 54.7; Stog p. 78.2.

¹³⁶D p. 54.7; Stog p. 78.2.

¹³⁷D p. 54.7; Stog p. 78.2.

¹³⁸D p. 55.2; Stog p. 78.3.

The arising of uninterrupted insight from a mind of meditative equipoise is an “uninterrupted mind”.

[The statement —] “Moreover, it is said to be of three kinds”¹³⁹ — [refers to insight] arisen from signs, [insight] arisen from searching, and [insight] arisen from individual investigation, because these are the three kinds of insight. You should know that calming is also of three kinds. Because they are internal operations and because they are subtle factors, [Buddha] does not describe their characteristics.

[The passage,] “Alternatively, there are eight kinds of calming...”¹⁴⁰ indicates a division. Because there is an eightfold division that subsumes the divisions of the [four] concentrations and the [four] formless absorptions, calming is also explained as being of eight types. [Buddha says,] “Alternatively, there are four kinds [of calming]”¹⁴¹ because immeasurable love, [immeasurable] compassion, [immeasurable] joy, [324b] and immeasurable equanimity are internal mental operations. Because they are entities that pacify agitated minds — such as harmful intent and so forth — they are explained as being calming.

Also — by way of asking about the division of the two, calming and insight that dwell on doctrines and that do not dwell on doctrines — [Maitreya] says, “Bhagavan, when you say, ‘calming and insight that dwell on doctrines....’”¹⁴² In [Buddha’s answer —] “due to engagement with the signs of doctrines as sūtra collections etc.¹⁴³ are apprehended and contemplated” — “signs of doctrines” (*chos kyi mtshan ma*, *dharma-nimitta*) [refers to] words, letters, and so forth. “Meanings” are reasons (*rgyu mtshan*, *hetu*) that are meanings. This indicates that calming and insight — [focusing] on meanings after having focused on the signs of doctrines of sūtra collections etc. that are apprehended and contemplated — abide in doctrines. Thus, [Buddha] teaches that ‘they are interested in doctrines due to focusing on meanings’. “Without relying on doctrines that are apprehended and contemplated...”¹⁴⁴ [means] ‘not apprehending doctrines such as sūtra collections and so

¹³⁹D p. 55.2; Stog p. 78.3.

¹⁴⁰D p. 55.2; Stog p. 78.4.

¹⁴¹D p. 55.3; Stog p. 78.6.

¹⁴²D p. 55.4; Stog p. 78.7.

¹⁴³The Sde dge text reads: *mdo'i sde la sogs pa*. This is not found in D, Stog, or any other Tibetan text of the sūtra.

¹⁴⁴D p. 55.5; Stog p. 79.1.

forth.' "From others"¹⁴⁵ [means] from other causes, not by the power of one's own causes. In [the phrase,] "instructions and teachings": speech that is understood is instruction.

Objection: Hearing [doctrines] from others is also just [calming and insight] that abide in doctrines, because of being engagement with doctrines propounded by others.

[Response:] This is not engagement through the power of apprehending doctrines such as sūtra collections etc., but it is engagement due to the cause of faith in others, because doctrines are not ascertained. Therefore, it is not [calming and insight] that dwell on doctrines.

[The words —] "It is like this: [calming and insight focusing on] discolored corpses or..."¹⁴⁶ — [indicate that] they do not receive instructions from others due to faith, because calming and insight that meditate on ugliness and so forth focus on them through exertion. Therefore, this is not [calming and insight] that dwell on doctrines.

[The passage —] "Maitreya, with respect to that..."¹⁴⁷ — indicates that Bodhisattvas of sharp faculties, who relate to doctrines in accordance with how they have heard and apprehended them, [325a] cultivate the arising of calming and insight that dwell on doctrines through the power of their own minds. Therefore, [Buddha] teaches that they are 'non-reversible'.¹⁴⁸

[The phrase,] "In dependence upon [calming and insight] that do not dwell on doctrines..."¹⁴⁹ indicates that Bodhisattvas who initially are not able to hear and apprehend doctrines — such as sūtra collections etc. — and who relate to [doctrines] through faith because of others [teaching them] are of dull faculties. Therefore, because they are suitable to be motivated by others, [Buddha] teaches, 'I do not designate [these Bodhisattvas as being of sharp faculties]'.

By way of asking about the division of [calming and insight] which observe doctrines that are unmixed and which observe doctrines that are mixed, [Maitreya]

¹⁴⁵D p. 55.5; Stog p. 79.2.

¹⁴⁶D p. 55.5; Stog p. 79.2.

¹⁴⁷D p. 55.7; Stog p. 79.4.

¹⁴⁸This term (*phyir mi ldog pa, avaiartika*) may also mean that they are "not in conflict with" or "not turned away from" a correct understanding of doctrine.

¹⁴⁹D p. 55.7; Stog p. 79.5.

says, “Bhagavan, [what are] calming and insight that observe doctrines that are unmixed...”¹⁵⁰ [The phrase —] “doctrines in accordance with how they have apprehended and considered them”¹⁵¹ — indicates that cultivation — of calming and insight with respect to those doctrines of sūtra collections etc. that are apprehended and considered in terms of the aspects of emptiness and so forth — are “calming and insight which observe doctrines that are unmixed.”

[The phrase, “calming and insight] that observe each of the individual doctrines of sūtra collections etc.”¹⁵² refers to [calming and insight] that observe [their objects] within dwelling on different doctrines of sūtra collections etc. In [the phrase,] “If...doctrines of sūtra collections etc.”, “all of these doctrines” [refers to] those sūtra collections etc. that were indicated previously.

[The phrase,] “flow into suchness”¹⁵³ [means that] they are inclined toward suchness. [The phrase,] “descend into suchness”¹⁵⁴ [means that] they are mainly concerned with suchness. [The phrase,] “have descended into suchness”¹⁵⁵ means that they ‘have gone into suchness’. This indicates that all of those phenomena [i.e., enlightenment, nirvāṇa, and transformation of the basis] ‘are of one taste with suchness’. “Suchness” refers to the naturally pure realm of truth.

In [the passage,] “flow into enlightenment...”,¹⁵⁶ ‘enlightenment’ [refers to] supramundane conceptual exalted wisdom. In [the phrase,] “flow into transformation of the basis” (*gnas gyur, āśraya-parāvṛtti*),¹⁵⁷ basis [refers to] the qualities of a Buddha; [transformation occurs] through the power of the [ten] levels (*sa, bhūmi*) and the [ten] perfections (*pha rol tu phyin pa, pāramitā*). [325b] “Transformation of the basis” [refers to] the truth body.

In [the phrase] — “All these doctrines of sūtra collections etc...virtuous doctrines...”¹⁵⁸ — “virtuous doctrines” [means that] they are ultimately virtuous, because the point at which one understands that their nature is of the nature of nirvāṇa,

¹⁵⁰D p. 56.1; Stog p. 79.6.

¹⁵¹D p. 56.2; Stog p. 80.1.

¹⁵²D p. 56.2; Stog p. 80.1.

¹⁵³D p. 56.3; Stog p. 80.3.

¹⁵⁴D p. 56.3; Stog p. 80.3.

¹⁵⁵D p. 56.3; Stog p. 80.3.

¹⁵⁶D p. 56.4; Stog p. 80.3.

¹⁵⁷D p. 56.4; Stog p. 80.4.

¹⁵⁸D p. 56.5; Stog p. 80.5.

and that their nature is virtuous because they are of the nature of the path is the point at which one [understands] scripture. "Innumerable" [means] measureless.

The uncontaminated realm of truth [is such] because of being unrestricted. [The virtuous doctrines] are "measureless" because of their innumerability. This is because they completely transcend enumeration. "Expressed through the manifest expression" [means that] such uncontaminated doctrines are expressed through manifest expression.

[The phrase,] "that...is calming and insight which observe doctrines that are mixed"¹⁵⁹ [refers to] calming and insight that observe collected doctrines.

By way of asking about the divisions of [calming and insight] which observe doctrines that are a little mixed, very mixed, and immeasurably mixed, [Maitreya] says, "Bhagavan, [when you designate] calming and insight which observe doctrines that are a little mixed..."¹⁶⁰

[Buddha's response,] "Maitreya, beginning with sūtra collections..."¹⁶¹ answers this [question]. After one has lumped together into one the beginning, middle, and end of what one has apprehended of any doctrines of sūtra collections etc., calming and insight that mentally contemplate [those doctrines] are to be known as being "[calming and insight] which observe doctrines that are a little mixed". [Buddha] states this 'because they do not observe all doctrines'.

[The phrase —] "as many sūtra collections etc. as one has apprehended"¹⁶² — indicates that after one has lumped into one each and every [doctrine] of those sūtra collections etc., that mental contemplation is to be known as being calming and insight observing doctrines that are very mixed, 'because they observe all the doctrines of sūtra collections etc.'.

[Buddha's] teaching — "the teachings of doctrines of the Tathāgatas are numberless..."¹⁶³ — indicates that, because the teachings of the Tathāgatas refer to all objects of observation, [326a] they completely gladden the thoughts of all beings who are trainees everywhere and at all times; thus, they are "measureless in their in-

¹⁵⁹D p. 56.5; Stog p. 80.6.

¹⁶⁰D p. 56.5; Stog p. 80.6.

¹⁶¹D p. 56.7; Stog p. 81.1.

¹⁶²D p. 57.1; Stog p. 81.3.

¹⁶³D p. 57.2; Stog p. 81.4.

crease". The measureless words and letters of doctrines and the measureless progress of wisdom and inspiration are like this.

[The phrase,] "lumped into one"¹⁶⁴ means that — due to the non-observability of the reality of doctrines — calming and insight that treat them as being of one taste are known to be "[calming and insight] which observe doctrines that are immeasurably mixed."

[Maitreya's question] — "Bhagavan, at what point do Bodhisattvas [attain calming and insight which observe doctrines that are mixed]"¹⁶⁵ — is a question about the cause of attainment of that. [Buddha's answer —] "Maitreya, you should know that they attain them through five causes..." — indicates the cause of attainment.

In [the passage] — "When mentally contemplating, they destroy all of the bases of the assumptions of bad states (*gnas ngan len gyi 'ching ba, dauṣṭulya-bandhana*) in each moment" — assumptions of bad states are of two kinds: (1) assumptions of bad states that are afflictions such as desire and so forth; and (2) assumptions of bad states that are afflictions such as [wrong] views and so forth. The basis of those is the basis-consciousness. Because calming and insight which observe doctrines that are mixed are antidotes to these two assumptions of bad states, they serve to destroy the bases of these. They get rid of various conceptions.

With respect to [the phrase,] "attain joy in the joyousness of doctrine":¹⁶⁶ Because one is separated from the defilements of assumptions of bad states, due to physical and mental pliancy one attains joy in the joyousness of doctrines that are separated from various [wrong] discriminations. "They understand well that the appearances of doctrines are measureless in the ten directions and that their aspects are not limited..." because they ascertain measureless doctrines well.

With respect to [the passage,] "The non-imaginary signs that are partially concordant with purification — these being endowed with accomplishment of the purpose — arise in them":¹⁶⁷ this is because they purify the view [that mistakenly sees] the aspects of [a self of] persons and of phenomena. Because an exalted knowledge of all aspects is a cause of accomplishing the aims of oneself and others, it is an

¹⁶⁴D p. 57.2; Stog p. 81.3.

¹⁶⁵D p. 57.3; Stog p. 81.5.

¹⁶⁶D p. 57.4; Stog p. 81.7.

¹⁶⁷D p. 57.5; Stog p. 82.1.

'accomplishment of the purpose'. [326b] When one understands a portion of that, the non-imaginary aspects of signs that are concordant with that arise due to one's faith.

In [the passage,] "For the sake of attaining, perfecting, and completing the truth body, they grasp the causes of increasing goodness, the greatest auspiciousness":¹⁶⁸ on the first level, one realizes the truth body. On the third level one attains it. On the tenth level one completes it. On the Tathāgata level, one perfects it because one brings it to completion. With respect to [the term] "cause": Through cultivating the [ten] levels and the [ten] perfections one definitely emerges [from cyclic existence].

[The phrase,] "increasing goodness, the greatest auspiciousness"¹⁶⁹ [means that] through realizing [the truth body] one attains it; through attaining it one completes it; through completing it one increasingly perfects it; through greater auspiciousness one becomes very auspicious.

Also, by way of asking about the divisions of these two, [Maitreya] says, "Bhagavan, on what level..."¹⁷⁰ In [Maitreya's next question, the phrase,] "meditative stabilizations that are conceptual and [merely] analytical"¹⁷¹ [means] that just coarse mind is conceptual. Just the fourth is analytical.

In [the passage —] "In accordance with how they are apprehended and..."¹⁷² — [the phrase,] "the signs of those" indicates that 'calming and insight — which observe the signs of doctrines of sūtra collections etc. in accordance with how they are apprehended, investigated, and analyzed, which are analytical in the sense of experiencing clear and coarse [signs,] — are meditative stabilizations that are conceptual and analytical.'

In [the phrase,] "signs of those",¹⁷³ "those" [refers to] the signs of doctrines of sūtra collections etc. that are apprehended in accordance with how [Bodhisattvas] have apprehended, investigated, and analyzed them. With respect to that, because this [apprehension] is non-conceptual, it is a signless [apprehension] that is clear and

¹⁶⁸D p. 57.5; Stog p. 82.2 reads: "For the sake of completing and accomplishing the truth body, they grasp the causes of increasing goodness, the greatest auspiciousness."

¹⁶⁹D p. 57.5; Stog p. 82.2.

¹⁷⁰D p. 57.7; Stog p. 82.5.

¹⁷¹D p. 58.1; Stog p. 82.5.

¹⁷²D p. 58.1; Stog p. 82.6.

¹⁷³D p. 58.2; Stog p. 83.1.

coarse. This indicates that ‘analytical calming and insight — which experience the subtle in the sense of merely following that which appears — are non-conceptual and merely analytical meditative stabilizations.’¹⁷⁴

In [the passage,] “...in all respects with regard to the signs of those...”,¹⁷⁵ “they experience doctrines spontaneously in all respects with regard to the signs of those” [327a] because they unify the continuum of the mind, because conceptuality and analysis are pacified, and because they have mental engagement that experiences doctrines spontaneously without apprehending the signs of doctrines of sūtra collections etc. Thus, [Buddha] teaches that ‘such calming and insight are non-conceptual and non-analytical meditative stabilizations.’

[The phrase,] “Moreover, [calming and insight] arisen from searching...”¹⁷⁶ indicates that ‘on the level of conceptuality and analysis, calming and insight — arisen from searching with respect to doctrines that are conventional and ultimate truths — are conceptual and analytical meditative stabilizations.’ “[Calming and insight] arisen from individual analysis are non-conceptual and merely analytical meditative stabilizations”¹⁷⁷ because of analyzing individually and in detail the doctrines of sūtra collections etc. “Calming and insight which observe doctrines that are mixed are non-conceptual, non-analytical meditative stabilizations”¹⁷⁸ because all doctrines are of one taste in terms of their suchness. Thus [calming and insight] engage them spontaneously.

[Maitreya’s question —] “Bhagavan, what is the cause of calming?”¹⁷⁹ — asks about the cause of apprehending calming and insight and about the cause of equanimity. In [Buddha’s answer —] “Maitreya, when the mind is excited or...”¹⁸⁰ — “excited” [means] not pacified. [The phrase,] “qualms that it will be excited” [refers to] scattered thoughts. [The phrase,] “phenomena that are concordant with

¹⁷⁴The translation of this phrase follows the Peking text, p. 201.1.1: *de snang ba’ o la spyir dren pa tsam phra mo myong ba’ i rjes su dpyod pa’ i zhi gnas dang lhag mthong gang yin pa de ni rtog pa med cing dpyod pa tsam gyi ting nge ’dzin yin no zhes ston to*; Sde dge reads: *de snang ba’ o la phyir dran pa tsam phra mo myong ba’ i rjes su dpyod pa’ i zhi gnas dang lhag mthong gang yin pa de ni rtogs pa med cing dpyod pa tsam gyi ting nge ’dzin yin no zhes ston to*.

¹⁷⁵D p. 58.3; Stog p. 83.2.

¹⁷⁶D p. 58.4; Stog p. 83.3.

¹⁷⁷D p. 58.4; Stog p. 83.4.

¹⁷⁸D p. 58.5; Stog p. 83.4.

¹⁷⁹D p. 58.5; Stog p. 83.5.

¹⁸⁰D p. 58.6; Stog p. 83.5.

sobering phenomena" [refers to] the aspects of [true] sufferings and [true] sources. [The term] "uninterrupted mind"¹⁸¹ [means] that the mind does not observe mental objects.

In [the passage] — "Maitreya, [when] the mind becomes lax or..."¹⁸² — "mental laxity" [means that the mind] degenerates due to lethargy and sleep. [The phrase,] "suspects that it will become lax" indicates what is concordant with laxity. "Pleasing phenomena" are the aspects of [true] cessations and [true] paths. [The phrase,] "signs of the mind" refers to 'the signs of a mind that observes pleasing phenomena'. [327b]

After having explained the causes of calming and the causes of apprehending [it,] by way of [the passage —] "Maitreya, when a path that is singly dedicated to insight, or is singly dedicated to insight, or even one that is a union of those two..."¹⁸³ — [Buddha] indicates the cause of equanimity. [The phrase,] "not afflicted by the secondary afflictions that are those two" indicates the differences between those three kinds of paths. When the mind spontaneously engages in a path that is not defiled by excitement, contrition, lethargy, or sleep, that spontaneous mental contemplation is said to be "the cause of equanimity".

[Maitreya's] question — "Bhagavan, when Bodhisattvas cultivating calming and insight know doctrine and know the meaning, in what way do they know doctrine? In what way do they know the meaning?"¹⁸⁴ — asks about the division of the natures of doctrines and meanings. Doctrine is the basis, and meaning is [not]¹⁸⁵ the basis. Therefore, [Buddha's answer] — "Maitreya, they know doctrine by way of five aspects..."¹⁸⁶ — initially indicates the division of transformational doctrines.

¹⁸¹Sde dge and Lamotte's citation of this passage read: *bar chad med pa'i sems*. Stog, however, reads: "immediately preceding mind" *sems kyi de ma thag pa*. The explanation in the commentary indicates that Jñānagarbha would favor Sde dge and Lamotte's reading of "uninterrupted mind". The probable Sanskrit equivalents of *bar chad med pa* and *de ma thag pa* are close (*anantara* and *anantarya*), and so Stog's reading may have been a mistake on the part of its translators, or perhaps they saw the two terms as being equivalent.

¹⁸²D p. 58.7; Stog p. 83.6.

¹⁸³D p. 58.7; Stog p. 84.1.

¹⁸⁴D p. 59.1; Stog p. 84.2.

¹⁸⁵The negative particle *ma* is not found in the Sde dge text, p. 327b.4, but is found in the Peking text, p. 201.3..3. Yeshe Thabkhe indicates that the Peking reading is the more probable one.

¹⁸⁶D p. 59.2; Stog p. 84.3.

Alternatively, with respect to the nature of doctrine, there are two kinds: (1) doctrines that are explained and (2) doctrines that are realized. Because doctrines that are explained are the foundation of doctrines that are realized, and because doctrines that are explained also are of the nature of names, words, specifics, and collections, [Buddha] teaches, “words and...”¹⁸⁷

In [the passage —] “What are names? They are what are designated to afflicted and purified phenomena as actual and specific names”¹⁸⁸ — ‘afflicted phenomena’ are desire and so forth. Purified phenomena are faith and so forth. With respect to those, ‘desire’ and ‘faith’ are actual nominal designations. [The expressions —] ‘Desire also should be known’, or ‘[Desire] should be abandoned’ — are specific nominal designations. [328a] Similarly, [the expressions —] ‘Faith should be cultivated’, or ‘[Faith should be cultivated] many times’ — are specific nominal designations. That is [the aspect of] names.

With respect to [the passage,] “What are words? They are bases and supports that reside in and depend upon collections of just these names for the sake of imputing conventions with regard to objects that are afflicted and purified”:¹⁸⁹ [the statement —] ‘Attachment to the Desire [Realm,] the Form [Realm,] and the Formless [Realm] are to be abandoned’ — is a collection of names. Collections of names of purified phenomena are similarly indicated. [The statement,] ‘Faith in the connection between the actions and results of non-sentient beings is virtuous’ is like this.

[The passage] — “What are letters? They are the letters that are the bases of these two”¹⁹⁰ — means that particles that are letters are the bases of names and words.

[The passage —] “What is individual knowledge? It is individual knowledge due to mental contemplation that observes unmixed [doctrines]”¹⁹¹ — indicates that

¹⁸⁷D p. 59.3; Stog p. 84.4.

¹⁸⁸D p. 59.3; Stog p. 84.4 reads: “What are names? They are what are designated as actual names to afflicted and purified phenomena.”

¹⁸⁹D p. 59.3; Stog p. 84.5 reads: “What are words? They are what reside in and depend upon collections of just these names for the sake of imputing conventions with regard to affliction and purification.”

¹⁹⁰D p. 59.4; Stog p. 84.6.

¹⁹¹D p. 59.4; Stog p. 84.6 reads: “What is knowledge in the aspect of individuality? It is knowledge due to mental contemplation that observes unmixed [doctrines].”

words of doctrines of excellent sūtra collections etc., which are arrangements of names, words, and letters, are apprehended individually.

[The passage —] “What is individual knowledge by way of collections? It is individual knowledge due to mental contemplation that observes mixed [doctrines]”¹⁹² — indicates that after one has unified those collections of doctrines of sūtra collections etc., they are apprehended.

After having explained how Bodhisattvas who cultivate calming and insight individually know doctrines, in order to indicate the aspects through which they individually know meanings, [Buddha] states in detail, “Bodhisattvas individually know objects by way of ten aspects, by: (1) their varieties...”¹⁹³

With respect to [the passage,] “Maitreya, with respect to that, these which are the final divisions, in all respects, of afflicted and purified phenomena, are the varieties”:¹⁹⁴ Among the afflicted are desire and so forth. [328b] Among the purified are faith and so forth. The enumerated aspects of those afflicted and purified phenomena are their varieties; the final divisions of their aspects are their modes.

In [the passage,] “...these are...”¹⁹⁵ [the varieties of] the aggregates include all the aggregates of afflicted and purified phenomena, which [are included] within the five aggregates.

With respect to [the passage,] “The six internal sense spheres indicate the profound; the six external sense spheres indicate enjoyments...”:¹⁹⁶ You should understand that the sense faculties (*dbang po*, *indriya*) and so forth are subsumed by the five-fold enumeration.

With respect to “the varieties”: The existence of afflicted and purified phenomena — [differentiated] in accordance with the varieties of phenomena — is [the category of] “the varieties”.

¹⁹²D p. 59.5; Stog p. 84.7 reads: “What is knowledge in the aspect of collection? It is knowledge due to mental contemplation that observes mixed [doctrines].”

¹⁹³D p. 59.6; Stog p. 85.2.

¹⁹⁴D p. 59.7; Stog p. 85.3.

¹⁹⁵D p. 60.1; Stog p. 85.4.

¹⁹⁶This passage is not found in D, Stog, or Lamotte. The passage to which this probably refers is found in D p. 60.1, Stog p. 85.5: “Moreover, these are: ‘the fivefold enumeration of the aggregates, the sixfold enumeration of the internal sense spheres, and also the sixfold enumeration of the external sense spheres’, and so forth.”

[The passage —] “Maitreya, with respect to that, the suchness of just those afflicted and purified phenomena is the way that they really exist”¹⁹⁷ — indicates that at the point where one analyzes afflicted and purified phenomena, their unmistakable [mode of] existence, just as it is, is “the way they really exist”.

[The phrase,] “Moreover, it has seven aspects”¹⁹⁸ indicates another division. In [the phrase,] “the suchness of arising”, continuous engagement in afflictions, actions, and births is ‘arising’. “Suchness” is not different from that aspect. This indicates non-mistaken nature.

[The phrase,] “the beginninglessness and endlessness of compounded phenomena”¹⁹⁹ indicates the absence of a former and later limit. With respect to [the passage —] “The suchness of character is the selflessness of persons and the selflessness of phenomena in all phenomena”:²⁰⁰ “all phenomena” are the compounded and the un-compounded. With respect to that, among individual compounded phenomena, a person does not exist within each subtle atom or among all minds and mental factors. [329a] Also, among whatever is un-compounded — space, analytical cessations, and non-analytical cessations — a person does not exist. Therefore, the character of phenomena is the non-existence of a self of persons.

“The suchness of cognition is [the fact that] compounded phenomena are cognition-only”²⁰¹ because internal and external things are distinguished by being cognition-only.

In [the passage] — “The suchness of abiding is explained by me as true sufferings”²⁰² — “abiding” [means that] selfless phenomena²⁰³ abide in time and so forth. This is because all of those are not concordant with true sufferings with respect to Superiors.

¹⁹⁷D p. 60.2; Stog p. 85.5.

¹⁹⁸D p. 60.2; Stog p. 85.6.

¹⁹⁹D p. 60.2; Stog p. 85.7.

²⁰⁰D p. 60.3; Stog p. 85.7.

²⁰¹D p. 60.3; Stog p. 85.7.

²⁰²D p. 60.3; Stog p. 86.1.

²⁰³The Tibetan reads: *bdag po med pa'i chos*; Yeshe Thabkhe equates this with *bdag med pa'i chos*.

In [the passage —] “The suchness of distorted establishment is explained by me as true sources”²⁰⁴ — distorted establishment is of the nature of delusion and so forth [which misconceive] the selfless as [having] a self; therefore, it is the cause of the sufferings of manifestation and birth.

With respect to [the passage,] “The suchness of purification is explained by me as true cessations”:²⁰⁵ Because it eliminates adventitious imputations that are impure phenomena, it is [called] purification.

With respect to [the passage,] “The suchness of correct establishment is explained by me²⁰⁶ as true paths”:²⁰⁷ Because correct establishment is the antidote to distorted establishment, it is a pure path that pacifies the delusion of a self and so forth.

[The passage,] “Maitreya, with respect to that...”²⁰⁸ indicates how these suchnesses are differentiated. [The passage,] “... the suchness of arising...” explains this in detail. Because all sentient beings increase²⁰⁹ the predispositions for the view of personal existence, [Buddha] teaches, ‘Due to the suchness of arising and so forth, [all sentient beings] are similar and equal.’

With respect to [the passage,] “Due to the suchness of character and the suchness of cognition, all phenomena are similar and equal”: This is because all phenomena have a character that is an absence of a self of persons [329b] and because they are distinguished as being cognition-only.

[The passage,] “Maitreya, with respect to that...”²¹⁰ [refers to] the three enlightenments [of Hearers, Solitary Realizers, and Mahāyānists]. The suchness of purification indicates that they are similar and equal, because they are similar in terms of the natures of their cessations.

Objection: Why should they be similar, since — although a liberated Buddha works for the benefit of sentient beings by way of the characteristics of the truth body — liberated Hearers and Solitary Realizers do not.

²⁰⁴D p. 60.4; Stog p. 86.1.

²⁰⁵D p. 60.4; Stog p. 86.2.

²⁰⁶Text correction: the Sde dge text reads *las*; emended to *ngas*.

²⁰⁷D p. 60.4; Stog p. 86.2.

²⁰⁸D p. 60.5; Stog p. 86.3.

²⁰⁹The Tibetan term is *brtas pa*. According to Yeshe Thabkhe, this equals *rgyas pa* in this passage.

²¹⁰D p. 60.5; Stog p. 86.5.

[Response:] Liberated Buddhas are differentiated by the force of former vows, but liberated Hearers and so forth are not. For example: although knotted cloth and unknotted cloth are similarly placed together in a dyeing vessel, by the power of this, bright color appears in the knotted [cloth,] but not in the unknotted [cloth].

Similarly, even though they are similarly placed in the dyeing vessel of nirvāṇa, due to the power of this, the nirvāṇas of Buddhas are differentiated, but the nirvāṇas of Hearers and so forth are not. Therefore, in the similarity of their purifications they are liberated, but in terms of the truth body — which is just an uncommon sovereignty — they are not.

[The phrase] — “Maitreya, with respect to that, due to the suchness of correct establishment...”²¹¹ — indicates that wisdoms that are included within²¹² calming and insight which observe doctrines that are mixed are similar and equal, because wisdom is the antidote to all obscurations. This indicates that, due to the suchness of correct establishment, the way that things really exist is “similar and equal” [in all things].

In the context of [discussing] objects that are apprehenders, [Buddha] says, “Maitreya, with respect to that, objects that are apprehenders are the following phenomena: (1) the five physical sense spheres....”²¹³ [Buddha says that] because the five physical [sense spheres] are the five: eyes and so forth. These are included within the aggregate of form.

Phenomena that are: mind, sentience, consciousness, and mental factors [330a] are also just [discussed] in the context of objects that are apprehenders. This is because mind [refers to] the basis-consciousness. Sentience (*yid*, *manas*) [refers to] afflicted [sentience] (*nyon mongs pa can* [*gyi yid*], *kliṣṭa*[-*manas*]). Consciousness [refers to] the six operating consciousnesses. Mental factors are feeling and so forth [i.e., the fifty-one mental factors].²¹⁴ These are apprehenders because they are of a type that has objects of observation.

After having explained objects that are apprehenders, in the context of [discussing] objects that are apprehended, [Buddha] says, “Maitreya, with respect

²¹¹D p 60.7; Stog p. 86.6.

²¹²See p. 329a.3.

²¹³D p. 61.1; Stog p. 86.7.

²¹⁴For a list of the fifty-one mental factors, see: Elizabeth Napper and Lati Rinbochay, *Mind in Tibetan Buddhism* (Valois, New York: Snow Lion, 1980), pp. 35-39.

to that, objects that are apprehended are...."²¹⁵ The 'six external sense spheres' — forms, sounds, scents, tastes, tangible objects, and phenomena — are apprehended.

In order to indicate that all phenomena are apprehended objects of mental consciousnesses, [Buddha] says, "Moreover, Maitreya, objects that are apprehenders are also objects that are apprehended."²¹⁶

After having discussed objects that are apprehended, in order to explain objects that are abodes, [Buddha] extensively teaches, "Maitreya, with respect to that, objects that are abodes are...."²¹⁷ [The passage,] "one village, or 100 villages..." refers to immeasurable worldly realms.

After having discussed objects that are abodes, in order to explain objects that are resources, [Buddha] says, "Maitreya, with respect to that, objects that are resources...."²¹⁸ [The phrase,] "...due to being an object of enjoyment..." [means] due to being an [object of] enjoyment — such as an object of veneration etc. — of men and women. "Property" [refers to] clothing etc., because Bodhisattvas must differentiate everything through correct reasonings.

After the explanation of objects that are enjoyments, in order to explain mistaken objects, [Buddha] says, "Maitreya, with respect to that, mistaken objects are...."²¹⁹ [The phrase,] "with respect to just these objects that are apprehending subjects and so forth" [refers to] those indicated previously. "Mistaken" [refers to] incorrectly viewing the [four] truths. [330b] Superimposing permanence etc. on the entities of impermanent phenomena — dependent-arising that are apprehended objects, apprehending subjects, and so forth — is a mistaken discrimination. Because the two, mistaken discrimination and mistaken mind, awaken mistaken views, they are abandoned by correct views.

After having explained the meaning of "mistaken objects", in order to explain non-mistaken objects, [Buddha] says, "Maitreya, with respect to that, non-mistaken objects are...."²²⁰ [The passage —] "You should know that [non-mistaken objects] are the opposite of those [i.e., mistaken objects] and they are antidotes [to them] — refers to:] (1) viewing impermanent objects — such as apprehending subjects and

²¹⁵D p. 61.1; Stog p. 87.1.

²¹⁶D p. 61.1; Stog p. 87.2.

²¹⁷D p. 61.2; Stog p. 87.2.

²¹⁸D p. 61.6; Stog p. 88.1.

²¹⁹D p. 61.6; Stog p. 88.2.

²²⁰D p. 62.1; Stog p. 88.4.

so forth — as impermanent; (2) viewing the nature of suffering — which is discordant with [the state of] a Superior — as suffering; (3) viewing the nature of unclean things as unclean; and (4) viewing selfless things that depend upon conditions as selfless. When one is separated from mistaken views through obtaining [their] antidotes, one also becomes free from mistaken discriminations and mistaken minds.

After [discussing] non-mistaken objects, in order to indicate afflicted objects, [Buddha] says, “Maitreya, with respect to that, afflicted objects are of three kinds...”²²¹ If you ask, ‘What are they’, [Buddha] says: “...of the three realms...” If you ask, ‘What are the three’, [Buddha] says, “(1) afflictive afflictions [of the three realms]; (2) afflictions that are actions; and (3) afflictions that are lifetimes”.

From among the limbs of cyclic existence: ignorance, craving, and appropriation are the afflictive afflictions. Activities and existence are the afflictions that are actions. Consciousness, name, form, the six sense spheres, contact, feeling, birth, aging and death are the afflictions of lifetimes.

After having explained afflicted objects in that way, in order to explain pure objects, [Buddha] says, “Maitreya, with respect to that, pure objects are the phenomena that are harmonies with enlightenment through serving to separate one from those three types of afflictions.”²²² [331a] You should know that these are the mindful establishments (*dran pa nye bar gzhag pa, smṛtyupasthāna*) etc.

[The passage —] “Maitreya, you should know that these ten aspects include all objects”²²³ — indicates that Bodhisattvas correctly understand objects through these ten [categories:] their varieties and so forth. Therefore, [Buddha] teaches that ‘they correctly understand objects’.

Second and Final Part

Also, by way of indicating a five-fold division, [Buddha] says, “Alternatively, Maitreya, Bodhisattvas know objects by way of five aspects...”²²⁴ In answer to the question, “What are the five,” [Buddha] says, “things that are objects of knowledge; objects that are objects of knowledge; knowledges; obtaining the fruits of knowl-

²²¹D p. 62.1; Stog p. 88.5.

²²²D p. 62.2; Stog p. 88.6.

²²³D p. 62.2; Stog p. 88.7.

²²⁴D p. 62.3; Stog p. 89.1.

edge; knowing those". [He says this] because everything is included within these five aspects. In [the passage —] "Maitreya, with respect to that...things that are objects of knowledge...are to be viewed as being all objects of knowledge; they are as follows: the aggregates..." — the [five] aggregates and so forth include all things that are objects of knowledge.

With respect to [the passage,] "Maitreya, with respect to that, objects that are objects of knowledge should be known as the actual mode of those objects of knowledge that are [known through] various aspects...":²²⁵ These are objects that are objects of knowledge that 'should be known in accordance with what is known by one aspect, the varieties, and should be known in accordance with how [they are known]'. In the extensive statement — "these are such things as conventionalities and..." — "conventionalities and ultimate truths" are what Buddhas teach in dependence upon the two truths.

"Faults" are so called because they function as afflictive faults. "Qualities" are so called because they function as purifying qualities. With respect to "conditions": Those afflictions and purifications only arise from their own causes, and not from God (*dbang phyug, isvara*) etc. With respect to "time": This [331b] [refers to] the times of arising in the past, future, and present.

With respect to "the characteristics of production, abiding, and disintegration": Objects that are objects of knowledge and so forth are differentiated in terms of conditions that are characteristics of compounded phenomena. "Sickness and so forth" [refers] to suffering. "[True] sufferings and [true] sources and so forth" [refers] to the Hearer Vehicle. "Suchness and so forth" [refers] to the Great Vehicle. With respect to "condensed [discourses] and differentiations":²²⁶ these instruct by way of the two, summarizing and elaborating.

Also, when there are answers in [Buddha's teachings,] certain prophecies are [for example,] when someone asks, 'Will all sentient beings die,' and [Buddha] definitely responds, 'They will die.'

Differentiation and scriptural questions are [for example,] when someone asks, 'Will all dead [beings] be reborn,' and [Buddha] differentiatingly answers,

²²⁵D p. 62.4; Stog p. 89.2.

²²⁶D p. 62.6 reads: *bsdu ba dang / dbye ba*; Stog p. 89.6 reads: "condensed [discourses] and extensive [discourses]" (*bsdus pa dang / rgyas pa*).

'Those sentient beings who have afflictions will be reborn, but those without afflictions will not be reborn.'

Answering after having asked a question is [for example,] when someone asks, 'Are humans superior, or are they inferior,' and [Buddha] answers after having asked a question: 'The answer depends upon who they are.' If the question refers to those in the bad migrations [i.e., hell beings, hungry ghosts, and animals,] then the answer must be, '[Humans] are superior [to them]'. But conversely ('*on te*'), if the question refers to gods, then the answer must be, 'They are inferior'. Thus, [Buddha] answers after having asked a question.

"Discarding"²²⁷ is [for example,] when someone asks, 'Are the aggregates and the self one or different,' and [Buddha] discards that [question,] because the self does not exist substantially.

"Secrets" [are so named] because for sentient beings who have not ripened [their wisdom] doctrines are hidden secrets. "Proclamations"²²⁸ [are so named] because they are the opposite of those. With respect to [the phrase,] "partially concordant with such": You should know that other things, such as imputed persons and so forth, are objects that are objects of knowledge.

"By way of the varieties"²²⁹ [means] by way of the aspects of conventionalities [332a] and so forth. You should know that "the way that they really exist"²³⁰ [refers] to the [four] truths — suffering and so forth — for those of the Hearer Vehicle, and to suchness and so forth for Mahāyānists.

With respect to [the passage,] "Maitreya, with respect to that, knowledges are [the harmonies with enlightenment] that apprehend both of those":²³¹ Qualities — such as the [four] mindful establishments etc., that are concordant with the limbs of enlightenment, which are apprehended through just observing [the following]: (1) things, the aggregates etc., that are objects of knowledge; (2) how the varieties of objects that are objects of knowledge exist; and (3) their mode of existence — are knowledges, because they are of the nature of knowledge.

²²⁷The Sde dge text (p. 331b.6), D p. 62.7, and Stog p. 89.7 all read: *gzbag*, which normally means "to establish" or "to posit", but Yeshe Thabkhe says that in this passage it means "to discard", not "to establish", which makes more sense given Jñānagarbha's explanation.

²²⁸D p. 62.7: *bsgrags pa*; Stog p. 89.7: "teachings" (*rab tu bstan pa*).

²²⁹This is not found in either D or Stog.

²³⁰This is also not found in either D or Stog.

²³¹D p. 62.7; Stog p. 90.1.

After having explained knowledges, in order to teach about attainment of the fruit of knowledge, [Buddha] says, “Maitreya, with respect to that, obtaining the fruit of knowledge is...”²³² [The passage — “disciplining desire, anger, and bewilderment...” — [refers to] disciplining desire through mindful establishments etc. with respect to the self, twofold body, feelings, mind, and phenomena.

[The words,] “completely abandoning”²³³ [indicate that] after one has thoroughly subdued them, they are abandoned. [The words,] “the fruits of asceticism” [refer to] the four, Stream Enterers and so forth [i.e., Once Returners, Non-Returners, and Arhats]. [The phrase,] “...mundane qualities of Hearers and Tathāgatas...” [refers to] the [four] concentrations, the [four] immeasurables and so forth. “Supramundane” [refers to] knowing that [the afflictions] are exhausted and will not arise [again] and so forth. “Common” [refers to] non-afflicted consciousness, aspirational consciousness, and so forth. Any actualizations of those are attainments of fruits of knowledge.

After having taught about attaining the fruits of knowledge, in order to indicate how that obtainment of the fruits of knowledge is to be known, [Buddha] says, “Maitreya, knowledge of that...”²³⁴ [The phrase,] “...just those phenomena that are actualized...” [refers] to those things that were just taught. “Liberating knowledge” [332b] is self-knowledge.

[The phrase,] “extensively explaining and teaching these to others”²³⁵ means that one causes realization — in others’ continuums — of the qualities of Tathāgatas and Hearers that one has actualized oneself.

After having taught, “Maitreya, you should know that all objects are also included by way of these five aspects of objects”,²³⁶ [the passage] — “Moreover, Maitreya, Bodhisattvas...” — indicates that ‘just as [Bodhisattvas] know all objects by way of five aspects, so they also know objects by way of four aspects.’

In answer to [the question,] “What are the four aspects of objects,”²³⁷ [Buddha] says, “(1) appropriated objects of mind; (2) objects of experience; (3) objects of cognition; and (4) objects of affliction and objects of purification....”

²³²D p. 63.1; Stog p. 90.2.

²³³D p. 63.2; Stog p. 90.3.

²³⁴D p. 63.3; Stog p. 90.4.

²³⁵D p. 63.3; Stog p. 90.5.

²³⁶D p. 63.4; Stog p. 90.5.

²³⁷D p. 63.4; Stog p. 90.5.

This indicates that just as [Bodhisattvas] know all objects by way of five aspects, so they also know objects by way of four aspects.

In answer to [the question,] “What are the four,” [Buddha] says, “by way of: (1) appropriated objects of mind; (2) objects of experience; (3) objects of cognition; and (4) objects of affliction and purification”.²³⁸ Appropriated objects of mind are predispositions of the basis-consciousness, because they are causal. Objects of experience are: (1) a mind’s bewilderment concerning a self; (2) viewing a self; (3) pride in the self; (4) desire for the self; and so they are experienced objects. Objects of cognition are said to be different things that are aspects of abodes, abiders, and objects of observation that are simply cognition-only in the sense that operating consciousnesses view them as external. Objects of affliction and objects of purification are the aspects of abodes, abiders, and objects of observation of those minds and mental factors that are either not realized or realized by just those minds.

After [Buddha] has indicated that all objects are also included by way of these four aspects of objects by stating, “Maitreya, you should know that all objects are included [by these four aspects]”, [333a] [the statement,] “Moreover, Maitreya...”²³⁹ indicates that ‘Bodhisattvas know objects by way of three aspects’.

In [the passage,] “objects that are letters, objects that are meanings, and objects that are realms”,²⁴⁰ objects that are letters are supports. Objects that are meanings are what is supported. Objects that are realms are objects that are both.

Regarding [the passage,] “Maitreya, with respect to that, objects that are meanings should be known in terms of ten aspects”:²⁴¹ “The character of suchness” [refers to] just apprehended objects. “The signs of knowledge” [refers to] just apprehending subjects. “The character of abandonment” [refers to] just separation. “The character of actualization” [refers to] just attainment. “The character of meditation” [refers to] how these are not wasted. “the character of differentiation of those characters of suchness and so forth” [refers to] the differentiation of ‘the suchness of mirrors and the suchness of appearances and so forth’.

²³⁸There appears to be no reason for the repetition of this quotation. The wording is slightly different from the previous citation, but nothing new is added.

²³⁹D p. 63.5; Stog p. 90.7.

²⁴⁰D p. 63.6; Stog p. 91.1.

²⁴¹D p 63.6; Stog p. 91.2.

In [the phrase,] “the character of basis and what depends upon a basis”,²⁴² “Basis” [refers to] phenomena such as suchness and so forth. [Things that depend upon] a basis are objects. “The character that interrupts knowledge and so forth” [refers to] obstructions and so forth.²⁴³

“The character of concordant phenomena” [refers to] good attainment and so forth. “Faults of non-knowledge and so forth” [refers to] corrupting the aims of oneself and others. “Benefits of knowledge and so forth” [refers to] fulfilling the aims of oneself and others.

In [the passage —] “Maitreya, with respect to that, objects that are realms are the five realms...”²⁴⁴ — worldly realms include worlds that are environments: these are objects to be purified by Bodhisattvas. Realms of sentient beings are objects of maturation. The realm of truth is an object to be realized. The realms of discipline²⁴⁵ are suitable to be objects of maturation. The realm of methods of discipline [333b] [includes] things that are well-taught.

With respect to [the passage,] “Maitreya, you should know that all objects are also included by way of these three aspects of objects”:²⁴⁶ You should perceive that all interpretable meanings and definitive meanings are included. [The passage —] “Bhagavan, [what are the differences between] knowledge of objects by wisdom arisen from hearing...”²⁴⁷ — is a question [that asks,] ‘What are the differences between [knowledge of objects by wisdoms] arisen from hearing, thinking, and meditating?’

In [the passage —] “Maitreya, through wisdom arisen from hearing Bodhisattvas...”²⁴⁸ — wisdom arisen from hearing is based on words; the meanings which arise [from that] are not. This is because apprehenders of only what is literal and what lacks [Buddha’s] thought are thoughts that do not ascertain profound doctrines. This is because what is not direct perception does not perceive directly.

²⁴²D p. 63.7; Stog p. 91.4: “the character of basis and dependent arising” (*gnas dang rten cing 'brel ba'i mushan nyid*).

²⁴³According to Yeshe Thabkhe, this includes the afflictive obstructions and the obstructions to omniscience.

²⁴⁴D p. 64.1; Stog p. 91.5.

²⁴⁵The sūtra indicates that “realms of discipline” are sentient beings, because each sentient being is a potential trainee, i.e., someone who can be disciplined by Buddhist doctrine and practice.

²⁴⁶D p. 64.2; Stog p. 91.6.

²⁴⁷D p. 64.2; Stog p. 91.7.

²⁴⁸D p. 64.4; Stog p. 92.2.

“Concordant with liberation” [refers to] what serves as a cause of liberation, because one indirectly correctly realizes individual meanings. These are not liberators.

In [the passage,] “Maitreya, through knowledge arisen from thinking...”²⁴⁹ “arisen from thinking” [means that] it arises from thinking by means of reasoning. This is because those who only abide in the letters, who are not literal, and who apprehend the thought [behind the teachings] are acquainted with what they hear. This is because they do not [understand] through direct perception, are very concordant with liberation, and have the conditions for liberation. This is because those who have not correctly understood non-liberative meanings have not directly perceived liberative [meanings].

In [the passage,] “Maitreya, through knowledge arisen from meditation Bodhisattvas...”²⁵⁰ knowledge arisen from meditation arises from ascertaining doctrine. This is because those who apprehend [doctrine while] abiding in the words and those not abiding in the words are well acquainted [with doctrine]. This is because those who are literal and apprehend [Buddha’s] thought ripen the predispositions of what they have heard. [334a]

[The phrase,] “partially concordant with these things to be known”²⁵¹ [means that they are] partially concordant with those things that are things to be known as they are by way of various aspects. If you ask, ‘What sorts of things [are indicated,]’ [Buddha] says, “images that are objects of activity of meditative stabilizations”. [Bodhisattvas] do not understand by way of objects of activity that are expressions of what they have heard and considered. This is because [only] direct perception is individual knowledge.

[These Bodhisattvas are] “very concordant with liberation”²⁵² because they are very close to it. This is because those who also know liberative meanings realize them directly. [The phrase,] “These are the differentiations of those” [refers to the differentiations] of wisdoms arisen from hearing, thinking, and meditating.

In the extensive passage, “Bhagavan...Bodhisattvas who cultivate calming and insight...”²⁵³ [Buddha] says, ‘Whatever is a wisdom regarding calming and in-

²⁴⁹D p. 64.5; Stog p. 92.3.

²⁵⁰D p. 64.6; Stog p. 92.5.

²⁵¹D p. 64.7; Stog p. 92.6.

²⁵²D p. 64.7; Stog p. 92.6.

²⁵³D p. 65.1; Stog p. 92.7.

sight observing doctrines that are mixed is knowledge', because their aspects are not various. 'Whatever is a wisdom regarding calming and insight which observe doctrines that are unmixed is discernment', because their aspects are various.

With respect to [the passage,] "Bhagavan...Bodhisattvas cultivating calming and insight...":²⁵⁴ Due to [being asked] — "...how and through what mental contemplation do [Bodhisattvas] remove what signs?" — [Buddha] teaches three things with respect to the question [in paraphrase,] 'Due to knowing doctrines and meanings, through what mental contemplations do Bodhisattvas remove what signs?' "Through mental contemplation of suchness" refers to 'mental contemplation of non-duality'. [The phrase,] "...remove the signs of doctrines and the signs of meanings" [refers to] two types of signs. They remove signs of doctrines and signs of meanings. "Signs" means 'objects of observation'.

With respect to [the question,] "how do...[Bodhisattvas] remove...":²⁵⁵ [Buddha] says, [334b] "not observing the nature of names with respect to names..." This is because signs of doctrines are of the nature of names, words, and letters. One also does not observe doctrines in terms of their bases.²⁵⁶ Just as it is with respect to the names that are bases of doctrines, so when words and letters that are the signs of doctrines are removed, they are not observed.

[The passage —] "Just as it is...so all...meanings should be known"²⁵⁷ — [means that] the ten kinds, five kinds, four kinds, and three kinds taught [earlier] are not observed.

With respect to [the passage,] "up through realms, not observing an inherent nature of realms...":²⁵⁸ When the inherent natures of those five realms indicated [previously] are eliminated, they are not observed. "Signs abiding in them" are signs that are the bases of meanings. Since bases of meanings are doctrines, when those signs are also eliminated, they are eliminated by way of non-observation. Because mental contemplation of suchness is just non-dual — since in meditation on the suchness of those objects: signs of doctrines that are names, words, letters, ap-

²⁵⁴D p. 65.3; Stog p. 93.3.

²⁵⁵D p. 65.3; Stog p. 93.3.

²⁵⁶This refers to words and letters, which are the bases of meanings.

²⁵⁷D p. 65.4; Stog p. 93.5.

²⁵⁸D p. 65.5; Stog p. 93.5.

prehenders, and so forth, their aspects are [perceived as] non-dual — this is the meaning of “non-observation of those signs”.

In [the question —] “Bhagavan, are...”²⁵⁹ — [the phrase,] “the signs of cognition of the meaning of suchness” [indicates that] cognition of suchness is simply an exalted knower of all aspects. Its objects of observation are non-things. Also, the *Perfection of Wisdom* says, “Subhūti, the objects of observation of an exalted knower of all aspects are non-things. Aspects are pacified. The controller is mindfulness. Characteristics do not exist.”

[The passage —] “Maitreya, cognition of the meaning of suchness overcomes all phenomena and signs of phenomena”²⁶⁰ — [indicates that] all the signs of doctrines and meanings are not completely realized, [335a] but their antidote is knowledge of the meaning of suchness. Therefore, they are exceeded by them.

With respect to [the passage,] “[I] do not explain that in that anything is exceeded by anything”:²⁶¹ Because [cognition of suchness] is an antidote to all signs that are viewed with respect to that and because objects of observation and aspects are not eliminated, [that] is not exceeded by anything.

With respect to the extensive statement, “Bhagavan...a dirty pot, for example...”:²⁶² [Maitreya’s question —] “Thinking of what mental analysis and what suchness did you say that...” — is asked because there are three kinds of mental analysis²⁶³ and seven kinds of suchness.

[Buddha’s answer —] “Maitreya, it was due to three kinds of mental analysis...”²⁶⁴ — indicates that mental analysis arisen from hearing, from thinking, and from meditating and the suchness of cognition are non-dual. Thus, this means that ‘thinking of them, I [Buddha] taught those.’ [This explains] the verses of the Maitreya Chapter.²⁶⁵

²⁵⁹D p. 65.5; Stog p. 93.6.

²⁶⁰D p. 65.6; Stog p. 93.7 reads: “Maitreya, when one does not observe as signless the cognition of the meaning of suchness, with respect to that, what could be eliminated?”

²⁶¹D p. 65.7; Stog p. 94.1.

²⁶²D p. 65.7; Stog p. 94.1.

²⁶³Text correction: the Sde dge text (p. 335a.3) only mentions analysis (*so sor brtags pa*). This is emended on the basis of the Peking text (p. 204.5.1), which reads: *sems la so sor brtag pa*.

²⁶⁴D p. 66.2; Stog p. 94.4.

²⁶⁵The translation of this passage is speculative. The Tibetan reads: *byams pa'i le'u'i k'a ri ka ||*, which makes no sense in this part of the text, since the *kārikās* of chapter eight occur several pages later than the section presently under discussion. It may indicate that the present section is rele-

[Maitreya] asks, “Bhagavan, how many signs — which Bodhisattvas who cognize doctrines and meanings in that way are engaged in removing — do you describe; by what are they eliminated?”²⁶⁶ and [Buddha] answers, “There are ten....”

With respect to [the passage,] “The various signs of words and letters — according to which one knows doctrines and meanings — are eliminated by the emptiness of all phenomena”:²⁶⁷ This is because the phenomena which are the ‘various signs of words and letters that are not included within the emptiness of all phenomena’ are not different.

In [the passage —] “The signs of continual operation of production, cessation, abiding, and transformation, which are known in terms of the meaning of the suchness of abiding, [335b] are eliminated by the emptiness of character and the emptiness of what is beginningless and endless”²⁶⁸ — “abiding” [refers to] the characteristics of production, abiding, aging, and impermanence that are included among compounded phenomena of the three times.

Moreover, because illustrations (*mtshan gzhi*, *dr̥ṣṭānta*) do not exist, they are empty of characteristics; and because illustrations do not exist, they are also empty of the characteristics of illustrations, since illustrations and characteristics are free from being one or different. As it is said, “You have correctly said, ‘If characteristics were other than illustrations, then illustrations would be signless. If they were one, then there would be nothing that is both.’” “Beginningless and endless” [means that] there is no former or later limit. This is because there is no former and later limit and a real basis does not exist.

With respect to [the passage,] “The signs of the view of true personhood and the signs of thinking ‘I’ — which one knows with respect to objects that are appre-

vant to the thought of the verses, which are primarily instructions concerning how the teachings on yoga of this chapter should be put into practice. Since this is the most probable explanation of the cryptic statement in Jñānagarbha's text, I have translated it in accordance with this hypothesis.

²⁶⁶D p. 66.3; Stog p. 94.6.

²⁶⁷D p. 66.4; Stog p. 94.7 reads: “when one thoroughly knows the meanings of doctrines, then the various signs of verbal expressions are eliminated by the emptiness of all phenomena.” Note that Stog treats the compound translated as “verbal expressions” (“words and letters” in D) as a *karmadhāraya*, whereas D treats it as a *dvandva*.

²⁶⁸D p. 66.4; Stog p. 95.2 reads: “when one knows the meaning of the suchness of abiding, then the signs that are a continuation of production, cessation, abiding, and transformation are eliminated by the emptiness of character and the emptiness of what is beginningless and endless.”

henders — are eliminated by the emptiness of the internal and the emptiness of the unapprehendable”:²⁶⁹ Apprehenders are the eye and so forth and minds and mental factors. With respect to those, whatever signs are apprehended as I and mine, which appear to be a person, are empty by way of the emptiness of the internal and are empty by way of the emptiness of the unapprehendable, because their nature is not observed.

With respect to [the passage,] “The signs of viewing enjoyments — which one knows with respect to objects that are apprehended — are eliminated by the emptiness of the external”:²⁷⁰ Apprehended objects are external appearances such as form and so forth. They are empty in terms of each subtle particle and in terms of collections [of these]. This is because a functioning self-entity which is of the nature of the objective appearances of shapes and colors is not suitable.

With respect to [the passage,] “The signs of internal happiness and the signs of external sufferings which one knows — that are objects of enjoyment possessing the services of men and women — are eliminated by the emptiness of the external and internal and [336a] by the emptiness of nature”:²⁷¹ “The signs of internal enjoyments” [refers to] interest in²⁷² mistaken feelings. “Signs of external sufferings” [refers to] mistaken interest in the bodies of men and women. They are empty, just like mistaken [feelings] in dreams and so forth. The nature of that interest in internal and external [enjoyments] is [also] empty, as it did not arise previously [and so it does not naturally produce desire, but only does so due to our afflictions].²⁷³

²⁶⁹D p. 66.5; Stog p. 95.2 reads: “when one knows objects that are apprehenders, then the signs of the view of true personhood and the signs of the ‘I’ are eliminated by the emptiness of the internal and the emptiness of the unapprehendable.”

²⁷⁰D p. 66.6; Stog p. 95.4 reads: “when one knows objects that are apprehended, then the signs of viewing enjoyment are eliminated by the emptiness of the external.”

²⁷¹D p. 66.7; Stog p. 95.4 reads: “when one knows objects that are resources — possessing the services of women and men and of possessions as objects of enjoyment — then the signs of internal happiness and the signs of external apprehended objects are eliminated by the emptiness of the external and internal and by the emptiness of nature.”

²⁷²The Tibetan term is *mos pa*, which Yeshe Thabkhe equates with “delight” or “happiness” (*dga’ ba*).

²⁷³The words in brackets summarize an oral explanation by Yeshe Thabkhe, who indicates that the upshot of this passage is that the things in which we find pleasure are not naturally enjoyable. If they were, they would naturally produce pleasure, but in fact they tend to lead to suffering and unhappiness because of the negative thoughts we produce with regard to them. Also, they only seem pleasurable due to conditioning and previously generated predispositions.

With respect to [the passage,] “The signs of the immeasurable — which one knows with respect to objects that are abodes — are eliminated by the emptiness of the great”:²⁷⁴ Manifest establishments of immeasurable worldly realms are empty by way of the emptiness of the great, which is like space [in that it pervades everywhere].

With respect to [the passage,] “In dependence upon [knowing] formlessness in that way, the internal signs of blissful liberation are eliminated by the emptiness of compounded phenomena”:²⁷⁵ All compounded phenomena without exception are just empty, because they [are produced] from coarse causes and conditions.

With respect to [the passage,] “The signs of the selflessness of persons, the signs of the selflessness of phenomena, the signs of cognition-only,²⁷⁶ and the signs of the ultimate — through which one knows objects in terms of the suchness of character — are eliminated by the emptiness of what has passed beyond the extremes, by the emptiness of non-things, by the emptiness of inherent existence of non-things, and by the emptiness of the ultimate”: The signs of the selflessness of persons are empty by way of the emptiness of what has passed beyond the extremes. If a person did exist, then negation of the person would also be suitable.

The signs of the selflessness of phenomena are empty by way of the emptiness of non-things. If phenomena did exist, then negation of phenomena would also exist.

The signs of cognition-only are empty by way of the emptiness of the inherent existence of non-things. Mistaken cognition of inherent nature is only of the nature of non-things, because duality is not established.

The signs of the ultimate are empty by way of the emptiness of the ultimate. [336b] Because the two, objects of negation and negators, are not ultimate, because objects of negation do not exist, and because neither negators nor eliminators exist, thus, apart from realization of emptiness, an ultimate does not exist.

With respect to [the passage,] “The signs of the uncompounded and the signs of the indestructible — which one knows with respect to objects of pure suchness

²⁷⁴D p. 67.1; Stog p. 95.6 reads: “when one knows the objects that are abodes, then the signs of the immeasurable are eliminated by the emptiness of the great.”

²⁷⁵D p. 67.1; Stog p. 95.6.

²⁷⁶Text correction: the Sde dge text (p. 336a.5) reads: *rnam par rig pa*. The Peking text (p. 205.2.4), D p. 67 p. 2, and Stog p. 96.1 all read: *rnam par rig pa tsam*. Also, when Jñānagarbha uses this term later on in this section (p. 336a.7), it reads *rnam par rig pa tsam*.

— are eliminated by the emptiness of uncompounded phenomena and the emptiness of the indestructible”:²⁷⁷ “Pure suchness” [refers to] true cessations. They are un-compounded and immutable, but apprehended objects that are the signs of those two — un-compounded phenomena and the immutable — are eliminated by the emptiness of un-compounded phenomena and the emptiness of the indestructible.

With respect to [the passage,] “The signs of emptiness that one takes to mind in terms of the emptiness that is an antidote to those signs are eliminated by the emptiness of emptiness”:²⁷⁸ Any cognition of emptiness that eliminates all these signs is also empty.

In the extensive statement — “Bhagavan, when one eliminates ten types of signs...”²⁷⁹ — the elimination of signs of the image, the object of activity of meditative stabilizations, is an antidote, and the signs of afflicted phenomena are its discordant class.

In [the passage —] “Maitreya...these emptinesses...”²⁸⁰ — [the phrase,] “each of these objects is not a non-antidote to all these signs” means that ‘all of those are also objects of observation for purification.’

[The passage —] “Bhagavan...in the Great Vehicle...”²⁸¹ [discusses] non-degeneration. Thus, [Buddha] offers the following designation: Because emptiness is the antidote to the boastful pride that is the cause of degeneration of Bodhisattvas, when Bodhisattvas know the character of that they become non-degenerated with respect to the Great Vehicle. [337a]

In [the passage,] “...good, good”,²⁸² “degenerated from emptiness”²⁸³ refers to ‘not understanding the character of emptiness’. One “becomes degenerated from all of the Great Vehicle” due to fear of emptiness.

²⁷⁷D p. 67.3; Stog p. 96.3.

²⁷⁸D p. 67.4; Stog p. 96.4 reads: “when one takes to mind the suchness that is an antidote to these signs, then the signs of emptiness are eliminated by the emptiness of emptiness.”

²⁷⁹D p. 67.5; Stog p. 96.5.

²⁸⁰D p. 67.6; Stog p. 96.7.

²⁸¹D p. 67.7; Stog p. 97.2 does not mention the Great Vehicle, but the rest of the quote is the same.

²⁸²D p. 68.2; Stog p. 97.4.

²⁸³The Sde dge text and D read: *stong pa nyid las rab tu nyams pa*; Stog reads: “corrupted with respect to emptiness” *stong pa nyid la rab tu rung ba*.

In [the passage,] “Maitreya, because of this...listen”,²⁸⁴ “other-dependent characters” are [produced] from coarse causes and conditions. “The thoroughly established character” is a non-dual character.

In [the passage,] “Separated from imputational characters, such as afflicted and purified phenomena in all aspects and...”,²⁸⁵ phenomena that are [produced] from coarse causes and conditions are other-dependent characters. They have a nature of emptiness because of being non-entitinesses in terms of production (*skye ba ngo bo nyid med pa nyid, utpāda-niḥsvabhāva*). Purification of those is the thoroughly established nature. This is empty in the sense of being an ultimate emptiness.

Conceptions thinking, ‘In other-dependent characters there is affliction,’ and ‘In the thoroughly established nature there is purification’ are imputational characters that are empty due to being emptinesses in terms of character.

[The phrase,] “non-observation with respect to that”²⁸⁶ [indicates that] the entityness of imputations is not observed in the entityness of other-dependent characters. This is because they are not established as being of the entityness of affliction and purification. Because it is established as being emptiness, [the thoroughly established character] is a thoroughly established entity. Because they are neither one nor different by way of their own nature, illustrations and characteristics are similar.

[The passage,] “...that is ‘the full character of emptiness in the Great Vehicle’”²⁸⁷ [indicates that] because the three natures that are subsumed by the two truths — the conventional and the ultimate — are empty, this includes the character of emptiness.

[The passage,] “Bhagavan, how many kinds of meditative stabilization of [the two,] calming and insight, are included”²⁸⁸ asks, ‘Bhagavan, [337b] from what causes of calming and insight do they arise’. [Buddha’s] answer, “They arise from the cause of pure ethics.” [refers to] meditative equipoise when ethics is purified.

²⁸⁴D p. 68.3; Stog p. 97.5.

²⁸⁵D p. 68.3; Stog p. 97.6.

²⁸⁶D p. 68.4; Stog p. 97.7.

²⁸⁷D p. 68.4; Stog p. 97.7.

²⁸⁸D p. 68.4; Stog p. 98.1.

[The sentence,] “They arise from the cause that is a pure view arisen from hearing and thinking”²⁸⁹ [indicates that] the view arisen from meditative equipoise of hearing and thinking becomes purified.

In order to ask about the results of having realized the causes of calming and insight, [Maitreya] asks, “Bhagavan, what are the results of those?”²⁹⁰

[Buddha’s reply —] “Pure mind is the result; pure wisdom is the result”²⁹¹ — indicates that ‘the result is a liberated mind and liberated wisdom.’

After [Buddha] has settled the results of calming and insight by way of the extensive statement, “Moreover, Maitreya...”²⁹² [Maitreya] asks, “[Bhagavan,] what are the functions of [calming and insight]” in order to ask about their functions.

With respect to [Buddha’s] answer, “Maitreya, they are liberation from the two bonds...”²⁹³ The functions of these two types of bonds are similar, and [Buddha] says, “[They are liberation] from the [two bonds,] the bonds of signs and the bonds of assumptions of bad states.” The afflictions of desire and so forth — which [arise] from grasping signs of objects such as desirable things and so forth — are bonds of arising signs. Manifest conceptions of things that are ‘I’ and ‘mine’ with respect to the aggregates are bonds of assumptions of bad states. Liberation from these two kinds of bonds is the function of calming and insight.

In [the passage,] “Bhagavan, from among those five kinds of obstacles spoken of by the Bhagavan...”²⁹⁴ — “the views [that overvalue] bodies and resources” are desire for the [six] internal sense spheres and the [six] external object spheres. “The discourse of Superiors” [refers to] discourses on the harmony of the supreme doctrine. “Abiding in commotion” [338a] [refers to a condition that] is not physical isolation. “Being satisfied with inferior [attainments]” refers to] mere mundane concentrations.

[The phrase —] “because of the first one does not exert oneself”²⁹⁵ — [means that] due to not having physical isolation, one does not exert oneself with respect to calming and insight. [The phrase] — “because of the second one does not bring the

²⁸⁹D p. 68.6; Stog p. 98.4.

²⁹⁰D p. 68.6; Stog p. 98.4.

²⁹¹D p. 68.7; Stog p. 98.4.

²⁹²D p. 68.7; Stog p. 98.5.

²⁹³D p. 69.2; Stog p. 98.7.

²⁹⁴D p. 69.2; Stog p. 98.7.

²⁹⁵D p. 69.3; Stog p. 99.4.

training to completion” — [means that] because of being satisfied by mere inferior [attainments] one does not bring one's training to completion.

With respect to [the passage] — “Bhagavan, from among the five obstructions, which...”:²⁹⁶ regarding “excitement and contrition”, excitement is non-pacification of the sense-faculties. Contrition [refers to] things that are done wrongly. When one does not perform virtuous actions and performs actions that are non-virtuous, one becomes mentally attached [to these actions].

“Lethargy” [refers to] an unsuitability in terms of actions of body and mind. “Sleep” [refers to] going to sleep. “Doubt” [refers to] error concerning the [three] jewels, the [four] truths, and [teachings concerning] actions and results [of actions].

“Aspiration to the attributes of the Desire Realm” [refers to] desire for the five qualities of the Desire Realm.²⁹⁷ “Harmful intent” [refers to] hatred toward sentient beings.

With respect to [the passage,] “Bhagavan, at what point is a path of calming purified...”:²⁹⁸ lethargy and sleep are internal discouragements. Excitement and contrition are distractions to external objects.

Calming and insight include all meditative stabilizations, and you should know that phenomena which serve to interrupt those meditative stabilizations [do so] because they are mental scatterings. Because they must be abandoned, [Maitreya] asks, “Bhagavan, how many types of mental distractions do [Bodhisattvas] abiding in calming and insight find?”²⁹⁹

[The phrase —] “distraction of taking something to mind and mental distraction externally” — indicates that the distractions and so forth of Hīnayāna mental contemplations for Bodhisattvas who abide in the Great Vehicle [338b] serve as interruptors of the meditative stabilizations that are the bases of supramundane, non-conceptual exalted wisdoms, and so they should be abandoned.

[The phrase —] “experiencing the taste of meditative absorptions”³⁰⁰ — [means that] experiencing the taste of the [four] concentrations, the [four] formless

²⁹⁶D p. 69.4; Stog p. 99.4.

²⁹⁷For a discussion of these, see Leah Zahler, *Meditative States in Tibetan Buddhism* (London: Wisdom, 1983), pp. 93-96

²⁹⁸D p. 69.5; Stog p. 99.6.

²⁹⁹D p. 69.6; Stog p. 100.1.

³⁰⁰D p. 70.3; Stog p. 100.6.

[absorptions,] and meditative absorptions produces the lifetimes of long-lived gods. Due to this, one forsakes working for the welfare of sentient beings.

[The passage —] “If [Bodhisattvas,] abiding in external signs...”³⁰¹ — indicates that at the causal level, one abides in dwellings in dependence upon apprehension of pleasant and unpleasant signs. Mental contemplation of signs internally belongs to the class that is discordant with signless meditative stabilizations. Therefore, it should be known; it should be abandoned.

[The passage —] “If [Bodhisattvas]...in dependence upon internal mental contemplation...”³⁰² — indicates that, because bodies that have assumptions of bad states are abodes of all afflictions, one is distracted.

With respect to [the passage,] “...feelings that arise in dependence upon internal mental contemplation...”³⁰³ In dependence upon mental contemplation that is based on the view of true personhood, one has contaminated feelings with respect to birth. Because this is concordant with cyclic existence and because it is discordant with all the paths of Superiors, this is “distraction of assumptions of bad states”.

Because calming and insight are of the nature of meditative stabilizations and wisdom, they are said to be present on all the [Bodhisattva] levels. Therefore, [Maitreya] asks, “Bhagavan, having apprehended calming and insight from the first Bodhisattva level up to the Tathāgata level, of what are [calming and insight] antidotes?”³⁰⁴

With respect to [the passage,] “Maitreya, on the first level calming and insight are antidotes to the afflictions of bad migrations, to the afflictions that are actions, and to the afflictions that are births”;³⁰⁵ This is because one attains the exalted wisdom which is an antidote to the view of [a self of] persons and of phenomena.

On the second [level] they are antidotes to the arising of subtle errors that are infractions. [339a] This is because ethics is purified.

On the third [level] they are antidotes to desires of the Desire Realm, because one attains uncorrupted concentrations and meditative absorptions.

³⁰¹D p. 70.3; Stog p. 100.7.

³⁰²D p. 70.4; Stog p. 101.1.

³⁰³D p. 70.4; Stog p. 101.1.

³⁰⁴D p. 70.4; Stog p. 101.2.

³⁰⁵D p. 70.5; Stog p. 101.3 reads: “afflictions that are lifetimes” (*tshe'i kun nas nyon mongs pa*).

On the fourth [level] they are antidotes to attachment to meditative absorption and attachment to doctrines, because one abides many times in things that are concordant with enlightenment and because they destroy the pride of [knowing] various doctrines of sūtra collections and so forth.

On the fifth [level] they are antidotes to completely turning away from cyclic existence or directing oneself toward nirvāṇa, because when one meditates on the four truths of Superiors a basis of affliction and purification is not observed.

On the sixth [level] they are antidotes to the arising of many signs because — through just abiding many times in the suchness of dependent arising by way of the yoga of calming and insight — the suchness that is differentiated according to signs of affliction and purification, the impure and the pure, is not observed.

On the seventh [level] they are antidotes to the arising of subtle signs, because they [i.e. Bodhisattvas] attain a signless state due to connection with the one vehicle.

On the eighth [level] they are antidotes to not having dominion with respect to signlessness etc. or signs, because one abides in non-activity and signlessness and because of cultivating a Buddha land.

On the ninth [level] they are antidotes to not having dominion with respect to teaching doctrine in all aspects, because one establishes individual knowledge and the maturation of sentient beings; thus one has power over all aspects of maturation.

On the tenth [level] they are antidotes to not attaining complete individual knowledge of the truth body, because one purifies the doors of meditative stabilizations and the doors of apprehension.

On the Tathāgata level they are “antidotes to afflictive obstructions and obstructions to omniscience that are more subtle than the very subtle”,³⁰⁶ [339b] this is because the doors of meditative stabilizations and of apprehension are immeasurably pervasive, and so on the Buddha level all Buddhas abandon all predispositions for the afflictive obstructions and the obstructions to omniscience, which are more subtle than the supremely subtle; this is a Bodhisattva’s initiation into Buddhahood.

With respect to [the passage,] “Because they are conquered well, one obtains unattached and unobstructed knowledge and vision with respect to everything...”:³⁰⁷ Because one does not turn away from all objects of knowledge, one is unattached, and because one is unobstructed in terms of knowledges with respect to which

³⁰⁶D p. 71.1; Stog p. 102.1.

³⁰⁷D p. 71.2; Stog p. 102.1.

Hearers and so forth are obstructed, one obtains unobstructed knowledge and vision.

"The object of observation that is an accomplishment of the purpose"³⁰⁸ [is so named] because [through this] one attains final fulfilment of one's own and others' purposes. "A very pure truth body" [is pure] because one completely abandons the afflictive obstructions and the obstructions to omniscience. One "abides in the pure truth body" due to transforming all bases.

In order to ask about the methods of attainment [of this, Maitreya] says, "Bhagavan, how does a Bodhisattva who establishes calming and insight..."³⁰⁹ Because calming and insight are concordant operative causes of the enlightenments of Hearers and so forth, [Maitreya] asks, 'How does one become completely buddhified with respect to unsurpassed, complete, perfect enlightenment?'

In [the passage —] "The Bhagavan said..."³¹⁰ — [the phrase,] "beginning with the seven types of suchness" [refers to] the seven types of suchness, respectively: (1) the suchness of arising; (2) the suchness of character; (3) the suchness of cognition; (4) the suchness of abodes; (5) the suchness of mistaken establishment; (6) the suchness of purification; and (7) the suchness of correct establishment.

[The phrase —] "How...on doctrines in accordance with how they have been heard and considered..."³¹¹ — [means] 'in accordance with doctrines that are objects of observation such as calming and insight and the seven kinds of suchness. [340a]

If you ask, 'From among those doctrines, how does the mind consider them,' [Buddha] says, "With a mind that is set in meditative equipoise."³¹² This is because when one engages in observation — with a mind that is set in meditative equipoise on those doctrines — one is dealing with mental images. Therefore, they are contrary to the suchness of mind.

³⁰⁸D p. 71.2; Stog p. 102.2.

³⁰⁹D p. 71.2; Stog p. 102.2 reads: "Bhagavan, how does a Bodhisattva who is earnestly making effort at calming and insight..."

³¹⁰D p. 71.3; Stog p. 102.3.

³¹¹D p. 71.4; Stog p. 102.4.

³¹²D p. 71.4; Stog p. 102.4.

That they “apprehend them well, consider them well, and establish them well”³¹³ indicates a compatibility between that suchness and internal mental contemplation. “Just that” [refers to] suchness. In [the phrase —] “They take suchness to mind in that way” — “they” [refers to] Bodhisattvas.

With respect to [the passage,] “If the mind becomes very withdrawn from even all arisings of very subtle signs”:³¹⁴ This is because mental contemplation of suchness is the antidote to all signs. If for Bodhisattvas who take that [i.e., suchness] to mind there is no arising of even subtle signs, then, [Buddha] teaches, “What need is there to consider the arising of coarse signs?” Subtle signs are those ranging from “signs of mental appropriation” to “signs of the selflessness of phenomena”.³¹⁵

“Entering into such and...”³¹⁶ [means that] through examining all signs one enters into suchness. “Abiding in that often” [means] abiding many times in meditation that takes suchness to mind. “Occasional” [means that one thing] is an object of calming but not of insight. [One time] is a time of insight but is not a time of calming. [Another time] is ‘a time of a path that is a union [of those two]’.

If you ask, ‘At that time, with respect to that mental purification from obstacles, obscurations, and distractions — of Bodhisattvas who abide in just that way — what occurs,’ [Buddha] answers, “one realizes that the seven aspects of suchness are to be known by oneself individually and internally.”³¹⁷ This is because all phenomena are subsumed by the seven aspects of suchness. [340b] Because the seven aspects that are individually realized are [realized] by a Bodhisattva’s path of seeing, [Buddha] says, “That is the path of seeing of that [Bodhisattva].”³¹⁸

In [the passage —] “By attaining this...”³¹⁹ — [the term,] “faultless reality” [means that] they perceive the foremost suchness. [The phrase —] “They also experience the advantages of that level” — means that ‘on the first [level,] Bodhi-

³¹³D p. 71.4; Stog p. 102.5 reads: “they realize them well, think about them well, and arrange them well.”

³¹⁴D p. 71.4; Stog p. 102.5.

³¹⁵This refers to a list of twenty-one types of subtle signs that appears on D pp. 71.5-72.2 (Stog pp. 102.6-103.5).

³¹⁶D p. 72.2; Stog p. 103.5.

³¹⁷D p. 72.2; Stog p. 103.6.

³¹⁸D p. 72.3; Stog p. 103.7.

³¹⁹D p. 72.3; Stog p. 103.7.

sattvas experience those things that are taught as being advantageous'. "Previously" [refers to] Bodhisattvas who have previously attained the level of the path of seeing on the level of engagement through belief. Attaining the objects of observation that are analytical images and non-analytical images is "attaining the two aspects."

With respect to [the passage,] "In that case, by attaining the path of seeing they attain [the stage of] observing the limits of phenomena":³²⁰ Because one realizes the realm of truth by way of omnipresent objects; and because one does not observe phenomena that are bases of affliction and purification; and because this is a final object of realization, the limit of phenomena is the truth body that is realized. Bodhisattvas abiding in the path of seeing attain that object of observation that is a limit of phenomena, the nature of the truth body which is the object of observation of a path that is a union [of calming and insight].

[The phrase,] "through entering into the path of meditation, [proceeding] higher and higher..."³²¹ [refers to] the second level and so forth. [The passage —] "mentally contemplating just those three aspects of objects of observation" — [refers to] analytical images, non-analytical images, and the limits of phenomena. They internally mentally contemplate those three subtle signs, and [so Buddha says,] "It is like this: for example, just as a person can remove³²² a very large nail with a small nail, so also, in the same way that a [small] nail expels a [large] nail, eliminating the signs of the internal, one gradually eliminates all of the signs that are partially condordant with affliction. When one eliminates the signs, one also eliminates the assumptions of bad states."³²³ [341a] With respect to [that statement,] the faults of desire and so forth are the signs. The views are assumptions of bad states.

³²⁰D p. 72.4; Stog p. 104.2.

³²¹D p. 72.5; Stog p. 104.2.

³²²D p. 72.5 and the Sde dge text, p. 340b.6, read: *sbom po 'byin*; Stog p. 104.3 reads: *sbom po*.

³²³Lamotte's translation of the *Mahāyānasamgraha* (*La Somme du Grand Véhicule d'Asaṅga*; Louvain, 1973, pp. 219-220) contains the same analogy. Vasubandhu's commentary on this passage states:

The synthetic knowledge of an object (*saṃsrṣṭadharmāmbana jñāna*) serves as the antidote to all obstacles (*sarvāvaraṇa-pratipakṣa*). It is like a small nail (*sūkṣmāṇī*) expelling a large nail (*sthūlāṇī*). In effect, the infused seeds (*vāsanābīja*) of afflicted dharmas (*saṃkleśika-dharma*), which reside in the root consciousness (*mūla-vijñāna*), are coarse (*sthūla*), and the antidotal path (*pratipakṣa-mārga*) that can expel them is subtle (*sūkṣma*) [my translation].

With respect to [the passage,] “By overcoming well all signs and assumptions of bad states, gradually proceeding higher and higher [on the levels,] one purifies the mind like gold...”:³²⁴ For example, when gold is purified by the work of a goldsmith who purifies it more and more, just as it becomes very bright and one is not captivated by grains of gold that are different from those, in the same way, on a path that cultivates the levels higher and higher, because the mind becomes serviceable due to separation from all adventitious defilements, it becomes very clear.

In [the passage —] “In this way, until one becomes unsurpassably, completely enlightened, one becomes perfected and attains the object of observation that is an accomplishment of the purpose”³²⁵ — accomplishment of the purpose³²⁶ [refers to] attaining unattached and unobstructed knowledge and vision due to pursuing the aims of oneself and others.

In answer to [Maitreya's] question, “When Bodhisattvas practice...”,³²⁷ [Buddha] says, “Maitreya, Bodhisattvas who are skillful with respect to six topics manifestly establish the great powers of Bodhisattvas....” Bodhisattvas — who are skilled with respect to: (1) the arising of mind, (2) the abiding [of mind], (3) the emergence [of mind], (4) the increasing [of mind], (5) the diminishment [of mind], and (5) skill in method [with respect to mind] — manifestly establish the great powers of Bodhisattvas. [Buddha] indicates that ‘manifest establishment of the great powers of Bodhisattvas depends on [skill with respect to] the arising of mind and so forth.’

[Buddha] says, “At what point [do Bodhisattvas become] wise with respect to the arising of mind? When they know the arising of mind in terms of sixteen aspects, then they are wise with respect to the arising of mind as it really is.”³²⁸ With respect to “cognition that is stable and is a vessel”: “cognition that is stable” [refers

The same idea is found in *Bod rgya tshig mdzod chen mo* (Chengdu, n.d., pp. 264 and 267) and *Dag yid thon mi'i dgongs rgyan* by Tshe brtan shabs drung (New Delhi: Gondals Press, 1969), p. 38. Both of these texts indicate that the analogy refers to the way that a small wooden peg can be used to expel a larger peg in a piece of furniture. Wonch'uk (vol. *thi* [119], pp. 452.3) also discusses various ways of applying this metaphor.

³²⁴D p. 72.6; Stog p. 104.5.

³²⁵D p. 72.7; Stog p. 104.6.

³²⁶Text correction: the Sde dge text (p. 341a.3) reads: *dgongs pa yongs su grub pa*; emended to *dgos pa yongs su grub pa*.

³²⁷D p. 73.1; Stog p. 104.7.

³²⁸D p. 73.3; Stog p. 105.3.

to] the basis-consciousness [that contains] all seeds. It is stable due to being infused by the predispositions of phenomena that are afflicted and purified. [341b]

Because engaging knowers fluctuate, they are not infused with predispositions, but the predispositions are just what operate as infusers, because they are of the nature of virtue and so forth. A cognition that is a vessel is a basis. The two, stable cognition and cognition that is a vessel, are ignorant, because in them aspects and objects of observation are not annihilated.

Whatever is an arising of that mind is an arising of an ignorant mind that is a cognition which is stable and a vessel. Because Bodhisattvas who are wise with respect to that eliminate all the obstructions and assumptions of bad states of the basis-consciousness — which observes all phenomena as mixed — they manifestly establish the great powers of Bodhisattvas. With respect to [the phrase,] “A cognition of various types of objects of observation...”:³²⁹ Because they simultaneously apprehend objects such as form and so forth, this is a cognition of various aspects of objects of observation. Because they are able to realize definitely and to remember subsequently, this is conceptual. Because engaging consciousnesses are of the nature of wisdoms, they are mental consciousnesses. [The phrase,] “Bodhisattvas are wise with respect to that” [means that] you should know that this also applies to everything.

In [the phrase,] “simultaneously apprehends external and internal objects”,³³⁰ “external objects” are form and so forth. “Internal objects” are objects of observation and so forth. Any of those which are apprehended at one time are conceptual consciousnesses. Skill with respect to their arising is also like the former [skill].

With respect to the extensive statement, “in a moment, in an instant, in a short time...”:³³¹ Bodhisattvas — who [cultivate] meditative absorptions with respect to many simultaneous meditative stabilizations in an instant by way of mental consciousnesses that cultivate calming and insight — are suitable immediately after this [to enter into meditative stabilizations,] because meditative stabilizations are internal engagements.

³²⁹D p. 73.4; Stog p. 105.4.

³³⁰D p. 73.4; Stog p. 105.5.

³³¹D p. 73.4; Stog p. 105.6.

Question: If they [engage in] different factors in one instant, [342a] how can this very mental consciousness justifiably [be said to] perceive many Buddha lands that are abodes, and how can it justifiably [be said to] perceive many Tathāgatas, since appearances of external forms are objects of eye consciousnesses?³³²

[Response:] This is justifiable, because all engaging consciousnesses are objects of mental consciousness; therefore, various aspects of mental consciousness are conceptual. When that [engaging consciousness] engages and focuses on that basis, one obtains the names of this and that.

For example, with respect to intention, actions of body and mind are similar. Also, with respect to intention, the characteristics of compounded phenomena that are meritorious, non-meritorious, and fluctuating should be known in terms of actions of body and mind. In the same way, you should know that — because of just that mental consciousness which purifies calming and insight — Bodhisattvas who perceive many Buddha lands and who perceive many Buddha Bhagavans with an apprehending eye consciousness in one moment are wise with respect to various aspects of the arising of mind.

[The arising] of cognition with respect to small signs that are objects of observation is also just treated in accordance with arising of mind. [The passage —] “It is like this...involved with the Desire Realm...”³³³ — [indicates that] the arising of a mind that is involved with the Desire Realm is a level of non-meditative equipoise. Therefore, it has small signs as its object of observation.

[The passage —] “cognitions having great signs as their objects of observation are involved with the Form Realm”³³⁴ — [indicates that] the arising of a mind that is involved with the Form Realm is a level of meditative equipoise. Therefore, it has great signs as objects of observation.

[The passage —] “cognitions having limitless signs as their objects of observation are involved with the sphere of limitless space or the sphere of limitless consciousness”³³⁵ — [indicates that] a mind which arises from absorptions and births and which thinks, ‘limitless space’, ‘limitless consciousness’ — is involved with

³³²In other words, if everything that one perceives is a creation of mental consciousness, on what basis can one assign a privileged truth status to perceptions of Buddha-lands and Tathāgatas? Why should these be any more real than any other perceptions?

³³³D p. 73.5; Stog p. 105.7.

³³⁴D p. 73.5; Stog p. 105.7.

³³⁵D p. 73.6; Stog p. 106.1.

limitless space and limitless consciousness. Therefore, it [342b] is a [cognition having] limitless signs as its objects of observation.

[The passage —] “cognitions having subtle signs as their objects of observation are involved with the sphere of nothingness”³³⁶ — [indicates that] a mind which arises from observing subtle signs and which thinks, ‘nothingness’ because it is a mind that is involved with the view of true personhood is a cognition having subtle signs as its objects of observation.

[The passage —] “cognitions having final signs as their objects of observation are involved with the sphere of neither discrimination nor non-discrimination”³³⁷ — [refers to] the arising of a mind which is a cognition of final signs that are objects of observation from final absorptions that are realms, abodes, and worlds.

[The passage —] “cognitions of signlessness that observe the supramundane and cessation”³³⁸ — [indicates that] the arising of a supramundane mind is an antidote to all signs. Therefore, it is a signless cognition. The arising of a mind observing cessations is like that.

[The passage —] “involved with suffering: it is [involved with]...sentient beings who are hell beings”³³⁹ — [indicates that] the arising of a mind which [observes] sentient beings who are hell beings is involved with suffering, because it is not mixed with happiness.

[The passage —] “involved with feelings that are mixed: It has involvement in the Desire [Realm as its object of observation]”³⁴⁰ — refers to ‘the arising of a mind that is intermingled with feelings of happiness, suffering, and equanimity. This is because the Desire Realm encompasses various fruitions of actions.

[The passage —] “involved with joy: the first concentration and the second concentration”³⁴¹ — [refers to] the arising of a mind that is involved with joy that arises from isolation in the two, the first and second concentrations.

[The passage —] “involved with bliss: the third concentration”³⁴² — [refers to] the arising of mental factors from internal purity in the third concentration.

³³⁶D p. 73.6; Stog p. 106.2.

³³⁷D p. 73.7; Stog p. 106.2.

³³⁸D p. 73.7; Stog p. 106.3.

³³⁹D p. 74.1; Stog p. 106.4.

³⁴⁰D p. 74.1; Stog p. 106.4.

³⁴¹D p. 74.1; Stog p. 106.4.

³⁴²D p. 74.1; Stog p. 106.4.

[The passage —] “involved with neither suffering, non-suffering, happiness, nor non-happiness: [it ranges from] the fourth concentration up to the sphere of neither discrimination nor non-discrimination”³⁴³ [343a] — [indicates that] beyond the fourth concentration one is separated from eight kinds of faults. Therefore, a mind that is involved with equanimity arises. The eight kinds of faults are: (1) conceptuality; (2) analysis; (3) inhalation; (4) exhalation; (5) happiness; (6) suffering; (7) mental happiness; and (8) mental unhappiness.

[The passage —] “involved with affliction: it is involved with the afflictions and the secondary afflictions”³⁴⁴ — [refers to] the afflictions of desire and so forth. The secondary afflictions are belligerence and so forth.

[The passage —] “involved with virtue: it is involved with faith and so forth”³⁴⁵ — refers to ‘the arising of a mind that is involved with the [three] jewels, the [four] truths, and conviction with respect to actions and their fruits and so forth’.

[The passage —] “involved with the neutral: it is not involved with either of these two”³⁴⁶ — refers to ‘the arising of a mind that is born from fruition [of actions,] is arisen from activity, is arisen from labor, and that makes emanations’.

After having explained in what way [Bodhisattvas] become skilled with respect to the arising of mind, because [Maitreya asks,] “At what point [do Bodhisattvas become skilled with respect to abiding [of mind,]³⁴⁷ Buddha] teaches that entrance into skill with respect to abiding of mind [occurs] “when they know the suchness of cognition just as it is”.

With respect to this [statement]: Bodhisattvas who know compounded phenomena as cognition-only are wise with respect to abiding of mind. [Buddha] indicates that when they are wise with respect to abiding of mind, ‘they manifestly establish the great powers of Bodhisattvas.’

Question: Why [are phenomena] like the suchness of cognition-only?

[Response:] Because each and every cognition is separated from objects.

³⁴³D p. 74.2; Stog p. 106.5.

³⁴⁴D p. 74.2; Stog p. 106.6.

³⁴⁵D p. 74.3; Stog p. 106.7.

³⁴⁶D p. 74.3; Stog p. 106.7.

³⁴⁷D p. 74.3; Stog p. 107.1.

Question: If mental states of dreams etc. are suitable to be just cognition-only, then how are cognitions that are eye consciousnesses etc. and eye cognitions etc. — which have forms [as their objects of observation] — suitable to be cognition-only? [343b]

[Response:] All viewing cognitions having signs appear dualistically even though there are no objects. This is because eye cognitions etc. [operate] by way of signs of forms etc., viewing consciousnesses that are conscious of those, and the viewing consciousnesses up to body consciousness. Mental cognitions are those [cognitions] that have signs of all cognitions of final phenomena — eye and so forth — and are those [cognitions] that have viewing consciousnesses due to being cognitions of mental consciousnesses. Signs and viewing consciousnesses are abodes that are bases of afflictions such as mistaken [view] and so forth. If those are not viewed, the mistaken [view] of non-objects as objects will not occur. If that does not exist, then the afflictions that are the afflictive obstructions and the obstructions to omniscience also will not occur. If they do not exist, purification also will be the non-existence of faults. You should know the suchness of cognition by way of just these reasonings and by way of scripture.

After having explained abiding of mind, due to being asked, “at what point [do Bodhisattvas become] skilled with respect to emergence [of mind]”,³⁴⁸ Buddha] discusses the emergence of mind. Bodhisattvas who are skilled with respect to extrication of mind are those who understand, just as it is, that a mind — which [emerges] from the bonds of signs of afflictions such as desire etc. and the bonds of assumptions of bad states that are afflictions such as [the view of] true personhood etc. — ‘emerges from those’. Thus, they manifestly establish the great powers of Bodhisattvas.

After having explained emergence of mind, due to being asked, “at what point [do Bodhisattvas become] skilled with respect to increasing [of mind]”,³⁴⁹ Buddha] discusses the increasing of mind. [The passage —] “When a mind that is an antidote to signs and assumptions of bad states is produced and increases, they know, ‘It is produced; it increases’”³⁵⁰ — [indicates that] because they [have attained] a union of

³⁴⁸D p. 74.4; Stog p. 107.1.

³⁴⁹D p. 74.5; Stog p. 107.3.

³⁵⁰D p. 74.5; Stog p. 107.3.

calming and insight that is an antidote to assumptions of bad states, when the signs of engagement [in these assumptions of bad states] increase, [they know that,] 'they increase': they are wise with respect to increasing [of mind]. [344a]

After having explained increasing of mind, [Buddha] discusses diminishment of mind by way of [the passage,] "at what point [do Bodhisattvas become] wise with respect to diminishment [of mind]...."³⁵¹ In [the passage —] "When a mind which is afflicted by signs and assumptions of bad states that are discordant with those [i.e., calming and insight] diminishes and decreases, [they know that,] 'it diminishes; it decreases': they are wise with respect to diminishment [of mind]" — [the phrase,] "that are discordant" refers to 'minds that are involved with hindrances, obstructions, and distractions'.

After having explained diminishment of mind, [Buddha] discusses skill [in method with respect to mind]³⁵² by way of [the passage,] "at what point [do Bodhisattvas become] skilled with respect to method...."³⁵³ [The passage —] "When they meditate on the [eight] spheres of liberation, the [eight] spheres of surpassing, and the [six] spheres of totality..."³⁵⁴ — [indicates that] Bodhisattvas who meditate on the spheres of liberation, the spheres of surpassing, and the spheres of totality are [skilled] with respect to methods of purifying the mind.

[The passage —] "Maitreya, in that way..."³⁵⁵ — [indicates that] Bodhisattvas who are skilled with respect to these six topics³⁵⁶ in that way have manifestly established, will manifestly establish, and are manifestly establishing the great powers of Bodhisattvas; this includes what went before.

³⁵¹D p. 74.5; Stog p. 107.4.

³⁵²As Yeshe Thabkhe. indicates in an oral explanation of this passage, Jñānagarbha is not talking about the doctrine of "skill in means" (*thabs la mkhas pa, upāya-kauśalya*), but rather a specific type of knowledge, "skill in method with respect to mind". Skill in means refers to a Bodhisattva's ability to skillfully adapt approaches and doctrines to the specific capacities, interests, etc. of particular groups and individuals. Jñānagarbha indicates that the skill which is being discussed in the sūtra is developed as a result of purifying the mind through attaining advanced meditative states.

³⁵³D p. 74.6; Stog p. 107.5.

³⁵⁴D p. 74.6; Stog p. 107.6.

³⁵⁵D p. 74.7; Stog p. 107.6.

³⁵⁶These are the six topics under discussion: (1) skill with respect to the arising of mind; (2) skill with respect to abiding of mind; (3) skill with respect to emergence of mind; (4) skill with respect to increasing of mind; (5) skill with respect to diminishment of mind; and (6) skill in method with respect to mind.

In the extensive statement: "With respect to the statement by the Bhagavan, 'In the element of a nirvāṇa without a remainder of aggregates all feelings completely cease...'"³⁵⁷ [Buddha states,] "Maitreya, in brief there are two kinds of feelings: (1) cognitions of assumptions of bad states that are states; and (2) cognitions of objects that are the fruits of those. With respect to that, cognitions of assumptions of bad states that are states should be known as being of four kinds: (1) [assumptions of bad states] that are cognitions of form states...." [This passage indicates that] due to transforming the form aggregate, one cognizes [Buddha] lands, the bodies [of a Buddha,] the [major] marks [of a Buddha,] the minor marks [of a Buddha,] the limitless eloquence [of a Buddha,] and the unperceivable topknot [at the crown of a Buddha's head].³⁵⁸

[The passage, "assumptions of bad states] that are cognitions of formless states" [344b] [refers to] the characteristics of the four kinds of non-form aggregates when they have been transformed. With respect to those, due to transforming the aggregate of feeling [one attains] a cognition that is a basis of extensive, faultless happiness. When the aggregate of discrimination is transformed, [one attains] a cognition that has overlordship with respect to teaching by means of all collections of names, collections of words, and collections of letters. Due to transforming the

³⁵⁷D p. 74.7; Stog p. 107.7.

³⁵⁸A Buddha land is the world or world-system in which a particular Buddha works and lives. See: Teresina Powell, "The Background and Early Use of the Buddhakṣetra Concept", *The Eastern Buddhist* 6.199-430 and 7.131-176.

The major and minor marks of Buddhas are signs that distinguish them. See: *Mahāvīyutpatti* XVII; Wonch'uk (vol. *di* [120], p. 291.5); Byang chub rdzu 'phrul vol. *jo* (206), p. 315.7; and Lamotte, *La Somme du Grand Véhicule d'Asaṅga*, notes pp. 54*-5*. The eighty-two minor marks are also listed there. See also: *La Somme du Grand Véhicule d'Asaṅga*, pp. 286, 295, and 302; and *Mahāyāna-sūtrālaṅkāra* XXI.57.

According to Yeshe Thabkhe, the limitless eloquence of the Buddha refers to the four ways by which Buddhas get sentient beings to listen to their teachings, called the "means of gathering" (*bsdu ba'i dngos po*, *saṃgraha-vastu*): (1) giving (*sbyin pa*, *dāna*), which involves giving away teachings of doctrine and material goods; (2) speaking pleasantly (*snyan par smra ba*, *priyavāḍita*), which involves interesting them in one's teachings of doctrine through pleasant words; (3) beneficial activities (*don spyod pa*, *artha-caryā*), which are activities that accord with what trainees want; and (4) concordant actions (*don mthun pa*, *samanāṛthatā*), which involves making one's actions accord with one's words. These are described in *Bod rgya tshig mdzod chen mo*, p. 1487. See also *Pāli Text Society Dictionary* (London, 1972), p. 666 and *Mahāvīyutpatti* XXXV, 1-4.

The topknot on the crown of a Buddha's head (*spyi gtsug pa*, *uṣṇīṣa*), is a topknot of hair or a growth of the skull of indeterminate size that makes it appear that the head has a turban on it.

aggregate of compositional factors, [one attains] a cognition that brings forth emanations,³⁵⁹ transformations, gatherings of attendants, and pure qualities. Due to transforming the aggregate of consciousness, [one attains] cognitions that are: (1) the mirror-like exalted wisdom (*me long lta bu'i ye shes, ādarśa-jñāna*), (2) [the exalted wisdom of] equality (*mnyam pa nyid [kyi ye shes], samatā[-jñāna]*), (3) [the exalted wisdom of] individual investigation (*so sor rtoḡ pa[i ye shes], pratyavekṣaṇa[-jñāna]*), and (4) the exalted wisdom that accomplishes activities (*bya ba sgrub pa'i ye shes, kriyā-siddhi-jñāna*).

[The passage —] “With respect to that, established results are whatever [have their results] now...”³⁶⁰ — [means that] just those cognitions of form states and formless states arise in that moment. [The passage —] “non-established results are whatever serve as causes in the future” — [refers to] future results of just those.

Also, you should know that cognitions of objects are of four kinds.³⁶¹ What are the four? (1) Cognitions of bases are uncommon establishments of the colors, expanses, measurements, and so forth of inestimable mansions of Tathāgatas. (2) Cognition of property [refers to] appearances of various measureless kinds of property completely transcending those of gods and humans. (3) Cognition of resources [refers to] one's own and others' experiencing of the resources of Mahāyāna qualities by way of the two, enjoyment bodies and emanation bodies. (4) Cognition of reliances [refers to] mastery of those causes and conditions that are cognitions of objects.

In [the passage] — “Moreover, in the element of nirvāṇa that has a remainder of aggregates...”³⁶² — “moreover” [refers to] cognitions of bases and cognitions of objects that are their results. They exist in the element of a Tathāgata's nirvāṇa that has a remainder of aggregates. “Non-established results” are what serve as future causes.

With respect to [the passage,] “experience feelings which arise from contact that is included among cognitions”:³⁶³ [345a] This is because one has not abandoned

³⁵⁹Text correction: the Sde dge text (p. 344b.2) reads: *sgrul pa*; the Peking text (p. 209.2.2) reads: *sprul pa*, and Yeshe Thabkhe indicates that this is the correct reading.

³⁶⁰D p. 75.3; Stog p. 108.3.

³⁶¹This refers to D p. 75.3 and Stog p. 108.4.

³⁶²D p. 75.4; Stog p. 108.5.

³⁶³D p. 75.5; Stog p. 108.5 reads: “one experiences only a feeling that arises from cognitive contact”.

cognitions that are afflicted and that are unafflicted. “Its discordant class has not ceased in all ways” because one obtains cognitions of bases which arise from contact that is included among cognitions. Due to one’s own conceptuality regarding feelings which arise from contact that is subsumed by ignorance — afflicted [feelings] that are a class that is discordant with that [i.e., a nirvāṇa without a remainder of aggregates] and non-afflicted [feelings] — one eliminates the seeds of the arising of uncommon feelings that are apprehenders. Because one obtains cognition of objects which are pleasing results that arise from contact that is included among cognitions, due to the conceptuality of others one also eliminates obstructions with respect to all objects of observation that are seeds of the arising of uncommon feelings that are apprehenders.

With respect to [the passage,] “When one thoroughly passes beyond sorrow in the element of a nirvāṇa without a remainder of aggregates, even that ceases...”³⁶⁴ This is because when states arise from contact that is included within cognitions of Tathāgatas and when cognitions of objects arise in that way, one eliminates even those attainments. The seeds of the arising of feelings and non-feelings are simply the body of the basis-consciousness. [The discussion] is wrapped up³⁶⁵ by [the passage,] “Therefore....”³⁶⁶

Question: If Tathāgatas attain nirvāṇa in the element of a nirvāṇa without a remainder of aggregates, how do they accomplish the aims of others within cyclic existence?

[Response:] Due to the power of former aspirations, even though Tathāgatas attain nirvāṇa they still accomplish the aims of others, because the sport of Tathāgatas is manifold.

[This concludes] the explanation of “The Chapter of the Superior Maitreya” from the *Superior Sutra Explaining the Thought* composed by the master Jñānagarbha.

³⁶⁴D p. 75.5; Stog p. 108.7.

³⁶⁵The Tibetan word is *mjug sdud* (Skt. *nigamyati*). According to the *Bod skad tshig mdzod chen mo*, vol. I, p. 882, this term is used in two ways: (1) the method of wrapping up at the end of a work (*las mjug sgril thabs byed pa*); and (2) condensing the essence at the end of an extensive explanation (*rgyas bshad kyi mthar snying po bsdu ba*).

³⁶⁶D p. 75.6; Stog p. 109.1.