



Bodhicharya

AWAKEN THE HEART BY OPENING THE MIND

Ringu Tulku Rinpoche
Offering of One's Body.
2nd Chapter, Stanzas 8-9.

BA2_8-9: Offering of One's Body. 2nd Chapter, Stanzas 8-9.

March 24, 2011

Transcribed by Albert Harris

Teachings on the Bodhicharyavatara for the Bodhicharya Online Shedra



So, now I will continue the second chapter of Bodhicharyavatara and we are now on the eighth stanza and this is of “offering our body”.

*“Enlightened ones and all you Bodhisattva heirs,
I offer you my body throughout all my lives.
Supreme, courageous ones accept me totally,
For with devotion I will be your slave.”*

So, what is being said here is that what I wish is very much to liberate all the sentient beings from their ceaseless suffering and samsaric cycles and therefore, that is what *you* wish, has been, all the Buddhas and bodhisattvas, it has been your effort and your one-pointed purpose for a long, long

time; so I totally appreciate that, I totally agree with you, I am the same with you, I join you with my force. Therefore, I have no other purpose but the purpose that you have therefore I fully offer myself to that cause of eliminating all the sufferings of all the sentient beings and bringing lasting peace and happiness to all of them. Therefore, I am with you, I offer myself, my body, all the time that I have, all the strength that I have, all the talents that I have, all the positive qualities that I have, all the things that I've learned, all the positive karma that I've accumulated: all this I offer for that cause. Therefore, I'm yours. Please accept me as your slave. I have nothing more to do. My purpose is to do what you want to do. We have the same purpose. Therefore, please accept me, please guide me, please put me in the right direction, give your blessings, give your strength, give your guidance, and give your power so that I am able to do what you are trying to do and accomplish them together.

Therefore, I have no desire of my own, there is no purpose of my own, and my purpose of life, of this life, of all lives is the same: to benefit all the beings. So, everything that I have is yours, for the cause, therefore treat me as your slave; you can ask me to do anything that is beneficial to the sentient beings and I will try to do that.

Therefore, this is a kind of dedication, a dedication of my life for the cause of sentient beings.

The ninth stanza is:

*"For if you will accept me, I will be
Undaunted by samsara and will act for beings' sake.
I'll leave behind the evils of my past,
And ever after turn my face from them."*

Therefore, I need myself to be in your company, in your retinue, in your mandala as one of you. So, when I'm there, together working with all the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas for the sake of sentient beings then, even if I am in a samsaric state of mind, I will not be daunted by the problems of the samsara.

Samsara is enticing and dangerous [and there are] lots of pitfalls, lots of difficulties. It is difficult not to get entangled in all sorts of aversions and attachments and conflicts and things like that. But with your blessings and guidance [so] that I remember you all the time, take your example all the time, then I become undaunted by the samsara. Therefore, I will act, not according to my selfish desire, my self-centred kind of ways, but I will act for the benefit for all the sentient beings.

Therefore, I have to leave all my negative deeds of the past, I have to leave my habitual tendencies and actions of negative activities that I have been doing for countless lifetimes. I need to leave them behind, I need to let them go, I need to kind of detoxify myself from the influence of these negative actions and negative thoughts, negative emotions and I will do that under your protection, under your guidance, with your example and turn away from those useless and harmful activities. If I do things only for myself, my selfishness, my self-centredness, harming others and only thinking that I'm benefiting myself but actually I'm not benefiting myself. I am in a way harming myself in the long run. Those kind of activities, I would like to understand them, I would recognise them because of your example and because of your teachings; and now I will turn my face away from this useless-not only useless-but harmful activities for myself especially and then for others as well.

So now, I will devote myself to the dharma because dharma is finding the right way, a wise way to help myself in the long run and to help all other beings now in small ways as well as in big ways. So therefore, I have nothing else to do but that.

Therefore, I offer you my body. I have nothing else, I have no other activities, no other important engagements, no other thing I cannot spare. Therefore, I dedicate what is called the offering of the body [described in] the two stanzas, stanza number eight and number nine. So, I will stop here this time and thank you very much.

This is a transcript of a video talk given for the Bodhicharya Online Shedra by Ringu Tulku Rinpoche. The transcript has only been lightly edited and is meant to be used within the Online Shedra study context.