



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 Nine

1) Suppose we are trying to accomplish some virtuous deed, and another person hinders us from doing so. Using the definition of a cause, explain why they are therefore actually *helping* us to do so; and then throw in two very appropriate side notes on this point.

2) Name and explain the two examples that Master Shantideva gives to illustrate the above point.

3) Give the verse from the patience chapter which states how and *why* people who hurt us are so rare. (Sanskrit and Tibetan tracks add these languages.)

4) One of the images commonly utilized for Buddha nature is also used by Master Shantideva to describe people that we don't like. Give the image, and explain it.

5) How does the word "strategic alliance" relate to this chapter?

6) There is a common objection to the concept that the people who hurt us are actually facilitating an invaluable collaboration; that is, they have no *intention* of working with us towards some great goal, and so their help doesn't really *count*. Describe how Master Shantideva counters this argument.

7) The other party, at this point in the patience chapter, raises now a further objection: Not only does the person who hurts me not entertain any wish to help me, they actually harbor an active wish to *hurt* me. How does Master Shantideva counter this new argument?

8) Master Shantideva next moves from the concept of our enemy as an essential cause for the practice of patience to the idea of the enemy being like a field where we plant the seeds of our good deeds. Name and explain the two fields he mentions here. (Sanskrit and Tibetan tracks also name in these languages.)

9) Master Shantideva first says that enlightened and unenlightened beings are equal, and then he says that they're not equal, and then he says again that they're equal. What does he mean?

10) What form of greatness do unenlightened living beings possess, which allows Buddhas to possess the greatness they have?

11) Give a final, sort of mathematical proof that other people—even annoying or hurtful ones—are just as deserving of our love and respect as the enlightened beings themselves.

Meditation assignment: 15 minutes a day, analytical meditation on the greater implications of Master Shantideva's statement that—if we keep up this patience stuff—then people who irritate us will become fewer and fewer.