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... Tattva Bodha ...

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AI Summary – Class 32

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Summary

The Five Principles of Consciousness

The Moonlight Analogy

Acharya Tadany began by revisiting the moonlight example from the previous class. He noted that it was pūrṇimā (full moon day), making it an ideal time to observe the phenomenon. The key insight is that while both wise and not-wise people experience the same moonlight, wise people understand that the light does not belong to the moon itself.

Fundamental Understanding: The moonlight we see is not part of the moon, not a product of the moon, and not a property of the moon. It is an independent principle coming from the sun.

The Five Fundamental Principles

Acharya Tadany outlined five crucial principles using the moonlight analogy, which are then applied to consciousness:

Principle 1: Not Part, Product, or Property

- **Moonlight:** The light on the moon is not a part of the moon, not a product of the moon, and not a property of the moon
- **Consciousness:** Consciousness is not a part of the body (like arms, legs, head), not a property of the body (like height, weight), and not a product of the body (like enzymes or other bodily productions)



Principle 2: Independent Principle That Pervades and Enlivens

- **Moonlight:** The light is an independent principle that pervades the moon and makes the moon bright, creating the appearance that the moon has its own light
- **Consciousness:** Consciousness is an independent, **non-material** principle that pervades the material body and enlivens the physical body.

Acharya Tadanu emphasized that consciousness being a **non-material principle** is extremely important to understand.

Principle 3: Not Limited by Boundaries

- **Moonlight:** The light is not limited by the boundaries of the moon; it is not confined or restricted to the moon. The same light that pervades and makes the moon bright extends beyond the boundaries of the moon
- **Consciousness:** The consciousness principle is not limited by the boundaries of the body and is not restricted to the boundaries of the body

Principle 4: Continues to Exist Beyond Dissolution

- **Moonlight:** If the moon disappears, comes into dissolution, or is destroyed, the light will survive and continue to exist because it is an independent principle. The dissolution or disappearance of the moon doesn't impact this independent principle
- **Consciousness:** Consciousness will continue to exist even when the borrowing material body and mind perish. It survives beyond the death of the physical form

Principle 5: Unrecognizable Without Medium

- **Moonlight:** When the moon is no longer available, even though the independent light principle continues to exist, it will not be recognizable because the reflecting medium (the moon) is no longer available for perception. The light exists in an unmanifest form but is not absent
- **Consciousness:** When the body is no longer available, the consciousness principle continues to exist but is not recognizable because the reflecting medium (the body) is not available for our perception. The consciousness principle minus the body-mind-sense complex is an abstract principle that cannot be recognized—not because it's absent, but because the recognizable medium (the body) is not available

Teaching Method



Acharya Tadany's approach was to first establish the five principles clearly using the concrete, observable example of moonlight, then systematically apply each principle to the more abstract concept of consciousness. This pedagogical method helps students grasp subtle philosophical concepts through familiar natural phenomena.

Conclusion

Acharya Tadany emphasized that these five principles are fundamental for understanding consciousness and will be explored further in subsequent classes. The session ended with the indication that more detailed exploration would follow in the next question or topic.