

**ⁱ10 Defining Characteristics of the Teacher to Be Relied upon
as mentioned in the Lam Rim**

	<i>From Lam Rim Chen MO by the Lam Rim Translation Committee (pg 71 -73)</i>	<i>From Liberation in the Palm of Your Hand by Pabongka Rinpoche (pg 237)</i>	<i>From Practicing the Path by Yangsi Rinpoche (pg 43- 44)</i>	<i>From Steps on the Path to Enlightenment by Geshe Sopa (pg 106 - 110)</i>	<i>From The Heart of the Path by Lama Zopa Rinpoche (pg 32 - 33)</i>
Quality #1	Disciplined – training in ethical discipline with vows	Gurus’ mindstreams should be subdued by ethics	Mind of the spiritual teacher is completely subdued by training in ethics and vows	Pure ethical conduct – disciplined and tamed (having taken vows) in both mind and body	Subdued , living in the higher training of morality
Quality #2	Serene – having accomplished the training of meditative concentration	Mental distraction should be pacified by single-pointed concentration	Mind is peaceful, subdued by the higher training in concentration	Serenity or mental peace (samadhi) gained through meditative stabilization	Pacified through the higher training of concentration, realizing calm abiding
Quality #3	Thoroughly Pacified – having accomplished the training of wisdom	Grasping at a self should be most pacified by wisdom	Mind is extremely peaceful, subdued by the higher training in wisdom	Thoroughly pacified, with the highest insight (vipasyana) into the nature of reality (where single-pointed concentration and highest insight are joined together)	Highly Pacified relating to the higher training of wisdom
Quality #4	Good Qualities Surpassing Those of the Students	Gurus should have more qualities than you	Teacher must be more knowledgeable in the subject matter than the disciple	Spiritual teacher’s inner qualities and level of knowledge must be superior to the student’s	Greater Knowledge or realizations than the disciple
Quality #5	Energetic – constant delight in others welfare	Perseverance	Possess joyful perseverance in the acts of benefitting others	Great diligence, taking special joy in virtuous activities	Perseverance
Quality #6	Wealth of Scriptural Knowledge – being erudite concerning the 3 scriptural collections	A wealth of scripture	Rich in bearing all the oral transmissions of sutras and tantras	Learned or wealthy in the scriptures – well versed in the Buddhist cannon	Learned in Scripture , able to refer to many teachings by heart

Quality #7	Loving Concern – refers to having a pure motivation to give teachings, not seeking gain, respect, etc.	Embodiment of love	Teacher is lovingly able to care for disciple	Great compassion	Compassionate
Quality #8	Thorough Knowledge of Reality – refers to a special training in wisdom, the selflessness of phenomena	Realization into suchness	Direct realization of emptiness or at the very least, the inferential realization of emptiness	Understand suchness – directly realizes the final nature of reality	
Quality #9	Skill in Instructing Disciples – skilled in both the process of leading disciples and adept at causing them to understand	Skilled speaker	Skilled in expressing him- or herself to be able to guide disciples	Skilled in speaking or communicating to others	
Quality #10	Abandoned Dispiritedness – never being tired of giving an explanation again and again; to bear the hardship of explaining	Not discouraged	Not being easily fed up by having to repeat things	Great patience in the face of difficulties, resisting dejection	Abandoned Discouragement, impatience, exhaustion, and laziness in guiding disciples

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