Shambhala Code of Conduct Preamble

INTRODUCTION

Good conduct is the basis for good human society. Likewise, a good human society is the context for our good conduct. In a sense, this Code of Conduct has been written for a society that is evolving. So to properly present the context of this Code of Conduct, the societal vision of Shambhala needs to be presented. The following Preamble presents the view, practice, action and result of Shambhala vision.

PREAMBLE

[view] Shambhala vision is based on trusting the innate energy of life itself. Realizing that we are fundamentally inseparable from the natural wisdom and radiance in the living environment all around us, we strive to live with the natural human dignity of basic goodness.

[practice] Shambhala offers training in meditation to strengthen awareness, kindness, and wisdom, to increase understanding of the nature of our mind, and understanding of our entangled relationships – with ourselves, our families, our communities, other cultures, the natural environment – and with the suffering of sickness, old age and death. By being fully present to whatever arises in our life, and being inquisitive about our world, we cultivate the wisdom, courage and gentleness to relate to things as they are.

[action] Good conduct is the basis for good human society. Shambhala vision is to open our hearts and all of our senses to be fully alive and celebrate life. We listen and consider others, cultivating natural kindness, fearless bravery, and spontaneous intelligence to engage the world with generosity and patience. We don’t shy away from pain and thus can truly share the burden of others, and be good, trustworthy neighbors. We are willing to work with others to generate caring, compassionate, sustainable, and just human societies.

[result] Shambhala culture recognizes that people flourish in a well-cared for and uplifted environment where they are free from harassment or intimidation of any kind, and that the
community thrives when we consider others with the highest standards of care, dignity and respect. This Code of Conduct guides us on the path of warriorship as we aspire to engage in virtuous relationships that are caring, compassionate, gentle, selfless, brave, generous and loving.

In this context, Shambhala culture is based on human to human relationships of trust in our own basic goodness and in the basic goodness of others. We all share a responsibility for each other and to care for our environment. By considering how our actions affect others, we mutually create a society where people of any culture or faith can realize our true interdependence and bring about universally positive traits of humanity. In this way we can live in harmony with each other and create dignified human society.

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