

Mahayana Paths and Grounds

according to the Middle Way Consequence School

PATH OF THE ORDINARY BODHISATTVA

When one travels on the path of accumulation and path of preparation, one accumulates merit for the 1st great countless aeon

❖ **Mahayana Path of Accumulation** is divided into 3:

Small

When one generates the altruistic aspiration to enlightenment (bodhicitta), one enters the Mahayana path and one becomes a bodhisattva.

Middle

When one achieves the middle path of accumulation, one's bodhicitta will never degenerate henceforth.

Great

One achieves the meditative stabilization of the stream of doctrine

❖ **Mahayana Path of Preparation** is divided into 4. Each is further divided into 3.

When one achieves the union of calm abiding and special insight focusing on emptiness, one enters the path of preparation.

This division into 4 is posited by the way of the stages of gradual diminishment of the elaborations of dualistic appearance at the time of setting in equipoise on emptiness and by the way of the stages of newly attaining a special capacity to overcome the 4 manifest conceptions of apprehender and apprehended as inherently existent.

Heat

One overcomes the manifest form of the conceptions of the thoroughly afflicted class of phenomena as truly existent.

Peak

One overcomes the manifest form of the conceptions of completely purified phenomena as truly existent.

Forbearance

One overcomes manifest form of the conception of the true existence of the apprehender that apprehends the person as substantially existent.

Supreme Dharma

One overcomes the manifest form of conception of the true existence of the apprehender that apprehends the person as imputedly existent.

PATH OF THE BODHISATTVA SUPERIOR

When one travels from the 1st ground to the 7th ground, one accumulates merit for the 2nd great countless aeon.

The 1st ground to the 7th ground are called **impure grounds**.

When one travels from the 8th ground to the 10th ground, one accumulates merit for the 3rd great countless aeon.

The 8th, 9th and 10th grounds are called **pure grounds**.

❖ Mahayana Path of Seeing / 1st Ground – Very Joyful

One directly perceives emptiness and one enters the **1st ground uninterrupted path of seeing** which is the direct antidote to the **acquired afflictive obstructions** included in the desire, form and formless realms. Simultaneously one achieves the 1st ground. There are 8 uninterrupted paths of seeing.

One achieves the **1st ground path of release** when the acquired afflictive obstructions are abandoned. There are 8 paths of release.

When one rises from the 1st ground path of release, one achieves the **1st ground post equipoise primordial awareness**.

In the post meditative session one accumulates merit in order to abandon the **gross of the big innate afflictive obstruction**.

(Uninterrupted paths are the direct antidotes that destroy the seeds of afflictions. A distinct cessation comes into being with the removal of each form of affliction. A path of release immediately follows each of the uninterrupted paths. These paths are said to maintain the conditions of abandonment that are brought about by the uninterrupted paths. Uninterrupted paths are like "Expelling thieves of the mental afflictions" and path of release "closes the door on them, preventing their return")

❖ Mahayana Path of Meditation

When sufficient merit has been accumulated, one enters the **1st ground uninterrupted path of meditation** which is the direct antidote to the gross of the big innate afflictive obstruction.

2nd Ground - Stainless

One achieves the **2nd ground path of release** when the gross of the big innate afflictive obstruction is abandoned.

When one rises from the 2nd ground path of release, one achieves the **2nd ground post equipoise primordial awareness**.

In the post meditative session one accumulates merit in order to abandon the **subtle of the big innate afflictive obstruction**.

When sufficient merit has been accumulated, one enters the **uninterrupted path of the last moment of the second ground** that is the direct antidote to the subtle of the big innate afflictive obstruction.

3rd Ground - Luminous

One achieves the **3rd ground path of release** when the subtle of the big innate afflictive obstruction is abandoned.

When one rises from the 3rd ground path of release, one achieves the **3rd ground post equipoise primordial awareness**.

In the post meditative session one accumulates merit in order to abandon the **middling of the big innate afflictive obstruction**.

When sufficient merit has been accumulated, one enters the **uninterrupted path of the last moment of the third ground** that is the direct antidote to the middling of the big innate afflictive obstruction.

4th Ground - Radiant

One achieves the **4th ground path of release** when the middling of the big innate afflictive obstruction is abandoned.

When one rises from the 4th ground path of release, one achieves the **4th ground post equipoise primordial awareness**.

In the post meditative session one accumulates merit in order to abandon the **small of the big innate afflictive obstruction**.

When sufficient merit has been accumulated, one enters the **uninterrupted path of the last moment of the fourth ground** that is the direct antidote to the small of the big innate afflictive obstruction.

5th Ground - Difficult to Learn

One achieves the **5th ground path of release** when the small of the big innate afflictive obstruction is abandoned.

When one rises from the 5th ground path of release, one achieves the **5th ground post equipoise primordial awareness**.

In the post meditative session one accumulates merit in order to abandon the **big of the middling innate afflictive obstruction**.

When sufficient merit has been accumulated, one enters the **uninterrupted path of the last moment of the fifth ground** that is the direct antidote to the big of the middling innate afflictive obstruction.

6th Ground - Manifest

One achieves the **6th ground path of release** when the big of the middling innate afflictive obstruction is abandoned.

When one rises from the 6th ground path of release, one achieves the **6th ground post equipoise primordial awareness**.

In the post meditative session one accumulates merit in order to abandon the **middling of middling innate afflictive obstruction**.

When sufficient merit has been accumulated, one enters the **uninterrupted path of the last moment of the sixth ground** that is the direct antidote to the middling of middling innate afflictive obstruction.

7th Ground - Gone Afar

One achieves the **first path of release of the seventh ground** when the middling of middling innate afflictive obstruction is abandoned.

When one rises from the first path of release of the seventh ground, one achieves the **first post equipoise primordial awareness of the 7th ground**.

In the post meditative session one accumulates merit in order to abandon the **small of middling innate afflictive obstruction**.

When sufficient merit has been accumulated, one enters the **uninterrupted path of the seventh ground** that is the direct antidote to the small of middling innate afflictive obstruction.

One achieves the **second path of release of the seventh ground** when the small of middling innate afflictive obstruction is abandoned.

When one rises from the second path of release of the 7th ground, one achieves the **second post equipoise primordial awareness of the 7th ground**.

In the post meditative session one accumulates merit in order to abandon the **group of small innate afflictive obstruction**.

When sufficient merit has been accumulated, one enters the **uninterrupted path of the seventh ground of the last moment** that is the direct antidote to the group of small innate afflictive obstruction (big of the small, middling of small and small of small).

8th Ground - Immovable

One achieves the **path of release of the 8th ground** when the group of small innate afflictive obstructions is abandoned. One abandons completely all afflictions and their seeds.

When one rises from the 8th ground path of release, one achieves the **8th ground post equipoise primordial awareness**.

In the post meditative session one accumulates merit in order to abandon the **gross of the big obstruction to omniscience**.

When sufficient merit has been accumulated, one enters the **uninterrupted path of the last moment of the eighth ground** that is the direct antidote to the gross of the big obstruction to omniscience.

9th Ground Excellent Intelligence

One achieves the **path of release of the 9th ground** when the gross of the big obstruction to omniscience is abandoned.

When one rises from the 9th ground path of release, one achieves the **9th ground post equipoise primordial awareness**.

In the post meditative session one accumulates merit in order to abandon the **subtle of the big obstruction to omniscience**.

When sufficient merit has been accumulated, one enters the **uninterrupted path of the last moment of the ninth ground** that is the direct antidote to the subtle of the big obstruction to omniscience.

10th Ground - Cloud of Dharma

One achieves the **first path of release of the 10th ground** when the subtle of the big obstruction to omniscience is abandoned.

When one rises from the first path of release of the 10th ground, one achieves the **first post equipoise primordial awareness of the 10th ground**.

In the post meditative session one accumulates merit in order to abandon the **middling obstruction to omniscience**.

When sufficient merit has been accumulated, one enters the **first uninterrupted path of the tenth ground** that is the direct antidote to the middling of the obstruction to omniscience.

One achieves the **second path of release of the 10th ground** when the middling obstruction to omniscience is abandoned.

When one rises from the second path of release of the 10th ground, one achieves the **second post equipoise primordial awareness of the 10th ground**.

In the post meditative session one accumulates merit in order to abandon the **small obstruction to omniscience**.

When sufficient merit has been accumulated, one enters the **second uninterrupted path of the tenth ground** that is the direct antidote to the small obstruction to omniscience.

❖ Mahayana Path of No More Learning

When one abandons the small obstruction to omniscience, one attains the state of Buddhahood which is also known as the **All Radiant Ground**. One becomes a Buddha Superior.