



The Asian Classics Institute



Diamond Mountain University

Name:
Date:
Location:
Track:
Grade:

IN-DEPTH COURSE II

Master Shantideva's Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life

The Chapter on Killing Anger

Homework, Class One

1) For this in-depth course on the patience chapter from Master Shantideva's *Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life*, we will be utilizing two important commentaries—one from ancient India, and another from Tibet. Name each of them, their author, and the authors' dates. (Sanskrit and Tibetan tracks, also add these languages, respectively.)

a)

b)

2) Perhaps the most famous verse from the *Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life* on the art of not getting angry appears not in the chapter on patience but in the preceding chapter, the one devoted to maintaining one's awareness. Quote all four lines of this verse. (Sanskrit and Tibetan tracks, in these languages.)

3) Master Prajnakara Mati makes a particularly strong note in his commentary about a play on words which appears in the very first verse of the chapter on patience. This word play is not conveyed by the Tibetan translation of Master Shantideva's work, and this gives us some insight into the immense value of studying Buddhism in the original Sanskrit. Quote the verse and explain the play. (Sanskrit and Tibetan tracks in those languages.)

4) The verse just discussed, by the way, is meant to indicate perhaps the worst quality of anger. Describe this quality, and its sister disaster.

5) While we're on the subject of original Sanskrit words, give the Sanskrit for the most common words that Master Shantideva uses for both "anger" and "patience"; then explain how the related English words (cognates) help shed light on the taste of the Sanskrit terms.

6) Discuss the idea of a “fire hazard,” with regard both to anger and also our more general, daily Buddhist practice.

7) Talk a little about the idea of the “range” of anger.

8) Obviously, this “Chapter on Patience” will be dealing with the various methods that we ourselves can use to avoid all of the many problems associated with anger. These methods can be divided into two very broad categories: name and describe these two. (Tibetan track also name in Tibetan..)

9) Why would Master Shantideva bring up the subject of food here, early on in the patience chapter?

10) The study and practice of fighting anger can be pretty exhausting and sort of depressing. So let's list as well the two great benefits that can come from even small victories in this war.

a)

b)

Homework assignment: 15 minutes a day, analytical meditation on the specific good deeds or good karma that you *know* you've done so far in this life, and which could be destroyed if you got angry at the you-know-who in your own life.