OCTOBER 2-5, 2014

KEYSTONE, COLORADO, USA

Workshop 4 | Room: Crestone Peak IV | 4:30-6:30pm, October 4, 2014

### Translating Abhidharma Materials

with Art Engle, Ian Coghlan, Gyurme Dorje



#### Ian Coghlan (Institute of Tibetan Classics; Monash Sophis)

Dr. Ian Coghlan is an adjunct research fellow at the School of Philosophical, Historical and International Studies (SOPHIS), Monash University, Melbourne, and a translator for the Institute of Tibetan Classics. He holds a Ph.D. in Asian Studies from La Trobe University, focussing on Buddhist metaphysics, ethics, and hermeneutics. He trained as a monk in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition for twenty years and completed his studies at Jé College, Sera Monastic University in 1995. He has translated and edited a number of Tibetan works including Ornament of Abhidharma, Principles of Buddhist Tantra, Stairway to the State of Union, and Hundreds of Deities of Tushita. He currently resides in Churchill, Victoria with his partner Voula and dog Pilar.

# Ian Coghlan's Presentation

# A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF FOUR SIGNIFICANT TERMS IN ABHIDHARMA LITERATURE: DHYĀNA, SAMĀDHI, SAMĀPATTI, AND SAMĀHITA

These four terms are linked through equipoise. Asanga states (Yogacaryābhūmi, 121a6):

डेवे: धुरान्यस्य महत्र्वान्यः विकास्य स्वराध्य स्वराध्य

For what reason are absorption (*dhyāna*), liberation, concentration (*samādhi*), and meditative attainment (*samāpatti*) solely called "grounds of equipoise (*samāhita*)," yet single-pointed [concentration] of the desire realm is not equipoise? It is because those absorptions and so on are actually established by the absence of regret, [by] supreme joy, joy, pliancy, and bliss, yet [mental] activity is not like that in the desire realm...

Pliancy marks the ground of equipoise. Asanga states (Yogacaryābhūmi, 159b1):

स्त्रित्तुः श्रुट्यायः स्रेट्रायदे श्रुट्यायः स्त्रित्यः स्तित्यः स्त्रित्यः स्त्

Minds (*citta*) and mental factors (*caitta*) of the desire realm are not equipoise because they lack pliancy (*praśrabdhi*). That which makes the mind single-pointed [i.e., concentration] exists there, but minds and mental factors are not conjoined with pliancy.

Concentration exists in nonequipoise. When associated with equipoise it supports realization. Chim Jampalyang states (*Ornament of Abhidharma* [*Chimzö*] p. 120):

सहस्राप्त विश्व स्थान विश्व स्थान विश्व स्थान विश्व स्थान विश्व स्थान विश्व स्थान स्यान स्थान स्यान स्थान स

Concentration (*samādhi*) is the single-pointed state that engages a single aspect of one focal object, and that "point" is what is observed. If classified, there are ten: (1–9) the nine concentrations of the nine grounds, and (10) transcendent [concentration]. Its function is to support the knowledge of phenomena as they are, since the perfect knowledge of phenomena as they are, arises when the mind is in equipoise.

Concentration is the dominant factor of meditative attainment. Chim Jampalyang states (*Ornament of Abhidharma* [*Chimzö*] p. 652):

...concentration is the dominant factor of meditative attainment.

The eight different substances of meditative attainment. Chim Jampalyang states (*Ornament of Abhidharma* [*Chimzö*] p. 650):

There are eight types of substance (*dravya*) of the actual bases (*maula*) of meditative attainment (*samāpatti*): (1–4) the four absorptions not including their branches, and (5–8) the four formless states.

The eight access states. Chim Jampalyang states (Ornament of Abhidharma [Chimzö] p. 668):

द्वास्याम्ब्र द्वास्याम्बर्धः स्वर्धः स्वरं स्

Question: How many access states are there?

Reply: {Since there are eight} actual bases of meditative attainment, there are also eight access states ( $s\bar{a}mantaka$ ) that prepare to enter the actual bases. And since all are free from or lack affliction, yet paths concomitant with craving cannot abandon affliction, they are by nature not concomitant with enjoying its taste ( $\bar{a}sv\bar{a}da$ ), but are solely pure ( $\dot{s}uddha$ ) because they are paths that give rise to freedom from attachment.

Regarding unrestricted access, Chim Jampalyang states (*Ornament of Abhidharma [Chimzö*] p. 670):

यसने त्यानहेव वसन मुन्नेन प्रति स्त्री स्त्र स्त्री स्त्र स

From those eight access states, the first is unrestricted access to the first absorption that is not only pure but also an uncontaminated ārya path, because {it conquers the affliction of three levels—the same, lower, and higher grounds—due to its clarity} and those who have not obtained the actual basis of absorption generate the transcendent path in dependence on it.

There are three types of meditative attainment. Chim Jampalyang states (*Ornament of Abhidharma [Chimzö*] p. 650):

स्त्रीत्राच्यात्राची हो स्त्राची हो स् स्त्रीत्राच्याच्याची हो स्त्राची हो स

From among those eight, seven have three types each excluding the summit of existence: (1) that concomitant with enjoying its taste ( $\bar{a}sv\bar{a}da$ ), (2) that which is pure, or (3) that which is uncontaminated ( $an\bar{a}srava$ ). The eighth, the summit of existence, has two types: (1) [that concomitant with] enjoying its taste and (2) pure. It is not uncontaminated since its discrimination is inferior, it lacks clarity due to movement, and therefore the  $\bar{a}rya$  path does not depend on it.

Regarding the fourth absorption, Chim Jampalyang states (*Ornament of Abhidharma* [*Chimzö*] p. 524):

ॐव्राचार्चनाः क्रियान्य अः त्राच्यान्य अः त्राच्यान्य अः त्राच्यान्य अः त्राच्यान्य अः त्राच्यान्य अः त्राच्या अः त्राच्या व्याच्या अः त्राच्या अः त्राच अः त्राच्या अ

[Vaibhāṣikas assert]...buddha masters and rhinoceros-like (*khaḍga*) solitary buddhas generate all paths from the precursor of penetrative discernment (*nirvedhabhāgīya*) or [the meditation on] ugliness up to the enlightenment (*bodhi*) consisting of the elimination and nonarising of the afflictions, in one session in dependence on the upper limit of the fourth absorption (*dhyāne'ntye*).

Two types of meditative attainment are included in the fourteen nonassociated formations. Chim Jampalyang states (*Ornament of Abhidharma* [*Chimzö*] p. 133):

यश्चर्यात्वे क्ष्यां विद्यात्वे त्रिक्षा विद्यात्वे क्ष्यात्व विद्यात्व विद्यात्य विद्यात्व विद्यात्व विद्यात्व विद्यात्व विद्यात्व विद्यात्व विद

Formations not associated (*viprayuktāsaṃskāra*) with mind have fourteen types: (1) obtainment (*prāpti*); (2) nonobtainment (*aprāptī*); (3) homogeneity (*sabhāga*); (4) nondiscriminator (*āsaṃjñika*); the two types of meditative attainment (*samāpatti*)—(5) meditative attainment of nondiscrimination and (6) meditative attainment of cessation; (7) the faculty of lifeforce (*jīvita*); (8–11) the four characteristics (*lakśaṇa*) of conditioned states such as arising and so on; and (12) the collection of names (*nāmakāya*). The term "and so on" refers to (13) the collection of words, and (14) the collection of letters.

Regarding the meditative attainment of nondiscrimination, Chim Jampalyang states (*Ornament of Abhidharma* [*Chimzö*] p. 146):

য়्वान्त्र्वान्त्र्वा विषय्वान्त्र्वा विषय्वान्त्र्वा विषय्वान्त्र्वा विषय्वान्त्र्वा विषय्वान्त्र्वा विषय्वान्त्र्वा विषयः वि

Also the meditative attainment [of nondiscrimination (asamjñisamāpatti)] belongs to the ground of the fourth and last absorption (dhyāna). Its motivating thought is to enter meditative attainment through the desire (iṣya) for liberation that definitely transcends (niḥṣṛta) the suffering {of saṃsāra by discriminating meditative attainment to be the path, and the nondiscriminator to [possess] the state of liberation}. Therefore, it is virtuous (śubha) by motivation, {and that virtue is subsumed by the absorptions}. Moreover, it is virtue experienced from birth (upapadya) because its karmic maturation is the establishment of the five aggregates of a sentient being who is a nondiscriminator, {since it exists for the minds of birth and death}.

Asanga states (Compendium of Abhidharma, p. 52a7):

यद्न्यायाः बेशायद्व्याः यद्व्याः यद्व्याः यद्व्याः यद्व्याः यद्व्याः यद्व्याः यद्व्याः यद्व्याः यद्व्याः यद्व्य यद्व्याः यद्व्याः यद्व्याः यद्व्याः यद्व्याः यद्व्यः यद्वयः यद्वयः यद्व्यः यद्वयः यद्वयः

What is the meditative attainment of nondiscrimination (asamjñisamāpatti)? The cessation of unstable minds and mental factors due to attention preceded by discrimination that is free from attachment (vītarāga) to the heaven of Śubhakṛtsna (Extensive Bliss) but not free from attachment to higher levels, is designated as the meditative attainment of nondiscrimination.

Regarding the meditative attainment of cessation, Chim Jampalyang states (*Ornament of Abhidharma* [*Chimzö*] p. 147):

वर्षान्। नार्षः श्रूष्ठ्रस्य प्रस्ति व्यान् । वेश्व स्वर्षान् । वेश्व स्वर्षान् । वेश्व स्वर्षान् । वेश्व स्वर स्वर्षान् । विवर्षः विवर्षः विवर्षः । वेश्व स्वर्षान् । वेश स्वर्षान् । वेश स्वर्षः विवर्षः स्वर्षः । विवर्षः स्वर्षः विवर्षः । विवर्षः स्वर्षः । विवर्षः स्वरं । विवरं ।

## यदे हे से र क्रे भारा के पर ले शासे द पर के शासे द से त क्रे अप से द से त क्रे अप से द से त के त

That which is called "meditative attainment of cessation" (*nirodhasamāpatti*) is also the same as the former meditative attainment of nondiscrimination in which mind and mental factors cease. Those with special mental attention and so on enter this meditative attainment when mental attention first engages meditative attainment to abide (*vihāra*) {in peace, through reflecting that peace is} the pacification of discrimination and feeling. They do not enter it due to renunciation. They are born on the ground of the summit of existence (*bhavāgra*), supported by the base of neither discrimination nor nondiscrimination, because it is easier to stop concomitant states at the conclusion of subtle minds...

Asanga states (Compendium of Abhidharma, p. 52a7):

यात्रात्वे वात्यते र्श्वे स्वस्तान्य वात्त्वे स्वात्त्वे स्वात्त्र स्वत्ते स्वत्ते स्वत्ते स्वत्ते स्वत्ते स्व प्रत्ये स्वत्ते स्वत् प्रत्ये स्वत्ते स्वत्त

What is the meditative attainment of cessation (*nirodhasamāpatti*)? The cessation of unstable—and even stable—minds and mental factors, due to attention preceded by discrimination of the abode of peace (*śāntavihāra*), that is free from attachment to the base of nothingness (*ākiñcanyātana*) but passes beyond the summit of existence (*bhavāgra*), is designated as the meditative attainment of cessation.

Feeling and discrimination as obstacles to peace. Chim Jampalyang states (*Ornament of Abhidharma* [*Chimzö*] p. 52):

Question: Why, from among the other mental factors, are both feeling and discrimination explained as separate aggregates?

Reply: That is because feeling is the root of dispute (*vivāda*) for the laity because kings dispute with kings and so on over {water}, land, {pasture, daughters,} houses, jewels, and so on through excessive craving for desire objects due to the desire to experience the taste of that feeling. Discrimination is the root of dispute for ordainees because discrimination becomes distorted through excessive attachment to [philosophic] view. Therefore śramaṇas dispute with other śramaṇas through holding to the valid or invalid marks of the tenets of themselves and others.