

~ *Development Stage* ~

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Hello, how are you? Now I would like to teach you about the introduction to the practice of Vajrayana. There are three practices, three paths. This is the main practice of the Vajrayana.

Now, the first one is what we call “development stage,” the second one is called “completion stage,” and the third one is called “the path of liberation.”

First, I would like to introduce a little bit about the first one, the development stage. The development stage is working with images. We call this “taking imagination as the path.” Without imagination you cannot make plans for the future.

This is why in Vajrayana we use imagination as a path to see our true nature, to develop our wisdom, purify our obscurations, negativity, ignorance, kleshas, ego, suffering, pain, and so on. You can use this imagination to see your true nature, and purify all the suffering, negativity, illusion, delusion, and so on. Actually, imagination is a kind of concept, but you are using concept to go beyond concepts.

The main practices in the development stage are three. The first is clear appearance, the form and color of the deity or buddha. You imagine yourself having the clear form and color of the deity. The second is the symbolic meaning: why does this deity appear like this? What is the meaning behind it? All of these symbols show enlightened meaning, enlightened qualities. All of these enlightened qualities manifest through the symbolic meaning. That's the second one. And the third one is pure pride or vajra pride, the feeling of enlightenment. You feel the presence of enlightenment. That's finished.

Good luck with your practice!

Thank you!