DIAMOND MOUNTAIN UNIVERSITY

Name: _____
Date: _____
Grade: _____

MEDITATIONS ON EMPTINESS

HOMEWORK FOR CLASS FIVE

1. What are the “three spheres” of emptiness?

2. Name and define the two forms of the tendency to grasp things as existing in truth.

3. Name three wrong ideas that we might have about ourselves that are classified as "learned" tendencies to see things as truly existing.

4. What does Master Shantideva say is one of the implications of realizing that there is no “I” in the way we ordinarily think there is?

5. Master Shantideva states says that we are not any single one of our parts, and the Buddhist thinkers on emptiness additionally assert that we are also not the whole of the parts. It's easy to see that we are not any one of our parts, such as an arm or a leg, but why is it the case that we are not the sum of all of our various parts?

6. If the self is not the body, perhaps it is the mind. But the mind seems to be shifting moment to moment, playing different "roles" – one moment a "seer," the next a "hearer," then a "thinker." What does our author say would be the consequence of thinking that what we call the "self" is like an actor that plays one role and then another?

7. Why can't the consciousness be the independent "self" we think exists?

8. Why is it impossible for the consciousness to be unchanging?

9. Why can’t the self be the mind of either the past, future, or present?

10. What is the example used by Master Shantideva to show that, if we try to find any other real nature of the "me," we come up with nothing?

11. What then is the real nature of the "me"?