

CHÖGYAL NAMKHAI NORBU

Examination Questions for the Base  
of Santi Maha Sangha Training

Translated from the Tibetan and edited by  
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*With profound respect of body, voice and mind, I pay homage and continually take refuge in my kind root Master Rigdzin Changchub Dorje, and in all the benevolent Masters who transmit the teachings of the three series of Dzogchen.*

1. What is the meaning of Santi Maha Sangha?
2. How is the base of the teaching explained in the root verses of Santi Maha Sangha?
3. What are the differences between the mundane and the supramundane paths?
4. What are the four signs of the view of the teaching of the Buddha?
5. What are the four philosophical theories of the non-Buddhists?
6. What is the view of the Chalpas?
7. What is the view of the Gyangphenpas?
8. What is the view of the Murthugpas?
9. What is the view of the Mutegpas?
10. What is the view that refutes the cause but affirms the effect?
11. What is the view that misconstrues the law of cause and effect?
12. What is the view that affirms the cause but refutes the effect?
13. Which are the six preliminary dharmas explained by Longchenpa?
14. Which are the three trainings, foundation of the path?
15. Which is the way of studying without limits the various fields of knowledge?
16. What is the principle of the behavior similar to a bee?
17. What is the sign that the teaching has been integrated in one's mind?
18. If the teaching has not been integrated in one's mind, on what does it depend?
19. What is the fundamental difference between following the teaching in an intelligent way and following with blind faith?
20. Which is the way to calm body, voice and mind, and re-educating oneself?
21. Which are the four awarenesses that change one's mental attitude?
22. Which is the way of training in the awareness of the precious human body?
23. Which is the way of training in the awareness of impermanence?
24. Which is the way of training in the awareness of karma?
25. Which is the way of training in the awareness of the suffering of samsara?
26. What are the seven special mind trainings?
27. Which is the example and the meaning of training the mind in the thought that everything compounded is impermanent?
28. Which is the example and the meaning of training the mind in the thought that all actions are the cause of suffering?
29. Which is the example and the meaning of training the mind in the thought of how we are beguiled by diverse secondary causes?
30. Which is the example and the meaning of training the mind in the thought that all the actions of this life are meaningless?
31. Which is the example and the meaning of training the mind by reflecting on the fruit of supreme liberation?
32. Which is the example and the meaning of training the mind by reflecting on the value of the master's teachings?
33. Which are the three ways to satisfy the master?
34. Which is the example and the meaning of training the mind by means of meditative stability in the state beyond thought?
35. Which are the three ways of training in the state beyond thought?
36. Which is the way of training in the state beyond thought by means of pleasure and emptiness?
37. Which are the four qualities of the central channel, and which are the four chakras?
38. Which is the way of training in the state beyond thought by means of clarity and emptiness?
39. Which is the way of training in the ultimate nature of phenomena completely beyond thought?
40. Which is the way of holding the parlung or central prana?

41. Which is the authentic meaning of digpa or negative action?
42. Which are the ten non-virtuous actions? How are the ten negative actions subdivided?
43. In which way can a negative karma be accumulated?
44. Which are the two types of negative action?
45. Which are the five actions with immediate result?
46. Which are the five “nearly as terrible” actions?
47. Which are the four grave actions?
48. Which are the eight contrary actions?
49. How many types of results of negative actions exist?
50. What is the result of complete ripening of a negative action?
51. What is the result that corresponds to the cause of a negative action?
52. What is the result of a negative action that corresponds to the cause in action?
53. What is the result of a negative action that corresponds to the cause in experience?
54. What is the conditioning result of a negative action?
55. Which is the example and meaning of accumulating automatically virtuous actions by avoiding the non-virtuous actions?
56. Which is the example and meaning of accumulating virtuous actions by engaging in actions converse to the non-virtuous ones?
57. How many types of results of virtuous actions exist?
58. Which is the result of a virtuous action that corresponds to merit?
59. Which is the result of a virtuous action that corresponds to the cause?
60. Which is the conditioning result of a virtuous action?
61. Which is the result of a virtuous action that produces the individual’s activity?
62. On what having or not having shame and restraint depends?
63. What are the signs of not believing in cause and effect?
64. What are the signs of having firm belief in cause and effect?
65. What is the reason of having faith, and what are the examples and meaning of the qualities of faith?
66. How many types of faith exist?
67. Which is the best type of faith?
68. Why is it always necessary to follow virtuous teachers and companions?
69. What is the example and meaning of the virtuous teachers and companions as the source of all qualities?
70. Which are the various types of teachers?
71. What is the authentic meaning of “root master” and how many definitions exist for it?
72. What are the three skills to develop concerning following a teacher?
73. Which are the qualities of a teacher worthy to be followed?
74. What is the example and meaning of the defect of following an unworthy teacher?
75. What are the qualities of a student worthy of being accepted?
76. What are the characteristics of a student unworthy of being accepted?
77. Which is the way of developing skill in following a master?
78. Which is the way of developing skill in acquiring the knowledge and behavior of the master?
79. Which is the example of the importance of following a virtuous companion?
80. Which is the example and meaning of the importance of relinquishing a bad companion?
81. What is the principle of refuge?
82. Which is the difference between the refuge vow and the refuge training?
83. Which is the principle of the refuge vow in the Hinayana?
84. What is the refuge training in the Mahayana?

85. Why is the Mahayana superior to the Hinayana?
86. What is the authentic meaning of “vow”?
87. What is the authentic meaning of “training”?
88. What is the root or foundation of the vow in the Hinayana?
89. What is the root or foundation of the training in the Mahayana?
90. What is the principle of refuge in the Tantric path of transformation?
91. What is the principle of refuge in the Ati path of self-liberation?
92. Which are the object and the specific intention of the outer refuge?
93. Which are the object and the specific intention of the inner refuge?
94. Which are the object and the specific intention of the secret refuge?
95. Which is the way to practice refuge?
96. What is the essence of the principle of “cultivating bodhichitta”?
97. Which are the three ways to cultivate bodhichitta?
98. Which are the two subdivisions of bodhichitta?
99. Which are the two types of bodhichitta?
100. Which are the two ways to cultivate relative bodhichitta?
101. Which is the way of taking the bodhichitta commitment by oneself?
102. What is the meditation on one’s own joy?
103. What is the meditation on others’ joy?
104. What is the essential practice of the cultivation of relative bodhichitta?
105. What is the training in the cultivation of the bodhichitta of intention?
106. What is the example and meaning of the immeasurable equanimity?
107. What is the example and meaning of the immeasurable loving kindness?
108. What is the example and meaning of the immeasurable compassion?
109. What is the example and meaning of the immeasurable joy?
110. Which is the way train one’s mind in the four immeasurables?
111. Which is the way to train in the bodhichitta in action?
112. Which are the three subdivisions of the paramita of generosity?
113. Which are the three aspects of the gift of material things?
114. What is the gift of the teaching?
115. What is the gift of relief from fear?
116. Which is the way to practice the essence of generosity?
117. Which are the subdivisions of the paramita of morality?
118. What is the morality of abstaining from negative behaviour?
119. What is the morality of gathering virtue?
120. What is the morality of acting for the benefit of others?
121. Which is the way to practice the essence of morality?
122. Which are the subdivisions of the paramita of patience?
123. What is the patience of enduring the bad received in exchange for good?
124. What is the patience of bearing hardships for the teaching?
125. What is the patience of not becoming afraid when faced with the profound meaning?
126. Which is the way to practice the essence of patience?
127. Which are the subdivisions of the paramita of perseverance?
128. What is the perseverance like an armour?
129. What is the perseverance in application?
130. What is the perseverance of never being satisfied?
131. What is the way to practice the essence of perseverance?
132. Which are the subdivisions of the paramita of meditative stability?

133. What is the meditative stability of beginners?
134. What is the meditative stability that discerns the real meaning?
135. What is the supreme meditative stability of the Tathagatas?
136. Which are the three secondary practices of the paramita of meditative stability?
137. What is the meditative stability of the equality of self and others?
138. What is the meditative stability of exchanging oneself and others?
139. What is the meditative stability of cherishing others more than oneself?
140. Which are the subdivisions of the paramita of discriminating wisdom?
141. What is the prajna derived from study?
142. What is the prajna derived from reflection?
143. What is the prajna derived from meditation?
144. Which are the two absences of a self or independent entity?
145. What is the absence of a self in the person?
146. What is the absence of a self in phenomena?
147. What is the application of presence in observing the body?
148. What is the application of presence in observing sensations?
149. What is the application of presence in observing the mind?
150. What is the application of presence in observing phenomena?
151. Which are the three dharmas of the path?
152. Which are the three vehicles of philosophical characteristics?
153. What is the essence of the view of the vehicle of the Shravakas?
154. What are the five skandhas or aggregates?
155. What is the absolute in the vehicle of the Shravakas?
156. What are the four noble truths?
157. What is the essence of the view of the vehicle of the Pratyekabuddhas?
158. What are the twelve links of interdependence?
159. What is the difference in the view between Shravakas and Pratyekabuddhas?
160. What is the essence of the view of the vehicle of the Bodhisattvas?
161. What are the ten paramitas?
162. What are the ten bhumis or levels of realization?
163. What is the authentic meaning of the terms Hinayana and Mahayana?
164. Which are the three turnings of the wheel of Dharma by Buddha Shakyamuni?
165. Which are the three pitakas or sections of Buddhist scriptures?
166. What are the vehicles of the secret mantra and do they belong to the three pitakas?
167. Which are the basic differences between the sutras and the tantras?
168. What is the real meaning of the word "tantra"?
169. What are the various subdivisions of the series of tantras, and what are their reasons?
170. What are the outer tantras?
171. What is the essence of the view of Kriyatantra?
172. Which are the two types of Kriyatantra?
173. What are the three purities of Kriyatantra?
174. Which are the three concentrations of Kriyatantra?
175. What is the essence of the view of Ubhaya or Charyatantra?
176. What are the four characteristic conditions of Ubhaya or Charyatantra?
177. What is the essence of the view of Yogatantra?
178. What are the two main systems of Yogatantra?
179. Which are the five aspects of manifest enlightenment in Yogatantra?
180. What are the four mudras in Yogatantra?

181. What are the Anuttara Yogatantras?
182. Which are the three aspects of tantra?
183. Which are the three classes of tantras?
184. What is the meaning of anuttara father tantras?
185. What is the meaning of anuttara mother tantras?
186. What is the meaning of anuttara nondual tantras?
187. What are the stages of creation and completion, or *kyerim* and *dzogrim*?
188. What is the relation between the father tantras of the new tradition and Mahayoga?
189. What is the relation between the mother tantras of the new tradition and Anuyoga?
190. What is the relation between the nondual tantras of the new tradition and Atiyoga?
191. Which are the nine vehicles according to the ancient tradition?
192. What is the worldly vehicle of devas and human beings?
193. Which are the three series of inner tantras?
194. What are the main tantras of Mahayoga?
195. Which is the difference between the ancient and the modern traditions of tantras?
196. Which are the basic differences between Mahayoga and Anuyoga?
197. What is the principle of initiation, entrance gate to the three series of inner tantras?
198. How is the ultimate meaning of initiation explained in the *Garland of Views*?
199. What is the essence of the view of Mahayoga?
200. What are the three contemplations of Mahayoga?
201. How are the three contemplations of Mahayoga explained in the tantra *The Self-arising State of Presence*?
202. What is the meaning of samaya in Vajrayana?
203. Which are the three aspects of enlightenment in Mahayoga?
204. What is the essence of the view of Anuyoga?
205. Which is the principle of ultimate dimension and wisdom in Anuyoga?
206. What is the essence of the view of Atiyoga according to the *Garland of Views*?
207. What is the real nature of the five skandhas or aggregates according to the *Garland of Views*?
208. What is the real nature of the five elements according to the *Garland of Views*?
209. What are the four consciousnesses, and what is their nature according to the *Garland of Views*?
210. What are of the objects of the four consciousnesses, and what is their nature according to the *Garland of Views*?
211. What are the four senses, and what is their nature according to the *Garland of Views*?
212. What are the four times, and what is their nature according to the *Garland of Views*?
213. What is the principle of the four wrathful males according to the *Garland of Views*?
214. What are the four limits of eternalism and nihilism, and what is their nature according to the *Garland of Views*?
215. Which is the way to enter the principle of Total Perfection according to the *Garland of Views*?
216. Which are the four understandings?
217. What is the principle of the understanding of the single cause?
218. What is the principle of the understanding through the nature of the letters?
219. What is the principle of the understanding through empowerment?
220. What is the principle of the direct understanding?
221. Which are the three characteristics?
222. Which are the connection, the necessity, and the supreme necessity?
223. Which is the characteristic of knowledge?
224. Which is the characteristic of application?

225. Which is the characteristic of the fruit?
226. Which are the four branches of approach and attainment?
227. What is the authentic principle of approach?
228. What is the authentic principle of complete approach?
229. What is the authentic principle of attainment?
230. What is the authentic principle of great attainment?
231. Why does the *Garland of Views* explain the principle of Atiyoga through the Guhyagarbha system?
232. Why is Atiyoga the final goal of the three inner tantras?
233. How does the *Kunjed Gyalpo* tantra explain the state of Ati beyond deviation and obstacles?
234. What is the deviation of the Mahayoga?
235. What is the deviation of the Anuyoga?
236. What is the Dzogchen taught by Shenrab Miwoche?
237. What are the twelve small tantras of the Oral Transmission of Shang Shung?
238. Which is the way to practice the essence of the path of Hinayana?
239. Which is the way to practice the essence of the path of Mahayana ?
240. Which is the way to practice the essence of the outer tantras?
241. Which is the way to practice the essence of the Mahayoga?
242. What is the meaning of the Guru as the wish-fulfilling jewel that unifies all?
243. What is the meaning of the three Vajra syllables in the Guruyoga that unifies the essence of Mahayoga?
244. What is the meaning of VAJRA GURU in the Guruyoga that unifies the essence of Mahayoga?
245. What is the meaning of PADMA THÖTHRENGTSAL in the Guruyoga that unifies the essence of Mahayoga?
246. With VAJRA SAMAYA JA, how do we activate wisdom through the three means in the Guruyoga that unifies the essence of Mahayoga?
247. With KAYA SIDDHI OM, how do we receive the blessing power through the three means in the Guruyoga that unifies the essence of Mahayoga?
248. With WAKKA SIDDHI Ā, how do we receive the blessing power through the three means in the Guruyoga that unifies the essence of Mahayoga?
249. With CITTA SIDDHI HŪM, how do we receive the blessing power through the three means in the Guruyoga that unifies the essence of Mahayoga?
250. With JÑĀNA SIDDHI A, how do we receive the blessing power through the three means in the Guruyoga that unifies the essence of Mahayoga?
251. With SARVA SIDDHI PHALA HŪM Ā, how do we receive the blessing power through the three means in the Guruyoga that unifies the essence of Mahayoga?
252. How do we activate the wisdom of the guru by chanting the mantra in the Guruyoga that unifies the essence of Mahayoga?
253. Which is the way to unify the state of the master with oneself in the Guruyoga that unifies the essence of Mahayoga?
254. Which is the way to practice the Vajra recitation in the Guruyoga that unifies the essence of Mahayoga?
255. Which is the way to bring Guruyoga into contemplation beyond all concepts?
256. How are all the outer, inner, secret, and most secret practices contained in the Guruyoga?
257. Which is the way to practice the essence of Anuyoga?
258. Which is the way of visualizing the dimension of the deity of contemplation in Anuyoga?
259. Which is the way of reciting the mantra of contemplation in Anuyoga?

260. Which are the Eight Classes of the Universe?
261. What is the meaning of Dogpa or sending back?
262. Why does a practitioner have to satisfy the Guardians of the teaching and the Dakinis?
263. Which is the way to practice the essence of Atiyoga?
264. What is the principle of the separation of samsara and nirvana?
265. Which is the way to apply the outer separation of samsara and nirvana?
266. Which is the way to apply the inner separation of samsara and nirvana?
267. Which are the six lokas and which are their causes?
268. Which are the seed-syllables of the six lokas and which is the reason for purifying them?
269. Which is the way to apply three Vajra syllables as the purifying agent of the causes of the six lokas?
270. Which is the way to apply the secret separation of samsara and nirvana?
271. Which is the way of applying the separation of samsara and nirvana of the body?
272. Which is the result of the separation of samsara and nirvana of the body?
273. Which is the way of applying the separation of samsara and nirvana of the voice?
274. Which is the result of the separation of samsara and nirvana of the voice?
275. Which is the way of applying the separation of samsara and nirvana of the mind?
276. Which is the way of purifying the five emotions by means of the five colors of the A?
277. Which is the result of the separation of samsara and nirvana of the mind?
278. Which is the meaning of sealing a teaching with the word SAMAYA?
279. How many Semdzins are mentioned in the *Drathalgyur* and what are the seven fundamental Semdzins?
280. Which is the way of applying the Semdzin of the symbol of the white A and which is its resulting experience?
281. Which is the way of applying the Semdzin of the syllable PHAT, and which is its resulting experience?
282. Which is the way of applying the Semdzin of the joyous laughter of the wrathful ones, and which is its resulting experience?
283. Which is the way of applying the Semdzin of the struggle of the Asuras, and which is its resulting experience?
284. Which is the way of applying the Semdzin of the letter RAM, and which is its resulting experience?
285. Which is the way of applying the Semdzin of the HUM that chases thoughts, and which is its resulting experience?
286. Which is the way of applying the Semdzin of the Song of the Vajra, and which is its resulting experience?
287. What is the difference between Kathub or “ascetic practice” and Tulzhug or “resolute conduct”?
288. What is the mundane asceticism?
289. Why the Chalpas and Murthugpas do not practice asceticism?
290. What is the ascetic practice of the five fires?
291. What is the supramundane asceticism?
292. What is the asceticism of the Shravakas and what are the four lines that express it?
293. What is the asceticism of the Bodhisattvas and what are the four lines that express it?
294. What is the supreme asceticism and what are the four lines that express it?
295. What is the need to integrate all modes of conduct in the behavior of Samantabhadra?
296. How is the principle of the Ati behavior of Samantabhadra explained in the *Kunjed Gyalpo*?
297. What is the principle of Chöd in relation to behaviour and which is their origin?

298. What are the four demons and which is their ultimate root?
299. What is the demon that blocks?
300. What is the demon that does not block?
301. What is the demon of complacency?
302. What is the demon of the ego?
303. Which is the way of practicing the Chöd?
304. Which are the four guests of the Chöd?
305. What is the principle of the offering of the body in the Chöd?
306. What are the variegated, white, and red types of offerings in the Chöd?
307. How is the gift of the teaching applied in the Chöd?
308. Which is the way to apply the essence of Chöd?
309. Why the syllable PHAT should not be used randomly?
310. What is the principle of Yantra Yoga and what is its origin?
311. Which is the way to apply the ninefold exhalation of the stale air?
312. Which are the yantras of the three series of physical training?
313. What are the five Tsigjongs or loosening exercises for the joints?
314. What are the eight Lungsang or movements to purify prana?
315. What are the five Tsanduls or exercises for controlling the channels?
316. What are the five pranayamas as the main practice of Yantra Yoga?
317. What are the seven types of breathings applied in Yantra Yoga?
318. In which way should one practice a personalized session of Yantra Yoga?
319. What are the seven lotus positions, and what are their benefits?
320. Which is the way to conclude a session of Yantra Yoga?
321. What is the principle of the realization of the fruit?
322. Which is the level of enlightenment in the vehicle of characteristics?
323. Which are the five paths of the vehicle of the bodhisattvas?
324. What is the meaning of the level of enlightenment called Total Light?
325. Which are the three levels of enlightenment in the Vajrayana?
326. What is the Great Accumulation of the Chakra of Letters, and what is its real meaning?
327. Why is it advised to keep the Dzogchen teaching secret?
328. What are the initial and final phases of a practice session?
329. How is the purification of the five elements applied at the beginning of a practice session?
330. Which are the three sacred fundamentals to apply in every practice sessions?
331. Which is the way to dedicate merits at the end of a practice session?
332. Which is the way to invoke the spreading of the teaching at the end of a practice session?
333. Which is the way to empower the dedication and invocation at the end of a practice session?

*With the power of the sun of these virtuous actions,  
May the millions of rays emanating from the masters spread,  
Pervading the world of beings with the light of Ati  
And eliminating forever the darkness of samsara.*

*May it be auspicious  
Sarva mangalam*

