



The Asian Classics Institute



Diamond Mountain University

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**IN-DEPTH COURSE III**

**Master Shantideva's Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life  
Exchanging Self & Others**

*Homework, Class Three*

1) In the section of the chapter just completed, Master Shantideva has advised the "other guy" that—if he refuses to take care of the needs of others as he does his own needs—then by logic he shouldn't take care of his own needs either. How does the "other guy" respond to this, and what is Master Shantideva's reply?

2) Quote the verse in which Master Shantideva introduces the idea of sacrifice. (Sanskrit and Tibetan tracks in these languages.)

3) Why is the idea of sacrificing oneself for others *not* a sacrifice?

4) Master Shantideva refers to the story of the bodhisattva monk called "Lovely Flower of the Moon," but he doesn't relate this story to us. Describe what happened to Lovely Flower; give his name in Sanskrit and Tibetan; and give the name of the book in which his story is found.

5) Master Shantideva, at this point, says "Why would you ever want freedom?" What on earth could he mean?

6) Master Shantideva says in a verse here that bodhisattvas “never hope for some karmic reward.” Clarify this statement from both a worldly and an ultimate standpoint.

7) How does Master Shantideva then summarize the entire section on working to treat others in the same way that we treat ourselves?

*Meditation assignment:* 15 minutes a day, analytical meditation, thinking about the old-fashioned idea of sacrificing oneself for others, and ways in which you could do this in your own immediate life.