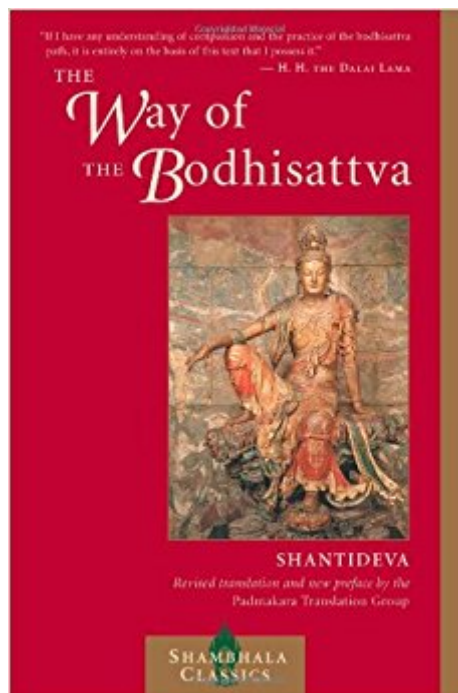




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The Way Of The Bodhisattva: (Bodhicaryavatara), Revised Edition (Shambhala Classics)



Synopsis

Treasured by Buddhists of all traditions, *The Way of the Bodhisattva* (Bodhicharyavatara) is a guide to cultivating the mind of enlightenment, and to generating the qualities of love, compassion, generosity, and patience. This text has been studied, practiced, and expounded upon in an unbroken tradition for centuries, first in India, and later in Tibet. Presented in the form of a personal meditation in verse, it outlines the path of the Bodhisattvas—those who renounce the peace of individual enlightenment and vow to work for the liberation of all beings and to attain buddhahood for their sake. This version, translated from the Tibetan, is a revision by the translators of the 1997 edition. Included are a foreword by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, a new translator's preface, a thorough introduction, a note on the translation, and three appendices of commentary by the Nyingma master Kunzang Pelden.

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Customer Reviews

Shantideva was an Indian Buddhist while Buddhism still flourished in India. His great work, the *Bodhicharyavatara*, or "Entrance to the Path of Awakening," became a major text of Tibetan Buddhism long after it went out of circulation in its homeland. It is a handbook on how to realize the nature of existence and of compassion that arises from such realization. The Dalai Lama said of it, "If I have any understanding of compassion and the practice of the Bodhisattva path, it is entirely on the basis of this text that I possess it." Like the *Book of Proverbs*, the *Bodhicharyavatara* is a timeless work of wisdom, the longevity of which is due to the quality of its verse as much as to its

wisdom. For the first time, an attempt has been made to recover that poetic immediacy by rendering the text in iambic lines. Regard your body as a vessel, A simple boat for going here and there. Make of it a wish-fulfilling gem To bring about the benefit of beings. With this translation, gleaming in its clarity, a Buddhist classic becomes an English classic. Worthy of recitation and committing to memory, Shantideva's words on such topics as doing good, reading sutras, guarding the mind, keeping good company, and on the nature of the mind and reality can take on a life of their own, to grow and blossom in a new native tongue. The text booms, like the voice of a Shakespearean actor, as if it were not the bodhisattva but the book itself that proclaims: And now as long as space endures, As long as there are beings to be found, May I continue likewise to remain To drive away the sorrows of the world. --Brian Bruya --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

One of the many Buddhist masters who have written profoundly and with clarity about the wellsprings of the Buddhist traditions is Shantideva, a seventh-century Buddhist scholar who taught at Nalanda, one of the great monastic universities of ancient India. Shantideva's Bodhicharyavatara, one of the foundational texts of Tibetan Buddhism, deeply influenced the Dalai Lama, who once remarked that his own understanding of the bodhisattva path is based entirely upon Shantideva's text. Bodhisattvas are beings who renounce nirvana and vow to work for the welfare of all beings. The Bodhicharyavatara, which means "An Entry Into the Activities of Enlightenment," is an outline of the path that bodhisattvas should follow as they seek to teach others the path to nirvana. Thus, this collection contains meditation exercises and moral instruction for bodhisattvas to practice as they engage in their work. Shantideva's work is required reading for an understanding of Tibetan Buddhism, and the clarity and crispness of this new translation make it an accessible way into the world of Tibetan Buddhism. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Bad news and Good news. We'll start with the Bad; this ancient fundamentalist text (like most) can be dark, negative and encumbering. Now for the good news. It's prose can be stirring and intermittently beautiful; and of all translations of this classic, this version is my favorite. That being said, if you're looking for a complete synopsis of the path to enlightenment I strongly recommend purchasing "The Heart Treasure of the Enlightened Ones." Although I'm not a fan of Dilgo Khyentse's commentary, the root text by Dza Patrul Rinpoche has been lauded by the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet as both a "...complete path..." and rather like "...an elixir for reviving the dead..." Heart

Treasure is also sold by :-)

If you decide to study Shantideva's Bodhicharyavatara, you soon discover that there are a number of translations from which to choose. And you will probably find that you need to own more than one of them because there continues to be a good deal of discussion about which of the various versions of the text is closest to the original. I like this version as much as Alan Wallace's heavily annotated translation and I think both are essential if you are studying the text with a commentary. If I had to choose, I would take this version because it was translated (a) in parallel with Kunzang Pelden's beautiful commentary on the text, (b) the translation was done within the context of a traditional teacher-student relationship, and (c) the introduction gives a great overview of the translation history and textual challenges of the text. There are a number of good commentaries on the text but in the Nyingma tradition, the one to read is definitely The Nectar of Manjushri's Speech by Kunzang Pelden.

We are using this book and Pema Chodron's book 'No Time to Lose' in preparation to taking the Bodhisattva vows this spring with Mindfulness Meditation Centers. I am very grateful to have Pema's book to help with the understanding of Shantideva's prose. If you only want to purchase one book...purchase Pema's book. All of the prose verses are in her book also. As always, she points the way when there is confusion. Shantideva was a genius in his own right as well as being a true Bodhisattva.

I read the quote from the Dalai Lama on the cover of this book and thought it just had to be incredible for him to say what he did (basically that everything he knows about the way of a bodhisattva came from this text). I can truly see why he said that now - the book is awe inspiring, and I don't say that lightly. There are passages that read as if someone living in 2013 America was writing them, they are that pertinent and powerful. Take into account that it was written around 1300 years ago, and that - that is amazing. The depth of meaning, the applicability and wisdom of the stanzas within this gem are simply beautiful. If you want to read something as deep as it is practical, as meaningful as it is beautiful, you need to read this book

If one is unfamiliar with Buddhism, this is a great book to start with. This revised edition contains updated language for the modern reader and sets forth the 'nuts and bolts' of one of the key elements of Buddhist practice - Bodhichitta. The 'what' and 'why' of cultivating this, then how one

can nurture and sustain this in one's everyday life and relationships is well elaborated in clear language. The book gives relevant examples for context and practical steps, so that one can go beyond mere philosophical abstraction. If one is already familiar with Buddhism, the read is very suitable for ongoing introspection, mindfulness and nurturing wisdom at increasing levels of depth.

David This book was recommended to me by a Buddhist nun when I was in the hospital after an accident. I've been lost for a while and now that I'm reading/studying the Way of the Bodhisattva and attending the Shambhala Center in NYC, my life is becoming clearer and am finding my purpose in life. I recommend it to everyone who feels lost or who simply wants to explore the Buddhist canons. You'll get a perspective you never thought was possible.

Very pleased. But was not aware that it is a "pocket sized" version

An awe-inspiring read that has one's mind maneuver through the seemingly complex texts with a deep yearning towards enlightenment. In my humble opinion, no philosophical works (of the few that I have read) on bodhicitta are quite so revelatory as that within this book. A must read for anyone and everyone. In the words of Jiddu Krishnamurti ... "To understand is to transform what is."

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