

(4) Awakening to the Mind of the Bodhisattva

When one awakens to True Wisdom | it means that one is willing to save all | living things
 Before one has actually saved | oneself:
 Whether a being is a layman, | priest, | god or man, | enjoying pleasure or | suffering pain,
 He should awaken this desire as quickly as | possible.

However humble a person may ap | pear to be,
 If this desire has been awakened, | he is already the teacher of all | mankind;
 A little girl of seven even may be the teacher of the four classes of | Buddhists
 And the mother of True Compassion to all li | ving things.

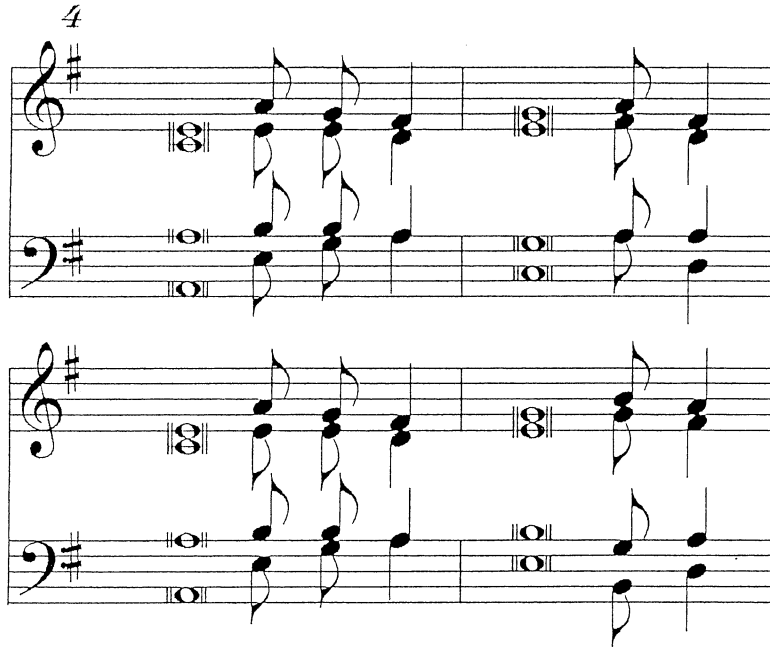
One of the greatest | teachings
 Of Bu | ddhism
 Is its insistence | upon
 The complete equality of the | sexes.

However much one may drift in the six worlds and the four ex | istences,
 Even they become | a means
 For realizing the desire for | Buddhahood
 Once it has been a | wakened:

However much time we may have wasted | up to now,
 There is still time to awaken this | desire.
 Although our own | merit
 For Buddhahood may be | full ripe,

It is our bounden duty to use all this | merit
 For the purpose of enlightening every li | ving thing:
 At all times, | there have been those who put their own Buddhahood | second
 To the necessity of working for the good of all other living | beings.

The Four | Wisdoms,
 Charity, tenderness, | benevolence and sym | pathy
 Are the means we have of helping | others
 And represent the Bodhisattva's aspi | rations.



Charity is the opposite of | covetousness;
 We make offerings although we ourselves get nothing whatso | ever.
 There is no need to be concerned about how small the | gift may be
 So long as it brings true | results

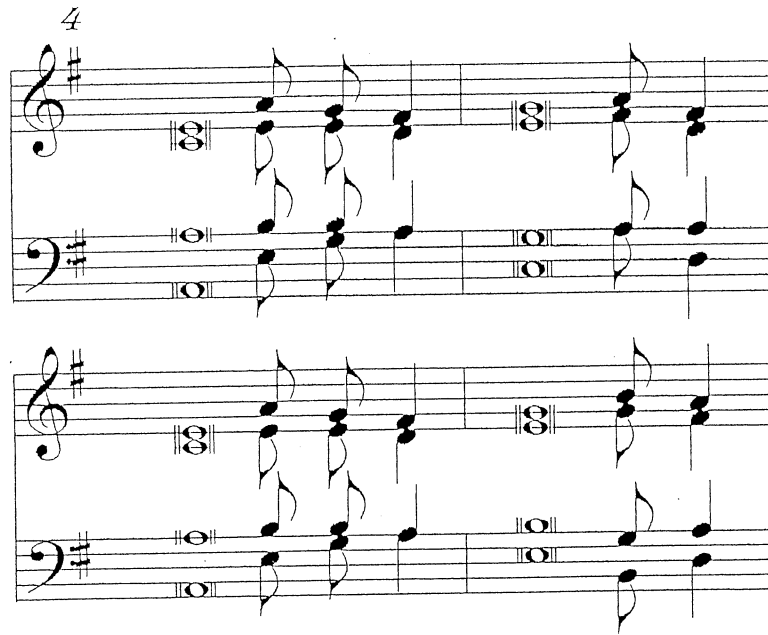
For even if it is only a | single phrase
 Or verse of | teaching,
 It may be a seed to bring | forth good fruit
 Both now and here | after.

Similarly, the offering of only one coin or | blade of grass
 Can cause the arising | of good,
 For the teaching itself is the True | Treasure
 And the True Treasure is the very | teaching;

We must never desire | any reward
 And we must always share everything we have with | others.
 It is an act of charity to build a ferry | or a bridge
 And all forms of industry are charity if they benefit | others.

To behold all beings with the eye of com | passion
 And to speak kindly to them, | is the meaning of ten | derness.
 If one would understand tenderness, | one must speak | to others
 Whilst thinking that one loves all living things as if they were ones own | children.

By praising those who exhibit | virtue,
 And feeling sorry for those who | do not,
 Our enemies be | come our friends
 And they who are our friends have their friendship | strengthened;



This is all through the power of | tenderness.
 Whenever one speaks kindly to another | his face brightens and his heart | is warmed;
 If a kind word be spoken in his absence, | the impression will be a | dēep one;
 Tenderness can have a revolutionary impact upon the mind | of man.

If one creates wise ways of helping beings, | whether they be in high places or lowly | stations,
 One exhibits bene | volence:
 No reward was sought by those who rescued the helpless tortoise or the sick | sparrow,
 These acts being utterly bene | volent.

The stupid believe that they will lose something if they give help to | others,
 But this is completely | untrue
 For benevolence helps everyone, | including | oneself,
 Being a law of the u | niverse.

If one can identify oneself with that which is | not oneself,
 One can understand the true meaning of sym | pathy:
 Take, | for example, | the fact
 That the Buddha appeared in the human world in the form of a human | being;

Sympathy does not distinguish between oneself and | others.
 There are times when the self is infinite and times when this is true of | others:
 Sympathy is as the sea | in that it never refuses water from whatsoever source | it may come:
 All waters may gather and form only | one sea.

Oh you seekers of en | lightenment,
 Meditate deeply upon these teachings and do not make light | of them;
 Give respect and reverence to their merit | which brings blessing to all | living things;
 Help all beings to cross over to the other | shore.