

SHANTIDEVA'S DEDICATION PRAYERS: RADICAL EMPATHY

On Universal Healing

"May all who are sick and ill
Quickly be freed from their ailments.
May every disease that afflicts living beings
Be gone and never return."

"May the frightened cease to be afraid
And those bound be freed;
May the powerless find power,
And may people think of benefiting each other."

The Bodhisattva's Vow of Service

"May I be a guard for those who need protection,
A guide for those on the path,
A boat, a raft, a bridge
for those who wish to cross the flood.

May I be a lamp for those who seek light,
A bed for those who seek rest,
And may I be a servant
for all beings who desire a servant."

On Environmental and Sensory Transformation

On the Hells:

"May the forest of razor-sharp leaves
become a beautiful grove, and
may the trees of thorns
grow into wish-fulfilling trees."

On Refreshment:

"May the river of caustic acid
become a sea of fragrant nectar, and
may the fire of the hell realms
become a cooling rain of perfumes."

On Abundance:

"May the hungry find food, and
may the thirsty find pure water
and delicious drinks."

On Social and Physical Wellbeing

On Poverty:

"May the poor find wealth,
those weak with sorrow find joy;
may the forlorn find new hope,

constant happiness, and prosperity."

On Travel and Safety:

"May all travelers find happiness
everywhere they go, and without any effort
may they successfully accomplish
what they set out to do."

On the Vulnerable:

"May those who find themselves
in trackless fearsome wilds—
the children, the aged, the unprotected—
be guarded by beneficent celestial beings."

On Mental Clarity:

"May all beings be of sound mind, and
may they possess mindfulness and wisdom."

On the Spiritual Path

On Harmony:

"May all monasteries be well-established,
full of chanting and study;
may the community of monks be always in harmony and
their purposes be accomplished."

On Universal Peace:

"May all beings everywhere who are suffering in body or mind
quickly be freed from their pain.
May no one ever commit a sin, and
may no one ever be afraid."

The Wish for Enlightenment:

"May all beings be decorated
with the marks and signs of a Buddha;
may they have the strength of
a titan and the beauty of a god."

On Enduring Service

"For as long as space endures,
And for as long as living beings remain,
Until then may I too abide
To dispel the misery of the world."