

*Explaining
Ethics, Samadhi, Wisdom
according to the
Avatamsaka Sutra*



2017

Compassionate Service Society

Overview



The Buddha taught that *Ethics, Samadhi, and Wisdom* make up the basis of the path of liberation or the non-outflow path. Non-outflow means empty of suffering, attachment, constraints, and no longer being ignorant or creating karma.

Ethics, Samadhi, and Wisdom comprise the methodology to achieve non-outflow.

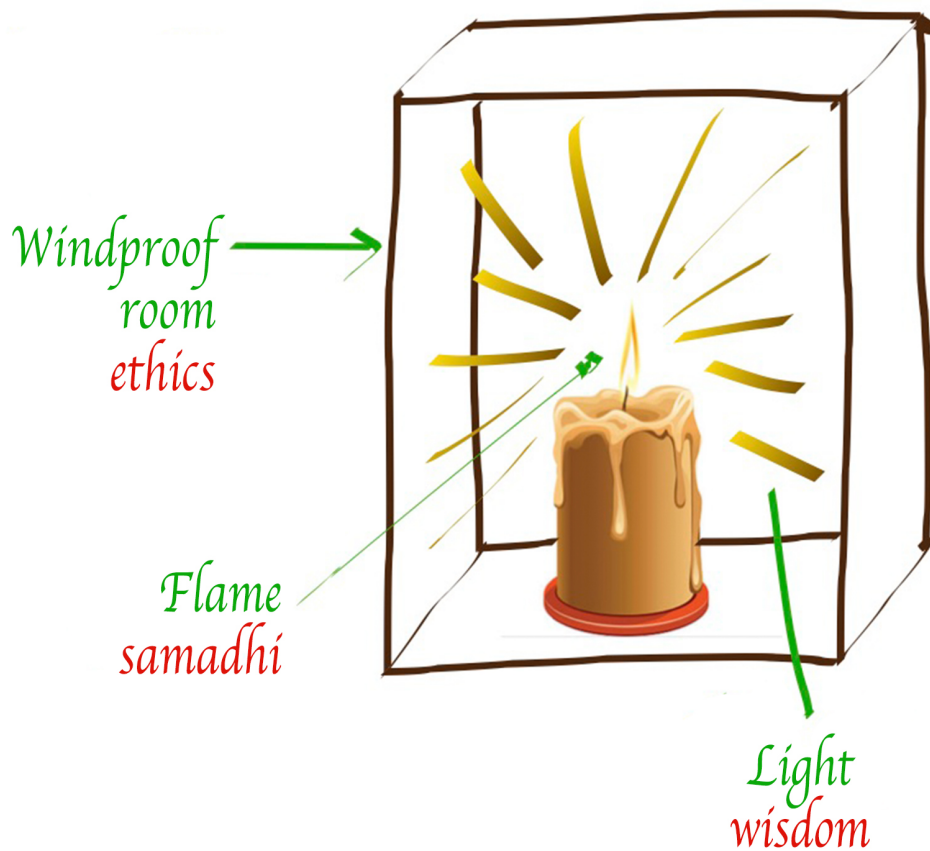
Each school of Buddhism has a distinctive method to cultivate ethics, samadhi, and wisdom according to the teaching of their sects.

The following is the way to cultivate ethics, samadhi, and wisdom according to the *Avatamsaka Sutra* – visualizing the seed of light to unfold the *non-dualistic True Mind*.

Overview

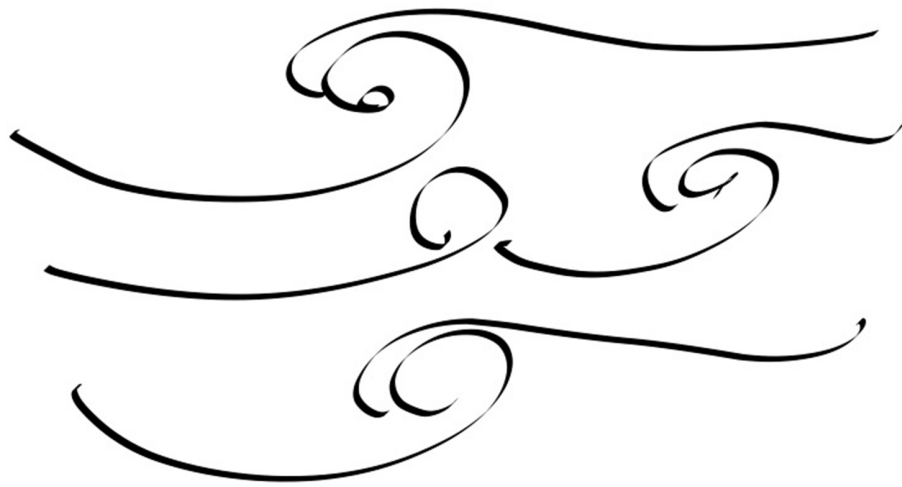


The Buddha compares *Ethics* to a windproof room, *samadhi* to a candle flame, and *wisdom* to a light of the flame that diffuses everywhere.



If the candle flame is not inside a windproof place, the wind will blow it out. We call that the *karmic wind*.

Karma



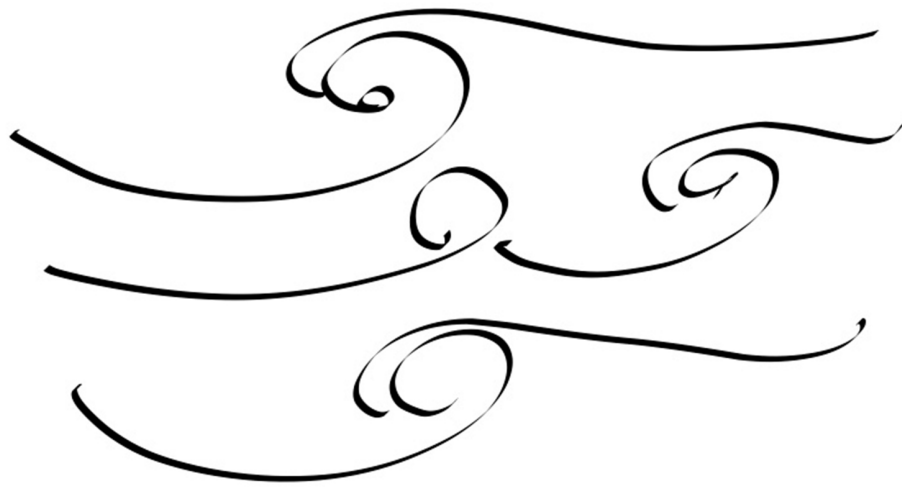
 Karmic wind



Karma is our actions, thoughts, speech, habits, concepts of right and wrong - all of life's experiences.

Karma is like the wind. It comes and goes, ever-changing according to the law of causality and causal condition.

Karma

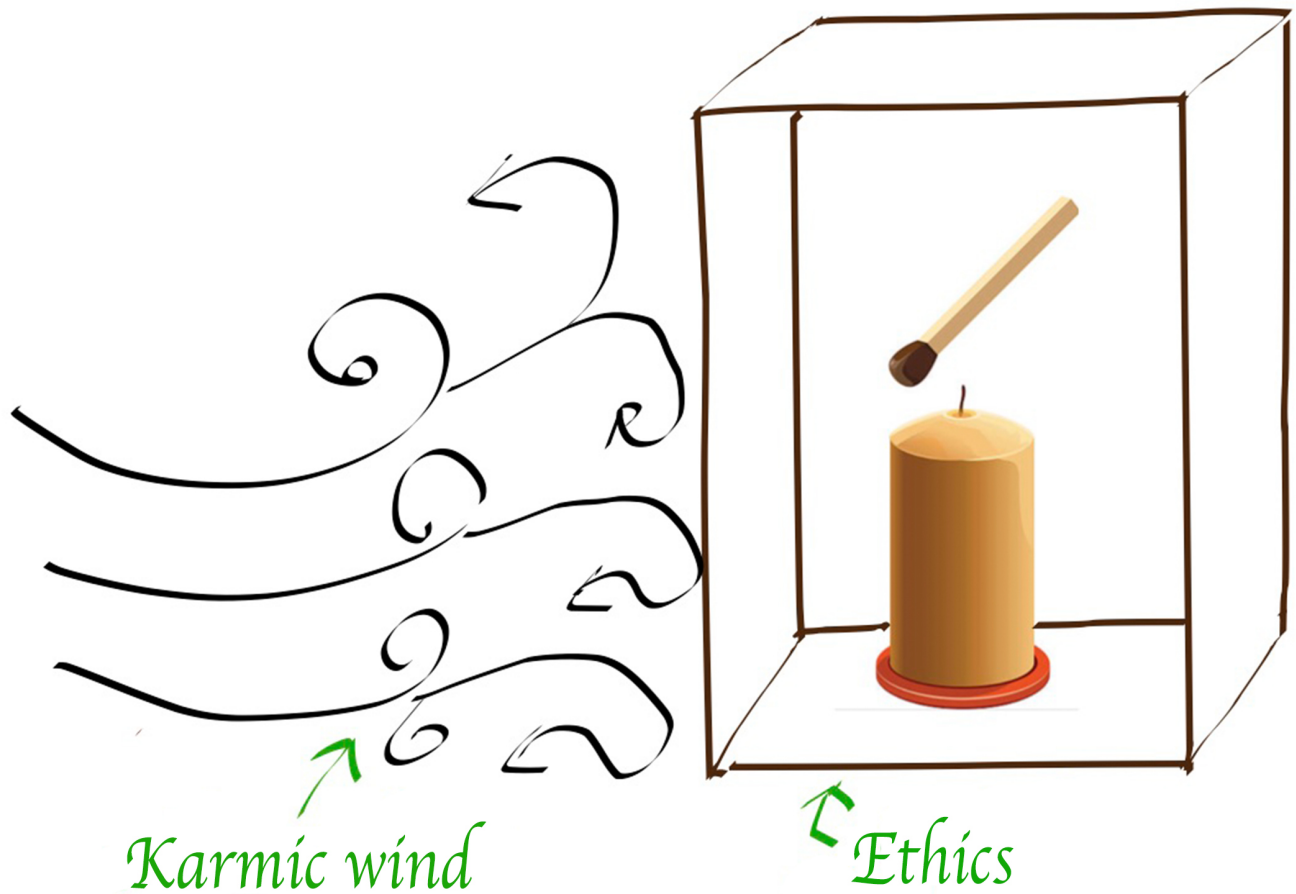


 Karmic wind



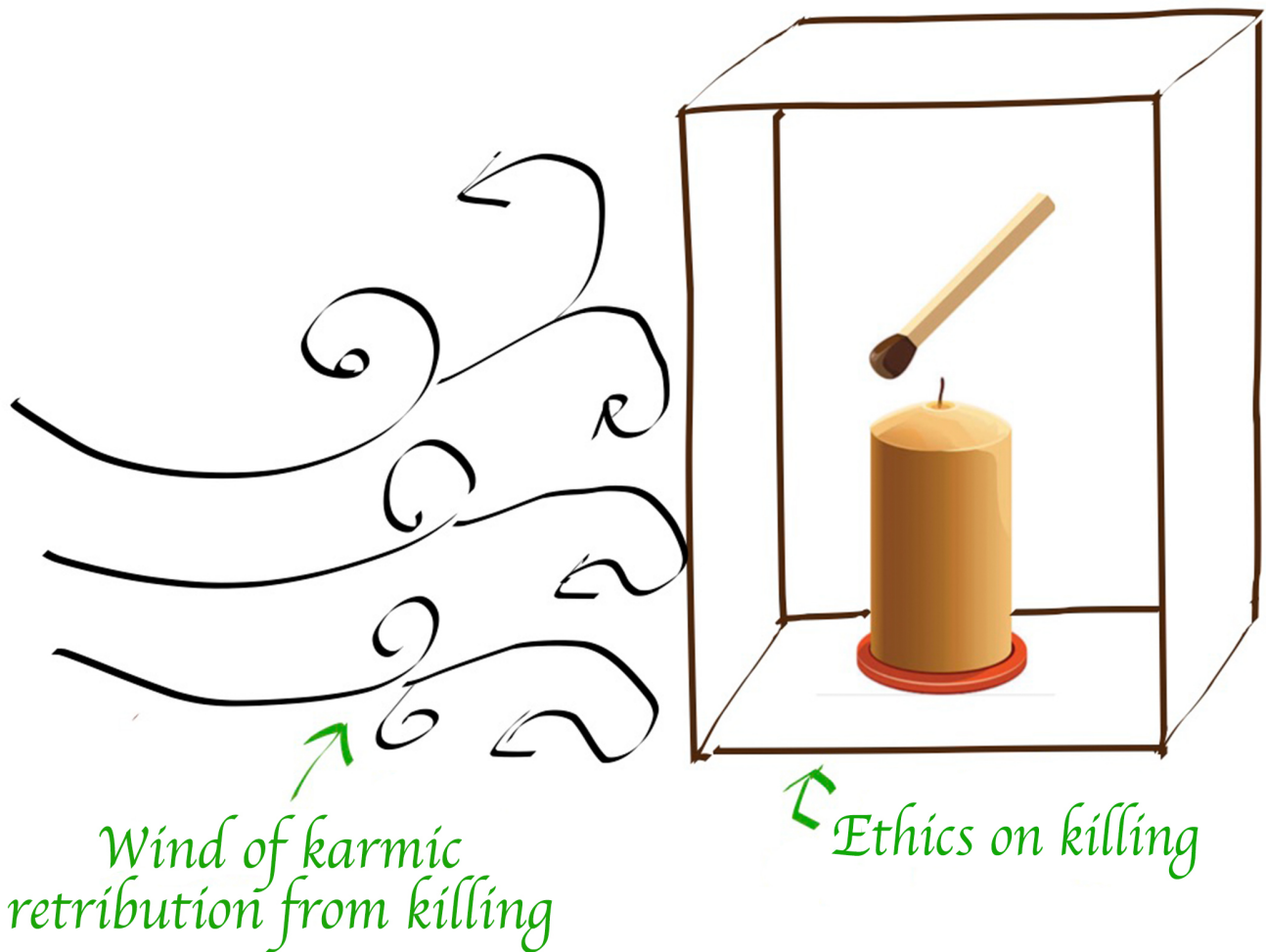
The karmic wind can blow out the candle, the samadhi flame (while we are practicing the Transcending Worldliness path).
Prejudices, bad habits, sulks, hatred, gossiping, envy, attachment, intolerance, etc. are what drive the karmic wind.

Ethics



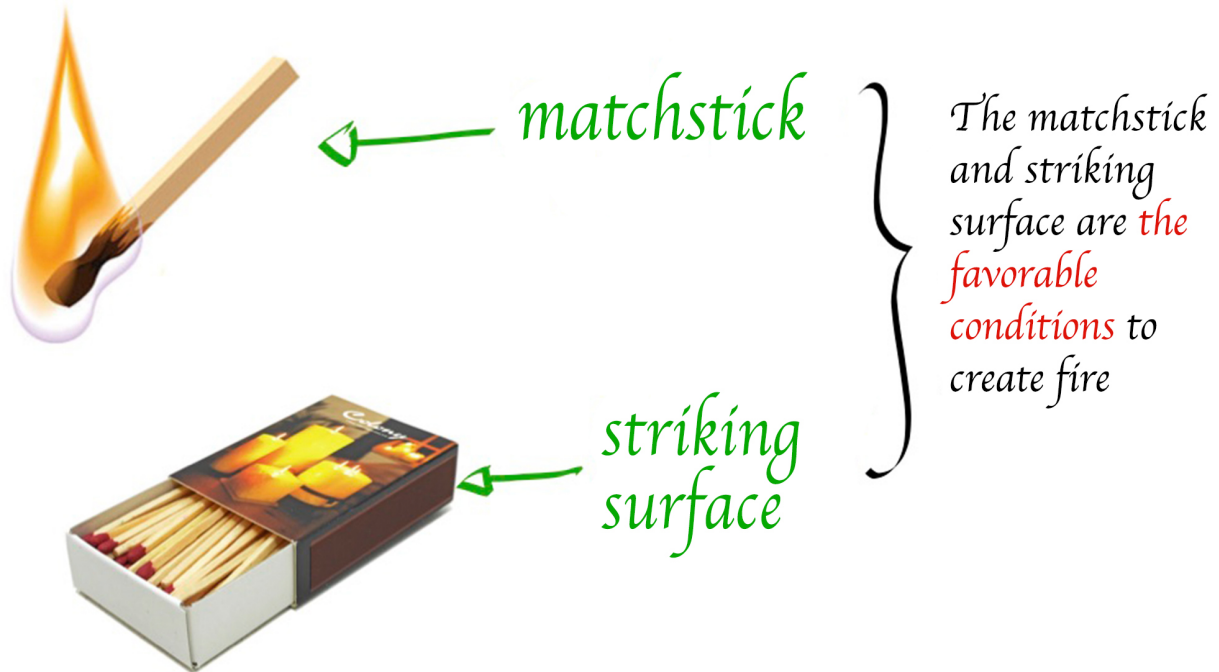
The Buddha said ethics is like a windproof room. It can keep the wind out and stop the karmic wind from blowing out the flame of samadhi and blessings which derives from merits.

Ethics



The wind of karmic retribution from killing or harming others brings illnesses and suffering to the body. Consequently, if the basis for ethics on killing is compassion and empathy then we would not want to harm or make others suffer. Compassion and empathy are the foundation of the precepts on killing.

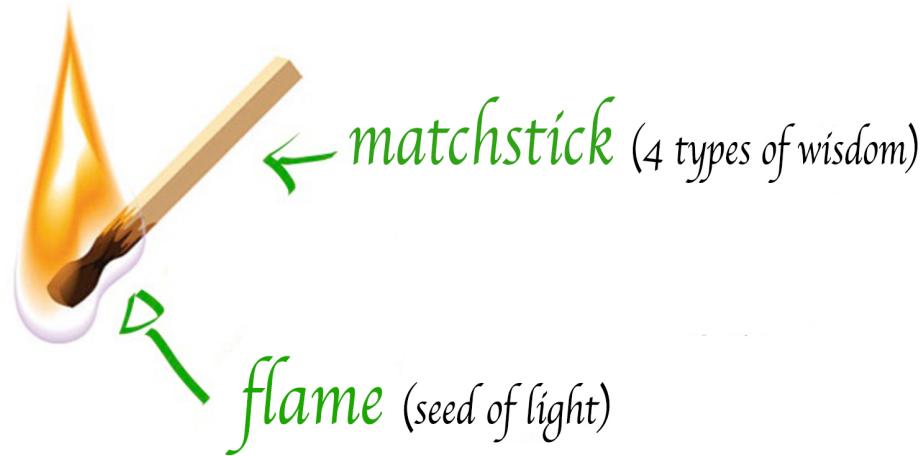
Favorable Conditions



After the candle is inside the windproof room, we need the match to ignite the fire for the candle wick to be lit up.

The windproof room can keep out the wind, but it cannot light the fire. Likewise, ethics can stop the karmic wind, but it cannot light up wisdom or samadhi. Conversely, without ethics, there is no samadhi.

Favorable Conditions

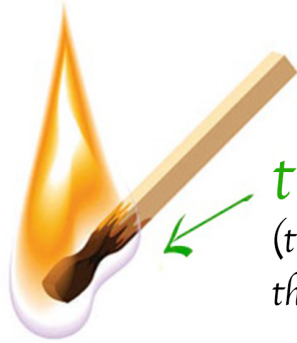


The matchstick represents the 4 features of the *non-dualistic True Mind*, which are also 4 types of wisdom of the Buddha:

1. Great Perfect Mirror Wisdom
2. Wonderful Contemplating and Investigating Wisdom
3. Impartial Wisdom of the Nature
4. Wisdom of Successful Performance

These four types of wisdom are hidden from life, but converge as the flame of the match. What does the flame represent? It represents the seed of light; a means into which the Buddhas pack their wisdom.

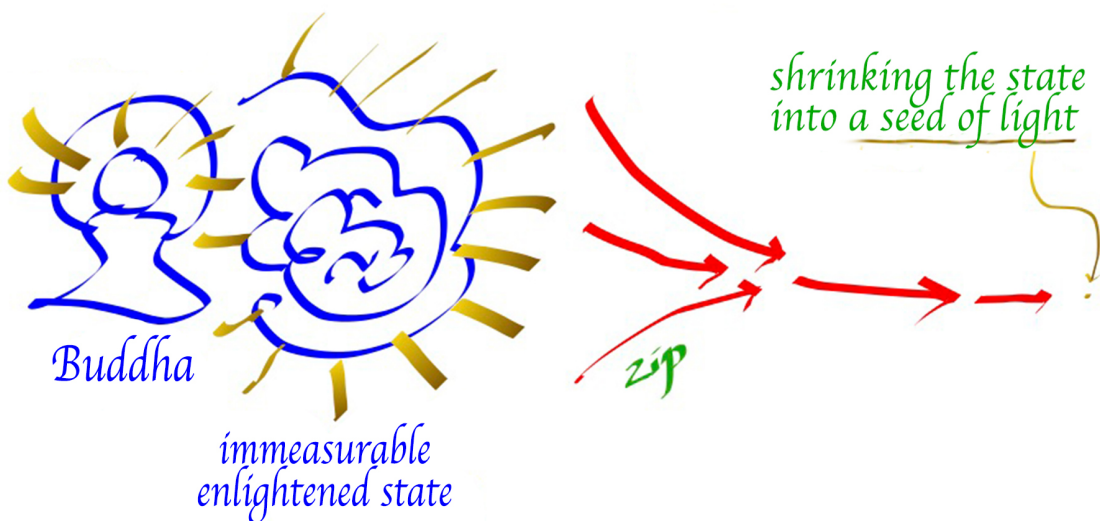
Favorable Conditions



the flame

(the seed of light - the seed that unfold
the *non-dualistic True Mind*)

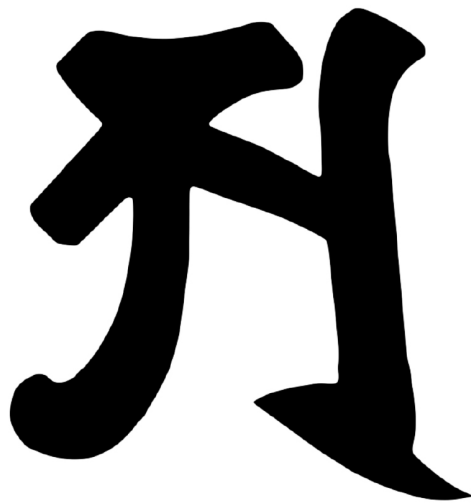
The Buddhas packed or *zipped* their wisdom, merit, and the four immeasurables: loving kindness, compassion, joy, and equanimity into the seeds of light. We need only to *unzip* them to have the same wisdom and merit as the Buddha!



Favorable Conditions



The seeds of light are the *seed syllables* which originate from the wisdom and samadhi of the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas. A seed has the potential to grow into a big tree, and likewise, the *seed syllables* have the power to grow into the bodhi tree of wisdom and great compassion.



For example, the seed syllable **A** means:

Relying on the power of the Bodhisattvas, we can enter various realms of the Dharmadattu

This meaning implies that if we recite and visualize this seed syllable, the power of the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas will help us to enter the Dharmadattu without obstruction.

Favorable Conditions



↳ the striking surface is
the catalyst for fire

The striking surface represents the deep faith; the absolute, indestructible faith in the Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, and the pure dharma of the sages. Hence, according to the *Avatamsaka Sutra*, the Dharma is limitless and profound like the deep ocean, and only with faith can we enter and comprehend it.

In the *Avatamsaka's* cultivation method, we must believe in the power and support of the Buddha and the seeds of light.

Samadhi



← other's power

If there is no fire on the matchstick, the candle wick cannot be lit. The fire on the matchstick is *other's power*, representing *the seed of light*.



← self's effort

The candle flame is burning by *self's effort*, representing the fire of *samadhi*.

Samadhi is the singleminded concentration on a meditation object. When the object is the *non-dualistic True Mind*, the singleminded focus becomes the unfolding of the *non-dualistic True Mind*.

According to the teaching of the *Avatamsaka Sutra*, the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas can support and help (other's power) ordinary people to open up the light of wisdom.

The flame on the matchstick, as a means to ignite the fire of samadhi, is the seed of light.

Samadhi



The matchstick represents the 4 types of wisdom of the *True Mind*

The fire on the matchstick represents the *seed of light*

The candle flame represents *samadhi*

The candle represents the material that nurture samadhi

The following four aspects are the materials that nurture samadhi when we sit in meditation:

1. Relaxed and still body
2. Subtle breath
3. Continuous flow of mantra
4. Singleminded focus on visualizing the seed of light

Samadhí



Summary: *The materials that nurture samadhí*

Earth nature

*Motionless
body*

Water nature

*Continuous
flow of mantra*

Wind nature

Subtle breath

Fire nature

*Singlemindedness
in visualization*

*nurturing
the seed of
light*



radiating the light

*accomplishing and becoming
the seed of light*

Wisdom



Definitions:

Samadhi is the unfolding of the True Mind, eradicating the darkness of ignorance and attachment to duality.

Definitions:

Non-dualistic wisdom is the transcending wisdom that radiates the light of *samadhi* throughout all realms, forever elevating and transcending consciousness.

Wisdom



The Prajna wisdom manifests in our daily life through three characteristics:

1. A consciousness that is ever *transcending* and elevating; hence, the mind remains unobstructed and unbounded.
2. A consciousness that is always *present and free*, unseeking but able to penetrate and comprehend all things.
3. A consciousness that is filled with unconditional love and generosity. A lively consciousness that generates *harmony* and forgiveness to nurture the Bodhi mind of all living beings.