

The Keys to the Treasury of the Dharma
Frameworks for Contemplating the Essential Meaning
An Advanced Buddhist Studies/Rime Shedra NYC Course
Eleven of the Tuesdays from September 13th to December 13th, 2016, 7-9:15 pm

Sources

- ❖ **TOK:** *Foundations of Buddhist Study and Practice, The Treasury of Knowledge, Book Seven and Book Eight-Part One and Two*, by Jamgon Kongtrul, translated by Richard Barron.
- ❖ **SB:** **The Keys to the Treasury of Dharma Sourcebook**

Syllabus

1) Introduction and Overview

- a) Sourcebook:
 - i) The Buddha, *The Precious Treasury of Philosophical Systems*, Longchen Rabjampa translated by Richard Barron, pp 7-19, SB pages 11-18

2) Levels of Meaning and Intention

- a) TOK:
 - i) The Keys to Understanding, Pages 56-66
 - (1) Introduction, pp. 55-58
 - (2) Provisional and Definitive Meaning, pp. 58-61
 - (3) Direct and Indirect Intention, pp. 66
- b) Sourcebook:
 - i) The Keys that Open the Treasure Chest of Dharma, *Treasury of Precious Qualities*, pages 336-342, SB pages 19-23
 - ii) The Assessment of Textual Interpretation, by Etienne Lamotte, *Buddhist Hermeneutics*, pages 11-25, SB pages 31-39

3) The Four Reliances

- a) TOK:
 - i) The Keys to Understanding:
 - (1) Four Reliances, pp. 66-69
 - (a) Rely on the meaning not the words
 - (b) Rely on the teachings not the teacher
 - (c) Rely on timeless awareness not ordinary consciousness
 - (d) Rely on the definitive meaning not the provisional one
- b) Sourcebook:
 - i) The Four Reliances, *Gateway to Knowledge Volume Four*, Mipham, translated by James Gentry and Erik Pema Kunsang, pp. 123-135 (odd pages only), SB pages 47-50
 - ii) Buddhist Hermeneutics, Robert A.F. Thurman, *Journal of the American Academy*

of Religion, XLVI/1, pp. 19-37, SB pages 65-74

- iii) The Meaning of Validity, *Establishing Validity*, David Karma Choephel, pp. xxxi-xxxv, SB pages 75-77

4) The Four Logical Principals, Part One

a) TOK:

i) The Keys to Understanding:

(1) Four Logical Principles, pp. 69-71

(a) Dependent relationships

(b) Performance of functions

(c) Establishing what is reasonable

(d) The nature of things

b) Sourcebook:

i) The Sword of Wisdom, Mipham, translated by Adam Pearcey, www.lotsawahouse.org, 12 Pages, SB pages 82-88

ii) The Four Reasonings, *Gateway to Knowledge Volume Four*, Mipham, translated by James Gentry and Erik Pema Kunsang, pp. 96-121 (odd pages only), SB pages 40-47

iii) A Brief Introduction to Tibetan Logic, *Establishing Validity*, David Karma Choephel, pp. xlvii-liii, SB pages 78-81

5) The Four Logical Principals, Part Two

a) Sourcebook:

i) Valid cognition and Processes of Logical Understanding, *Indo-Tibetan Classical Learning and Buddhist Philosophy, The Treasury of Knowledge, Book Six, Parts One and Two*, Jamgon Kongtrul, translated by Gyurme Dorje, pp. 151-172, SB pages 89-100

ii) Mi-Pham's Theory of Interpretation, Matthew Kapstein, *Buddhist Hermeneutics*, pages 149-166, SB pages 101-113

6) The Three Cycles of Dharma Teachings

a) TOK: Pages 71-91

i) The Keys to Understanding:

(1) Six Parameters, pp. 71-74

(2) Four Modes, pp. 75-77

ii) Understanding Truth and Meaning:

(1) Provisional and Definitive Meaning in the Three Cycles of Teachings, pp. 80-91

b) Sourcebook:

i) On the Interpretation of the Mahayana Sutras, Donald Lopez, *Buddhist Hermeneutics*, pages 47-67, SB pages 114-126

7) The Two Levels of Truth

a) TOK:

i) Understanding Truth and Meaning:

(1) Two Levels of Truth, pp. 91-112

b) Sourcebook:

- i) An Explanation of the Treasury of Dharma, *Treasury of Precious Qualities*, pages 342-350, SB pages 23-27
- ii) Nitartha, Neyartha, and Tathagathagarbha in Tibet, Kennard Lipman, *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, 8 (1980), pp. 87-91, SB pages 127-135

8) Interdependence and the Four Axioms of Buddhism

- a) TOK: Pages 112-131
 - i) Understanding Truth and Meaning:
 - (1) Investigating the Process of Interdependent Connection, pp. 112-121 = 10
 - ii) Authentic View:
 - (1) The Need for Authentic View, pp. 124-128
 - (2) The Four Axioms, pp. 128-131
- b) Sourcebook:
 - i) Dependent Arising - with Regard to the Ground Nature, of Samsara and of Nirvana, *Treasury of Precious Qualities*, pages 351-355, SB pages 27-29
 - ii) The Four Seals of Dharma, *Gateway to Knowledge Volume Four*, Mipham, translated by James Gentry and Erik Pema Kunsang, the first three, pp. 11-33 (odd pages only), SB pages 51-57
 - iii) Ascertaining the Two Kinds of Selflessness, Mipham, translated by Adam Percy, www.lotsawahouse.org, two pages, SB pages 136-137

9) The Middle Way View and the Lack of Self in Phenomena

- a) TOK:
 - i) Authentic View: Pages 131-151
 - (1) The Path that Avoids the Dualistic Extremes, pp. 131-143
 - (a) General Way to Avoid Dualistic Extremes, pp. 131-135
 - (b) Specific Explanation of the Middle Way Tradition, pp. 135-143
 - (i) Unqualified Emptiness, pp. 135-139
 - (ii) Qualified Emptiness, pp. 139-143
 - (2) Two Aspects of the Lack of Identity, pp. 143-151
 - (a) Lack of Identity in Phenomena, pp. 144-151
- b) Sourcebook:
 - i) Appendix 8: The Madhyamaka School, *Treasury of Precious Qualities*, pages 413-429 = 16, SB pages 138-146

10) The Lack of Self in the Person and Related Issues

- a) TOK:
 - i) Authentic View:
 - (1) Two Aspects of the Lack of Identity, pp. 151-173
 - (a) Lack of Identity in the Individual, pp. 151-160
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 - (c) Specific Middle Way Interpretations, pp. 165-170
 - (d) Mantra Approach, pp. 170-172
 - (e) The View of Unborn Primordial Unity, pp. 172-173
- b) Sourcebook:

- i) All Phenomena are Empty and Devoid of a Self-Entity, *Gateway to Knowledge Volume Four*, Mipham, translated by James Gentry and Erik Pema Kunsang, pp. 35-63 (odd pages only), SB pages 57-64

11) Separating from The Four Levels of Attachment

- a) TOK:
 - i) Foundations for Spiritual Practice: Pages 175-204
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 - (2) Four Contemplations for Reorienting the Mind, pp. 177-204
 - (a) From this Lifetime, pp. 177-184
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 - (ii) Samsara, pp. 191-196
 - (c) From Quiescence and Naïve Happiness, pp. 196-201
 - (d) From Dualistic Consciousness, pp. 202-204
- b) Optional - Sourcebook:
 - i) *Pith Instruction on the Mind Training Teaching of Parting from the Four Attachments* by Jetsun Drakpa Gyaltsen, pages 53-58, SB pages 147-150
 - ii) Wisdom Itself and Progress on the Paths and the Attainment of the Result, *Treasury of Precious Qualities*, pages 355-57, SB pages 29-30

12) Shamatha and Vipashyana

- a) TOK:
 - i) Foundations of Meditative Absorption, pp. 221-257
 - (1) Introductory Sections, pp. 222-227
 - (2) Training in Calm Abiding, pp. 227-242
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