



Guru Yoga of the Great Bodhisattva Śāntideva

Visualize the guru appearing as Śāntideva in the space before you and recite the sādhana:

Ah! I am in my ordinary form, in the sky before me,
Upon a lotus seat throne with the finest cushions,
Appears the essence of all the buddhas' wisdom, Mañjughoṣa,
In the form of Śāntideva, who embodies all sources of refuge.

He is dressed elegantly in the three dharma robes,
Wearing a paṇḍita hat, symbolizing the three scriptural collections,
His right hand is in the Dharma teaching mudrā,
His left, in the gesture of equanimity, is holding a volume of scripture.

With his two legs crossed in the vajra posture,
He clearly appears, yet is empty of inherent existence.
Smiling with delight, he looks upon me with love as
I supplicate with intense devotion from the bottom of my heart.

Supplicate with heartfelt devotion:

Throughout all your lives, you took the protector Mañjuḥoṣa
As the lord of your buddha family, and, for the sake of all,
Illuminated the excellent path of a bodhisattva's way of life,
To Śāntideva, son of the buddhas, I pay homage!

om ah hung—maha guru bodhisattva śāntideva maha sukha bodhicitta sarva siddhi hung
[Recite as often as you can.]

Arouse bodhicitta with the full power of your mind:

Inspire me to dedicate myself to the Dharma day and night.
Inspire me to generate the supreme precious bodhicitta.
Inspire me to attain enlightenment in this very lifetime.
Inspire me to become a source of infinite benefit to others.

Receive the blessings of body, speech, and mind:

Rays of light stream out from Guru Śāntideva's three centers
And dissolve into my own three centers, and
Purify the obscurations of my body, speech, and mind, thereby
Granting the attainment of enlightened body, speech, and mind.

Conclude by reciting the aspiration prayer:

Just like the noble Śāntideva, son of the buddhas,
May I remain in saṃsāra to act for the benefit of beings.
May the magnificent activities of precious bodhicitta,
Extend throughout infinite space and time.

*Written by Khenpo Sherab Sangpo, one who is highly dedicated to this tradition and who has
pledged to follow the great bodhisattva Śāntideva. May it be beneficial!*