**THE LINKING VERB** ་ོན

The linking verb links the Subject of a sentence with a Predicate Noun or a Predicate Adjective, expressing identity or equivalence. Common linking verbs are often forms of the verb "to be" such as "am," "are," "is," "was," and "were," or verbs such as "seem," "become," "appear," and so on.

In classical literary Tibetan, the linking verb ་ོན is used with all three Persons, both singular and plural (I/we, you, he/she/it/they). The following diagram shows the usual word order in sentences using the linking verb ་ོན to express identity or equivalence.

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| SUBJECT | + | PREDICATE NOUN or PREDICATE ADJECTIVE | + | LINKING VERB ་ོན |
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**EXAMPLE:** ཐེག་པ་ཁྱེས།  [I am Tibetan.]

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| ཐེག་ | བོན་པ་ | ༉། |
| 1st PERSON PRONOUN | PREDICATE NOUN | LINKING VERB ་ོན |

Subject  ཐེག་ བོན་པ་ AM
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**EXAMPLE:** ཀྲང་མོ་ཉིན།  [The Dharma is sublime.]

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| དོན་ | སྐད་པ་ | ༉། |
| NOUN | PREDICATE ADJECTIVE | LINKING VERB ་ོན |

(THE) DHARMA  སྐད་པ་ IS
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Subject  དོན་ སྐད་པ་.Predicate