

Appendix

Recommended Prayers for Lama Tsongkhapa Celebration Day

by Lama Zopa Rinpoche

FPMT center, projects, and services may use this outline, which captures Rinpoche's complete advice, to plan their events. Groups do not need to complete everything listed. (See "Essential Prayers for a Short Session" below.)

Prayers marked with an asterisk are found in the booklet Lama Tsongkhapa Celebration Day.

I. Preliminary Prayers and Practices

- A. *Taking Refuge and Generating Bodhichitta (SANG GYÄ CHHÖ DANG) and Four Immeasurables*
- B. *Lama Tsongkhapa Guru Yoga or The Thousand Offerings to Lama Tsongkhapa or Lama Chopa*
- C. A lamrim prayer by Lama Tsongkhapa (one or more)
 - i. *The Foundation of All Good Qualities*
 - ii. *The Three Principal Aspects of the Path*
 - iii. *A Hymn of Experience*

II. Actual Presentation

A. Lama Tsongkhapa's Life

ii. Brief Descriptions

- **Destiny Fulfilled*
- **The Glorious One of the Three Worlds*
- **Lama Tsongkhapa's Secret Biography*

iii. Extensive Descriptions

- *Chintamani Rosary Spreading the Buddha's Teachings* (See "Considerations for *Chintamani Rosary Spreading the Buddha's Teachings*" below.)
- *The Life and Teachings of Tsongkhapa*

B. Specific Qualities of Lama Tsongkhapa's Teachings

- *Dependent Arising: A Praise of the Buddha*
- *A Song of the Infallible Refuge* (See "Considerations for Phabongkha Rinpoche's Works" below.)
- *Selections about the Distinctive Features of Lama Tsongkhapa's Teachings from Phabongkha Dechen Nyingpo's Assorted Answers to Questions.*
- *A Prayer to Halt Error Concerning the Complete Path: The Heart Jewel of Profound Meaning* (See "Considerations for Phabongkha Rinpoche's Works" below.)

III. Concluding Practices and Prayers

- *The Prayer to Encounter the Teaching of the Three Realms' Dharma King, The Great Tsongkhapa: The Gift of Care and Compassionate Protection* (See "Considerations for Phabongkha Rinpoche's Works" below.)

- B. *Prayer for the Flourishing of Tsongkhapa's Teachings*
- C. *Final Lamrim Prayer*
- D. *A Prayer for the Beginning, Middle, and End of Practice*
- E. *Prayer to Be Reborn in the Land of Bliss*
- F. Other dedication verses and prayers

Essential Prayers for a Short Session

1. Follow the instructions under “Preliminary Prayers and Practices”
2. Recite at least one prayer from “Brief Descriptions” from under “Actual Presentation”
3. Recite A, B, and/or C from under “Concluding Practices and Prayers”

Considerations for Chintamani Rosary Spreading the Buddha's Teachings

Lama Zopa Rinpoche did intend for *Chintamani Rosary Spreading the Buddha's Teachings* to be the presentation of Lama Tsongkhapa's life. However, to use this and present the thangkas requires someone with good Dharma knowledge to spend some time reading it and preparing in advance.

Considerations for Phabongkha Rinpoche's Works

Lama Zopa Rinpoche mentioned where centers have geshe or other learned teachers, it would be good to explain the *Selections about the Distinctive Features of Lama Tsongkhapa's Teachings* by Phabongkha Rinpoche—to explain both the uncommon features of Lama Tsongkhapa's teachings and these qualities as they are

exhibited in texts like *Essence of Eloquence (drang nge legs bshad rnyingpo)*, *Thorough Elucidation of the Intent (dbu ma dgongs pa rab gsal)*, *Lamrim Chenmo*, and so forth. This overview of Lama Tsongkhapa's writings by Gareth Sparham is also a good resource: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/tsongkhapa/>.

Colophon:

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