

T A R A I N S T I T U T E

(Study Group Test)

25th September 2000

Answer any four from question no.1-6

Question no.7 is compulsory

Time allowed one hour

1. What is the difference between Calm Abiding and Special Insight? What does it mean by the union of these two?
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. 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. 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 Bodhicitta.

Compulsory question

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