

The Six General Topics of Unsurpassable Enlightenment

and

Succinct Definitions of the Six General Topics

selected verses from *The Jewel Ornament of Liberation*
by Gampopa (1079-1153)



Tibetan Language
Institute

The Six General Topics of Unsurpassable Enlightenment

TLI Line 2.12.2 (John Rockwell Line 35) ¹

སྒྲུབ་	ནི།
noun	Topic Particle [D.T. 55]
<i>summary</i>	:

TLI Line 2.13.1 (JR Line 36a)

ལྟུ་	དང་	རྟེན་	དང་	ཁྱེན་	དང་	ནི།
noun	<i>Dang</i> Particle [D.T. 56-57]	noun	<i>Dang</i> Particle [D.T. 56-57]	noun	<i>Dang</i> Particle [D.T. 56-57]	Topic Particle [D.T. 55]
<i>motive; cause; primary cause</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>basis; support</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>condition; minor/secondary/ contributory cause</i>	<i>and</i>	[verse filler]

2.14.1 (JR Line 36b)

ཐབས་	དང་	འབྲས་བྱ་	འཕྱིན་ལས་	ཏི།
noun	<i>Dang</i> Particle [D.T. 56-57]	noun	noun	Continuation Particle [D.T. 38-41]
<i>method; means; skillful/expedient means</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>fruit; result; effect</i>	<i>activity; buddha/enlightened /exalted activity</i>	—

¹ Text available in TLI's *Jewel Ornament of Liberation by Gampopa Introduction Translation Workbook*, p. 4 & pp. 7-9 (Lines 2.12.2-2.17.1), and John Rockwell's *A Primer for Classical Literary Tibetan: Vol 2*, pp. 9-10 (Lines 35-37).

སྒྲུ་ བློ་

ཀྱུ་ དང་ ཉེན་ དང་ རྒྱུ་ དང་ བློ།

ཐབས་ དང་ འབྲས་ལུ་ འཕྲིན་ལས་ ཉེ།

Khenchen Konchog Gyaltsen translation²

The summary:

The primary cause, working basis, contributory cause,
Method, result, and activities –

² Ani K. Trinlay Chödrön, ed., *The Jewel Ornament of Liberation: The Wish-Fulfilling Gem of the Noble Teachings* (Ithaca, NY: Snow Lion Publications, 1998), p. 46.

2.15.1 (JR Line 37a)

ལྷ་མེད་	བྱང་ཆུབ་	ཕྱི་	སྡེ་མ་	དྲུག་།
adjective	noun	adjective	noun	number
<i>unsurpassable</i>	<i>enlightenment</i>	<i>general</i>	<i>topic; index; summary</i>	<i>six</i>

2.16.1 (JR Line 37b)

མྱོ་	ཕྱན་	རྣམས་	ཀྱིས་	ཞེས་པར་བྱ།
noun	verb ³	pluralizing particle	Instrumental Particle [D.T. 27-33]	3-part verb: 1) main verb ⁴ ; 2) <i>La Dön</i> Particle [D.T. 20-26]; 3) auxiliary verb ⁵
<i>mind; intellect</i>	<i>to have; to possess; be endowed with</i>	<i>those, the ones</i>	[marks the subject of the following main verb]	<i>to know + [connects main verb to auxiliary verb] + ought; should</i>

2.17.1 (JR Line 37c)

ཞེས་པ་	སྟེ།
Close Quote Particle	Continuation Particle [D.T. 38-41]
<i>thus</i>	“;”

³ pr./past/ft./im. Class IV, 1-form: *to have; to possess; to be endowed with; to be associated with*

⁴ pr./past/ft./im. Class V, 1-form v.t.: *to know; to understand; to be conscious of; to be aware of*

⁵ ft. < ཅིན། Class V, 4-form v.t.: 1) *to do; to make; to create; to act; to perform*; 2) strong aux. vb. showing tense and mood of main verb, or functioning as a causative verb

ལྷ་མེད་ བྱང་ཆུབ་ སྤྱི་ རྩོམ་ རུག།

སྡོ་ ལྷན་ རྣམས་ ཀྱིས་ ཞེས་པར་བྱ།

ཞེས་པ་ སྟེ།

Khenchen Konchog Gyaltsen translation

All discriminating beings should understand that
These six comprise the general explanation of unsurpassable enlightenment.

Succinct Definitions of the Six General Topics

TLI Lines 3.1.1-3.5.2

JR Vol 2: pages 11 and 12, Lines 41-44

3.1.1 (JR Line 41)

དེ་	དག་	ཇིས་པར་	བསྟན་པ་	ནི།
Demonstrative Pronoun [D.T. 58-60]	pluralizing particle	noun + <i>La Dön</i> Particle [D.T. 20-26]	verb ⁶	Topic Particle [D.T. 55]
<i>that; the aforementioned</i>	----	<i>stage + in</i> = <i>in stages</i>	<i>(I) will teach</i>	[verse filler]

3.1.2-3.2.1 (JR Line 42a)

ཐུ་	ནི་	བདེ་གཤེགས་	སྙིང་པོ་	སྟེ།
noun	Topic Particle [D.T. 55]	noun + verb ⁷ = abbreviation of བདེ་བར་གཤེགས་པ་	noun	Continuation Particle [D.T. 38-41]
<i>motive; cause; primary cause</i>	[makes the preceding word the subject]	<i>bliss + (hon.) gone</i> = <i>one gone to bliss</i>	<i>heart; essence</i>	<i>and</i>

3.2.2 (JR Line 42b)

རྟེན་	ནི་	མི་	ལུས་	རིན་ཆེན་	མཆོག་།
noun	Topic Particle [D.T. 55]	adjective	noun	adjective	adjective
<i>basis; support</i>	[makes the preceding word the subject]	<i>human</i>	<i>body</i>	<i>precious</i>	<i>sublime; supreme</i>

⁶ past/ft. < རྟོན། Class V, 2-form v.t.: *to show; to teach; to demonstrate*

⁷ pr./past/ft. Class III, 2-form v.i.: 1) Hon.: *to go; to travel; to depart; to come (back); to return; to die*; 2) im. form, འོག།, is an auxiliary verb indicating the imperative mood

དེ་དག་རིམ་པར་བསྟན་པ་ནི།

ཐུ་ནི་བདེ་གཤེགས་སྤྱིང་པོ་སྟེ།

ཏེན་ནི་མི་ལུས་རིན་ཆེན་མཆོག།

Khenchen Konchog Gyaltsen translation

To explain them in order:

The primary cause is the Essence of the Well-gone One.

As a working basis, the precious human life is excellent.

3.2.3-3.3.1 (JR Line 43a)

ཀྱིན་	ནི་	དགེ་བའི་	བཤེས་	གཉེན་	ཡིན།།
noun	Topic Particle [D.T. 55]	noun + Genitive Particle [D.T. 27-33]	noun	noun	verb ⁸
<i>condition; minor/ secondary/ contributory cause</i>	[makes the preceding word the subject]	<i>virtue + -ous</i>	<i>friend; relation</i>	<i>relative; friend</i>	<i>is</i>
		<i>spiritual friend, Skt. kalyāṇa-mitra</i>			

3.3.2 (JR Line 43b)

ཐབས་	ནི་	དེ་	ཡི་	གདམས་ངག་	སྟེ།།
noun	Topic Particle [D.T. 55]	Demonstrative Pronoun [D.T. 58-60]	Genitive Particle [D.T. 27-33]	noun	Continuation Particle [D.T. 38-41]
<i>method; skillful/ expedient means, Skt. upāya</i>	[makes the preceding word the subject]	<i>that (spiritual friend)</i>	<i>of</i>	<i>oral instruction</i>	<i>and</i>

3.4.1 (JR Line 44a)

འབྲས་བུ་	རྫོགས་	སངས་རྒྱས་	ཀྱི་	སྐུ།།
noun	adjective	noun	Genitive Particle [D.T. 27-33]	noun
<i>fruit</i>	<i>perfect</i>	<i>Buddha</i>	<i>of</i>	(hon.) <i>body,</i> Skt. <i>kāya</i>

⁸ pr./past/ft. Class I, 1-form: *to be; am; is; are* (etc.)

རྒྱུན་ རི་ དགོ་བའི་ བཤེས་ གཉེན་ ཡིན།།

ཐབས་ རི་ དེ་ ཡི་ གདམས་ངག་ ལྟེ།།

འབྲས་བུ་ རྫོགས་ སངས་རྒྱས་ གྱི་ ལྷ།།

Khenchen Konchog Gyaltsen translation

The contributory cause is the spiritual master.
The method is the spiritual master's instruction.
The result is the body of perfect Buddhahood.

3.4.2-3.5.1 (JR Line 44b)

འཕྲིན་ལས་	རྟག་	མེད་	འགྲོ་	དོན་	མཇེད།།
noun	noun ⁹	verb ¹⁰	noun	noun	verb ¹¹
activity; buddha/enlightened activity	conceptualization	to not have; to lack	beings	benefit	(hon.) to do; to make; to act
	without conceptualization				

3.5.2 (JR Line 44c)

ཅེས་པ་	རྣམས་	ཡིན་	ནོ།།
Close Quote Particle [a subset of 15 Dependent Particles, D.T. 76-84]	pluralizing particle	verb ¹²	Terminating Particle [D.T. 15-19]
<i>thus</i>	[here indicates end of list]	<i>is, are</i>	“.”

⁹ pr. Class V, 4-form v.t.: *to think about; to conceptualize; to consider; to reflect on; to examine*

¹⁰ pr./past/ft. Class VIII, 1-form: *to lack; to not have* (neg. of ཡོད།)

¹¹ pr./past/ft./im. Class V, 1-form v.t.: Hon. of རྟོག་: *to do; to make; to act; to compose (a text); to use*

¹² pr./past/ft. Class I, 1-form: *to be; am; is; are* (etc.)

འཕྲིན་ལས་ ཏྲག་ མེད་ འགྲོ་ དོན་ མཛད།།

ཅེས་པ་ རྣམས་ ཡིན་ རོ།།

Khenchen Konchog Gyaltsen translation

The activities are benefiting sentient beings without conceptual thought.

[These six topics form the body of this text. Now, the limbs will be explained in detail.]



Please do not reproduce TLI's study materials in print or in electronic form (on the internet). TLI supports itself through the sale of its study materials. *Thank you!*