

Before Tsong Khapa - objects of his criticisms

Ngok Loden Sherab [rngog blo ldan shes rab] (1059–1109/10)

Asserted that ultimate truth is not a knowable phenomenon because the mere non-finding of an object under analysis is just called an emptiness, and, thus, there is no phenomenon 'emptiness' existent there. Along with Rinchen Zangpo, he is often referred to as a “great translator” (lo chen) considered along with Sakya Pandita to be a founding figure of Tibetan Buddhist scholasticism.

Chapa Chökyi Senge [phyä pa chos kyi seng ge] (1106/9–1169)

Refuted the true existence of phenomena but maintained that the emptiness of true existence truly exists. Was a critic of Chandrakirti.

Dol po pa Shes rab rgyal mtshan (1292–1361)

Master of Jonang lineage, maintained an “other emptiness” zhan tong (gzhan stong), so-called because it maintained that the ultimate (don dam), while empty of all things different from itself (rang ma yin pas stong pa = gzhan stong), is not empty of itself (rang stong ma yin).

Tsong Khapa (Blo bzang grags pa) (1357–1419)

After Tsong Khapa - critics of his views

Stag Tshang Lotsawa Shes rab rin chen (1405-1477)

Sakya scholar who criticized Tsong Khapa's interpretation of Madhyamaka, especially his assertion of validly established phenomena.

Go rams pa [go bo rab 'byams pa bsod nams seng ge] (1429–1489)

Great Sakya master explained what he considered to be the true meaning of his school's principle of 'neither existence nor non-existence' (*yod min med min*). This dictum he interprets not as meaning “non-existent in ultimate reality (don dam du yod pa min) and not non-existent on the surface-level (*kun rdzob tu med pa min*)” - as Tsong kha pa understood it - but rather as synonymous with freedom from all discursive proliferation (*spros bral*) in terms of the four extreme positions.

Shākya Chokden [shākya mchog ldan] (1428–1507)

Defended the Jonang bzhan stong view.

Mikyo Dorje [Mi bskyod rdo rje] (1507–1554), Eighth Karmapa

Criticized Tsong Khapa but wrote praises to him.