

Tara Institute Study Group 2007 - 'Aryadeva's 400 Verses'

DISCUSSION Block 3

Wk 1 (26 June 2007)

1. Thinking about all the suffering in this life will make you depressed and unhappy. Give a case against this statement.
2. Avoid teaching emptiness to someone who is not mentally prepared. What is the reason for this Bodhisattva vow?
3. The emptiness of one thing is the emptiness of all. Explain how this statement could be misunderstood.

Wk 2 (3 July 2007)

4. **Tathagatas speak of attachment to practice
To those who want higher rebirth
This is disparaged for those who want freedom-
What need to mention other attachments?**

Explain this verse. Does this mean that the practices of the lower beings should not be engaged in?

5. What are the practices that help cultivate emptiness? Explain the analogy of the unstained cloth.
6. Why is conventional phenomena explained first, before ultimate phenomena? Give an example.

Wk 3 (10 July 2007)

7. Detail two of the causes and conditions required to attain liberation.
8. Life in samsara is said to be beginningless. However even though that is the case, there can be an end to samsaric life. Explain using an analogy.
9. Explain the analogy of earning a wage and functional phenomena.
10. What is the difference between the way the Pasangika and the lower Buddhist schools establish the sprout.

Wk 4 (17 July 2007)

11. What is the definition of functioning phenomena?
12. Uncompounded space as pervasive phenomena is accepted, even by the higher Buddhist schools. So what assertion by the non-Buddhist schools about space, do the Prasangika refute? How do they refute this assertion?