

Mipham's Profound View of the Middle Way-*The Beacon of Certainty*

Navigating the Subtleties of the Rangtong and Shentong Traditions

Based upon *Journey to Certainty: The Quintessence of the Dzogchen View*

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10 of the Tuesdays from May 10th through July 12th 2016, from 7-9:15

Syllabus

Class One: Overview of the Course and Introduction to the Topic – May 10

- **Journey to Certainty**
 - a) Chapter 1: Introducing Mipham Rinpoche's Beacon of Certainty, pages 1-14

Class Two: Introduction to the Text – May 17

- **Journey to Certainty**
 - a) Chapter 2: The Introductory Sections, pages 15-26
 - b) Chapter 3: Introducing the Seven Questions, pages 27-34
- **Sourcebook – Main Text:**
 - a) The Translation of The Beacon of Certainty, Introduction, pages 194-195
- **Sourcebook - Background:**
 - a) 3.1 Historical and Philosophical Dimensions of Buddhism, pages 41-42
 - b) 3.2 Hinayana and Mahayana, pages 42-45
 - c) *Stainless Light: A Commentary on The Beacon of Certainty*, Colophon, pages 412-413

Class Three: The First Question – May 24

- **Journey to Certainty**
 - a) Chapter 4: The First Question-Do you explain the view according to an affirming negative or a non-affirming negative? Part One: Pages 35-62
- **Sourcebook – Main Text:**
 - a) The Translation of The Beacon of Certainty, Topic 1, pages 196-198
- **Sourcebook - Background:**
 - a) 3.3 Important Teachings of Mahayana Scriptures, pages 45-51
 - i) 3.3.1 Prajnaparamita, pages 45-47
 - ii) 3.3.2 The Samdhinirmocana and the "Essence Sutras", pages 47-49
 - iii) 3.3.3 Sources for Buddhist Hermeneutics, pages 49-51

Class Four: The Second Question – May 31

- **Journey to Certainty**
 - a) Chapter 5: The Second Question-Do Shravaka and Pratyeka Arhats Realize Both the Selflessness of Phenomena and the Selflessness of the Individual? Pages 63-84
- **Sourcebook – Main Text:**
 - a) The Translation of The Beacon of Certainty, Topic 2, pages 199-203
- **Sourcebook - Background:**

- a) 3.4 Traditions of Indian Madhyamaka, pages 51-60
 - i) 3.4.1 Origins of Prasangika and Svatantrika Madhyamaka, pages 52-55
 - ii) 3.4.2 Yogacara and the Yogacara Madhyamaka Synthesis, pages 55-57
 - iii) 3.4.3 Madhyamaka and Pramana, pages 57-60

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- **Journey to Certainty**
 - a) Chapter 6: The Third Question-When abiding in the unborn, ultimate nature, is conceptual grasping present or not? Pages 85-108
- **Sourcebook – Main Text:**
 - a) The Translation of The Beacon of Certainty, Topic 3, pages 203-208
- **Sourcebook - Background:**
 - a) 4.3.2 The Rise of Scholasticism, pages 91-92
 - b) 4.3.3 Klong chen rab 'byams, pages 92-97
 - c) 4-3.4 Nyingma Monasticism and the Ecumenical Movement (ris med), pages 97-98
 - d) 4-3.5 A Nyingma Philosophy?, pages 98-100

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- **Journey to Certainty**
 - a) Chapter 7: The Fourth Question- Which is best: analytical meditation or actual abiding? Pages 109-128
- **Sourcebook – Main Text:**
 - a) The Translation of The Beacon of Certainty, Topic 4, pages 208-214
- **Sourcebook - Background:**
 - a) 5.4 The Philosophy of Extrinsic Emptiness, pages 111-114
 - b) 5.5 Mipham's Interpretation of Extrinsic Emptiness and Tathagatagarbha, pages 114-117
 - c) 5.6 Mipham's Position on the Tathagatagarbha, pages 117-124

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 - d) Chapter 8: The Fifth Question- Of the two truths, which is most important? Pages 129-152
- **Sourcebook – Main Text:**
 - a) The Translation of The Beacon of Certainty, Topic 5, pages 214-219
- **Sourcebook - Background:**
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 - b) 6.3.1.2.1 Go ram pa on the Ultimate View, pages 137-139
 - c) 6.3.1.2.2 Go ram pa on Meditative Practice, pages 139-141

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 - a) The Translation of The Beacon of Certainty, Topic 6, pages 219-227
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- **Sourcebook – Main Text:**
 - a) The Translation of The Beacon of Certainty, Topic 7, pages 227-237
- **Additional Background Materials: TBD**

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