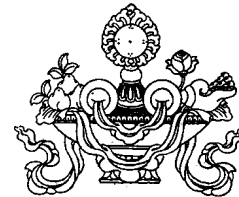


Praises to the Twenty-one Taras





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Praises to the Twenty-one Taras



Invocation

Po ta la yi nā chhog nā
 TAM yig jang khu lā thrung shing
 Ö pag me kyi u la gyän
 Dū sum sang gyä thrin lä ma
 Dröl ma khor chā sheg su söl

Prostration

Lha dang lha min chö pän gyi
 Zhab kyi pä mo la tū de
 Phong pa kün lä dröl dzā ma
 Dröl ma yum la chhag tshäl lo

The Praises

OM je tsün ma phag ma dröl ma la chhag tshäl lo

Chhag tshäl dröl ma nyur ma pa mo
 Chän ni kā chig log dang dra ma
 Jig ten sum gön chhu kye zhäl gyi
 Ge sar je wa lä ni jung ma

Chhag tshäl tön kai da wa kün tu
 Gang wa gya ni tseg päi zhäl ma
 Kar ma tong thrag tshog pa nam kyi
 Rab tu chhe wäi ö rab bar ma



Praises to the Twenty-one Taras



Recite these praises and offer prostrations (optional). As you recite, contemplate as follows: with each praise and prostration, just as one spark of fire comes from another, a replica of (the respective) Tara manifests and sinks into you.

Invocation

From your sublime abode at the Potala,
 O Tara, born from the green letter TAM
 Your crown adorned with Amitabha,
 Action-mother of the buddhas of the three times,
 Tara, please come with your attendants.

Prostration

The gods and demi-gods bow
 To your lotus feet, O Tara;
 You who rescue all who are destitute,
 To you, Mother Tara, I pay homage.

The Praises

OM Homage to the Venerable Arya Tara.

Homage to you, Tara, the swift heroine,
 Whose eyes are like an instant flash of lightning,
 Whose water-born face arises from the blooming lotus
 Of Avalokiteshvara, protector of the three worlds.

Homage to you, Tara, whose face is like
 One hundred full autumn moons gathered together,
 Blazing with the expanding light
 Of a thousand stars assembled.



Chhag tshäl ser ngo chhu nä kye kyi
 Pä mä chhag ni nam par gyän ma
 Jin pa tsön drü ka thub zhi wa
 Zö pa sam tän chö yül nyi ma

Chhag tshäl de zhin sheg päi tsug tor
 Tha yä nam par gyäl war chö ma
 Ma lü pha röi chhin pa thob päi
 Gyäl wäi sä kyi shin tu ten ma

Chhag tshäl TUTTARA HUM yi ge
 Dö dang chhog dang nam kha gang ma
 Jig ten dün po zhab kyi nän te
 Lü pa me par gug par nü ma

Chhag tshäl gya jin me lha tshang pa
 Lung lha na tshog wang chhug chhö ma
 Jung po ro lang dri za nam dang
 Nö jin tshog kyi dün nä tö ma

Chhag tshäl TRAD che ja dang PHAT kyi
 Pha röi thrül khor rab tu jom ma
 Yä kum yön kyang zhab kyi nän te
 Me bar thrug pa shin tu bar ma

Chhag tshäl TURE jig pa chhen po
 Dü kyi pa wo nam par jom ma
 Chhu kye zhäl ni thro nyer dân dzä
 Dra wo tham chä ma lü sö ma

Chhag tshäl kön chhog sum tshön chhag gyäi
 Sor mö thug kar nam par gyän ma
 Ma lü chhog kyi khor lö gyän päi
 Rang gi ö kyi tshog nam thrug ma

Chhag tshäl rab tu ga wa ji päi
 U gyän ö kyi threng wa pel ma
 Zhe pa rab zhä TUTTARA yi
 Dü dang jig ten wang du dzä ma



Homage to you, Tara, born from a golden-blue lotus,
 Whose hands are beautifully adorned with lotus flowers,
 You who are the embodiment of giving, joyous effort, asceticism,
 Pacification, patience, concentration, and all objects of practice.

Homage to you, Tara, the crown pinnacle of those thus gone,
 Whose deeds overcome infinite evils,
 Who have attained transcendent perfections without exception,
 And upon whom the sons of the Victorious Ones rely.

Homage to you, Tara, who with the letters TUTTARA and HUM
 Fill the (realms of) desire, direction, and space,
 Whose feet trample on the seven worlds,
 And who are able to draw all beings to you.

Homage to you, Tara, venerated by Indra,
 Agni, Brahma, Vayu, and Ishvara,
 And praised by the assembly of spirits, raised corpses,
 Gandharvas, and all yakshas.

Homage to you, Tara, whose TRAT and PHAT
 Destroy entirely the magical wheels of others.
 With your right leg bent and left outstretched and pressing,
 You burn intensely within a whirl of fire.

Homage to you, Tara, the great fearful one,
 Whose letter TURE destroys the mighty demons completely,
 Who with a wrathful expression on your water-born face
 Slay all enemies without an exception.

Homage to you, Tara, whose fingers adorn your heart
 With the gesture of the sublime precious three;
 Adorned with a wheel striking all directions without exception
 With the totality of your own rays of light.

Homage to you, Tara, whose radiant crown ornament,
 Joyful and magnificent, extends a garland of light,
 And who, by your laughter of TUTTARA,
 Conquer the demons and all of the worlds.



Chhag tshäl sa zhi kyong wäi tshog nam
 Tham chä gug par nü ma nyi ma
 Thro nyer yo wäi yi ge HUM gi
 Phong pa tham chä nam par dröl ma

Chhag tshäl da wäi dum bü u gyän
 Gyän pa tham chä shin tu bar ma
 Räl päi khur na ö pag me lä
 Tag par shin tu ö rab dzä ma

Chhag tshäl käl päi tha mäi me tar
 Bar wäi threng wäi ü na nä ma
 Yä kyang yön kum kün nä kor gäi
 Dra yi pung ni nam par jom ma

Chhag tshäl sa zhii ngö la chhag gi
 Thil gyi nün ching zhab kyi dung ma
 Thro nyer chän dzä yi ge HUM gi
 Rim pa dün po nam ni gem ma

Chhag tshäl de ma ge ma zhi ma
 Nya ngän dä zhi chö yül nyi ma
 SVAHA OM dang yang dag dän pä
 Dig pa chhen po jom pa nyi ma

Chhag tshäl kün nä kor rab ga wäi
 Dra yi lü ni nam par gem ma
 Yi ge chu päi ngag ni kö päi
 Rig pa HUM lä dröl ma nyi ma

Chhag tshäl TURE zhab ni deb pä
 HUM gi nam päi sa bönni nyi ma
 Ri rab Mandhara dang big je
 Jig ten sum nam yo wa nyi ma

Chhag tshäl lha yi tsho yi nam päi
 Ri dag tag chän chhag na nam ma
 TARA nyi jö PHAT kyi yi ge
 Dug nam ma lü pa ni sel ma



Homage to you, Tara, who are able to invoke
 The entire assembly of local protectors,
 Whose wrathful expression fiercely shakes,
 Rescuing the impoverished through the letter HUM.

Homage to you, Tara, whose crown is adorned
 With the crescent moon, wearing ornaments exceedingly bright;
 From your hair knot the buddha Amitabha
 Radiates eternally with great beams of light.

Homage to you, Tara, who dwell within a blazing garland
 That resembles the fire at the end of this world age;
 Surrounded by joy, you sit with your right leg extended
 And left withdrawn, completely destroying all the masses of enemies.

Homage to you, Tara, with hand on the ground by your side,
 Pressing your heel and stamping your foot on the earth;
 With a wrathful glance from your eyes you subdue
 All seven levels through the syllable HUM.

Homage to you, Tara, O happy, virtuous, and peaceful one,
 The very object of practice, passed beyond sorrow.
 You are perfectly endowed with SOHA and OM,
 Overcoming completely all the great evils.

Homage to you, Tara, surrounded by the joyous ones,
 You completely subdue the bodies of all enemies;
 Your speech is adorned with the ten syllables,
 And you rescue all through the knowledge-letter HUM.

Homage to you, Tara, stamping your feet and proclaiming TURE.
 Your seed-syllable itself in the aspect of HUM
 Causes Meru, Mandhara, and the Vindhya mountains
 And all the three worlds to tremble and shake.

Homage to you, Tara, who hold in your hand
 The hare-marked moon like the celestial ocean.
 By uttering TARA twice and the letter PHAT
 You dispel all poisons without an exception.



Praise to the Twenty-one Taras

(abbreviated version)

OM chom dän dä ma lha mo dröl ma la chhag tshäl lo
 Chhag tshäl dröl ma TARE päl mo
 TUTTARA yi jig kün sel ma
 TURE dön nam tham chä ter ma
 SVAHA yi ger chä la rab dü



Drawing by Andy Weber



Praises to the Twenty-one Taras

(abbreviated version)

This abbreviation in a single verse of the praises to the twenty-one Taras was received directly from Arya Tara by the great teacher, Jowo Atisha, for the swift collection of meritorious energy.

OM I prostrate to the goddess foe destroyer, liberating lady Tara,
 Homage to TARE, saviouress, heroine,
 With TUTTARE dispelling all fears,
 Granting all benefits with TURE,
 To her with sound SVAHA, I bow.



Tara's Mantra

OM TARE TUTTARE TURE SVAHA

ཨོཾ་ཏཱ་རེ་ཏུ་ཏུ་རེ་ཏུ་རེ་སྐྱེ་ནཱ།



Praises to the Twenty-one Taras

(English version for chanting)

OM I prostrate to the noble transcendent liberator.
OM je tsün ma phag ma dröl ma la chhag tshäl lo

1. Homage! Tara, swift, heroic!
Eyes like lightning instantaneous!
Sprung from op'ning stamens of the
Lord of three world's tear-born lotus!
2. Homage! She whose face combines a
Hundred autumn moons at fullest!
Blazing with light rays resplendent
As a thousand star collection!
3. Homage! Golden-blue one, lotus
Water born, in hand adorned!
Giving, effort, calm, austerities,
Patience, meditation her sphere!
4. Homage! Crown of tathagatas,
Actions triumph without limit!
Relied on by conquerors' children,
Having reached ev'ry perfection!
5. Homage! Filling with TUTTARE,
HUM, desire, direction, and space!
Trampling with her feet the seven worlds,
Able to draw forth all beings!
6. Homage! Worshipped by the all-lords,
Shakra, Agni, Brahma, Marut!
Honored by the hosts of spirits,
Corpse-raisers, gandharvas, yakshas!



7. Homage! With Her TRAD and PHAT sounds
Destroying foes' magic diagrams!
Her feet pressing, left out, right in,
Blazing in a raging fire-blaze!
8. Homage! TURE, very dreadful!
Destroyer of Mara's champion(s)!
She with frowning lotus visage
Who is slayer of all enemies!
9. Homage! At the heart her fingers,
Adorn her with Three Jewel mudra!
Light-ray masses all excited!
All directions' wheels adorn her!
10. Homage! She so joyous, radiant,
Crown emitting garlands of light!
Mirthful, laughing with TUTTARE,
Subjugating maras, devas!
11. Homage! She able to summon
All earth-guardians' assembly!
Shaking, frowning, with her HUM sign
Saving from every misfortune!
12. Homage! Crown adorned with crescent
Moon, all ornaments most shining!
Amitabha in her hair-knot
Sending out much light eternal!
13. Homage! She 'mid wreath ablaze like
Eon-ending fire abiding!
Right stretched, left bent, joy surrounds you
Troops of enemies destroying!
14. Homage! She who strikes the ground with
Her palm, and with her foot beats it!
Scowling, with the letter HUM the
Seven levels she does conquer!

15. Homage! Happy, virtuous, peaceful!
She whose field is peace, nirvana!
She endowed with OM and SVAHA,
Destroyer of the great evil!
16. Homage! She with joy surrounded
Tearing foes' bodies asunder,
Frees with HUM and knowledge mantra,
Arrangement of the ten letters!
17. Homage! TURE! With seed letter
Of the shape of syllable HUM!
By foot stamping shakes the three worlds,
Meru, Mandara, and Vindhya!
18. Homage! Holding in her hand the
Deer-marked moon of deva-lake form!
With twicespoken TARA and PHAT,
Totally dispelling poison!
19. Homage! She whom gods and their kings,
And the kinnaras do honour!
Armoured in all joyful splendor,
She dispels bad dreams and conflicts!
20. Homage! She whose two eyes bright with
Radiance of sun and full moon!
With twice HARA and TUTTARE
She dispels severe contagion!
21. Homage! Full of liberating
Pow'r by the set of three natures!
Destroys hosts of spirits, yakshas,
And raised corpses! Supreme! TURE!

These praises with the root mantras
And prostrations thus are twenty-one!

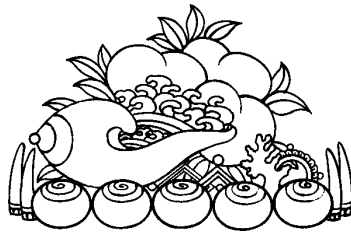


Drawing of Arya Tara by Andy Weber



Colophon:

Based on Martin Willson's chantable translation of the *Praises to the Twenty-one Taras*, this version was additionally checked against the Tibetan and for euphony by the staff of the FPMT Education Department with the assistance of Ven. George Churinoff, January 2001.



Care of Dharma Books



Dharma books contain the teachings of the Buddha; they have the power to protect against lower rebirth and to point the way to liberation. Therefore, they should be treated with respect – kept off the floor and places where people sit or walk – and not stepped over. They should be covered or protected for transporting and kept in a high, clean place separate from more mundane materials. Other objects should not be placed on top of Dharma books and materials. Licking the fingers to turn pages is considered bad form as well as negative karma. If it is necessary to dispose of written Dharma materials, they should be burned rather than thrown in the trash. When burning Dharma texts, it is taught to first recite a prayer or mantra, such as OM, AH, HUM. Then, you can visualize the letters of the texts (to be burned) absorbing into the AH and the AH absorbing into you, transmitting their wisdom to your mindstream. After that, as you continue to recite OM, AH, HUM, you can burn the texts.

Lama Zopa Rinpoche has recommended that photos or images of holy beings, deities, or other holy objects not be burned. Instead, they should be placed with respect in a stupa, tree, or other high, clean place. It has been suggested to put them into a small structure like a bird house and then seal the house. In this way, the holy images do not end up on the ground.



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