

DISCUSSION

BLOCK: 5

WEEK: 5

24TH SEPT 02

5_1 Twenty-seventh of August

1. If Lord Buddha has perfected giving, then why are there still beggars in this world?
2. Why are bodhisattvas so devoted to giving?
3. Ordinary bodhisattvas experience pain as their arm is cut to give away, they like it in a way, because it inspires them to help other suffering beings, Therefore they are masochists. **Critique.**

5_2 Third of September

4. What's the difference between a 'path of karma' and a 'karma' – give examples of both.
5. Chandrakirti said, "The practice of morality is the practice of the ten virtues". Discuss the varieties of each of the first seven non-virtues.
6. How does a first grounders practice of the ten virtues differ from that of a second grounder?

5_3 Tenth of September

7. Buddhism says your current rebirth is the result of actions done in previous lives. Diagnose the karmic history of a rich animal (e.g. the Queens cat), and a suffering beggar (human). Distinguish between the *rebirth karma* and the *completion karma*.
8. An understanding of emptiness has no particular use to the practice of ethics. Discuss.

5_4 Seventeenth of September

9. 'Not associating closely with people who do not believe in the Path...' Discuss the meaning of this vow, explaining how non-virtuous friends harm one's dharma practice.
 10. What is a 'sugata'? Who are their children?
 11. What is 'non-dual' about the direct perception of emptiness? Can the mind ever melt into emptiness, and become one with ultimate reality? Why/why not?
 12. There is obviously nothing to gain from responding to harsh words with harsh words. So why do we do it?
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