

The Holy Name of Buddha Rinchen Tsugtor Chen

What to Recite First When Someone Dies

Recite the Holy Name of Buddha Rinchen Tsugtor Chen

The minute you meet the person, do this first. Then do the many other things that you planned to do. Then, don't worry; you have made it definite for them not to be reborn in the lower realms.

– Lama Zopa Rinpoche

As soon as someone dies, recite loudly in their ear:

CHOM DÄN DÄ DE ZHIN SHEG PA DRA CHOM PA YANG DAG PAR
DZOG PÄI SANG GYÄ RIN CHHEN TSUG TOR CHÄN LA CHHAG TSHÄL LO

**To Bhagavan, Tathagata, Arhat, Perfectly Complete Buddha,
Precious Ushnisha, I prostrate.**

Or

DE ZHIN SHEG PA RIN CHHEN TSUG TOR CHÄN LA CHHAG TSHÄL LO

To Tathagata Precious Ushnisha, I prostrate.

Commentary

In one of Buddha's past life stories, it says that tens of thousands of fish were dying due to their pond having dried out. He brought water from very far away and chanted this buddha's mantra to the fish: CHOM DÄN DÄ DE ZHIN SHEG PA DRA CHOM PA YANG DAG PAR DZOG PÄI SANG GYÄ RIN CHHEN TSUG TOR CHÄN LA CHHAG TSHÄL LO. Due to this, they were all reborn in the Deva Realm of the Thirty-Three. Then they all came down to thank him together with a rainfall of flowers. There are quite a few stories about this verse.

It is very good to learn it and to write it down because if an animal or a person is dying, this is the very first thing to recite to them. But don't recite it like you are reciting it for yourself, so the other person doesn't hear it. The other person has to hear it! Don't mumble; you have to recite it loudly. Since the person who is dying has to hear it, get near their ear and recite it loudly. Even if there are many other practices you are going to do for the dying person, *phowa*,¹ Medicine Buddha puja, or any other practice, the first thing to do is to recite CHOM DÄN DÄ DE ZHIN SHEG PA DRA CHOM PA YANG DAG PAR DZOG PÄI SANG GYÄ RIN CHHEN TSUG TOR CHÄN LA CHHAG TSHÄL LO. If the other person is able to hear that, it is impossible for them to be reborn in the lower realms. Therefore, it is very important. It is also very short (Rinpoche snaps his fingers) and it is done. Whatever else you are going to do, first do that. Also, even if you cannot be sure when the person is going to die, [you can recite it because] if the person or animal hears that verse, they will never get reborn in the lower realms. Even for animals and insects, it is unbelievably powerful.

So, the minute you meet the person, do this first. Then do the many other things that you planned to do. Then, don't worry; you have made it definite for them not to be reborn in the lower realms.

Colophon:

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1 A meditation technique for transferring the consciousness to a pure land.