

7. Presentation of Grounds & Paths

2 parts:

a. objects of abandonment

- 1) **Afflicted obscurations**: the conception grasping a self-supporting, substantially existent self, three poisons & their seeds that arise from that conc.
- 2) **Non-afflicted obscurations**: **latencies** of that conception and **negative tendencies**

b. actual presentation of grounds and paths

The Five Paths

Path	Entry Point
Path of Accumulation (3 levels: small, middle, great)	Hinayana: uncontrived renunciation Mahayana: uncontrived bodhicitta
Path of Preparation (4 levels: heat, peak, forbearance, supreme mundane quality)	Union of calm abiding and special insight observing selflessness
Path of Seeing	Direct realization of selflessness; one becomes an arya
Path of Meditation	Continuing to meditate on selflessness, innate afflictive obscurations gradually eliminated
Path of No More Learning	enlightenment (Hinayana/Mahayana)

Method & wisdom in the three vehicles

- **Hearers** accumulate a small collection of merit, practice for at least 3 lifetimes, and attain small enlightenment.
- **Solitary Realizers** accumulate a middling collection of merit, practice for at least 100 eons, and attain middling enlightenment.
- **Bodhisattvas** accumulate a great collection of merit, practice for at least 3 countless great eons, and attain great enlightenment.
- All three meditate on subtle selflessness of persons.

Assertions about bodhisattvas & buddhas

- Bodhisattvas collect merit for 3 countless great aeons up to the great stage of the path of accumulation, then attain the remaining 4 paths on one seat.
- A buddha's form aggregate is not a buddha, but an object to be abandoned, a true suffering.
- There's no enjoyment body (sambhogakaya).
- When the supreme emanation body attains nirvana without remainder, the mental continuum ceases.

Assertions about arhats

- Two types of arhats/foe-destroyers:
 - With remainder (still have aggregates)
 - Without remainder (no more aggregates)
- The **non-afflicted obscurations** become nonexistent when they attain nirvana without remainder.
- Therefore, there are three final vehicles.
- Some arhats can regress.