

01-27-24

The text uses a list of metaphors to explain the Three Gems; most, notably, this quote stuck out to me:

The Buddha is like a consoler; the dharma is like a consolation; and the sangha is like people consoled

While the other metaphors used for the Three Jewels were more complex, such as comparing the Buddha to a rain-cloud, this example most illustrated how the three jewels were related to one another. Based on this quote, I came up with a 'system' for how the Three Jewels worked: the Buddha is the entity you actually go to refuge to, the *dharma* is the Buddha's teachings, and the *sangha* is the spiritual community that arises as a result of these teachings. The imagery that the text uses is trying to convey that each of the three jewels are equally important, and that equal respect should be placed to each of them. If one simply "goes to the Buddha" for refuge and does not actually internalize his teachings or interact with other people in the community, they will not fully find peace.