

each other's lives. It is, indeed, that fact which makes this discussion of karma not a digression (as it might at first appear to be) but an integral part of the discussion of the two options apparently available to us: to seek salvation for ourselves alone, or to renounce private salvation in favor of working for the salvation of all.

The message of *The Voice* seems to be, not that we "should" be altruistic and concerned for others' welfare, but instead that concern for others is the only real option. The exoteric approach, the "eye doctrine," or "open path," is only a stop gap measure. Because we are all karmically interlinked, and because every action we do affects all others, the bodhisattva way of service to all life is the only way.

C. MEDITATION. Meditate on verse 144: "To live to benefit mankind is the first step."

The following verses 150-160 develop in some detail the concept of a communal or collective Path that we follow as part of an evolving group or band of servers who have dedicated themselves to the welfare of others.

A. VERSES [150-160].

[150] Act thou for them today, and they will act for thee tomorrow.

[151] 'Tis from the bud of renunciation of the self, that springeth the sweet fruit of final Liberation.

[152] To perish doomed is he, who out of fear of Mara refrains from helping man, lest he should act for self. The pilgrim who would cool his weary limbs in running waters, yet dares not plunge for terror of the stream, risks to succumb from heat. Inaction based on selfish fear can bear but evil fruit.

[153] The selfish devotee lives to no purpose. The man who does not go through his appointed work in life — has lived in vain.

[154] Follow the wheel of life; follow the wheel of duty to race and kin, to friend and foe, and close thy mind to pleasures as to pain. Exhaust the law of Karmic retribution. Gain *siddhis* for thy future birth.

[155] If sun thou canst not be, then be the humble planet. Aye, if thou art debarred from flaming like the noon-day sun upon the snow-capped mount of purity eternal, then choose, O neophyte, a humbler course.