

# **Tara Institute Study Group 2003 - 'Entering the Middle Way'**

## **Block 5 Discussion Group 16/09/03**

### **Week 1: 19/08**

1. Can any phenomena not be 100% empty? Explain (with example) how an effect can arise from something that is completely empty of inherent existence.
2. Discuss in general, the meaning of 'investigating suchness'
3. What three types of duality is an arya's meditative equipoise free from? Is a fully enlightened Buddha also free of these appearances?

### **Week 2: 26/08**

1. What are the two qualities of the refutation of generation from other in relation to both the two truths.
2. What are the eight uncommon modes of the Prasangika?
3. Explain what distinguishes the Prasangika's non-acceptance of a universal mind-basis from the non-acceptance of a universal mind-basis by the Sautantrika for example?
4. Why do the Mind-Only feel the need to posit an universal mind-basis?

### **Week 3: 02/09**

1. Why do the Prasangika assert disintegrated as a functionality and the lower tenets not?
2. What are the definitions of the three times? Give an example for each of the three times.
3. Relate the lower tenets point of view and the Prasangika point of view regarding disintegrated being a non-functionality/functionality, to their believe/disbelieve in intrinsic existence.
4. What debate by non-buddhists is this verse the answer to? State the two questions and the two fallacies the non-buddhists see in each case. How is this refuted by the Mind-Only.

### **Week 4: 09/09**

1. If the Prasangika don't posit a universal mind-foundation or the mental continuum as the basis for the karmic imprints, then what do they posit?
2. What are karmic imprints and how are they placed?
3. What is the reason that the Prasangika posit the mental consciousness as the temporary basis for the karmic imprints?
4. How does this verse show an analogy of why disintegrated karma can produce a result?

*Having seen the object of the dream  
The foolish generate attachment even though awake.  
Likewise, a fruit from disintegrated and  
Non-inherent karma is also existent.*