

Synonyms

Truly existent = Truly established

Conventionality = conventional

Fabrication = elaboration, conceptualisation, & mental construct

Subject = object-possessor, apprehender

Object = apprehended

Outline:

The second, the meditation on ultimate bodhicitta has two subdivisions:

First: The meditation that is a meditative equipoise free from fabrications.

Second: The abandonment of clinging to the objects of attachment and aversion as being truly existent, in subsequent attainment.

Whatever appears is your own mind.

Your mind from the start was free from fabricated extremes.

Understanding this, do not take to mind

(Inherent) signs of subject and object -

This is the practice of bodhisattvas.

Whatever external and internal phenomena, form and so forth, appear, are not even slightly truly established in reality.

For example, the appearances in dreams and illusory emanations, while being non-existent amount to being nothing more than illusory perceptions of one's mind.



Since beginningless time appearances of true existence, conventional non-existence, the extreme of permanence, the extreme of nihilism, and so forth, to the mind of a scholar, have been free from all mind-made fabrications.



Aryadeva said,

“1) All phenomena are not truly existent / truly established.

2) All phenomena are not non-existent conventionally / as conventions.

3) All phenomena are neither existents which are truly established nor non-existent conventionally / as conventions.

4) All phenomena are neither truly non-existent nor non-existent conventionally / as conventions.

Those skilled in the (view) of emptiness of the Middle Way, are free from the four extremes.”

From Nagarjuna's "Fundamental Treatise on the Middle Way",

"So-called 'inherent existence' is the view of eternalism.

So-called 'non-existent conventionally' is the view of nihilism.

Because of that, scholars don't abide in the views of eternalism or nihilism."



Thus, having correctly understood emptiness, the mode of abiding of all phenomena, one meditates on emptiness free from fabrications with a complete absence of mental fabrication of signs/ characteristics of existence or non-existence, and so forth, of a conception thinking about the true existence of the external apprehended object and the inner apprehending mind.

From the Collection,

“Know thoroughly that the manner of emptiness
of all phenomena is unborn.

This is the meditation on the supreme perfection of wisdom.”



Atisha said,

“The consciousnesses knowing that final reality is free from fabrications is also posited as being free from fabrications.”



Although an inner awareness apprehends the external apprehended object, no nature at all is established.

Similarly, not being able to apprehend any functioning or non-functioning thing at all, leave the mind in the realisation that final reality is free from fabrications.

That is the practice of bodhisattvas in meditative equipoise.

