

## **ANSWER SHEET FOR**

### **10 QUESTIONS ON THE BUDDHIST TEXT**

#### **“THE 3 PRINCIPAL ASPECTS OF THE PATH”**

#### **[COURSE INSTRUCTOR: CHUCK DAMOV]**

1. Who authored the text “The 3 Principal Aspects of the Path”?

LAMA JE TSONGKHAPA, AKA LOSANG DRAGPA, AKA JE RINPOCHE

2. Is the teaching of “The 3 Principal Aspects of the Path’ the same as the Lam.Rim or not?

NOT EXACTLY. IT IS A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE ESSENCE OF THE LAM-RIM TEACHINGS, BUT THE MAIN DIFFERENCE IS THAT IT DOES NOT INCLUDE AN EXPLICIT DISCUSSION OF REFUGE IN THE 3 JEWELS.

3. Which lineage or lineages of Tibetan Buddhism use the text “The 3 Principal Aspects of the Path”?

GELUG

4. What are the 3 principal aspects of the path to enlightenment according to the text studied in this course?

RENUNCIATION, BODHICHITTA, RIGHT VIEW

5. What is the Gelug Buddhist definition of “renunciation”?

THE PURE UNDECLINING DETERMINATION TO BE COMPLETELY FREE OF SAMBARA FOREVER

6. What is the Gelug Buddhist definition of “bodhichitta”?

THE PURE IRREVERSIBLE DETERMINATION TO BECOME A FULLY ENLIGHTENED BUDDHA IN ORDER TO BE COMPLETELY ABLE TO LEAD ALL BEINGS TO BUDDHAHOOD.

7. What is the Gelug Buddhist definition of “right view”?

THE LACK OF INHERENT, INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE OF ANYTHING AT ALL, SIMULTANEOUS WITH DEPENDENT ARISING.

8. What is the Gelug Buddhist definition of “samsara”?

THE AGGREGATES OF BODY AND MIND OF ANY BEING WHICH ARE “CONTAMINATED” BY WRONGLY GRASPING AT ONE’S SELF AS BEING INDEPENDENTLY, INHERENTLY EXISTENT.

9. Why is “dependent arising” called “the king of reasons”?

IT ELIMINATES THE 2 EXTREME VIEWS OF ETERNALISM AND NIHILISM AND DEMONSTRATES THE INSEPARABLY UNITY OF THE 2 TRUTHS, I.E. THE LEVELS OF RELATIVE AND ABSOLUTE EXISTENCE.

10. Why is the direct, personal realization of emptiness so important in Gelug Buddhism?

BECAUSE IT IS THE REALIZATION WHICH IS THE DIRECT OPPONENT OF WRONGLY GRASPING AT AN INHERENTLY, INDEPENDENTLY EXISTING SELF, WHICH IN TURN IS THE ROOT CAUSE OF SAMSARA AND SUFFERING. THEREFORE THE DIRECT REALIZATION OF EMPTINESS CUTS THE ROOT OF SAMSARA COMPLETELY, AND THEREFORE IS TAUGHT AS THE METHOD TO END ONE’S SUFFERING.