

Discussion Questions: Mahayana Class 4 (Pages 1-22 “Everything is Mind”)

- 1) Explain the Vaibhashika views of relative and ultimate truth, self, impermanence and permanence.
- 2) How are the views of the Vaibhashika and Sautrāntika similar and how are they different?
- 3) What are the four arguments made by Hīnayānists to refute the validity of the second and third turnings as the true speech of the Buddha?
- 4) How does the Chittamātra view of ultimate truth differ from that of the two Hīnayāna schools?
- 5) Explain the concept of the “three natures” as presented by the Chittamātra school.
- 6) Explain the theories of consciousness propounded by the Vaibhashika and Chittamātra schools. ie. 6 versus 8 consciousnesses.
- 7) According to the Mādhyamaka school, what are the four extreme philosophical views to be avoided?
- 8) How does the Mādhyamaka philosophical view differ from the three previously discussed philosophical schools?
- 9) Explain the 5 views that can be used to describe the way things appear and the way things truly are.
- 10) Explain how the philosophies of the Rangtong and Shentong Mādhyamaka schools differ.
- 11) Explain the two aspects of relative truth as defined by the Shentong Mādhyamaka school: shenwang and kuntak.
- 12) How does the view of the Vajrayāna differ from the views of the other four philosophical schools?
- 13) Describe the progressive stages of developing the view of ultimate truth.