Dharma Path Study Group Materials

Structural Outline of Khenpo Kunpal and Dzogchen Khenpo Choga Rinpoche's Commentary on Shantideva's Bodhicaryavatara

I. The explanation of the prefatory topics
   A. How a master should expound the Dharma
      1. How a Buddha teacher expounds the Dharma
      2. How an arhat teacher expounds the Dharma
      3. How a learned pandita teacher expounds the Dharma
   B. How a student should listen
      1. Motivation
      2. Conduct
         a. The conduct to be avoided
         b. The conduct to be adopted
   C. How both teacher and student should explain and listen

II. The explanation of the main topic
   A. The explanation of the title of the treatise
      1. The actual title
      2. The adjunct homage of the translator
   B. The explanation of the text that bears this title
      1. The section of entering into the composition of the treatise
         a. Declaration of respect
         b. Pledging to compose (the treatise)
         c. Casting away pride
         d. Generating joy
BCA Chapter One Outline

2. The explanation of the body of the treatise itself, which is to be composed
   a. The three chapters that give rise to the precious bodhicitta in those in whom it has not yet arisen
      i) The chapter on the benefits that generate joy (*Chapter One*)
          1) The text of the chapter
             a) Explaining the supporting basis (necessary) for (developing) bodhicitta
                (i) Explaining the physical basis (necessary for developing bodhicitta)
                (ii) Explaining the mental basis (necessary for developing bodhicitta)
             b) Explaining the benefits of generating bodhicitta, that which is supported (by the physical and mental basis)
                (i) The general benefits of bodhicitta
                   (1) The benefits of (bodhicitta) being far superior to other virtues
                   (2) The benefit of (bodhicitta) causing a transformation in name and significance
                   (3) Demonstrating the benefits (of bodhicitta) by means of examples
                      (a) Demonstrating (that bodhicitta leads to) the attainment of Buddhahood through the example of alchemy
                      (b) Demonstrating (bodhicitta’s) great importance through the example of jewels
                      (c) Demonstrating (bodhicitta’s) inexhaustible and ever-increasing root of virtue through the example of a fruit-bearing, wish-fulfilling tree
                      (d) Demonstrating how (bodhicitta) outshines negativity that leads to the certain (experience of negativity’s fruition) through the example of the helpful hero
                      (e) Demonstrating how (bodhicitta) totally eradicates negativity that leads to the uncertain (experience of negativity’s fruition) through the example of the fire at the end of an aeon
                      (f) References to other textbooks not explained here
                (ii) The individual benefits of (the bodhicitta of) aspiration and of application
                   (1) Distinguishing between (the bodhicitta of) aspiration and of application
                      (a) Development of relative bodhicitta achieved through tangible indicators
                      (b) Development of absolute bodhicitta achieved through subtle Dharmata
                   (2) Differentiating their benefits
                   (3) Establishing (the benefits of bodhicitta) by means of scriptures and reasoning
                      (a) Establishing (the benefits of bodhicitta) by means of scriptures
                      (b) Establishing (the benefits of bodhicitta) by means of reasoning
                         i] Establishing the benefits of the bodhicitta of aspiration by means of reasoning
                         ii] Establishing the benefits of the bodhicitta of application by means of reasoning
                (iii) The greatness of a person who is endowed with a mind that has developed bodhicitta
BCA Chapter 2 Outline

2) Listing the name of the chapter
ii) The chapter on confessing negative deeds (Chapter Two)

1) The text
   a) The section on presenting offerings
      (i) Offerings that are actually assembled
         (1) Offerings that belong to an owner
         (2) Offerings that do not belong to an owner
         (3) Offerings of presenting one’s body
      (ii) Offerings that are mentally created
         (1) The offerings of bathing
         (2) Offerings of enjoyment
      (iii) Offerings (made) through the power of aspirations
      (iv) Unexcelled offerings
      (v) Offerings of melodious praise
   b) The section on paying respect
   c) The section on going for refuge
      (i) The explanation of the general meaning
         (1) The explanation of the base of going for refuge
         (2) The explanation of the essence of going for refuge
         (3) The explanation of the distinctions of going for refuge
         (4) The explanation of the individual meaning of going for refuge
            (a) The explanation of the temporary causal refuge
            (b) The explanation of the ultimate resultant refuge
      (ii) The meaning of the text
         (1) Explaining the individual distinctions
            (a) The explanation of the Hinayana refuge
            (b) The explanation of the Mahayana refuge
         (2) Explaining the general way of going for refuge
   d) The Section on Confessing Negative Deeds
      (i) The visualization of the objects for confession
      (ii) The actual confession
         (1) The power of remorse
         (2) The power of support
         (3) The power of the applied antidote
         (4) The power of resolve
BCA Chapter 3 Outline

2) Listing the name of the chapter
iii) The chapter on the thorough adoption of bodhicitta (Chapter Three)

1) The explanation of the text
   a) The preparation, the preliminary teachings
      (i) Gathering the accumulations
         (1) The section on rejoicing
         (2) The section on requesting to turn the wheel of Dharma
         (3) The section on supplicating not to enter into Nirvana
         (4) The section on dedicating the merit for the benefit of others
      (ii) Mind-training
         (1) The actual mind-training
         (2) Establishing its reasoning
         (3) Giving one’s body in a specific way
         (4) Dedicating the fruition of one’s mind-training for the benefit of others
   b) The main part, making the commitment
   c) The conclusion, generating joy about oneself and causing others to generate joy
      (i) Generating joy about oneself
      (ii) Causing others to generate joy
BCA Chapter 4 Outline

2) Listing the name of the chapter

b. Three chapters that prevent the decrease of the precious bodhicitta where it has arisen
   i) The chapter on heedfulness, on carefully applying the points that must be adopted and that must be avoided *(Chapter Four)*

1) Explanation of the actual text
   a) The brief presentation
      (i) The precepts of the bodhisattvas
         (1) The prohibitions
            (a) The eighteen root downfalls
            (b) The root downfalls of (forsaking bodhicitta of) aspiration and application
         (2) The observations
      (ii) The necessity to know the main precepts
   b) The extensive explanation
      (i) Practicing heedfulness by reflecting upon the trainings which are to be accomplished
         (1) Not letting the intention, the development of bodhicitta, degenerate
         (2) Maintaining the application by not letting one’s diligence diminish
      (ii) Practicing heedfulness by reflecting upon the support, the freedoms and advantages
         (1) Practicing heedfulness by reflecting upon the difficulty of finding the freedoms and advantages
         (2) Practicing heedfulness by reflecting on the difficulty of gaining liberation from the lower realms
         (3) The need to exert oneself in virtue once the freedoms and advantages are obtained
      (iii) Practicing heedfulness by reflecting about the afflictions, which are to be overcome
         (1) Explaining the flaws of afflictions
         (2) Enduring the hardship of overcoming afflictions
         (3) Explaining how to overcome afflictions
BCA Chapter 5 Outline

2) Listing the name of the chapter
   ii) The chapter on introspection—repeatedly examining the state of body and mind
       *(Chapter Five)*
      1) The explanation of the actual meaning of the text
         a) Guarding one’s mind in order to maintain one’s training
            (i) The brief presentation
            (ii) The extensive explanation
               (1) The way in which all harm arises from mind
               (2) The way in which all virtue arises from mind
               (3) The instructions on the definite necessity to therefore guard one’s mind
         b) The way to maintain mindfulness and introspection in order to guard one’s mind
            (i) The short presentation
            (ii) The extensive explanation
               (1) The disadvantage of lacking introspection
               (2) The actual method of relying on mindfulness
         c) The way to practice the conduct of mind-training by possessing mindfulness and introspection
            (i) The discipline of refraining from negative conduct
               (1) Purifying the entire conduct of the three gates
               (2) Protecting the trainings from decline
            (ii) The discipline of practicing virtuous Dharmas
               (1) Explaining the necessity of giving up attachment to one’s body, the reason for not training in the trainings
               (2) Becoming learned in the methods of practice
            (iii) The discipline of fulfilling the benefit of sentient beings
               (1) Earnestly applying oneself to the benefit of others
               (2) Attracting (sentient beings to the Dharma) with (gift of) material things and (of) the Dharma
               (3) Protecting others from disbelief
         d) Teaching the other sections of perfect practice
            (i) The actual perfect practice
            (ii) Condensing the meaning of the chapter

2) Listing the name of the chapter

……*(Outline for chapters six through ten to be inserted here)*……

3. The conclusion, the sections which bring (the commentary) to a perfect ending