

Contents

Rinpoche's Introduction.....	1
Translator's Introduction.....	5
Supplication Prayers and Motivation.....	6
Samaya	12
Title	13
Homage	17
Introduction	24
First Vajra Topic--The Ground	134
1.1 Fundamental Nature of the Primordial Ground	135
1.1.1 General Explanation of the Seven Enumerations pertaining to the Ground	137
1.1.1.1 For Those Who Adhere to Philosophical Tenets	155
1.1.1.2 For Those Who Adhere to the Spiritual Path.....	188
1.1.1.2.1 Recognizing the Nature of Original Purity	190
1.1.1.2.2 Rebuttal of Objections	203
1.1.1.2.3 General Discussion of the Natural Process of the Basis of Arising	210
1.1.2 Specific Explanation of the Primordial Ground of Original Purity	215
1.1.2.1 Identifying the Mode in which the Nature Abides	215
1.1.2.2 Extensive Discussion of That Intrinsic Nature	218
1.1.2.2.1 Explanation of Two Wisdoms	228
1.1.2.2.2 Explanation of Three Wisdoms	231
1.1.2.3 Negation of Confusion concerning the Aspects	265
1.2 Manner of How the Appearances of the Ground Arise from This	298
1.2.1 Brief Discussion of Its Nature.....	299
Conclusion for 2008.....	316

Contents

Rinpoche's Introduction.....	1
First Vajra Topic—The Ground (cont'd).....	8
1.2 The Way the Appearances of the Ground Emerge from This (cont'd)	8
1.2.2 Extensive Explanation of Its Intrinsic Nature	13
1.2.2.1 General Discussion of the Way the Appearances of the Ground Arise.....	13
1.2.2.2 Specific Explanation of the Astonishing Mode of Appearances	29
1.2.3 Synthesis of the Meaning Based on Aspects	41
1.3 Manner in which Samantabhadra Is Liberated	55
Second Vajra Topic—The Way Confusion Occurs	86
2.1 General Explanation of the Way Confusion Occurs.....	87
2.1.1 Brief Discussion of the Nature.....	87
2.1.2 Elaborate Description of the Intrinsic Nature	102
2.1.2.1 Aspects concerning the Process of Straying	102
2.1.2.2 Extensive Explanation of the Conditional Aspects.....	111
2.1.2.2.1 General State of Thorough Purity	142
2.1.2.2.2 Specific State of Thorough Purity.....	153
2.2 Specific Explanation of the Body's Development.....	172
2.2.1 The Support as the Actual Process of How the Body Takes Form.....	172
2.2.1.1 General Explanation of the Way the Four Elements Develop.....	185
2.2.1.2 Specific Explanation concerning the Way the Elements Develop	209
2.2.2 The Supported Intrinsic Nature of the Channels, Winds, and Essential Fluids	229
2.2.2.1 Abiding Channels.....	230
2.2.2.2 Mobile Winds.....	232
2.2.2.3 Array of Bodhichitta's Way of Abiding	247
2.2.3 The Way the Pervading Elements Are Whole	263
3 The Way the Buddha Nature Pervades	269
3.1 General Description of the Way of Pervading.....	270
3.1.1 Actual Pervading Buddha Nature Itself	270
3.1.2 Concerning That, a Refutation of Doubts	281
3.1.2.1 Presentation of Doubts	281

3.1.2.2 Refutation	284
3.1.2.3 Cultivation of Joy Based on Exceptional Certainty	300
3.2 Specific Explanation of the Pervading Buddha Nature.....	308
Concluding Comments	335
Notes	340

Contents

Rinpoche's Introduction.....	1
Fourth Vajra Topic—Location of Wisdom Awareness	
4.1 General Explanation of the Actual Location	14
4.1.1 Site Where Wisdom Abides.....	15
4.1.2 Way of Abiding.....	24
4.1.3 Analogies	31
4.2 Specific Explanation of the King of the Supreme Secret	35
4.2.1 Key Points concerning Ālaya Versus Dharmakāya	35
4.2.1.1 General Discussion concerning the Differences	36
4.2.1.2 Specific Explanation concerning the Distinguishing Features	46
4.2.1.2.1 Ālaya	46
4.2.1.2.2 Dharmakāya	63
4.2.2 Key Points concerning Mind Versus Wisdom.....	74
4.2.2.1 General Discussion of Their Distinctions	74
4.2.2.2 Specific Explanation of Their Individual Intrinsic Natures	113
4.2.2.2.1 Detailed Explanation of the Difficult-to-Understand Topics concerning Mind ...	113
4.2.2.2.1.1 Common Classifications	113
4.2.2.2.1.2 Comprehension of the Specific Key Points	130
4.2.2.2.2 Detailed Explanation of the Difficult-to-Realize Topics concerning Wisdom....	137
4.2.2.2.2.1 Common Divisions	138
4.2.2.2.2.2 Specific Tradition of the Definitive Great Secret	139
Fifth Vajra Topic—Pathways of Wisdom	
5.1 Brief Explanation	151
5.2 Extensive Explanation	153
5.2.1 Identifying the Path of Wisdom.....	153
5.2.2 Detailed Explanation of the Channels' Intrinsic Nature	166
5.2.3 Specific Discussion of the Arrangement of Bindus	183
Sixth Vajra Topic—Establishing the Gateways of Wisdom	
6.1 Identifying the Actual Gateways	208
6.2 Extensive Description of the Location from which the Four Luminosities Emerge	228
6.2.1 Brief Explanation concerning How the Four Luminosities Arise	228
6.2.2 Detailed Explanation of How the Luminosities Emerge	230
6.2.2.1 General Explanation of the Divisions	230

6.2.2.2 Specific Explanation of the Enumerations.....	231
6.2.2.2.1 Water Luminosity of the Far-Reaching Lasso	232
6.2.2.2.2 Luminosity of the Empty Bindu	260
6.2.2.2.3 Luminosity of Perfectly Pure Space	292
6.2.2.2.4 Luminosity of Self-Emergent Prajñā	327
Seventh Vajra Topic—The Objective Sphere	
7.1 General Explanation concerning the Key Points of the Object	370
7.2 Specific Explanation of the Key Points of the Luminosities	387
7.2.1 Preliminaries	387
7.2.2 Actual Practice.....	389
7.2.3 Conclusion	397
7.3 Setting Forth the Key Points of Space-Awareness	406
7.3.1 General Description of Space-Awareness	407
7.3.1.1 General Explanation of the Nature	407
7.3.1.2 Specific Explanation of the Distinctions.....	417
7.3.1.3 Advice Given to Realize This.....	422
7.3.2 Specific Explanation on How to Practice	428
7.3.2.1 General Key Points concerning the Connection between Space-Awareness	428
7.3.2.2 Specific Explanation on Individual Key Points.....	438
7.3.3 Synthesis of the Meaning through the Three Definitive Key Points	450
7.3.3.1 Advice To Be Known	450
7.3.3.2 Actual Key Points	452
Closing Remarks.....	458
Notes	462

Contents

Introduction and Motivation	1
Eighth Vajra Topic—One’s Own Realization	4
8.1 Individuals Who Practice This	5
8.1.1 Characteristics of the Teacher Who Can Reveal This	5
8.1.2 Characteristics of the Disciples	16
8.1.2.1 General Information on the Qualifications of an Average Disciple	16
8.1.2.2 Specific Explanation concerning an Exceptional Disciple	26
8.1.3 The Way Both Teacher and Disciple Rely upon Each Other	32
8.2 Stages of Empowerment that Bring Maturity	36
8.2.1 Benefits of Receiving Empowerment	36
8.2.2 Faults of Not Receiving Empowerment	39
8.2.3 Actual Empowerment	43
8.2.4 Supporting Stages of Samaya	59
8.3 Stages of Oral Instructions for Achieving Total Liberation	93
8.3.1 Establishing Interconnectedness	93
8.3.2 Definitive Manner of Practice	96
8.3.3 Setting Forth the Actual Instructions	100
8.3.3.1 Those Who Emphasize Objective Focus	103
8.3.3.1.1 General Explanation of the Definitive Meaning of Enumerations	104
8.3.3.1.2 Key Points of the Conclusive Categories	105
8.3.3.1.2.1 Conduct	106
8.3.3.1.2.2 Meditation	120
8.3.3.1.2.2.1 Meditation throughout the Day and Night	121
8.3.3.1.2.2.1.1 The Concentration of the Bodhisattvas	127
8.3.3.1.2.2.1.1.1 Concise Teaching on the Nature	127
8.3.3.1.2.2.1.1.2 Extensive Explanation concerning the Enumerations	129
8.3.3.1.2.2.1.2 Meditation of Profound Secret Mantra	173
8.3.3.1.2.2.1.3 Sustaining the Minds according to Gods and Humans	181
8.3.3.1.2.2.1.3.1 Concise Explanation	181
8.3.3.1.2.2.1.3.2 Extensive Explanation	182
8.3.3.1.2.2.1.3.2.1 Training with the Coarse Support for Visualization	182
8.3.3.1.2.2.1.3.2.2 Training with the Subtle Support for Visualization	190
8.3.3.1.2.2.1.4 Wisdom Intent of the Sugatas	204

8.3.3.1.2.2.2 Method of Placement Like the Ocean.....	206
8.3.3.1.2.2.3 Phenomenal Existence as the Ground.....	215
8.3.3.1.2.2.4 Result of Sealing the Passions	217
8.3.3.1.2.2.5 Potential to Abide in Genuine Truth.....	218
8.3.3.1.2.3 The View.....	219
8.3.3.1.2.4 The Result	232
8.3.3.2 Those Who Emphasize Self-Appearing Awareness	242
8.3.3.2.1 How This Exceeds the Common Approach.....	242
8.3.3.2.2 Actual Instructions	252
8.3.3.2.2.1 Establishing the Connection between the Upadeshas	253
8.3.3.2.2.2 Explanation concerning the Interdependency of the Upadeshas	255
8.3.3.2.2.2.1 Trekchö	255
8.3.3.2.2.2.1.1 Determination that Phenomena Exhaust as Great Original Purity.....	257

Contents

8.3.3.2.2.2.1.2.1.2 Pith Decision concerning Naked, Unimpeded Inactivity.....	304
8.3.3.2.2.2.1.2.1 Recognizing Dharmakāya	304
8.3.3.2.2.2.1.2.2 Making the Pith Decision.....	320
8.3.3.2.2.2.1.3 Awareness Subsumed as the Great Evenness of Total Liberation.....	340
8.3.3.2.2.2.1.3.1 General Explanation concerning the Fundamental Nature of Total Liberation.....	340
8.3.3.2.2.2.1.3.2 Specific Explanation concerning Enumerations	359
8.3.3.2.2.2.1.3.2.1 Brief Explanation of the Nature	359
8.3.3.2.2.2.1.3.2.2 Extensive Explanation of the Intrinsic Nature	361
8.3.3.2.2.2.1.3.2.2.1 Primordial Liberation.....	361
8.3.3.2.2.2.1.3.2.2.2 Self-Liberation	367
8.3.3.2.2.2.1.3.2.2.3 Direct Liberation.....	372
8.3.3.2.2.2.1.3.2.2.4 Liberation from Extremes	377
8.3.3.2.2.2.1.3.2.2.5 Singular Liberation	382
8.3.3.2.2.2.1.3.2.3 Synthesis of the Meaning by Clarification through Analogies	389
8.3.3.2.2.2.1.3.2.3.1 Freedom from a Basis of Dependence.....	390
8.3.3.2.2.2.1.3.2.3.2 Certainty through Analogies	392
8.3.3.2.2.2.1.3.2.3.3 Explanation of the Perfect Conclusion	393
8.3.3.2.2.2.2 Tögal	400
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.1 The Way Tögal Surpasses Trekchö	400
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2 Exceptional Nature of Tögal	441
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2.1 Description of General Oral Instructions	441
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2.2 The Preliminaries	446
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2.2.1 Training in the Meaning and Sound of the Four Elements	451
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2.2 Training in the Conduct of Discerning Samsāra and Enlightenment ...	458
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2.2.3 Training in the Preliminaries of Body, Speech, and Mind	470
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2.3 Instructions on the Key Points of the Actual Practice	476
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2.3.1 How to Strike the Key Points of Body, Speech, and Mind.....	482
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2.3.2 How to Encounter the Direct Realization of the Dharmatā	488
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2.3.2.1 Encountering through the Three Key Points.....	489
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2.3.2.2 Introducing through Direct Realization	496
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2.3.2.3 Striking the Key Point through Practice	506
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.3.2.3.1 General Explanation of the Nature of Awareness as the Vajra Chain	506

8.3.3.2.2.2.2.3.2.3.1.1	Recognition of Self-Nature to Be the Vajra Chain	506
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.3.2.3.1.2	Explanation of the Distinctions concerning Those Who Hold This View.....	512
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.3.2.3.1.3	Advice about Gazing upon Self-Appearances	520
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.3.2.3.2	Actual Practice	523
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2.3.2.3.2.1	General Explanation on How to Practice Awareness	525
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2.3.2.3.2.2	Specific Explanation of the Way to Practice	528
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2.3.2.3.2.2.1	Brief Explanation concerning the Nature of the Practice	528
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2.3.2.3.2.2.2	Extensive Explanation of the Intrinsic Nature	529
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2.3.2.3.2.3	Determination of and Arrival on the Key Points of Awareness ...	541
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2.3.3	The Way the Four Visions Arise	556
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2.3.3.1	Vision of the Direct Realization of the Dharmatā	562
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2.3.3.2	Vision of the Increasing Experience	564

Contents

Introduction and Motivation	1
Eighth Vajra Topic—One's Own Realization (cont'd)	2
8.3 Stages of Oral Instructions for Achieving Total Liberation (cont'd)	6
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2.3 Instructions on the Key Points of the Actual Practice (cont'd)	7
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2.3.3 The Way the Four Visions Arise (cont'd).....	7
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.2.3.3.3 Vision of Awareness Reaching the Full Extent	7
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.3.3.3.1 Brief Explanation of the Nature.....	8
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.3.3.2 Extensive Explanation of the Intrinsic Nature	13
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.3.3.2.1 General Explanation of the Way of Appearing.....	14
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.3.3.2.2 Specific Explanation of the Intrinsic Nature of the Full Extent.....	16
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.3.3.4 Vision of the Exhaustion of Phenomena.....	32
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.3.3.4.1 General Explanation of the Manner of Exhaustion.....	34
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.3.3.4.2 Specific Explanation of the Validity.....	49
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.3.3.4.3 Attainment.....	56
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.3.4 Upadesha that Serve as a Support to Accompany the Visions	66
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.3.4.1 Three States of Motionlessness.....	68
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.3.4.1.1 Three Motionless States of the Body	68
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.3.4.1.2 Three Motionless States of Speech	73
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.3.4.1.3 Three Motionless States of Mind	75
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.3.4.2 Three Ways of Settling	77
8.3.3.2.2.2.2.3.4.3 Striking through the Three Attainments	90
Ninth Vajra Topic—The Optimal Extent.....	99
9.1 Brief Explanation of the Nature	99
9.2 Extensive Explanation of the Intrinsic Nature	102
9.2.1 General Signs and Extent that Pertain to Practice	102
9.2.2 Signs and Extent that Pertain to Time.....	113
9.2.2.1 General Signs and Extent for Knowing when Accomplishment Arises	113
9.2.2.2 Natural Signs and Extent for Knowing the Appearances of Arising	118
9.2.2.2.1 General Signs and Extent for Ascertaining Basic Space and Awareness	118
9.2.2.2.2 Specific Signs and Extent for Ascertaining Unwavering Samādhi	131

9.2.2.2.2.1 Brief Explanation of How to Meditate upon the Three Aspects of Samādhi	132
9.2.2.2.2 Specific Explanation of the Individual Signs and Their Extent.....	137
9.2.2.3 Key Points of the Signs and Extent for the Subsequent Entrustment.....	148
9.2.3 Signs and Extent Based on Enumerations that Occur in the Three Times	150
9.2.3.1 Previous Signs and Extent	151
9.2.3.2 Present Signs and Extent.....	160
9.2.3.2.1 Signs and Extent that Indicate the Completion of the Preliminaries	160
9.2.3.2.2 Signs and Extent of the Definitive Actual Practice	163
9.2.3.2.2.1 For Those Who Emphasize Objective Focus.....	164
9.2.3.2.2.2 For Those Who Emphasize Self-Appearing Awareness.....	166
9.2.3.2.2.2.1 Having Perfected Trekchö	166
9.2.3.2.2.2.2 Familiarity With Tögal	170
9.2.3.3 Future Signs and Extent	184
9.2.3.3.1 Brief Explanation.....	184
9.2.3.3.2 Extensive Explanation	185
9.2.3.3.2.1 Signs of the Practitioner’s Definitive Extent of Liberation	185
9.2.3.3.2.2 Signs of Taking Rebirth in the Individual Six Realms	200
Tenth Vajra Topic—Appearances in the Bardo	204
10.1 General Description of the Bardos.....	204
10.2 Extensive Explanation of the Individual Bardos	224
10.2.1 Sacred Instructions for the Natural Bardo	224
10.2.2 Sacred Instructions for the Bardo of Death.....	237
10.2.2.1 Common, General Characteristics	238
10.2.2.2 Specific Exceptional Distinctions	288
Notes	313

Contents

Tenth Vajra Topic—Appearances in the Bardo (cont'd)	313
10.2 Extensive Explanation of the Individual Bardos (cont'd).....	313
10.2.3 Sacred Instructions for the Bardo of the Dharmatā	313
10.2.3.1 Brief Revelation of the Nature and Meanings of the Analogies	313
10.2.3.2 Extensive Explanation of the Sacred Instructions	320
10.2.3.2.1 Brief Explanation of the Stages of Dissolution.....	320
10.2.3.2.2 Extensive Explanation for the Stages of Arising	323
10.2.3.2.2.1 Space Dissolving into Clear Light	323
10.2.3.2.2.2 Clear Light Dissolving into Nonduality.....	329
10.2.3.2.2.3 Nonduality Dissolving into Wisdom	341
10.2.3.2.2.4 Wisdom Dissolving into Spontaneous Presence.....	349
10.2.3.2.3 Concise Synthesis of the Meaning Based on the Levels the Faculties	394
10.2.3.2.3.1 Distinctions Based on Various Faculties	394
10.2.3.2.3.2 Extensive Explanation of Their Individual Aspects	396
10.2.3.2.3.2.1 General Description of Liberation and Confusion.....	396
10.2.3.2.3.2.2 Specific Explanation of Liberation according to Faculties.....	402
10.2.3.2.3.2.3 Conclusion through the Stages of Dissolution.....	424
10.2.4 Sacred Instructions for the Bardo of Existence.....	428
10.2.4.1 Taking a Breath in the Natural Nirmāṇakāya Realms	429
10.2.4.2 Extensive Explanation of the Actual Bardo of Existence	454
Eleventh Vajra Topic—The Ground of Liberation	481
11.1 Clearly Revealing the Nature of All Distinctions	495
11.2 Extensive Explanation of the Intrinsic Nature of Wisdom Awareness.....	526
11.2.1 Nature of Wisdom	526
11.2.2 Etymology	527
11.2.3 Distinctions	529
11.2.3.1 Common Distinctions	529
11.2.3.2 Extensive Explanation of the Individual Aspects	544
11.2.3.2.1 Wisdom of the Dharmakāya that Abides as the Basis	544
11.2.3.2.2 Sambhogakāya that Sustains Characteristics	557

11.2.3.2.3 Nirmāṇakāya that Is All-Pervasive	569
Conclusion	575
Closing Remarks	578
Notes	584