

Uniting Wisdom and Compassion

Kadampa Center – July 1 - 22, 2021

Handout 3 of 4: The Three Types of Compassion - Part One

The Three Types of Compassion - 1) Compassion Observing Sentient Beings

Definition of Compassion Observing Mere Sentient Beings: Compassion distinguished by the wish that the observed mere sentient beings tormented by suffering, its object of observation, be free from suffering.

(Source: *A General Meaning Commentary...* by Jedzün Chögyi Gyältshän)

Definition of the View of the Transitory Collection: An afflicted wisdom that, observing either the 'I' or 'mine' in the continuum of the person possessing it in his continuum, conceives it to be inherently existent. (In Prasangika-Madhyamika, the view of the transitory collection is the root of cyclic existence)

Analogy of the Bucket in the Well: Chandrakirti uses the analogy of a bucket in the well to represent suffering sentient beings in cyclic existence. Sentient beings and the bucket in the well have six features of similarity:

1. The rope attached to the bucket ⇒ Beings are bound by the rope of contaminated actions and afflictions.
2. The operator of the windlass ⇒ The operator of the process of cyclic existence is an unpeaceful and untamed mind.
3. The well itself ⇒ Sentient beings reside in the well of cyclic existence, from the brightness at the top, the Peak of Cyclic Existence, down to the deep dark of the bottom of the well, the Most Torturous Hell.
4. The movement of the bucket in the well ⇒ The movement within cyclic existence is that beings naturally and effortlessly descend to the bad migrations, but must exert great effort to ascend to good migrations.
5. The quick rotation of the windlass ⇒ The rotation within cyclic existence is circular, making it difficult to tell where each of the three, afflictions, actions and rebirth, begin and end.
6. The battering of the bucket against the sides of the well ⇒ Within cyclic existence there is the continual battering of sentient beings by the three types of suffering.

The Realms of Cyclic Existence:

Four Formless Realms:	Peak of Cyclic Existence	↑
	Nothingness	↑
	Infinite Consciousness	↑
	Infinite Space	↑
Four Form Realms:	Fourth Concentration	↑
	Third Concentration	↑
	Second Concentration	↑
	First Concentration	↑
Six Desire Realms:	God Realms	↑
	Anti-God Realms	↑
	Human Realms	Upper Rebirths
	Animal Realms	Lower Rebirths
	Hungry Ghost Realms	↓
	Hell Realms	↓

The Twelve Links of Dependent-Arising:

1. Ignorance (the root of cyclic existence)
2. Karmic Formations
3. Consciousness: A) Cause B) Effect
4. Name and Form
5. Six Sense Spheres
6. Contact
7. Feeling
8. Craving
9. Grasping
10. Existence
11. Birth
12. Aging and Death