



Diamond Mountain University

Setting Fire to Your Meditation, Part IV

Final Exam

[Note: this is a take-home exam. Please complete it without the help of any notes or other assistance besides your own mind (well, you can pray to the Lamas I suppose!) Please get this exam back to Andreana by October 31. People who have not completed their final exam will not be allowed to attend the next meditation course.]

1) What is Master Kamalashila's advice for not falling into an extreme after meditating deeply on the fact that nothing at all has any true nature?

2) What is the practice of "khor sum," or the three spheres? Give an example of how you would practice it in your daily life.

3) In the beginning of the text, Master Kamalashila describes how compassion is the root of wisdom. But now, near the end of the text, he tells us that wisdom triggers compassion. Explain.

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4) Explain how we draw lines around indications in order to create the fixed objects in our world:

5) How does Master Kamalashila define the combination of method and wisdom at this point in the text? Explain how this differs from his previous definitions of the two, using some examples from previous courses:

6) Describe the first three of the five heaps, in terms of what our mind does when you interact with an object:

7) Do we need to have renunciation in order to have an intellectual understanding of emptiness? Why or why not?

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8) List and briefly describe the four stages on the path of preparation:

a)

b)

c)

d)

9) What is the main obstacle described in these readings to seeing emptiness directly, and why?

10) What about the word "consciousness" implies that it is unchanging, and how does that relate to the emptiness of the heap of consciousness?

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11) How many mental afflictions does a bodhisattva remove on the path of seeing, and then how many more are there to eliminate on the path of habituation?

12) At what point do we remove our learned grasping to things as self-existent, and when do we remove our innate grasping to things as self-existent?

13) List the names of the ten bodhisattva levels (in whatever language you remember best!):

1st:

2nd:

3rd:

4th:

5th:

6th:

7th:

8th:

9th:

10th:

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14) Please write out from memory either the Tibetan or Sanskrit pronunciation of the Heart Sutra, up through the point we have gotten to in class: