

In Praise of Tenzin Gyatso, His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama

Your Holiness is the great treasure of infinite compassion embracing all us sentient beings, the sole source of benefit and happiness of all us sentient beings, the sole refuge of all us sentient beings. Your Holiness is incomparably kinder to us than all the past, present and future Buddhas. We the fortunate disciples who have been fortunate to see your holy body and hear your holy speech make the following request.

The kind Guru Shakyamuni Buddha, out of his great compassion, descended to this world of Dzambu in the Arya land of India for the sole purpose of bringing benefit and happiness to migratory beings by leading us to liberation and full enlightenment.

It is said in *The White Lotus Sutra*: At one time when the Buddha was residing in Milk-Plant Park, he turned to face the north and smiled. Five rays of light issued from the curled hair between his eyebrows. When the bodhisattva Meaningful to Behold asked why, Buddha replied, "O son of the Mahayana type, there is a land in the north known as the Land of Snow where the Buddhas of the three times have not put their holy feet. However, in the future, the holy Dharma will spread and flourish there like the rising sun and all the living beings there will be liberated by Lord Avalokiteshvara, who once made the following prayer: May I liberate all sentient beings in the Land of Snow, who are difficult to subdue. May I subdue them. May I lead the sentient beings in that outlying barbarous country [Tibet] in the path to liberation and full enlightenment. May even that barbarous country become a field that is subdued by me. May all the holy Dharma taught by all the Tathagatas be spread and flourish for a long time in that country. May the sentient beings there enjoy the holy Dharma by hearing the name of the Triple Gem, going for refuge and achieving the body of a happy migratory being."

The bodhisattva Meaningful to Behold, to whom Guru Shakyamuni Buddha predicted the spread of Dharma in Tibet, saying, "In the future when my teaching has degenerated in India, the sentient beings in the Land of Snow in the north will be the objects to be subdued by you, the bodhisattva," and the Compassion Buddha who made all those prayers and performed extensive benefit, illuminating with the light of Dharma, is no other than Your Holiness. Even ordinary people can realize that Your incomparable qualities and the holy actions of Your body, speech and mind benefiting other sentient beings signify the infinitely compassionate aspiration You made in the past. Not only did Your Holiness make prayers to extensively benefit Tibet by subduing the sentient beings there, nowadays You shine the light of Dharma to eliminate the darkness of ignorance and bring the sunshine of peace and happiness even in the Western world.

It is proven that you are the present living Compassionate-eyed Looking Buddha, Avalokiteshvara, even from the lineage of the incarnation, which

starts from Avalokiteshvara and, during Buddha's time, the bodhisattva Meaningful to Behold, King Jigten Ngawang and the Brahmin Khyeu Nanche; then continues through Sangye Gyalwa; Nyatri Tsenpo; the first king of Tibet, Chogyal Trisong Duetsen; Chogyal Songsten Gampo; Lama Atisha's translator, the great Dromtonpa, who is the forty-fifth incarnation; the first Dalai Lama, Gendun Trupa, who founded Tashi Lhunpo Monastery; Sonam Gyatso; Yonten Gyatso; the Fifth Dalai Lama; Tsangyang Gyatso; Kelsang Gyatso; Jampal Gyatso; Lungtok Gyatso; Tsultrim Gyatso; Khedrup Gyatso; Trinley Gyatso; Thubten Gyatso; and the present Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, the sixty-fourth incarnation.

His Holiness Serkong Dorje Chang, who passed away in Tibet, had a dream in which a spontaneously arisen statue of Avalokiteshvara with five faces predicted that he would see the Compassion Buddha the following day. The next day he saw Your Holiness.

One day the great scholar-yogi Tehor Kyoerpen Rinpoche, renowned in Sera, Gaden and Drepung Monasteries, told all his disciples that they were going to meet Dromtonpa, an incarnation of Compassion Buddha. They then went to see Your Holiness.

Your Holiness is able to preserve the complete teaching of the Buddha, the three higher trainings of morality, meditation and wisdom in the three basket teachings, which is the essence of the Hinayana teaching and the foundation of the causal Mahayana Paramitayana path and the resultant secret Vajrayana, which flourished in the past in Tibet and now flourishes even outside Tibet. Because of that, You are able to produce continuously many hundreds of thousands of holy scholars and highly attained yogis, like stars in the sky. Even nowadays in various parts of the world so many people are able to receive teachings from highly qualified practitioner-teachers from the monasteries of Sera, Gaden, and Drepung and also from the monasteries of the other traditions. So many Westerners are able to learn in depth from them everything they wish. By putting these teachings into practice, they are able to make their lives meaningful and find fulfillment. They have so much opportunity to enjoy peace and happiness and are able to direct their lives towards liberation and enlightenment, and this is increasing every year. This is solely due to Your Holiness's kindness.

Without Your Holiness, Buddhism would suffer, and it would be extremely difficult to continue the preservation of the entire Buddhadharma. Without the teaching of the Buddha, sentient beings suffer because it is the only medicine to cure all the diseases of delusion and negative karma and their imprints. Your Holiness is completely liberated from all the fears of samsara, the circling aggregates, which are suffering in nature, and is highly skilled in liberating others from all suffering. Therefore, from the bottom of our hearts, we request You to have stable life until samsara ends.

Your Holiness's holy body, speech and mind are the source of peace for all living beings. You are ultimate among those who are learned, ultimate among those who are pure in morality, and ultimate among those who are warm-hearted. You are unstained not only by delusion but by ego seeking happiness

for self; You are unstained by even subtle obscuration.

For us sentient beings, both human and animal, seeing or touching Your holy body purifies our mind and makes our life meaningful; it brings us unforgettable peace and happiness and plants the seed of liberation and enlightenment in our mental continuum. It gives us incredible inspiration and hope for a better life.

Your ever-loving smile and compassionate face radiate warm rays of light that pacify all the fears and anxieties, all the karma and delusions, within us sentient beings. No matter how much one looks at the holy body of the Compassion Buddha one never feels satiated. There is no limit to the qualities of the stainless holy body and to the extensive benefit that sentient beings receive from it.

From one hour or even a few minutes of the gentle, soothing nectar of Your holy speech people can understand immediately the very essence of Buddhism and make their lives most beneficial and meaningful. Your holy words, which come solely from egoless, compassionate, loving thought, present everything in a very simple, clear, logical way and suit exactly the nature of mind of each person listening to You. Even if one hundred thousand people listen to You, every single person is uplifted with unbelievable joy and finds the answers to their questions. The problems in their lives are immediately solved.

In the very short time it takes to hear a few of Your holy words, they receive profound wisdom that illuminates the darkness of ignorance obscuring the clear nature of their mind. They develop the wisdom to know what is right and to be practiced and what is wrong and to be abandoned. They are able to practice the Dharma and benefit others, as well as obtain the ultimate happiness of liberation from samsara and full enlightenment.

Western countries are highly developed in the fields of science, technology, psychology and so forth, yet are unable to find answers for many of the complicated issues of life, especially relating to birth and death, the very important points at the beginning and the end of life. Within Western countries, there are many unresolved doubts and wrong views concerning economic, legal, and social problems. Each of Your holy words is a sword that immediately cuts through these problems. You give simple solutions, none of which is separate from Dharma, not only to problems related to religious practice but also to business, family relationships and other aspects of our daily lives. Everything You advise is based on not harming others and on benefiting them. There is no contradiction between the spiritual and political because Your advice comes not only from a pure motivation of compassion but from wisdom as well.

Your holy speech takes care of the earth and the living beings who live on this earth. If people in this world put Your holy speech into practice, it would protect even the environment from destruction. You give so much love and compassion to others that each person's mind is transformed into that love and compassion. Each person who comes to hear Your Holiness speak and then practices Your words transforms their mind into the qualities You speak

about and brings peace and happiness to the world. Millions of people have heard Your holy speech and been inspired with hope and courage in their lives. They become more sensitive to others, with loving compassionate thought of caring for others' rights and needs. At the very least they decide not to kill other beings.

Even if they cannot completely stop harming others, if one person in an audience stops causing one harm to others - for example, by refraining from killing or getting angry - it brings peace to all other living beings. All this peace given to the world by one person refraining from one harm came from Your Holiness. There is no question about the benefit when millions of people put Your holy speech into practice. Therefore, it is easy to understand how Your Holiness is the source of all the temporary and ultimate joy and peace of all us sentient beings.

With a very few words, You give us insight into the whole path to enlightenment, bringing us incredible light. The qualities of Your Holiness's speech, as well as the benefits sentient beings receive from it, are limitless.

As to the qualities of Your holy mind, Your Holiness has infinite qualities, such as the ten powers, the four fearlessnesses, the eighteen qualities of unmixed Dharma and so forth, which cannot be comprehended by even a tenth bhumi bodhisattva let alone by an ordinary sentient being. Each pore of Your holy body is able to perform the function of Your holy mind and directly see all existence of the three times and benefit all sentient beings. Your holy wisdom, which is immovable forever from emptiness, without concept simultaneously manifests and works for each sentient being exactly in accordance with their karma.

A special quality of Your Holiness that ordinary people can see is that You seek to benefit even those who harm you. Even though some evil beings criticize Your Holiness, unlike common people and even other religious leaders, You only benefit them in return. You feel even greater compassion for them and cherish them most in Your heart. You praise their qualities and pray only for their well-being, for their temporary and ultimate happiness up to enlightenment. This means there is no doubt that Your Holiness is a bodhisattva, the Compassion Buddha.

When the Chinese Communists invaded Tibet, they caused unbelievable destruction of buildings, especially monasteries, and the environment and tortured and killed not only ordinary people but many high lamas and highly educated monks and nuns. Not only did they destroy the buildings and holy objects in the monasteries, but they prevented monks and nuns continuing their practice of the teaching of Buddha, especially the higher training of morality.

In such a situation, there is no doubt that an ordinary world leader would hold a grudge and regard the Chinese Communists as enemies. Your Holiness, however, is not solely concerned about the freedom, peace and happiness of the six million Tibetan people and the future of the most precious, profound culture in the world, which preserves the entire teaching of the Buddha: both the Lesser Vehicle and the Great Vehicle sutra and secret

mantra. You also cherish deeply the Chinese Communists; You are greatly concerned about their sufferings and always pray for their freedom, peace and happiness. You feel a special concern and unbearable compassion for Mao Tse-tung. There is no question that this is Your Holiness's attitude and action, and it proves even to an ordinary person that You are a bodhisattva, that in reality You are Avalokiteshvara, the Compassion Buddha.

If the Chinese Communists are unable to open their hearts to Your Holiness and accept Your holy wishes, it will be a great pity and a great loss of opportunity. If they can open their hearts, it will mean not only freedom, peace and happiness for six million Tibetans people, but the opportunity to continue to preserve and strengthen the whole of Buddhism, as happened previously in Tibet where so many highly attained beings experienced the path shown by Buddha, and so many were liberated and became enlightened. It will also mean that the rest of the world will be able to deepen their understanding of the cause of happiness and of suffering and have the opportunity to achieve liberation and enlightenment, which is the ultimate source of the peace and happiness of all living beings.

In addition, many millions of Chinese in the world's most populous country will receive unbelievable peace and happiness from Your Holiness, like the sun rising. If the key figures in the Chinese government used Your Holiness to communicate with and help their people, there would be incredible benefit in terms of peace and happiness, which these non-religious officials cannot offer because they lack Your qualities. In the past, the emperors of Chinese dynasties invited prominent Tibetan lamas to China to learn from them. They received many teachings and initiations and studied the path to enlightenment in order to bring the greatest benefit to their life.

All sentient beings receive loving kindness and compassion from Your Holiness without discrimination. Your Holiness works to benefit all sentient beings, regardless of whether they have benefited Your Holiness or not.

In particular, this present Dalai Lama has been able to benefit extensively in the West, where many millions of people in various countries have been helped. Your Holiness has been very close to us in the Western world, opening the hearts of millions of us. You show the aspect of understanding everything about the Western world and culture and are able to deal with issues by bringing them down to earth with humour that uplifts the spirit. Every time Your Holiness comes to the West, You bring many thousands of people unforgettable joy, peace, and satisfaction. You bring great benefit to people who are religious by giving them essential, practical advice about how to make their lives most profitable and enjoyable; You also show people who are not religious practical ways to make their lives meaningful. Among the many religious leaders in the world, Your Holiness is incomparable in giving such profound and extensive benefit by bringing so much peace and happiness to the world.

This extensive benefit was not offered in this way by previous Dalai Lamas. Your Holiness has accomplished much more in the world than the independence of Tibet for six million people. Therefore, this aspect is

extremely important for us sentient beings, who are in danger of nuclear war and in danger of dying from new diseases, and who suffer so much from desire, violence, anger and the gloom of ignorance. We thank You from the bottom of our hearts, and we request You to have stable life until samsara ends.

The most precious, important thing in the world is the Buddha's psychology, the Buddha's way of pacifying suffering and achieving happiness. We thank You for the teachings. There is no way that we can finish repaying Your kindness even if we offer You the whole world filled with wish-fulfilling jewels for eons. Unbelievable preparation has been made in our mental continuum for all happiness, including liberation and enlightenment. We will practice Your essential advice of loving kindness and compassion, of caring more for others and serving them. We will put into practice as much as possible Your holy teachings and fulfill Your holy wishes, particularly Your wish to free the Tibetans from the misery and fear they are now facing and help them to have freedom like before.

With our palms together we pray again for You to guide us continuously in all our lifetimes until we achieve enlightenment and for our lives to be most beneficial for all sentient beings from now on, just like Your Holiness, the Compassion Buddha.

Colophon: Composed by Lama Thubten Zopa Rinpoche and offered to His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama. September 28, 1996, Sydney, Australia.