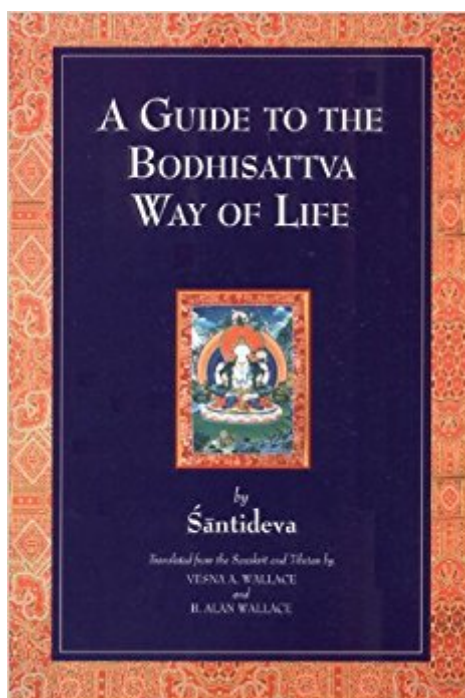


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A Guide To The Bodhisattva Way Of Life



Synopsis

In the whole of the Tibetan Buddhist tradition, there is no single treatise more deeply revered or widely practiced than *A Guide to the Bodhisattva Way of Life*. Composed in the eighth century by the Indian Bodhisattva Santideva, it became an instant classic in the curricula of the Buddhist monastic universities of India, and its renown has grown ever since. Santideva presents methods to harmonize one's life with the Bodhisattva ideal and inspires the reader to cultivate the perfections of the Bodhisattva: generosity, ethics, patience, zeal, meditative concentration, and wisdom.

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Customer Reviews

These two volumes present perspectives on the Bodhisattva ideal, the distinguishing characteristic of Mahayana Buddhism that emphasizes the desire for enlightenment as an act of altruism toward all beings. *A Guide to the Bodhisattva Way of Life* is a classic of Tibetan Buddhism, composed in the eighth century by a Buddhist monk. The Wallaces (a professor and a student in religious studies, Stanford Univ.) translated this work with careful attention to Tibetan and Sanskrit versions, which makes their translation unique. The main text has been re-created from the Sanskrit with attention to the Tibetan. Where the nuances in the originals differ significantly, the translation of the Tibetan version is given in the notes. *The Thirty Seven Practices of Bodhisattvas* is a transcription of an oral teaching by a Buddhist scholar and teacher. The text on which the teaching is given is a set of verses written in the 14th century by a Tibetan Buddhist monk. Like the first title, this work seeks to elucidate the day-to-day practice of the Bodhisattva. The original verses are short and fairly clear,

and the commentary by Rinchen makes the meaning and the demanding character of the Bodhisattva ideal realistic for the contemporary reader. The two titles offer insight upon insight as to the way a life should be lead. Rinchen's is perhaps the more accessible to general readers. For the price, any library with an interest in Buddhism would do well to acquire both. ?Mark Woodhouse, Elmira Coll. Lib., N.Y. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"Will stand for many years as the standard English translation of this key Tibetan Buddhist text." ? Publishers Weekly "The Wallaces have produced a concise, literal, and elegant translation. The extant Sanskrit edition frequently differs from the one used in Tibet a millennium ago, and the Wallaces have noted these differences in copious footnotes. These features make their translation both highly readable and an excellent source for scholars of the original languages." ? Tricycle

This book is essential for the Buddhist philosophy, however, I would recommend this guide to someone who is already familiar with the basic teachings. As the title implies, it is a guide for how to live life, and it is written as a list of guiding principles. For someone new to Buddhism and wanting to learn more, I would first recommend an introduction. But I definitely recommend reading this guide to anyone interested in eastern religion or philosophy.

Just holding this book in your hands may transform your entire worldview. It is one of the most profound philosophical treatises I have ever encountered. I will also add that of all the various translations of this text I have read this one is easily the most lucid and poetic.

Of everything I have ever read in my life, this is the most convincing treatise inspiring me to learn and practice the teachings of the Buddhas. This is appropriate reading for readers with a very strong comprehension of English as well as some relationship with Buddhist terminology. While any student should attempt to get teachings on this text directly from a living teacher who has had the text "transmitted" to her or him, some students will nonetheless have a much easier time relating to the text immediately, while others may find it to be dense and difficult to understand. Speaking from over a millenium back, Āṣṭāṅgahṛdaya accomplishes what few other Buddhist teachers do: in so few words he will describe with shocking prose and precision, both how and why to become a Buddhist. While other classic texts such as the Seven-Point Mind Training may be found more immediately practical in their application, Āṣṭāṅgahṛdaya takes the cake for the

breadth of material covered, and the profound clarity of his arguments. Having already read a number of modern books on Buddhism, by the time I reached *Śāntideva* I think I still had not grasped the incredible importance of basing one's aspiration in the actual experience and appreciation of the suffering of others as well as the suffering brought to one by the world of confused beings. He manages to get this across with stunning beauty, clarity and cogency. The book reads a teensy bit like a bible, what with its frequent talk of arriving in hell realms as a consequence of misconduct. But you can get past that. It's not a doctrine, and there's no Pope (and he has no minions) who will force you to take it literally. You can interpret it how you like without losing what he's saying there, which is that our actions all have broader effects than we foresee.

Very pleased

Good translation. I like it. It's my favorite translation of this work by Shantideva.

This is a translation from the Sanskrit and is not as poetic as the translation from the Tibetan done by the Padmakara group which I have read daily for several years. I recently started reading this also, and find it to be an excellent practice text, as well. I highly recommend this book.

Great book! His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama recommends it, so it must be good ... and it is. It covers a lot of ground, but explains complex Buddhist concepts in an easy to understand way. If you want to study Buddhist philosophy, this is a great place to start.

Excellent book.

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