

Discussion Questions: Mahayana Class 11

(Pages 75-95 “Not Even a Middle”)

- 1) How does the Shentong presentation of absolute and relative truth compare to those of the Rangtong and Chittamātra?
- 2) Discuss the three manners of existence and the three manners of emptiness as presented by the Shentong school of Mādhyamaka.
- 3) According to Jamgön Kongtrül Rinpoche, who are the three types of beings who can not realize yongdrub, the ultimate nature? Why is it said that it is impossible for these beings to realize yongdrub?
- 4) How does Jamgön Kongtrül Rinpoche explain the relationship that exists between Rangtong and Shentong Mādhyamaka?
- 5) Explain the two stages of training in prajñā. How do they differ? Why are both necessary?
- 6) Explain the three methods for generating the prajñā of thinking.
- 7) According to mahapandita Sakya Chokden how are the Rangtong and Shentong reasonings applied to the practice of meditation?
- 8) According to Jamgön Kongtrül Rinpoche what is the fundamental difference between the Shentong and Chittamātra views of döndam (ultimate nature)?
- 9) From the point of view of Shentong philosophy what is the purpose of the path?