

Uniting Wisdom and Compassion

Kadampa Center – July 1 - 22, 2021

Handout 4 of 4: The Three Types of Compassion - Part Two

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)

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. (See Handout 3 of 4)

The Three Types of Compassion - 2) Compassion Observing Phenomena

Definition of Compassion Observing Phenomena: Compassion in the continuum of a person who has already established by valid cognition the impermanence of sentient beings, having an aspect of wishing that the observed sentient beings qualified by impermanence be free from suffering.

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

Analogy of the Reflection of the Moon in Rippling Water:

Just as the reflection of a full moon on the surface of a clear lake that is being stirred by a breeze is shimmering and in motion, is changing constantly, so too are sentient beings subject to momentary change, fleeting and disintegrating moment by moment.

The Three Types of Compassion - 3) Compassion Observing the Unobservable/Unapprehendable

Definition of Compassion Observing the Unobservable/Unapprehendable: Compassion in the continuum of a person who has already established by valid cognition the emptiness of true existence of sentient beings, having an aspect of wishing that the observed sentient beings qualified by non-true existence be free from suffering.

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

Analogy of the Reflection of the Moon in Calm Water:

Just as the reflection of a full moon on the surface of a calm clear lake appears to be a real moon but is not, so too do sentient beings and other conventional phenomena appear to inherently exist but do not.

The Three Types of Compassion - General Comments

- All three types of compassion are great compassion, having the aspect of wishing to protect all sentient beings from suffering and its causes.
- All three types of compassion observe sentient beings but differ in how they are qualified:
 1. the object of the first is mere sentient beings, qualified only by their suffering;
 2. the object of the second is sentient beings, qualified by their impermanence; and
 3. the object of the third is sentient beings, qualified by their emptiness of inherent existence.
- All three types of compassion can occur prior to entering the Mahayana path (before achieving uncontrived *bodhicitta*).