Shamatha Meditation

At first, before meditating on shamatha, one must rely on the prerequisites for shamatha. This is the preparation for meditating on shamatha. What are the necessary things? As stated in the Bhavanakrama and Bodhisattvabhumi, the following six are indispensable for relying on the prerequisites of shamatha: dwelling in a conducive place, ৰ্ব্লান্থৰ বাদান্ত ক্লান্থৰ বাদান্ত কলা বাদান্ত কলা

Easily found, with good conditions,

Good land, good companions,

And possessing the necessities for comfortable yoga.

 $\not \sim$ having few desires, contentment, abandoning many activities, pure moral discipline, and abandoning thoughts related to desires and such.

वायः श्चिन् श्चिन् स्विन् श्चिस्त्र स्वायं स्वायं स्वायं स्वित्र स्वायं स्वायं स्वायं स्वायं स्वायं स्वायं स्वयं स्वयं

If the faults of dullness or agitation arise, if dull, recall the holy qualities and generate joy in the Dharma. If agitated, remember the faults of samsara and keep the mind one-pointedly on the visualization support. When dullness and agitation subside, finally, hold one's own mind's reins. Rest the mind one-pointedly on that very visualization support, relaxed, still, clear, and alert. If one continues to meditate on such a shamatha object, the result is the bliss of physical and mental pliancy. Undoubtedly, the body becomes light like cotton, and the mind gains control over sending, going, and resting. If one knows how to properly meditate on the key points of such shamatha, it eliminates the five faults and fulfills the eight aspects of renunciation.

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From the Ornament of the Sutras:

Laziness and forgetting instructions,

Dullness and agitation,

Neither applying nor applying effort -

These are considered the five faults.

अञ्चलक्षात्र प्रति वा प्रति।

ब्रिट्स क्ष्य प्रति क्ष्य प्रति वि क्ष्य क्ष्य

Faithful belief in the Lama and Dharma, aspiration to pursue the Dharma, joy in desiring to practice Dharma, and effort in the blissful result of physical and mental pliancy - these are the four antidotes to the laziness of not delighting in cultivating shamatha. Mindfulness that does not forget the focus of the instructions, introspection that monitors whether the faults of dullness and agitation have arisen or not, and intention that, upon recognizing dullness and agitation, applies the antidotes to abandon them. When dull, recall the excellent qualities of holy beings and generate joy. When agitated, recollect the faults of samsara and cultivate disenchantment. These are the antidotes to be applied. When dullness and agitation are pacified, the antidote to over-applying effort as an antidote to dullness and agitation is equanimous non-application. When dullness and agitation are quelled, the mind rests naturally on the root visualization.