

The Five Paths and the Ten Grounds

There are five paths of/to Enlightenment:

1.
The path of Accumulation (Tib.) Tsog-Lam, (Skt.) Sambhara Marga
The path revealing the realization of the true phenomena.
2.
The path of Preparation (Tib.) Jor-Lam, (Skt.) Prayoga Marga
The path revealing the realization of the true meaning of phenomena.
3.
The path of Seeing (Tib.) Thong-Lam (Skt.) Darshana Marga
The path revealing the realization of the truth directly.
4.
The path of Meditation (Tib.) Gom_Lam (Skt.) Bhavana Marga
The path revealing the realization of the aftermath.
5.
The path of no more Learning (Tib.) Mi-Lob- Lam (Skt.) Vimukti Marga
The path revealing the realization of the liberation state.

When a practitioner gathers the requisite accumulation of merit and awareness (puṇya-jñāna-saṃbhāra) reached the path of accumulation. During the path of preparation one develops skill in meditation and reached deeper understanding of the nature of truth. The path of seeing is an attainment of a direct insight into the true nature of phenomena or emptiness (Sūnyatā). The path of Meditation broadens one's experience of the truth and makes it a living experience. The path of 'no-more-learning' is reached when all defilement (kleśa-varana) and imprints of defilement (Jñeyā-varaṇa) are overcome. It is at this point one either achieve Enlightenment or Nirvana.

According to the Bodhisattva path, When a practitioner developed their Bodhicitta naturally and spontaneously they obtained the first Path. Many spiritual powers such as clairvoyance that enables the Bodhisattva to read other people's mind, to fly, to have multiple bodies, and so forth. Three Wisdom that arises from listening, contemplation and meditation on understanding the emptiness nature of all phenomenas developed with others skills.

During the path of preparation the Bodhisattva meditate further on true meaning of emptiness. The meaning becomes clearer and achieve the unity of Shamatha and Vipasana focused conceptually on the sixteen aspects of the four noble truths.

This path of preparation has four stages:

1. Heat (drod), with which they feel the warmth of the burning wisdom fire that directly perceiving emptiness nature. Here they spontaneously understand the truth while awake.
2. Peak (rtse-mo), with which they reached the top mountain of true existence and sees the emptiness nature with panoramic view. Here they spontaneously understand the truth even when dreaming,
3. Patience (bzod-pa), with which they have reached the calm state and they are free from fears of falling into the three lower realms.
4. Supreme Dharma (chos-mchog), with which they are in the state of dissolving their separation from the ultimate great truth.

Then the realization arises within the Bodhisattva that the observer mind itself, object true nature of emptiness and action that meditates emptiness are non-dual, one like water poured into water. This signifies the attainment of the path of seeing and they become Arya-Bodhisattva, a noble being. The Arya-Bodhisattva burn down all their Karma during this path. They still retains the imprints of old karma as well as some seeds of defilement, but no new karma is produced from this path.

There are ten ground Bhumis of Arya-Bodhisattva:

1.
The joyous (Tib.Rab-Tu-Gawa, Skt. Pramudita)
2.
The stainless (Tib. Dri-ma-pa Skt. Vimala)
3.
The light-maker (Tib.Woe-je-y-pa Skt.Prabhakari)
4.
The radiant (Tib. Woe-tro-wa, Skt. Arcishmati)
5.
The hard to purify (Tib. Junk-ka-wa Skt. Sudurjaya)
6.
The toward revealing (Tib. Ngon-du-gyur-pa Skt. Abhimukhi)
7.
The gone faraway (Tib. Ring-du-song-wa Skt. Durangama)
8.
The unshakable (Tib.Mi-yo-wa Skt. Acala)
9.
The Excellent Wisdom(Tib. Leg-pey-lo-dro, Skt. Sadhumati)
10.
The cloud of dharma (Tib. Cho-kyi-trin, Skt. Dharmamegha)

There are 22 level of Bodhicitta.

1. Earth like
2. Gold like
3. Moon like
4. Fire like
5. Treasure like
6. Jewel like
7. Ocean like
8. Diamond like
9. Mountain like
10. Medicine like
11. Friend like
12. Wish fulfilling Gems like
13. Sun like
14. Celestial Song like
15. King like
16. Treasury like
17. Highway like
18. Horse like
19. Clear Water like
20. Guitar like
21. River like
22. Cloud like