

12. The Ethics of the Three Codes

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This composite volume, developed specifically for THE LIBRARY OF TIBETAN CLASSICS series, contains as its core text Sakya Pandita's (1182-1251) *Clear Differentiation of the Three Codes* which is a critical treatment of the key questions of Buddhist ethics. As suggested by its title, Sakya Pandita's work is aimed at clarifying certain points of the Buddha's teachings, especially those pertaining to the understanding of the relationship between the three codes in the context of an individual practitioner. This seminal work gave rise to an entire genre of philosophical and instructional literature focused on the integration of the teachings and meditative practices of the Lesser Vehicle, the bodhisattva ideal and Vajrayana. Goram Sönam Sengé's (1429-89) authoritative exposition of Sakya Pandita's text elucidates in detail all the critical issues raised by Sakya Pandita. This followed by Khedrup Je's (1385-1438) lucid and critical work *Dusting the Precious teaching of the Buddha*, which develops further many of the themes touched upon in Sakya Pandita's work. Khedrup Je's work examines the nature of and relationship among the three ethical disciplines, and the way that these should be integrated in an individual's practical life. In addition, the volume contains a short text in verse on the Nyingma School's understanding of the ethics of the three codes composed by Ngari Panchen Pema Wangyal (1487-1542), which is followed by a concise presentation of the Kagyü standpoint on the three vows by Karma Ngedön Shenphen Chökyi Wangchuk (b. 1770) entitled *A Treatise on the Three Codes*.

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