

The Voice of the Silence

11 (Verses 142-160)

by John Algeo – USA

The metaphor of the “three vestures,” introduced in verses 140 and 141, is continued in the following verses.

A. VERSES [142-149].

[142] The Shangna robe, 'tis true, can purchase light eternal. The Shangna robe alone gives the Nirvāna of destruction; it stops rebirth, but, O *lanoo*, it also kills compassion. No longer can the perfect Buddhas, who don the Dharmakaya glory, help man's salvation. Alas! shall Selves be sacrificed to Self; mankind, unto the weal of units?

[143] Know, O beginner, this is the *Open Path*, the way to selfish bliss, shunned by the Bodhisattvas of the Secret Heart, the Buddhas of Compassion.

[144] To live to benefit mankind is the first step. To practice the six glorious virtues is the second.

[145] To don Nirmanakaya's humble robe is to forego eternal bliss for Self, to help on man's salvation. To reach Nirvana's bliss, but to renounce it, is the supreme, the final step — the highest on renunciation's path.

[146] Know, O disciple, this is the *Secret Path*, selected by the Buddhas of Perfection, who sacrificed the Self to weaker Selves.

[147] Yet, if the Doctrine of the Heart is too high-winged for thee, if thou needest help thyself and fearest to offer help to others — then, thou of timid heart, be warned in time: remain content with the Eye Doctrine of the Law. Hope still. For if the Secret Path is unattainable this day, it is within thy reach tomorrow. Learn that no efforts, not the smallest — whether in right or wrong direction — can vanish from the world of causes. E'en wasted smoke remains not traceless. “A harsh word uttered in past lives is not destroyed but ever comes again.” The pepper plant will not give birth to roses, nor the sweet jessamine's silver star to thorn or thistle turn.