

Chapter 2 – Entrance via learning the Dharma

Stage 1

Explanation on the mind's development regarding learning the Dharma

1. Contemplate on the virtues of learning the Dharma, thus arousing the mind that delights in learning the Dharma. (**Arising of Delight**)
2. Two similes reflecting the three errors the mind should discard when learning the Dharma (**Discarding All Faults**)
 - ◆ Filling a water vessel
 - ◆ Planting seeds in the earth
3. Four mentalities the give rise to a mind that exerts effort to practice (**Determination to Practice**)
4. Contemplate that the Buddha's teachings is like a mirror, arouse a mind of diligence to cease evil and cultivate goodness (**Arising of Diligence**)

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Stage 2

Explanation on reliance on the 'Good Spiritual Guide' to enter the Righteous Dharma

1. Reflection on the crucial factor for entering the righteous Dharma
2. Reflection on the qualities a good spiritual guide should possess
3. Reflection on the appropriate attitude when learning from good spiritual guides
4. Contemplate how the good spiritual guide brings about the perfection of the holy life

Stage 3

Explanation on the rarity of learning the Dharma, encouragement to advance

1. Reflection on the general difficulty for the learning conditions to arise (freedom from the eight difficulties)
2. Individually reflect on the preciousness of the human birth and its superiority
 - ◆ Reflect on the preciousness of the human birth
 - ◆ Reflect on the three superior (human) qualities
3. Encouragement to advance in the practice

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Stage 4

Explanation on the differences in goals of the three grades of practices, how they mutually support and encompass each other

1. Expounding the differences in spiritual foundations which lead to differences in aspiration

2. Explicating the three grades of mind

— The mind that seeks improvement

— The mind that seeks liberation

— The Bodhi mind

3. Elucidating the harmony of the three grades of mind

— Higher grades encompass the lower grades and are supported by them

— Ultimate convergence to the one goal

— Perfectly encompassing all the approaches to the goal of the Buddha Vehicle