

TARA INSTITUTE

STUDY GROUP DISCUSSION NIGHT –31st October, 2000

1. How do the three stages of the Path differ in terms of motivation and goal? Is it necessary for one to follow these three in order to achieve the state of Buddhahood? If so, how can one combine the three in a single Path to Enlightenment?
2. Briefly describe each state of mental abiding.
3. Why is it essential to realise emptiness in order to be liberated from samsara?
4. What are prerequisites for realising emptiness?
5. What is the object of negation? Why is it important to identify this clearly?
6. Explain the essential point of Pervasion. What is the pervasion here?
7. The analogy of the magician's illusions is used to explain the meaning of Emptiness. How does it do this? What similarities are there between the 3 categories of people described in each circumstance?
8. What is "consciousness"? How does one apply the reasoning of 'lacking oneness and many' to consciousness?
9. 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 the swift path to Enlightenment.
10. 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

11. Discuss your experience of studying the Lam Rim. Which part of the Lam Rim have you found most beneficial to your life in bringing more peace and contentment, e.g. Death & impermanence, Karma, Bodhicitta, etc. Which part of the Lam Rim helps you most in challenging your delusions?

YOU ARE IN GROUP