INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

DIDACTIC REFERENCES – SECONDARY LEVEL II

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to ...

1. understand that the spatial nature of mind is timeless and indestructible.
2. reflect on the Buddhist view of the dying process, death, and rebirth.
3. comprehend how cause and effect, motivation and viewpoint affect rebirth.
4. learn about the Buddhist concept of Pure Lands.

INTRODUCTION

Through the illustration of the raptor with a mouse in its claws, the pupils are encouraged to comprehend an unexpectedly sudden change of perspective. Just as the mouse is amazed at the unfamiliar vastness and feels no fear, one can allow a new experience and get an inkling of space and fearlessness. The pupils look at **Material 1** and freely comment on the mouse's extraordinary reaction. The fact that it does not freeze in fear in the face of its certain demise underlines the theme of the lesson.

EXERCISE 1

Worksheet 1 shows the same picture, now short quotations and tasks guide the pupils to the Buddhist idea of the space nature of the mind. The Buddhist model of rebirth is introduced with text and drawing. In this approach, the students gain a first understanding in order to receive basic information about the Buddhist view on **Worksheet 2.** The students exchange information in groups. The teacher gives possible **Answers to WS 1.**

NOTES

According to Buddha's teaching, birth and death are not beginning and end, but transitions. Death is like a change of clothes, so to speak. The space nature of the mind is timeless awareness, indestructible, without beginning and end. The body is transient and dissolves, the mind remains.

EXERCISE 2

On **Worksheet 2**, basic information is given about the space nature of the mind, about the dying process and the influencing factors in rebirth. The students read the text, discuss it in groups and answer the questions. Afterwards, the answers are presented in plenary. **Answers to WS 2** give possible solutions to the questions.

DEEPENING AND SECURING KNOWLEDGE

Worksheet 3 summarizes in three steps the levels on which Buddha gave teachings to use life wisely in order to live, die and be reborn better. The first is to understand that actions have consequences and to use the function of cause and effect wisely. It is further about the basic attitude of not separating one's own happiness from the happiness of others, and lastly about building trust in the space nature of mind through a beyond-personal, limitless view. Buddhist meditation is a proven means of both developing mindfulness and compassion and experiencing the space nature of mind. Students work an understanding and back it up through group work.

Answers to WS 3 give the possible solutions to the questions. In plenary, an exchange takes place.

ROUNDUP, OPTIONAL

Material 2 introduces the Buddha of Limitless Light Opame and his Pure Land Dewachen with text and pictures. The students learn that in Buddhism there is the idea of Pure Lands, which are realms of consciousness without suffering, where one can develop safely and well. The students reflect and express themselves freely on the text and image statements, leaving the information as it is. The encounter with the Pure Land thus offers a quiet conclusion to the lesson's topic.