



THE PATH OF LIGHT

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Global Grey ebooks

THE PATH OF LIGHT

**RENDERED FOR THE FIRST TIME INTO ENGLISH FROM
THE BODHICHARYĀVATĀRA OF ŚĀNTI-DEVA**

A MANUAL OF MAHĀ-YĀNA BUDDHISM

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1909

The Path of Light By Lionel D. Barnett.

This edition was created and published by Global Grey

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Understand how to make clean thy enjoyments, until thy soul be cleansed. Make thy merit pure by deeds full of the spirit of tenderness and the Void.⁶¹

Full many there are who will take from thee. If thou hast but little, what of that? if it gives not full satisfaction, then it must be increased.

What is increase of the body? increase of strength and energy. Increase of enjoyment is from almsgiving full of the spirit of tenderness and the Void.

Firstly should a man with care establish firmly his resolution and purpose; then with an attendant spirit of tenderness, he should strive to increase his merit.

The rule of right conduct—worship and the like—should ever be reverently observed. Let faith and the like be always practised, likewise brotherly love and the remembrance of the Buddha.

In short, the weal of fellow-beings in all conditions, the godly gift without worldly desire, and the Thought of Enlightenment cause righteousness to increase.

Perfection arises from constancy in the heedful effort to make right renunciations, by remembrance, by attention, and by true meditation.

⁶¹ Acts are to be inspired by knowledge of the Void and brotherly love. These two requisites (*sambhāra*), the intellectual and the moral, are necessary for spiritual advancement; one is of no avail without the other.