

Month 2 of the PARAMITA CHALLENGE – September 2021

Perfection of Morality, the Bodhisattva Precept of Non-Stealing,
and the second set of the Stages of Faith

Welcome to the Second Month of the Paramita Challenge!

波羅蜜多挑戰

Each month we will receive sets of topics for contemplation, one for each week of the month. The first set refers to the Perfections. Contemplate one topic each week during the month of September 2021. The second set refers to the 52 Stages of the Bodhisattva. Again, take one stage at a time and contemplate this stage for a week.

Keep a journal record of your insights. The journal can be in the form of prose narratives, poems, artwork, etc.

Begin with observing your intentions, opportunities, and actions to be moral and ethical. Also, arouse your faith in the Triple Gem. See where/when you are confident and where/when you have doubts.

SEE ATTACHED Commentary on the Second Precept from the Brahma's Net Sutra by Master Hui Seng

Six Perfections and their Subdivisions from the *Sutra on Understanding the Profound and Esoteric Doctrine* 解深密經 Jiě shēnmì jīng

2	Morality (Discipline) 持戒 chíjiè (Pāli. <i>sīla</i> ; Skt. <i>śīla</i>)	1) discipline to turn away from what is not good, 轉捨不善戒 zhuǎn shě bù shàn jiè
		2) discipline to turn toward what is good, 轉生善戒 zhuǎn shēng shàn jiè
		3) discipline to turn toward benefiting sentient beings 轉生饒益有情戒 zhuǎn shēng ráo yì yǒu qíng jiè

Chéng wéishí lùn 成唯識論

Doctrine of Mere-Consciousness

The ten excellent moral exercises are the ten Paramitas.

十勝行者, 即是十種波羅蜜多

2	Morality or observance of precepts 戒 jiè	Precepts are of three kinds 戒有三種: (1) Precepts governing personal conduct; (2) Precepts for the acquisition of good Dharma; and (3) Precepts for the bestowal of benefits and advantages on sentient beings 謂律儀戒、攝善法戒、饒益有情戒。
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Ten Stages of Faith 十信 shíxìn (stages 6-10)

6 9-5	The Stage of Pure Self-restraint	戒心 jièxīn	We maintain our faith in moral discipline and self-restraint to reduce suffering
7 9-12	The Stage of the Returning of Merit	廻向心 huíxiàng xīn	We have faith in how sharing merit is far better than accumulating merit for oneself
8 9-19	The Stage of Maintaining the Dharma within oneself	護法心 hùfǎ xīn	We cultivate faith in our intention and ability to protect the Dharma teachings from harm, loss, and corruption
9 9-26	The Stage of Detachment	捨心 shěxīn	We have faith that progress in training does not require austerities, but instead requires the practice of non-clinging
10 9-26	The Stage of Aspiration	願心 yuànxīn	We cultivate our faith in the strong aspiration to attain enlightenment

The Brahmā's Net Sutra

Brahmajāla-sūtra, 梵網經 Fànwǎng jīng

(Chinese translation attributed to Kumārajīva 鳩摩 in 406.

English translation by A. Charles Muller and Kenneth K. Tanaka.)

2	盜戒	dào jiè	Don't steal.
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2. Prohibition of Stealing Others' Property

My disciples, you should not yourself steal, incite others to steal, or steal through deception; if you engage in the causes of stealing, the conditions of stealing, the planning of stealing, the act of stealing, or stealing through magical spells, and so on, up to stealing the property of spiritual beings or the property of thieves—no matter what object is stolen, whether a single needle or blade of grass, or even if you have stolen by accident. A bodhisattva generates the buddha-nature mind of reverence and compassion, always assisting all people to bring about well-being and happiness. If instead you steal others' wealth and possessions, this is a *pārājika* offense for bodhisattvas.

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