

DISCUSSION

BLOCK: 2
WEEK: 5

ASSIGNED: 26TH APRIL 05

1. What state of mind, according to the Mind-Only School, confirms both the existence of the recognition of the illusion, and in fact every other state of mind? [2]
2. What did the Buddha himself say about this position, in a metaphor? [3]
3. What analogy does Shantideva use in order to show that the mind does not, like a lamp, illuminate itself? [3]
4. In support of the *self-knower* how does the Mind Only School explain memory? [2]
5. In opposition to the *self-knower* how does the Prasangika School explain memory? [2]
6. Shantideva uses the analogy of a prairie-dog being bitten by a poisoned rat to explain how we confirm the existence of a subject mind in an act of perception, even if there is no such thing as a self-knower. Name and explain the elements of this analogy. [5]
7. Name and define the three characteristics of the mind only school? [6]
8. '*Your mind becomes completely isolated, without any support.*' Explain why the Prasangika (in this line of the text) are accusing the Mind Only of contradicting themselves. [4]
9. Realising that everything is like an illusion does not help you overcome your mental afflictions. Explain the reason why the Mind Only would respond with this criticism of the Prasangika view. [3]
10. At what stage on the Buddhist path do you get rid of all mental afflictions?
11. How could someone who has abandoned conceptual thought, teach dharma to others? If a Buddha has pacified all conceptual thought, then how could they show dharma to others? How does Shantideva (Prasangika School) answer this objection by the Mind Only School?
12. Is emptiness empty? Discuss