



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 Six*

1) This section of the patience chapter begins with an exploration of the question of blame for the negative things that happen to us. When somebody or something hurts us, we immediately tend to make a certain dichotomy which happens to reveal already how illogical we get when we are angry. Explain this dichotomy.

2) Master Shantideva goes on to discuss the question of blame in light of the ignorance within the human mind. Quote the first five lines of the verse in which he does so. (Tibetan and Sanskrit tracks in these languages.)

3) In this section of the chapter is found the one verse which more than any other summarizes the basis of the third kind of patience: the attitude of “It’s my own karma.” Quote the verse, and again discuss briefly whether this approach completely covers the ultimate worldview of the *perfection* of patience. (Tibetan and Sanskrit tracks give the verse in these languages.)

4) Towards the end of the chapter, Master Shantideva will be making the point that—if we can maintain our patience—then the number of people who appear in our lives to try our patience will automatically become fewer and fewer, since they are actually *produced* by our anger. Describe the verse in this section of the chapter which presents the very pleasant extreme of this thinking.

5) In the next few verses of this section, Master Shantideva presents the idea of cutting our losses. Describe the metaphor that he uses to do so, and then discuss briefly again whether this approach reflects the ultimate worldview: the one which ends suffering itself.

6) In a very powerful metaphor about a prisoner, Master Shantideva points out that it may actually be *less* painful if—when someone slugs you on one side of the face—you turn your face to the other side and voluntarily let them slug you again. Quote the half a verse that presents this metaphor, and explain what it means to the Master. (Tibetan and Sanskrit tracks in these languages.)

7) In response to this “turn the other cheek” argument, the “other guy” in the chapter claims that he does not possess the inner strength to undergo the pain of volunteering to be smacked in the face the second time. Describe how this is a self-defeating argument, and how it may apply to say international relations.

8) The “turn the cheek” argument above is meant to convey the logic of enduring present, relatively lesser pains in order to avoid hugely greater pains in the future. But Master Shantideva goes further and relates the present pain to that of the past. Explain.

9) Even when we are able to put into practice—in some feeble way—this idea of turning the other cheek, there is often some measure of hesitation, or only a grudging willingness. How would Master Shantideva have us feel about it?

*Meditation assignment:* A plain old 15-minute daily meditation on what kind of karma you must have committed in the past to be experiencing now the one person who most irritates you.