

# New Afternoon Buddhist Philosophy Class

**Duration: 1 Year**

Tibetan language only (no translation will be provided)

**Time:** 17 March – 12 December 2025

**Class timing:** Monday to Friday 2 – 3 pm

**Teacher:** Geshe Lobsang Tsundue

**Topics:** Dharmakirti's *Commentary on Valid Cognition* (Skt. *Pramāṇavārttika*, Tib. ཚད་མ་རྣམ་འགྲེལ། ), Chapter 2, and Nagarjuna's *Fundamental Wisdom of the Middle Way* (Skt. *Mūlamadhyamakakārikā*, Tib. དབུ་མ་རྩ་བ་ཤེས་རབ། ), Chapters 18, 24 and 26.

**Term 1:** 17 March – 14 July 2025

Geshe Lobsang Tsundue will begin the year by teaching chapter two of Dharmakirti's *Commentary on Valid Cognition* (ཚད་མ་རྣམ་འགྲེལ།). The purpose of studying valid cognition ultimately is to gain an understanding of reality backed by flawless reasoning. Some of the important topics covered within chapter two of the text include using reason to establish the Buddha as an infallible guide, establishing the existence of the four *arya* truths and proving the existence of past and future lives.

**Term 2:** 01 August – 12 December 2025

After finishing teaching chapter two of *Commentary on Valid Cognition*, Geshe Tsundue will then introduce chapters 18, 24 & 26 of Nāgārjuna's *Fundamental Wisdom of the Middleway* (ཚད་མ་རྣམ་འགྲེལ།), likely the best-known work amongst his six logical works of the Mādhyamika which examines the ultimate nature of reality. Deeming these chapters of the text critical, His Holiness the Dalai Lama over the years has often centered his teaching of the *Fundamental Wisdom* exclusively on these three chapters. Using Buddhapālita's commentary, Geshe-la will elucidate on the theme of chapter 18 – an analysis of the “self” and “entities”, and then the themes of chapters 24 and 26 – an analysis of the four *arya* truths and analysis the twelvefold chain respectively.

## Admission requirements:

Admission is open to anyone – Tibetan and non-Tibetan alike – with proficiency in colloquial and written Tibetan. Prospective students should already have a foundation in Dharma terminology which includes some knowledge of the collected topics (བསྐྱུས་གྲུ།), the path of reasoning (རིགས་ལམ།) and Buddhist tenets (རྣམ་ཐུག།) in Tibetan. Reading knowledge of *ümed* scripts is also necessary for reading any notes Geshe-la may write on the white board during the class.

## Attendance Rule

A minimum of 75% attendance is required for students to be eligible to sit for the two end-of-term examinations.

## Certificate

A certificate will be awarded accordingly to students who successfully complete the full course of study. Any student who drops the course in the middle is not eligible for the course completion certificate.

## Required text books:

1. Gyaltsab Darma Rinchen's Commentary on Dharmakirti's *Commentary on Valid Cognition*, published by Varanasi Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, 2013.  
ཚད་མ་རྣམ་འགྲེལ་གྱི་ཚིག་ལེའུར་བྱས་པའི་རྣམ་བཤད་ཐར་ལམ་གྱི་ཚེ་མ་ལོག་པར་གསལ་བར་བྱེད་པ། (ལེའུ་དང་པོ་དང་གཉིས་པ།) མཛད་པ་པོ། ཟ་བ། དཔལ་ལྷན་ཚོས་གྲགས། འགྲེལ་པ། རྒྱལ་ཚབ་ཇེ། དཔར་བསྐྱོན་མཁན། ལྷ་ན་དབུས་བོད་གྱི་གཙུག་ལག་སློབ་ཁང་གི་དགེ་ལྷན་གྱི་ལས་ཁང་། གྱི་ལོ་༢༠༡༣
2. *Buddhapālita's Commentary on the Fundamental Wisdom of the Middle Way*, published by LTWA, 2012.  
དབུ་མ་རྩ་བའི་འགྲེལ་བ་བུལ་པ་ལེ་ཏ། མཛད་པ་པོ། སློབ་དཔོན་སངས་རྒྱས་བསྐྱེད་པ། དཔར་བསྐྱོན་མཁན། བོད་གྱི་དབེ་མཛད་ཁང་། གྱི་ལོ་༢༠༡༣

## Fees

<b>Registration:</b>	Rs. 100 (One time)
<b>Class Fee:</b>	Rs. 500 per month

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