

TARA INSTITUTE

STUDY GROUP DISCUSSION NIGHT –19 September, 2000

Covering discourses 22/08/2000 – 12/09/2000

1. What is the difference between Calm Abiding and Special Insight?
2. According to the Lam Rim text, what is "Calm Abiding on Emptiness" and what means can be used to maintain this state of Calm Abiding? How does one then achieve Special Insight?
3. Explain the significance of the various names given to the practice of Tantra: 1) Secret vehicle 2) Mantra vehicle, 3) Result vehicle, 4) Vajra vehicle, 5) Method vehicle?
4. Before entering the vehicle of Tantra, it is important to gain a clear understanding of the 3 principles of the path. Name these 3 and explain why these are a prerequisite? Why is the Tantric path regarded as a swift path to Enlightenment?
5. Briefly outline the 4 means of gathering disciples in order to ripen the mindstream of others.
6. The ritual taking of vows is a means to further enhance the Bodhicitta mind. Describe the preparations needed for the two day Bodhisattva Vow ceremony. Must one have first generated Bodhicitta in order to take the vows? Discuss the difference between the aspiring and engaging forms of Bodhicitta.

Compulsory question

7. Discuss the meaning of the three principle aspects of the path

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