

Additional Notes 15th session—(14th session, 15th verse)

Cited in *The Jewel Ornament of Liberation* as an example of a scriptural reason we must rely on a Spiritual Master:

In the *8,000 Stanza Perfection of Wisdom Sutra*, Buddha said:

From the beginning, a bodhisattva-mahasattva who wishes to achieve the unsurpassable, complete, perfect enlightenment should meet, attend, and pay respect to spiritual masters.

Also cited from *The Jewel Ornament of Liberation*, logical reasoning why we must rely on a Spiritual Master:

One who wishes to achieve the omniscient state should attend a spiritual master because of not knowing how to accumulate merit or how to purify obscurations. The positive illustration of this is the Buddhas of the three times. On the other side are Solitary Realizers.

To explain: In order to achieve the complete, perfect Buddhahood, all the accumulations, including merit and primordial wisdom, must be gathered. The means to do that depend on the spiritual master. All the obscurations, including the afflicting emotions and the subtle obscurations to enlightenment, must be purified. The methods to abandon these obscurations also depend on the spiritual master.

At the end Rinpoche also quoted verse #73 from his own *Excellent Path to Freedom* :

Thus, fully completing qualities of the paths, grounds, and fruits,
The very qualities we have realized in our own experience,
If we perfect the expanse of Buddha's three bodies
And fully abandon the two obscurations from the root,
If there dawns the sun of happiness of the good fortune
Of discovering Buddha within ourselves, that is an ornament of Liberation.