

Bodhisattva Ideal – its three roots

Nagarjuna now puts before the king the Mahayana ideal, that is, the Bodhisattva ideal. This ideal is the attainment of 'unparalleled enlightenment', and its 'roots' are the three factors that will help bring this about. The first of these is 'the altruistic aspiration', which is the bodhicitta, the wish to attain Enlightenment for the benefit of all beings. This sublime aspiration is so imbued with a sense of the transcendental, and at the same time so deeply interwoven with one's everyday life, that it is unshakeable. The second root is compassion that is without boundaries, that does not falter under any circumstances, whatever the provocation. The third is wisdom that is ungraspable, that gives the ego no foothold.

Sangharakshita, *Living Ethically*, p.27

©Windhorse Publications

www.windhorsepublications.com