

The King of Aspiration Prayers (English & Chinese) Lotsawa House

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The King of Aspiration Prayers: Samantabhadra's "Aspiration to Good Actions" (Zangchö Mönlam) from the Gaṇḍavyūha chapter of the Avataṃsaka sūtra

In the language of India: Ārya-Bhadracaryā-Praṇidhāna-Rāja

In the language of Tibet: *Pakpa Zangpo Chöpé Mönlam gyi Gyalpo*

In the English language: *The King of Aspiration Prayers: Samantabhadra's "Aspiration To Good Actions"*

The Translators' Homage

Homage to Mañjushri, the youthful!

1. The Seven Preliminaries for Purifying the Mind

1.1. Prostration

[1] To all the buddhas, the lions of the human race,
In all directions of the universe, through past and present and future:
To every single one of you, I bow in homage;
Devotion fills my body, speech and mind.

1)所有十方世界中
游于三世人师子
我以清净身语意
遍礼一切悉无余

[2] Through the power of this prayer, aspiring to Good Action,
All the victorious ones appear, vivid here before my mind
And I multiply my body as many times as atoms in the universe,
Each one bowing in prostration to all the buddhas.

2)以彼贤行为愿力
一切如来意现前
一身复现刹尘身
一一遍礼刹尘佛

1.2. Offering

[3] In every atom preside as many buddhas as there are atoms,
And around them, all their bodhisattva heirs:
And so I imagine them filling

Completely the entire space of reality.

3)于一尘中尘数佛
各住菩萨众会中
无尽法界亦复然
我信诸佛皆充满

[4] Saluting them with an endless ocean of praise,
With the sounds of an ocean of different melodies
I sing of the buddhas' noble qualities,
And praise all those who have gone to perfect bliss.

4)诸功德海赞无尽
普以音支大海声
称扬一切佛功德
我今赞叹诸善逝

[5] To every buddha, I make offerings:
Of the loveliest flowers, of beautiful garlands,
Of music and perfumed ointments, the best of parasols,
The brightest lamps and finest incense.

5)以诸妙华妙华鬘
伎乐涂香胜伞盖
最胜灯明妙烧香
悉以供养诸如来

[6] To every buddha, I make offerings:
Exquisite garments and the most fragrant scents,
Powdered incense, heaped as high as Mount Meru,
Arranged in perfect symmetry.

6)诸妙衣服最胜香
末香积等妙高峰
一切最胜庄严具
悉以供养诸如来

[7] Then the vast and unsurpassable offerings—
Inspired by my devotion to all the buddhas, and
Moved by the power of my faith in Good Actions—
I prostrate and offer to all you victorious ones.

7)所有无上广大供
我悉胜解诸如来
深心信受贤行力
顶礼供养诸如来

1.3. Confession

[8] Whatever negative acts I have committed,
While driven by desire, hatred and ignorance,
With my body, my speech and also with my mind,
Before you, I confess and purify each and every one.

8)我由贪瞋痴增上
从身语意之所起
诸所造作恶不善
一切我今别别悔

1.4. Rejoicing

[9] With a heart full of delight, I rejoice at all the merits
Of buddhas and bodhisattvas,
Pratyekabuddhas, those in training and the arhats beyond training,
And every living being, throughout the entire universe.

9)十方一切佛菩萨
独觉有学及无学
一切趣中诸有情
所有福善我随喜

1.5. Imploring the Buddhas to Turn the Wheel of Dharma

[10] You who are like beacons of light shining through the worlds,
Who passed through the stages of enlightenment, to attain buddhahood, freedom from all
attachment,
I exhort you: all of you protectors,
Turn the unsurpassable wheel of Dharma.

10)十方所有世间灯
现证菩提得无滞
我今劝请诸世尊
转于无上妙法轮

1.6. Requesting the Buddhas not to Enter Nirvana

[11] Joining my palms together, I pray

To you who intend to pass into nirvana,
Remain, for aeons as many as the atoms in this world,
And bring well-being and happiness to all living beings.

11)诸佛若欲示涅槃
我悉合掌而劝请
利乐一切有情故
唯愿久住刹尘劫

1.7. Dedication

[12] What little virtue I have gathered through my homage,
Through offering, confession, and rejoicing,
Through exhortation and prayer—all of it
I dedicate to the enlightenment of all beings!

12)敬礼供养悔露罪
随喜劝转请常住
尽我所积少善根
一切回向大菩提

2. The Actual Aspiration

2.1. Aspiration for Purity of Attitude

[13] Let offerings be made to buddhas of the past,
And all who now dwell throughout the ten directions of this universe!
Let all who are yet to come swiftly fulfil their wishes
And attain the stages of enlightenment and buddhahood!

13)供养过去一切佛
现住十方世界佛
未来意乐速圆满
依次现证佛菩提

[14] Let as many worlds as there are in all the ten directions
Transform into realms that are vast and utterly pure,
Filled with buddhas who have sat before the mighty bodhi tree,
Around them all their bodhisattva sons and daughters!

14)所有十方诸刹土
愿皆广大极清净

于中菩提树王下
诸佛佛子咸充满

[15] Let as many sentient beings as there are in all the ten directions
Live always and forever in happiness and health!
Let all beings meet the Dharma
That befits them best! And so may all they hope for be fulfilled!

15)十方所有诸有情
愿无疾病常安乐
众生法利悉顺成
所有意望亦成满

2.2. Aspiration Never to Forget the Bodhichitta

[16] As I practise the training for enlightenment,
May I recall all my previous births,
And in my successive lives, through death and through rebirth,
May I always renounce the worldly life!

16)我为修行菩提行
一切趣中念本生
诸余生中受生死
愿我常得趣出家

[17] Training in the footsteps of all the victorious buddhas,
May I bring Good Actions to perfection,
And my moral conduct be taintless and pure,
Never lapsing, and always free from fault!

17)我随一切如来学
毕竟圆满其贤行
戒行清净无污垢
恒不毁犯无过行

[18] In the language of the gods, nāgas, and yakṣas,
In the language of demons and of humans too,
In however many kinds of speech there may be—
I shall proclaim the Dharma in the language of all!

18)天语龙语药叉语
鸠槃荼语及人语

所有诸趣一切语
我以诸音为说法

[19] Taming my mind, and striving in the paramitas,
I will never forget the bodhichitta;
May all my harmful actions and the obscurations they cause
Be completely purified, every single one!

19) 淳善精勤修诸度
恒不忘失菩提心
所有诸罪能为障
愿皆清净悉无余

2.3. Aspiration to be Free from Defilements

[20] May I be freed from karma, harmful emotions, and the work of negativity,
And act for all beings in the world,
Just like the lotus flower to which mud and water cannot cling,
Or sun and moon that course unhindered through the sky.

20) 业与烦恼诸魔事
世间趣中得解脱
犹如莲华不着水
日月经行不滞空

2.4. Aspiration to Lead Beings to Happiness

[21] Throughout the reach and range of the entire universe
I shall pacify completely the suffering of all the lower realms,
I shall lead all beings to happiness,
And work for the ultimate benefit of each and every one!

21) 尽刹土量诸方所
息灭恶趣一切苦
善能安处有情乐
一切趣中行利益

2.5. Aspiration to Wear the Armour of Dedication

[22] I shall bring enlightened action to perfection,
Serve beings so as to suit their needs,
Teach them to accomplish Good Actions,
And continue this, throughout all the aeons to come!

22)毕竟圆满菩提行
趣入随顺有情行
极善开演其贤行
尽未来劫普修行

2.6. Aspiration to Accompany other Bodhisattvas

[23] May I always meet and be accompanied by
Those whose actions accord with mine;
And in body, speech and mind as well,
May our actions and aspirations always be one!

23)所有与我等行行
愿得常与彼共住
身业口业及意业
同行同愿而修行

2.7. Aspiration to Have Virtuous Teachers and to Please Them

[24] May I always meet spiritual friends
Who long to be of true help to me,
And who teach me the Good Actions;
Never will I disappoint them!

24)所有益我善知识
为我显示其贤行
我愿常与彼会遇
于彼从不拂其心

2.8. Aspiration to See the Buddhas and Serve them in Person

[25] May I always behold the buddhas, here before my eyes,
And around them all their bodhisattva sons and daughters.
Without ever tiring, throughout all the aeons to come,
May the offerings I make them be endless and vast!

25)佛子所绕诸世尊
我常现前亲面对
尽未来劫无厌倦
皆为兴起广大供

2.9. Aspiration to Keep the Dharma Thriving

[26] May I maintain the sacred teachings of the buddhas,
And cause enlightened action to appear;

May I train to perfection in Good Actions,
And practise these in every age to come!

26)摄持一切佛正法
普能光显菩提行
极善净治其贤行
尽未来劫常修行

2.10. Aspiration to Acquire Inexhaustible Treasure

[27] As I wander through all states of samsaric existence,
May I gather inexhaustible merit and wisdom,
And so become an inexhaustible treasury of noble qualities—
Of skill and discernment, samadhi and liberation!

27)亦能流转诸有中
所获福智皆无尽
方便胜慧定解脱
成诸功德无尽藏

2.11. Aspiration to the Different Methods for Entering into the “Good Actions”

a) Seeing the Buddhas and their Pure Realms

[28] In a single atom may I see as many pure realms as atoms in the universe:
And in each realm, buddhas beyond all imagining,
Encircled by all their bodhisattva heirs.
Along with them, may I perform the actions of enlightenment!

28)一微尘中尘数刹
一一刹有难思佛
安住菩萨众会中
行菩提行当观见

[29] And so, in each direction, everywhere,
Even on the tip of a hair, may I see an ocean of buddhas—
All to come in past, present and future—in an ocean of pure realms,
And throughout an ocean of aeons, may I enter into enlightened action in each and every one!

29)如是无余一切方
一毛端许三世量
佛海及诸刹土海
劫海修行善趣入

b) Listening to the Speech of the Buddhas

[30] Each single word of a buddha's speech, that voice with its ocean of qualities,
Bears all the purity of the speech of all the buddhas,
Sounds that harmonise with the minds of all living beings:
May I always be engaged with the speech of the buddhas!

30)一语音支大海声
一切如来净音支
普随诸趣如意音
常得趣入于佛语

c) Hearing the Turning of the Wheels of Dharma

[31] With all the power of my mind, may I hear and realise
The inexhaustible melody of the teachings spoken by
All the buddhas of past, present and future,
As they turn the wheels of Dharma!

31)游于三世一切佛
法轮理趣恒常转
于诸所转无尽音
以觉慧力我趣入

d) Entering into All the Aeons

[32] Just as the wisdom of the buddhas penetrates all future aeons,
So may I too know them, instantly,
And in each fraction of an instant may I know
All that will ever be, in past, present and future!

32)趣入未来一切劫
一刹那顷我趣入
所有三世诸劫量
依刹那分而趣入

e) Seeing all the Buddhas in One Instant

[33] In an instant, may I behold all those who are the lions of the human race—
The buddhas of past, present and future!

33)一刹那顷我观见
游于三世人师子
恒于彼等所行境

幻解脱力能趣入

f) Entering the Sphere of Activity of the Buddhas

May I always be engaged in the buddhas' way of life and action,
Through the power of liberation, where all is realised as like an illusion!

g) Accomplishing and Entering the Pure Lands

[34] On a single atom, may I actually bring about
The entire array of pure realms of past, of present and future;
And then enter into those pure buddha realms
In each atom, and in each and every direction.

34)一板尘中能引发
所有三世庄严土
如是无余一切方
趣入庄严诸佛土

h) Entering into the Presence of the Buddhas

[35] When those who illuminate the world, still to come,
Gradually attain buddhahood, turn the Wheel of Dharma,
And demonstrate the final, profound peace of nirvana:
May I be always in their presence!

35)所有未来世间灯
次等成佛转法轮
示现涅槃究竟寂
诸世尊前我往诣

2.12. Aspiration to the Power of Enlightenment through Nine Powers

[36] Through the power of swift miracles,
The power of the vehicle, like a doorway,
The power of conduct that possesses all virtuous qualities,
The power of loving kindness, all-pervasive,

36)普遍速疾神境力
普门趣入法乘力
普遍修行功德力
普能遍满大慈力

[37] The power of merit that is totally virtuous,
The power of wisdom free from attachment, and

The powers of knowledge, skilful means and samadhi,
May I perfectly accomplish the power of enlightenment!

37) 普遍贤善福德力
无有滞碍大智力
般若方便静虑力
大菩提力皆引发

2.13. Aspiration to the Antidotes that Pacify the Obscurations

[38] May I purify the power of karma;
Destroy the power of harmful emotions;
Render negativity utterly powerless;
And perfect the power of Good Actions!

38) 善能清净诸业力
普能损伏烦恼力
一切魔力令无力
善能圆满贤行力

2.14. Aspiration to Enlightened Activities

[39] I shall purify oceans of realms;
Liberate oceans of sentient beings;
Understand oceans of Dharma;
Realise oceans of wisdom;

39) 善能净治刹土海
善能解脱有情海
善能观察诸法海
善能通达于智海

[40] Perfect oceans of actions;
Fulfil oceans of aspirations;
Serve oceans of buddhas!
And perform these, without ever growing weary, through oceans of aeons!

40) 善能清净诸行海
善能圆满诸愿海
善能供养诸佛海
修行无倦经劫海

2.15. Aspiration for Training

a) To Emulate the buddhas

[41] All the buddhas throughout the whole of time,
Attained enlightenment through Good Actions, and
Their prayers and aspirations for enlightened action:
May I fulfil them all completely!

41)所有游于三世佛
菩提行愿广差别
为依贤行现菩提
一切无余我圆满

b) To emulate the bodhisattvas: Samantabhadra

[42] The eldest of the sons of all the buddhas
Is called Samantabhadra: 'All-good'—
So that I may act with a skill like his,
I dedicate fully all these merits!

42)一切如来有长子
彼名号曰普贤尊
为与善巧同等行
回向今此一切善

[43] To purify my body, my speech and my mind as well,
To purify my actions, and all realms,
May I be the equal of Samantabhadra
In his skill in good dedication!

43)身语意业皆清净
诸行清净刹清净
贤巧云何善回向
愿我与彼皆同等

c) Mañjushri

[44] In order to perform the full virtue of Good Actions,
I shall act according to Mañjushri's prayers of aspiration,
And without ever growing weary, in all the aeons to come,
I shall perfectly fulfil every one of his aims!

44)为行普善贤行故
修行文殊师利愿
尽未来劫无厌倦

满彼事业尽无余

2.16. Concluding Aspiration

[45] Let my bodhisattva acts be beyond measure!
Let my enlightened qualities be measureless too!
Keeping to this immeasurable activity,
May I accomplish all the miraculous powers of enlightenment!

45)所应修行无有量
一切功德亦无量
安住无量诸行已
晓了彼等诸神变

2.17. Extent of the Aspiration

[46] Sentient beings are as limitless
As the boundless expanse of space;
So shall my prayers of aspiration for them
Be as limitless as their karma and harmful emotions!

46)虚空岂是尔许边
无余有情边亦然
岂业烦恼边尔许
我愿亦岂尔许边

3. The Benefits of Making Aspirations

3.1. The Benefits of Making Aspirations in General

[47] Whoever hears this kind of dedication prayers,
And yearns for supreme enlightenment,
Who even once arouses faith,
Will gain true merit greater still

47)若以十方无边刹
众宝庄严供如来
复以人天最胜乐
刹尘数劫常奉献

[48] Than by offering the victorious buddhas
Infinite pure realms in every directions, all ornamented with jewels,
Or offering them all the highest joys of gods and humans
For as many aeons as there are atoms in those realms.

48)若有闻此回向王
随顺胜解大菩提
暂一于此能生信
获胜福德过于彼

3.2. The Thirteen Benefits in Detail

[49] Whoever truly makes this Aspiration to Good Actions,
Will never again be born in lower realms;
They will be free from harmful companions, and
Soon behold the Buddha of Boundless Light.

49)诸有发此贤行愿
彼能远离诸恶趣
彼亦远离诸恶友
彼速亲亲无量光

[50] They will acquire all kind of benefits, and live in happiness;
Even in this present life all will go well,
And before long,
They will become just like Samantabhadra.

50)善得应得乐安养
今此人寿亦善来
经时不久彼当得
有如普贤所成就

[51] All negative acts—even the five of immediate retribution—
Whatever they have committed in the grip of ignorance,
Will soon be completely purified,
If they recite this Aspiration to Good Actions.

51)诸造极恶五无间
皆由无知增上力
愿彼称诵此贤行
速疾无余悉清净

[52] They will possess perfect wisdom, beauty, and excellent signs,
Be born in a good family, and with a radiant appearance.
Demons and heretics will never harm them,
And all three worlds will honour them with offerings.

52)智与形色诸相好
种姓容颜悉具有
诸魔外道无力能
普为三界所应供

[53] They will quickly go beneath the bodhi-tree,
And there, they will sit, to benefit all sentient beings, then
Awaken into enlightenment, turn the wheel of Dharma,
And tame Mara with all his hordes.

53)速诣菩提树王下
到已安住为利生
降伏一切魔部众
成等正觉转法轮

3.3. The Benefits in Brief

[54] The full result of keeping, teaching, or reading
This Prayer of Aspiration to Good Actions
Is known to the buddhas alone:
Have no doubt: supreme enlightenment will be yours!

54)诸有于此贤行愿
受持开演读诵者
异熟唯佛能证知
得胜菩提勿疑惑

4. Dedication of the Merits of this Meritorious Aspiration

4.1. Dedication that Follows the Bodhisattvas

[55] Just as the bodhisattva Mañjushri attained omniscience,
And Samantabhadra too
All these merits now I dedicate
To train and follow in their footsteps.

55)文殊勇猛如实知
普贤菩萨亦如是
我普于彼随学故
回向今此一切善

4.2. Dedication that Follows the Buddhas

[56] As all the victorious buddhas of past, present and future
Praise dedication as supreme,
So now I dedicate all these roots of virtue
For all beings to perfect Good Actions.

56)三世诸佛咸称赞
如是回向最殊胜
我亦普以此善根
回向为令依贤行

4.3. Dedication towards Actualising the Result

[57] When it is time for me to die,
Let all that obscures me fade away, so
I look on Amitabha, there in person,
And go at once to his pure land of Sukhavati.

57)愿我临欲命终时
普能扫除一切障
亲睹如来无量光
即得往生极乐土

[58] In that pure land, may I actualise every single one
Of all these aspirations!
May I fulfil them, each and every one,
And bring help to beings for as long as the universe remains!

58)到彼土已令此愿
一切无余悉现前
无余彼愿我圆满
利益世间诸有情

4.4. Dedication towards Receiving a Prophecy from the Buddhas

[59] Born there in a beautiful lotus flower,
In that excellent and joyous buddha realm,
May the Buddha Amitabha himself
Grant me the prophecy foretelling my enlightenment!

59)彼佛中国贤调悦
我从端严妙莲生
亲睹如来无量光

我于其中得记别

4.5. Dedication towards Serving Others

[60] Having received the prophecy there,
With my billions of emanations,
Sent out through the power of my mind,
May I bring enormous benefit to sentient beings, in all the ten directions!

60)既得如来记别已
化众多身百具胝
依觉慧力遍十方
广作利益诸有情

5. Conclusion

[61] Through whatever small virtues I have gained
By reciting this “Aspiration to Good Actions”,
May the virtuous wishes of all beings’ prayers and aspirations
All be instantly accomplished!

61)我今发此贤行愿
随有所积少分善
愿彼有情诸善愿
刹那一切悉相应

[62] Through the true and boundless merit
Attained by dedicating this “Aspiration to Good Actions”,
May all those now drowning in the ocean of suffering,
Reach the supreme realm of Amitabha!

62)以此贤行愿回向
所获福德胜无边
沈溺苦海诸有情
往生无量光佛土

[63] May this King of Aspirations bring about
The supreme aim and benefit of all infinite sentient beings;
May they perfect what is described in this holy prayer, uttered by Samantabhadra!
May the lower realms be entirely emptied!

63)如是愿王最胜尊

利益无边诸众生
普贤所成庄严文
一切恶趣皆令空

This completes the King of Aspiration Prayers, Samantabhadra's "Aspiration to Good Actions."

Words of Truth to Accomplish Aspirations

By the blessings of the buddhas who have attained the three kayas,
And the unchanging truth of reality
As well as the unwavering aspirations of the Sangha,
May all the aspirations and dedication prayers be fulfilled!

The dharani for the accomplishment of all aspirations

ཏཏྲ་ཤྲཱ་པཎྜཱེ་ཡ་ཨ་མ་པོ་རྣམ་པུ་ཏྲཱ་།

teyatha pentsa indriya awabodhanaye soha
tadyathā pañcendriyāvabodhanīye svāhā