

Discussion Questions: Mahayana Class 12

(Pages 99-117 “Not Even a Middle”)

- 1) Explain the concept of sugatagarbha. In the Shentong view what is the role of the path and the practices?
- 2) Explain the three nails of fruition as described by Milarepa.
- 3) What are the four faults concerning our understanding of sugatagarbha as delineated by Jamgön Kongtül Lodrö Thaye?
- 4) Explain what is meant by dharmadhātu being empty of what is “other” to it.
- 5) Why is it said that the true nature of mind is beyond mundane listening, reflecting, and meditating?
- 6) Describe the Shentong logic, based upon basis, path, and fruition, that supports the idea that tathāgathagarbha is not created but is present in all sentient beings.
- 7) What is meant by saying that someone’s mind is a “hidden object” for other people?
- 8) Explain the two-fold purity with which the dharmakāya is endowed.
- 9) What are the two ways of looking at what the mind’s true nature is empty of?
- 10) What are the three ways in which dharmakāya is said to be empty? (cf. the three verses on the last few pages of the text.)