

Developing the Good Heart

ACI Course 14

Class 8 — The Crown of Knives, Part One

The Crown of Knives

མཚོན་ཆའི་འཁོར་ལོ།

མཚོན་ཆ་ (*tsön-cha*) — weapon, blade

འཁོར་ལོ་ (*kor-lo*) — wheel

Text comes from Dharma Rakshita — དྷརྨ་རལྱི་ཏ།

Lord Atisha (982 - 1052) འཛིན་པ་ཇེ།

Prostration

ཁྲོ་བོ་ག་ཤིན་ཇེ་འི་ག་ཤེད་ལ་སྐྱག་འཚལ་ལོ།

ཁྲོ་བོ་ (*tro-wo*) — Angry One

ག་ཤིན་ཇེ་འི་ག་ཤེད་ (*shin-che-shey*) — Destroyer of the
Lord of Death

སྐྱག་འཚལ་ (*chak-tsël*) — I prostrate

The Crown of Knives

Peacocks wander in the midst
Of a forest of poison trees;
A garden of healing herbs and plants
May be something lovely,
But peacocks have no love for them—
They live off poison itself.

Bodhisattva warriors are the same:
A garden of comfort and pleasures
May be something lovely,
But the warriors have no attachment for them—
They live off a forest of pain.

The Crown of Knives

The kings of cowardice who pursue
Comfort and pleasure find themselves
Transported instead to pain.
Those mighty warriors who pursue
Pain for others find themselves
Forever surrounded by bliss,
By the power of their courage.

The Crown of Knives

Now in this place desire is like
A forest of poison trees;
Bodhisattva warriors, like peacocks,
Are strong enough to take it.
Cowards though are like the crow,
For these same leaves are death to it—
How could those who only think
Of what they want themselves
Ever have the strength to eat
This poison?