

Precious Garland of the Supreme Path Notes for the 17th Set (Session #16)

As said in the *Vinaya Scripture*:

The end of gathering is dispersing.
The end of rising is falling.
The end of meeting is parting.
The end of living is dying.

As said in *Guide to the Bodhisattva Conduct*:

At birth I am born alone
and at death I die alone.
If others cannot share my suffering
Why do I befriend those who obstruct me?

As Je Tsongkhapa said,

May I never come under the influence
of harmful association with non-virtuous guides
who teach philosophies of permanence or nihilism
contrary to the meaning of Buddha's intentions.

As said in the *Jewel Ornament of Liberation*:

Beneficial effects of attending a spiritual master mentioned in the story of Srisambhava's life:

Noble Family! A bodhisattva who is well guarded by spiritual masters will not fall into the lower realms. A bodhisattva who is escorted by spiritual masters will not fall into the hands of an evil person. A bodhisattva who is well guided by the spiritual master will not turn away from the Mahayana path. A bodhisattva who is well guided by the spiritual master will go beyond the ordinary person's level.

The Mother of the Victorious One Perfection of Wisdom says:

A bodhisattva-mahasattva who is well guided by a spiritual master will quickly achieve unsurpassable, complete enlightenment.

As Rinpoche said in his *A Dharma Gong to Wake Us from Ignorance*,

We are always striving for samsaric things.
If we would put some effort into holy Dharma
the city of Liberation
is not so far away.

as Buddha said,

Stars, blurred vision, butter lamps,
Illusion, dew and bubbles,
Dreams, lightning, and clouds,
Thus view composite things.