

The Stages of Guiding Students

4. The stages by which a student should be guided through the actual instructions (Chapters 4-27)

1) Relying on a Spiritual Teacher, the Root of the Path (Chapters 4-5)

a. The somewhat elaborate explanation for generating certainty

b. Condensed presentation of how to practice

2) The stages of training the mind once you have relied on a teacher (Chapters 6-5)

a. Elaborate Explanation

1. Characteristics of the one to be relied on, the virtuous friend
2. Characteristics of the one who relies, the student
3. The way to rely
4. The benefits of reliance
5. The faults of improper reliance
6. A summary of the meaning of these points

1. Characteristics of a Teacher

1. Disciplined—higher training in ethics*
2. Calm—higher training in concentration*
3. Complete peace—higher training in wisdom*
4. Superior qualities
5. Diligent
6. Rich in scriptures
7. Understands suchness*
8. Eloquent
9. Loving*
10. Never disheartened

* The five most important qualities

At least find a teacher who has 1) more good qualities than faults, 2) more concern for others than for him/herself, and 3) more concern for future lives than this life.

2. Characteristics of a Student

From Aryadeva:

1. Impartial
2. Intelligent
3. Interested

From Chandrakirti:

4. Respect for the Dharma and its teacher
5. An attentive mind