

DISCUSSION

BLOCK: 1
WEEK: 5
2ND APRIL 2002

5/03

1. What's the purpose of a 'precious human rebirth'?
2. Discuss the sequential order from reflecting upon the precious human rebirth, up to enlightenment itself.
3. "The fault lies not in the lack of knowledge... but with the lack of practice." Discuss tips to integrate Dharma practice into our everyday lives.

12/03

4. Explain the specific meaning of the title '*Madhyamakavatanama*' 'Entering the Middle Way'. What other text is being referred to?
5. Why are hearers called 'hearers'? Why are these practitioners sometimes called 'Listeners-Expounders'?
6. The root text says, "Powerful Able Ones generate Hearers and Middling Buddhas". What is Chandrakirti trying to say? (Comment also on the meaning of these names.)

19/03

7. 'You should reflect upon the meaning of what I have said, and not just accept it just because I have said so.' Discuss this attitude Lord Buddha wanted his students to have.
8. Conquerors (buddhas) are born from Children of Conquerors (bodhisattvas). Explain why this statement isn't contradictory.
9. Buddhas are born from bodhisattvas by 'occasion' and 'different continuum'. Why?
10. What are the 'substantial' and 'concurrent' causes of a Buddha?

26/03

11. "The subject of emptiness has no relation to the emotion of compassion" discuss.
 12. What are the seven steps in the cause-and-effect method for developing the wish for enlightenment (bodhicitta)? Why is each necessary for the next?
 13. How does Chandrakirti show 'great compassion' as the root of the other two causes of a bodhisattva?
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