



The Asian Classics Institute



Diamond Mountain University

Name:
Date:
Location:
Track:
Grade:

IN-DEPTH COURSE III

Master Shantideva's Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life Exploring the Border Between You and Me

Answer Key, Class Nine

1) Quote the schizophrenic verse about what we should do with anything that we find in our possession that someone else might need. (Tibetan and Sanskrit tracks in these languages also.)

The verse goes like this:

**You will take care of others:
Watch them quietly,
And then snatch away
Any particular thing
That I have in my possession
And give it away to them.**

{GZHAN GYI RTOG CHEN BYAS NAS NI,
,BDAG GI LUS LA CI SNANG BA,
,DE DANG DE NYID PHROGS BYAS NAS,
,KHYOD KYIS GZHAN LA PHAN PA SPYOD,}

anyadi#yashcaro bhu#tva# ka#yeismin yadyadi#ks%ase /
tattadeva#pahr%tyarthaM parebhyo hitama#cara //

2) Describe the very essence (in half a verse) of how we should actually proceed in our lives, once we have exchanged ourselves and others.

As the root text says, "I will see to it that I lose everything that feels good; I will see to it that I take on everyone else's pain."

3) How does Master Shantideva say that the bodhisattva should think about himself or herself from moment to moment through the day?

We should look at ourselves, the bodhisattva, and say at every moment, "What do you think you're doing?" And we should take an interest in our own faults and weakness, exposing them and rooting them out.

4) Quote, only in English, the verse about what to do if we see someone else do something wrong, and if we ourselves do something wrong.

**And even if others do something wrong,
I will see to it that I change it around
So I can take the blame myself.
Even if I do the very slightest thing wrong,
I'll make sure that I admit it
To as many people as I can.**

5) Now that we have improved as bodhisattvas, how shall we react when someone else begins to get some fame?

When others begin to get some fame, we will now make sure that we add some more, and see to it that their fame outshines whatever fame we might enjoy ourselves.

6) Once we are in the frame of mind of taking on the troubles of others, we are in a unique position concerning our own previous bad karmas. Explain.

On this point, Master Shantideva says that we can now speak to our own mind and say: "You have done much harm to others, in our past lives, for my sake. And so many negative results will come to you now. Let's make them meaningful: let's decide that whatever bad results come to me from those bad karmas I will embrace, and dedicate them to serving others.

7) Explain the idea of "style" in wishing upon others what we used to wish for ourselves.

Master Shantideva says that we should not do this practice in some crude manner, like a bull in a china shop. We should exchange ourselves and others quietly, transparently, gracefully, anonymously. We should engage in the practice as a newly-wed bride would act—particularly in Asia, where a bride traditionally came to her husband's home and was expected to serve his entire family constantly, with silence and humility.

8) Master Shantideva here says that we should "Take control of him saying, 'Do this, and do it this way; and that you shall not do.' We should cut him off too, if he strays." Who is "he" that the Master is talking about?

The "he" that the Master is talking about here is none other than our own minds; we should direct them throughout the day towards deeds that serve others, in the same way that we would treat a slightly unruly horse.