

AROUSING BODHICHITTA

The Way of the Bodhisattva by Shantideva translated by the Padmakara Translation Group

“This state of mind so precious and so rare arises truly wondrous, never seen before.”

stanza 1:5

“As when a flash of lightning rends the night,
And in its glare shows all the dark black clouds had hid,
Likewise rarely, through the buddha’s power,
Virtuous thoughts rise, brief and transient, in the world.”

stanza 1:15

“Bodhichitta, the awakening mind,
In brief is said to have two aspects:
First, aspiring, *bodhichitta in intention*;
Then, *active bodhichitta*, practical engagement.”

stanza 1:16

“Wishing to depart and setting out upon the road,
This is how the difference is conceived.
The wise and learned thus should understand
this difference, which is ordered and progressive.”

Relative Bodhichitta

1. Aspiring, bodhichitta in intention
2. Active bodhichitta, practical engagement
 - a. Taking Bodhisattva vow
 - b. Training in the six paramitas or transcendent virtues (generosity, discipline, patience, exertion, meditation and wisdom)

Absolute Bodhichitta

Related to shunyata, emptiness, ultimate truth

“May bodhichitta, precious and sublime.
Arise where it has not yet come to be;
And where it has arisen may it never fail
But grow and flourish ever more and more.” Attributed to Nagarjuna.