



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

Quiz, Class Eight

1) Master Shantideva lists five things that getting famous *doesn't* do for you; Master Prajnakara Mati further mentions that these five are a traditional list of benefits that a wise person would hope for from anything, because they better allow you to serve other people. Name the five.

2) Master Shantideva follows with a verse that talks about people who squander all their money trying to attract the attention of others; and people who even risk their very lives and go to war, all with the hope of doing deeds that will make them famous—which he notes is especially silly, since if (and when) you die, there's no one left to enjoy the fame. But then in the middle of this verse he says, “And anyway, what is it exactly that the alphabet can do for you?” Explain the two meanings of this question.

3) Then follows an interesting exchange. Master Shantideva points out that words themselves are not possessed of consciousness—and so it is completely impossible that *they* are praising us intentionally. The “other guy” (usually our own mind, actually) then comes back with the argument that—when someone praises us—it means that they are happy with us, and we can take a wholesome joy in their happiness. All this happiness, we continue, is prevented if a person criticizes us; and so it is reasonable to feel anger at this person. Explain the two ways in which the Master responds.

4) Master Shantideva says that our desire for praise and fame makes us similar to crazy people who are struggling to enter a house of pain. This makes people who criticize us—who prevent us from attaining praise and fame—like wonderful friends who are locking us out of the pain house. He then says that “it’s as if an enlightened being has granted us their blessing.” Explain the higher implications.