

# *Tara Institute 'Shantideva's Bodhicharyavatara' Study Group 2013*

The login username is "studygroup", the password is "bwol" (just remember "Bodhisattva's Way of Life").

## **Discussion**      **Week 7 (06.08.2013)**

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### **Week: 1 (25 June 2013)**

1. What is a bodhisattva? Answer in terms of the presentation found in the title of Shantideva's text.
2. a) Explain the infallibility of the law of Karma?  
b) Here, however, the point concerns the qualities of a Bodhisattva. What are these qualities?
3. In relation to verse 36 Gyaltsab Je goes on to say:  
**'If the aforementioned explained benefits are condensed, then there are two, which can be subsumed into temporary and ultimate benefits. ...'**  
Explain these temporary and ultimate benefits.

### **Week: 2 (2 July 2013)**

- 4.a) How is virtue defined? How does it relate to the definition of negativity?  
b) What is the purpose of identifying virtue and non-virtue?
5. What is the optimum way to incorporate accumulating both extensive merit and purifying negativities?
6. Taking on the mind of enlightenment begins with engaging in which conducive preliminary practices ?

### **Week: 3 (9 July 2013)**

7. What does the line, *extending to the end of space*, indicate?
8. (a) What is the specific implication of the benefits of offering one's body to the supreme beings?  
(b) So what is the ultimate purpose of offering one's body?

### **Week: 4 (16 July 2013)**

9. a) What are some of the different ways of offering flowers?  
B) What should we visualize above a great lama or Master when offering flowers and how may those flowers be offered?
10. What is the actual Dharma Jewel?
11. Describe how one presents unsurpassable offerings according to the tradition of Samantabhadra.

### **Week: 5 (23 July 2013)**

12. a) What is the dormant form of suffering that every sentient being possesses?  
b) what is an example of the basis of this suffering?
- 13.a) Name one mental affliction for which prostration is a supreme antidote

b) Name three benefits of prostration?

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14. Describe how we visualize while prostrating. Then explain the benefits of doing prostrations in this way.

**Week 6 (30 July 2013)**

15. Explain how refuge carries two main causes? ( pg.3, 2nd paragraph under heading of REFUGE in the 1st colomn )