



# Bodhicharya

AWAKEN THE HEART BY OPENING THE MIND

Ringu Tulku Rinpoche

## Introduction to the Bodhicharyavatara and the Online Study Group

Recently we decided that Bodhicharya will do a study group, a kind of an online Shedra, and we would study together the Bodhicharyavatara text.

As you know, the ***Bodhicharyavatara***, or *Entering Into the Path of the Bodhisattvas*, was written by a great Master of India, Shantideva, and it has been a text book for the study of Buddhism, especially Mahayana Buddhism, for countless centuries. A great Master of Tibet, Patrul Rinpoche says that if you really understand this book, then you understand more or less everything about Buddhism, as this book contains not only the understanding, but also the heart, the practice, the meditation, the action - so therefore you don't need anything else to study but this book, Bodhicharyavatara.

It is also a fact that His Holiness the Dalai Lama often says that the single most important teaching that really helped him in his practice and understanding of Buddhism was the study of Bodhicharyavatara with Kunu Lama Tenzin Gyaltzen. It is one of the most important text books in Buddhism, and it is something that one could start with, like I have also; the first book that I've studied to study Buddhism was Bodhicharyavatara.

But it is also that you can never totally finish this. You can study it again and again, like Patrul Rinpoche used to teach Bodhicharyavatara from the beginning to the end, and then the next day he would go again from the beginning. This way it is said that Khenpo Kunpal, who wrote the famous commentary of Bodhicharyavatara based on the teachings of Patrul Rinpoche, received the teaching for about forty times. But he said that every time he received these teachings, he learned something new, so he never felt that he had wasted time or it was not meaningful to study again. Based on these teachings and experiences he wrote his commentary, and most probably we are also going to base our studies on his commentary, which is now translated into English by Padmakara.

Also, this year I could not visit most of the centers that I usually visit, therefore if anybody wants they can join this study group, where I will try to explain [the Bodhicharyavatara] maybe once in every two weeks, and then we'll make the arrangements and we can discuss. I'll give teachings on one or two stanzas every time, and there will also be a commentary online. The students can listen to the teachings and study the commentary. There is the commentary of Khenpo Kunpal in English and other languages also, and there will be a transcript of my teachings that I gave a long time ago for many years. Then if people have anything they want to discuss or comment on or ask questions, they can do so, and those will be answered in the next session. I hope this way it would be useful for everybody.

*A transcript of a video talk by Ringu Tulku Rinpoche, recorded at Bodhicharya Berlin in August 2010 for the Bodhicharya Online Shedra.*