

Tara Institute

Study Group Test - 4 November 1997

Covering discourses 30-9-97 to 21-10-97

Time allowed: 1 hr

Answer any 4 from questions 1 - 6.

Question 7 is compulsory.

1. What is wrong with classifying some beings as friends and others as enemies?
2. Name the stages of the sevenfold cause and effect meditation for generating Bodhicitta .
3. What is the method to realise all beings as having been your mother? Explain the various reasons using analogies and quotes.
4. The substance of our body comes from our parents, does our mind also come from our parents? Explain your reasoning.
5. What kindness has my present mother shown me? Explain at the different stages of your life - beginning, middle and end.
6. How can we repay the kindness of our mother? What is the ultimate benefit?

Describe meditations that can cultivate our sense of personal responsibility to do this .

Compulsory question

7. Discuss the meaning of the following lines from Chandrakirti's text 'Supplement to the Middle Way'.

"Hearers and middling realisers
are born from the Kings of Subduers.
Buddhas are born from Bodhisattvas.
The mind of compassion, non-dual awareness,
And the altruistic mind of enlightenment
Are the causes of the Children of Conquerors.