

**Ian Powell's alternate forms for Shambhala education**  
**Summary by A Fellow Shambhalian**  
**August 2020**

**“Path of Ashe”**: an alternative form for offering Way of Shambhala curriculum that is selfdirected, student warrior-centric path of practice and study via self-paced, low-cost online delivery.

**“Tiger Path”**: the general, historically-offered format for Way of Shambhala course content and transmission delivery, ie. in-person, community-or-land center based, authorized educator-led training.

**“Lion Path”**: Authorized educator-led Way of Shambhala course offering that includes a significant community service component as part of the course offering.

**“Garuda Path”**: Authorized educator-led Way of Shambhala course offering that takes whatever format the educator is inspired to present, as long as “Path of Ashe” requirements for accomplishment are met, as vouched-for by authorized educator.

**“Dragon Path”**: A way of regarding unauthorized release of Way of Shambhala educational material. Material released in this way is regarded as having inherently beneficial effects regardless of intentions and impacts of such unauthorized use.

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**“Warrior Guides”** is a form for offering student warriors who have either:

- completed a course series offering in the Way of Shambhala, “Tiger Path”, or who have
- been granted ‘certificate of accomplishment’ for a course series in the Way of Shambhala, “Path of Ashe”

...access to “Tiger Path” educator content in order to facilitate in-person “Path of Ashe” course offerings in their local community in a format that works for the course participants. These student-warrior facilitators are known as Warrior Guides.

The purpose of this form is to:

- offer **internationally-localized, in-person delivery** of Way of Shambhala curriculum to participants who may have **time, money, location, or demographic** (e.g. class, race, gender, age, ability, etc.) **barriers to access** such teachings as they have been historically presented: primarily in a weekend format for a prescribed cost at a location-specific community center by one or more of a particular group of authorized directors, and to
- **cultivate internationally-localized talent** for facilitating Way of Shambhala teachings, deepening the Warrior Guide’s understanding of the teachings and expanding the reach of the Way of Shambhala teachings outside of centralized, resource-bound coordination, and to
- create opportunities for Way of Shambhala course curriculum to be **facilitated and explored outside of a traditional Shambhala center, in a community of trust not bound to any particular Shambhala-authorized educator**--such as at a domestic violence shelter, a homeless shelter, a retirement home, a community center in a remote location, and so on, and to
- expose **Shambhala warrior-students to values-reflecting life skills** above and beyond Way of Shambhala curriculum via completion of additional, required training courses (see: “Turning the Flower” form for details)
  - Life skills curriculum TBD, but could include general training in topics such as trauma

awareness, diversity consciousness, gender relations, Shambhala householder, authentic pedagogical skills, and sane political skills.

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“Turning the Flower” is a form for online delivery of complementary education for a student warrior in the Shambhala contemplative tradition, including the following categories:

- Practice, study, and pedagogy course offerings within Shambhala contemplative tradition
- Governance and finance best practice course offerings within the Shambhala organization
- Social skills and sensitivity training in order to better equip Shambhalians to participate in Shambhala society and in wider society
- Other courses reflecting Shambhala values: including topics on ethics, politics, ecological concerns, and so on

The purpose of this form is to:

- **cultivate a breadth of knowledge reflective of Shambhala values--** including the value of lifelong learning—to help Shambhalians participate in and lead their lives sanely in Shambhala and wider society.
- provide an opportunity for **partnerships between Shambhala and well-regarded third-party educational content providers** in order to deliver high-quality educational content to participating Shambhalians
- **expose Shambhalians to state-of-the-conversation awareness and sensitivity** to issues in social participation and leadership faced by global human community today

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**Shambhala Tutors:** The purpose of this form is to:

- **create an organic network of mentorship and tutorship** for those training in the Shambhala contemplative tradition
- **provide feedback and quality assurance** to those participants on paths such as “Path of Ashe” and “Warrior Guides”, **via clarifying interviews and certificate of accomplishment interviews**
- provide both **participants and tutors with a useful, path-oriented feedback and rating** based upon the interview interaction
- provide some avenue for **online livelihood or donation service** for Shambhala Tutors, based on interview rates

AFS’s comments and questions; Ippowell’s replies

- Turning the flower outward- excellent. One of the best parts.
  - Thank you, AFS!
- Tutor network is wonderful, necessary and should be required.
- certificates of accomplishment important – could they be refused? On what grounds?
  - As Authorized Shambhala Tutors would ‘vouch for’ those applying for the certificate of accomplishment, AST’s should use their best judgment about whether or not they can vouch for a student--on the one hand attempting to assure high quality understanding, on the other, mindful of feedback ratings. :-)
- Give a summary of highlighted sections or “how to read these docs”
  - **Essence of form**

- Aspects of form application possibly rendered redundant by implementation as module of Shambhala Online
- Distinct paths of delivery of Way of Shambhala curriculum
- Dragon form- - releasing regardless of intentions. Great traditions hold sacred- to not cause harm nor dilute the teachings.
  - As discussed, fairly low probability of people harming / endangering themselves or others with Way of Shambhala teachings. Assuring avoidance of dilution is placed upon confirmation of Authorized Shambhala Tutors rather than the content delivery method.
- Warrior guides- would they need to complete turning the flower -- additional skills before offering curriculum-- ie teaching/facilitation??
  - Yes, curriculum TBD.