



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 Five*

1) The fifth reading begins with two verses which argue against anger in a way reflected exactly in a common nursery rhyme. Give the rhyme, and clarify a bit how Master Shantideva would talk about it.

2) The harsh words of another person may not harm us directly, but they could very well cause other people to lose faith in us. Describe how Master Shantideva views this concern.

3) When others lose faith or trust in us though, this can adversely affect our ability to support ourselves and others materially. Give the second half of the verse in which Master Shantideva counters this concern.

4) Relate and explain the metaphor that Master Shantideva uses to help demonstrate why it is wrong to crave possessions.

5) Master Shantideva uses another metaphor to describe our condition as we come to the end of our life. Quote the entire verse in which he presents this metaphor. (Tibetan and Sanskrit tracks in these languages.)

6) The “other person” in this section of the chapter then comes to Master Shantideva and argues that they really do need things, in order to live a longer life—because then they will have more time to work off their past negative deeds, and accomplish the good deeds they have not yet done. How does the Master reply, and how does this relate to the question of the *style* with which we do our good deeds? Complete your answer, finally, with the powerful second half of the verse on this subject. (Tibetan and Sanskrit tracks in these languages.)

7) The “other guy” next comes up to Master Shantideva and says that he’s only becoming angry at the person who speaks badly about him because it will, ultimately, hurt other people who believe what this person says. Describe the Master’s reaction to this, and relate it to international relations.

8) The same person then comes back with an argument which amounts to: “I can’t really control how people feel about someone else, so I avoid becoming involved when a person causes people to lose faith in someone else.” How does Master Shantideva counter this approach?

9) Some of the greatest violence ever committed in the course of our human history has been the violence done to each other by religious groups. Master Shantideva’s specific comments on this point are certainly some of the most noble sentiments ever expressed in the literature of any of the world’s major religions. Explain first how the Master advises us to deal with the religious violence in the form of slander or destruction of places of worship, sacred images, or holy books.

10) Describe finally how Master Shantideva advises us to respond to violence done to our own dear Lamas, as well as family or other people we hold close.

*Meditation assignment:* 15 minutes a day, silent contemplation on the image of the dream that lasts a hundred years.