

## **How to Be a Bodhisattva**

### **Dr. Amartya Kumar Bhattacharya**

BCE (Hons.) ( Jadavpur ), MTech ( Civil ) ( IIT Kharagpur ), PhD ( Civil ) ( IIT Kharagpur ),  
Cert.MTERM ( AIT Bangkok ), CEng(I), FIE, FACCE(I), FISH, FIWRS, FIPHE, FIAH, FAE, MIGS,  
MIGS – Kolkata Chapter, MIGS – Chennai Chapter, MISTE, MAHI, MISCA, MIAHS, MISTAM,  
MNSFMFP, MIIBE, MICI, MIEES, MCITP, MISRS, MISRMTT, MAGGS, MCSI, MIAENG, MMBSI,  
MBMSM

Chairman and Managing Director,  
MultiSpectra Consultants,

23, Biplabi Ambika Chakraborty Sarani,  
Kolkata – 700029, West Bengal, INDIA.

E-mail: [dramartyakumar@gmail.com](mailto:dramartyakumar@gmail.com)

Website: <https://multispectraconsultants.com>

Buddhism, in no way, restricts Bodhisattvahood to monastics ( Bhikshus, Bhikkhus - in Pali ). Bodhisattvahood is open to the laity ( Grihashtyas ) also. To be a Bodhisattva, one has to develop the aspiration ( Pranidhana ) to become a Buddha for the benefit of all sentient beings, practice Skilful Means ( Upaya-kaushalya ), understand the difference between Conventional Truth and Ultimate Truth, take the Three Refuges ( Trisharana, Tisarana - in Pali ), understand the Four Noble Truths ( Chatur Aryasatya, Chattari Ariyasachchani - in Pali ), cultivate the Four Sublime Abodes ( Chatur Brahmavihara, Chattari Brahmavihara - in Pali ), obey the Five Precepts ( Pancha Shila, Pancha Sila - in Pali ), cultivate the Six Perfections ( Paramitas ), cultivate the Seven Factors contributing to Enlightenment ( Sapta Bodhyanga, Satta Bojjhanga - in Pali ), walk on the Noble Eightfold Path ( Arya Ashtanga Marga, Ariya Atthangika Magga - in Pali ) and do the Ten Good Actions ( Dasha Kushala Karma Patha ).

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