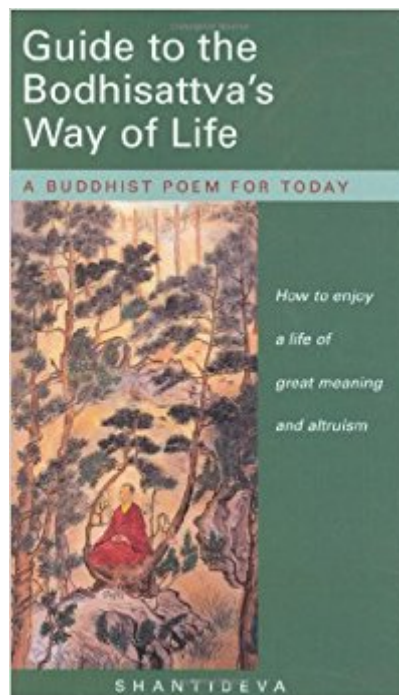




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Guide To The Bodhisattva's Way Of Life: How To Enjoy A Life Of Great Meaning And Altruism



Synopsis

This famous and universally loved poem for daily living has inspired many generations of Buddhists and non-Buddhists since it was first composed in the 8th century by the famous Indian Buddhist master Shantideva. This new translation, made under the guidance of Geshe Kelsang Gyatso, conveys the great lucidity and poetic beauty of the original, while preserving its full impact and spiritual insight. Reading these verses slowly, while contemplating their meaning, has a profoundly liberating effect on the mind. The poem invokes special positive states of mind, moves us from suffering and conflict to happiness and peace, and gradually introduces us to the entire Mahayana Buddhist path to enlightenment.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An excellent introduction to the Mahayana tradition, or be studied in depth with a commentary such as Meaningful to Behold. -- Altar Magazine

Shantideva (AD 687-763) was a renowned Indian Buddhist scholar who composed the Buddhist classic Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life (known in Sanskrit as Bodhisattvacharyavatara). A Bodhisattva is a friend of the world who, motivated by compassion, spontaneously seeks enlightenment to benefit all living beings. (Shantideva)

There are a few translations of Shantideva's discourse out there. I got this one because my teacher

suggested it as an alternative to another which she was working from. Her purpose was to show how different scholars can offer alternative readings of the text. And that hearing or reading those alternatives can be useful in getting the essence of the teachings. As to the content of the discourse, it seems to make the most sense to me if I take it a little at a time, just two pages a day and let the meaning of those two pages sink in. If you take "Guide..." as a long poem admonishing a group of monks to stick with the precepts of their order, it really doesn't make a lot of a sense to a layperson with no background in Buddhism. On the other hand, if you have been doing a bit of meditation and have been attempting to apply that practice to your daily encounters with people and to your own habits, Shantideva's "Guide.." is a very useful book.

A Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life (Bodhisattvacaryavatara) is a must have for anyone wishing to understand Mahayana buddhism, its truly a gem in the realm of spiritual texts. With this text alone one can find peace and learn how to maintain a level of equanimity during times of suffering and happiness alike. If you are just interested in a book on self help, this book is also great! There is no need to be buddhist to gain a lot of insight into human existence and our shared experience.

I have known several passages from this book. The whole book is satisfying and Batchelor makes it come alive. Very glad I bought it. Living up to it is a big ambition.

A classic Buddhist text bringing Shantideva into full view. Batchelor has made Shantideva's compassion a direct, lineal descendant of Nagarjuna's emptiness (see Verses from the Center by the same translator/author).

One of the most sacred texts in the Tibetan Buddhist canon. Incredible wealth of wisdom that will help you advance your practice if you have the ability to put deep contemplation into each line of text.

A little hard to grasp- not what i expected.

I counted almost 50 verses of this translation that give a different meaning than that found in three other translations which I possess. Some of the verses appear to be complete creations made up by the translator! Also, despite Tharpa's claim that their translation was done "under the

compassionate guidance of Venerable Geshe Kelsang Gyatso" his commentary on the text appears to favor the translations which I possess-- he seems unaware that the Tharpa translation differs from these! I advise readers who want to better understand Geshe Kelsang Gyatso's commentary of the text to read the translations done by the Padmakara Translation Group or that done by Vesna and Alan Wallace or that done by Stephen Batchelor. And why has no student of Geshe Kelsang Gyatso noticed these problems in all the ten years that the book has been in circulation????

I bought this book thinking it was more like a novel, but its actually "verses" of poems. You can just read one verse a day and contemplate on it as a daily meditation.

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