

Destiny Fulfilled

Tsong Khapa's Education As A Song of Realization

OM! May all be happy and well!

I bow to the feet of the kind Guru,
Root of all good fortune,
And of the Holy Wisdom Treasure, Manjushri,
Who are the eye to see the liberation of enlightenment
And even all ascendance in the world,
And who are the place of recuperation
From the weary wandering in the roads of life!

When one's efforts still are slight,
It is said to be best to congratulate others' virtues
In order to gather the momentous stores (of merit and wisdom)
And one feels an even greater joy, especially,
When free of claims to one's own past virtues,
Thinking "increase past virtues ever more,"
In order to live up to the impact of the Victor's teaching,
Also see in many other dire necessities-
It is excellent, O my mind, when you feel such joy!

First, I sought out often extensive learning,
Then all teachings dawned as trainings,
Finally, I practiced all day and all night,
Completely dedicated to spread the Teaching!

Thinking this over, how well my destiny saw fulfilled!
Thanking you so very much, O Holy Wisdom Treasure!

I. Quest of Extensive Learning

If the darkness that hides the basis of right and wrong
Is not illuminated by the lamp of true learning,
You cannot know even the path; not to speak of
Entrance into the supreme city of liberation!
Therefore, not satisfied with partiality and rough ideas,
I trained carefully in all the treatises of the Invincible Lord of Dharma,
And of those (great sages) widely renowned in India
As the "Six Ornaments" and the "Two Superiors."

Thinking this over, how well my destiny was fulfilled!
Thank you so much, O Holy Wisdom Treasure!

Especially for an egocentric person, the sole door
For determining the precise reality of things
Is the treatise on valid reasoning; so with many efforts
I studied its crucial points again and again.

Thinking this over, how well my destiny was fulfilled!
Thank you so much, O Holy Wisdom Treasure!

Though I had worked hard on the treatises of Sutra and Tantra
And I was practicing and teaching the impact of the profound,
I saw that my view had not advanced far beyond
The view that has learned nothing and nothing knows.
So then I studied thoroughly all the essential keys
That bring out the authentic view, which I found
On the path of subtle philosophy that examines the profound,
Especially in the scientific treatises of Nagarjuna;
And I resolved all my doubts completely!

Thinking this over, how well my destiny was fulfilled!
Thank you so much, O Holy Wisdom Treasure!

It is said that “there are two vehicles
For the journey to perfect enlightenment,
The Transcendence Vehicle and the deep Vajra Vehicle;
And the Secret Tantras are very much superior
To the Vehicle of the Transcendences!”
This is as well known as sun and moon.

Yet there are those, weighty with pretended wisdom,
Who while verbally asserting the truth of that saying,
Make no inquiry into that vehicle of the profound!
If such as they are supposed to be intelligent,
How could anyone else ever be thought dumb?
Alas! It is amazing that any should repudiate
Such an unexcelled path, so hard to come across!
Therefore, I entered that deep treasury of twin accomplishments,
The supreme vehicle of the Victors, the Vajra Vehicle,
More rare even than the Buddhas;
And I worked hard at it, and studied it long.

Thinking this over, how well my destiny was fulfilled!
Than you so very much, O Holy Wisdom Treasure!
Seeing clearly that if I did not understand
The methods of the paths of the three lower Tantras,
My decision that the Unexcelled Yoga Tantra is best of all,
Would be no more than an unsupported assertion,

So I inquired deeply into the general and specific
Three types of Action Tantra, such as *Samanya Vidhiramguhyatantra*,
Susidhi, the *Subahupariprccha*, and the *Dhyanottara*.

When I think this over, how well my destiny was fulfilled!
Thank you so very much, O Holy Wisdom Treasure!

Among the second class Practice Tantras,
I studied the main Tantra, *Vairocanabhisambodhi*,
And I ascertained thoroughly the precise orientation
Of all the Practice Tantras.
Among the third class Yoga Tantras,
I studied the main Tantra, the glorious *Tattvasamgraha*
And its explanatory Tantras such as *Vajrashekhara*,
And I enjoyed the banquet of the Yoga Tantras!

When I think this over, how well my destiny was fulfilled!
Thank you so very much, O Holy Wisdom Treasure!

Among the fourth class Unexcelled Yoga Tantras,
I studied the Root Tantras and Explanatory Tantras
Of the Father Tantra *Shri Guhya Samaja*,
Renowned as sun and moon among the Indian sages;
And of the Yogini Tantras such as *Samvara* and *Hevajra*,
And the *Kalachakra*, Tantra of the Champions,
Whose method differs from other Sutras and Tantras,
Along with its commentary, the *Vimalaprabha*.

When I think this over, how well my destiny was fulfilled!
Thank you so very much, O Holy Wisdom Treasure!

II. All Teachings Dawn as Training

With a firm, intense, and enduring faith in Manjushri,
Best at banishing the darkness from the disciple's mind,
I prayed that all the teachings might dawn as training,
And I applied myself to all the requisite conditions.

When I think this over, how well my destiny was fulfilled!
Thank you so very much, O Holy Wisdom Treasure!

Working in that way, I found a special certainty
In the stages of the path of enlightenment,
The tradition descended from Nagarjuna and Asanga,
And the *Transcendent Wisdom*, best book on the profound,
Dawned as a practical training.

When I think this over, how well my destiny was fulfilled!
Thank you so very much, O Holy Wisdom Treasure!

In this northern land, many speak out in unison,
Whether they have studied the logical texts or not,
“There is no stage of practice of the path to enlightenment
In the *Pramanasamuccaya* and the *Seven Branch Treatises*.”
But one should take as authoritative the direct revelation
Granted by Manjushri to Dignaga, saying explicitly that
“This book will in the future become the eye for all beings!”
Thus seeing that (the above view) was absolutely wrong,
And especially investigating deeply the procedure therein,
And I developed a deep-seated conviction
About the import of the dedication of *Pramanasamuccaya*;
That the Lord, as the personification of reason,
Is authoritative for the seeker of liberation,
Because of (his unerring description) of evolution and cessation,
And that therefore His Teaching is the only haven
For those who would be free. And I found a special joy
In getting clear all keys of the paths of both vehicles
By studying them in combination on the path of reasoning.

When I think this over, how well my destiny was fulfilled!
Thank you so very much, O Holy Wisdom Treasure!

Then through the hard, methodical work of interconnecting
The *Bodhisattvabhumi* and the *Mahayanasutralamkara*,
All the treatises of the Invincible Dharma Lord,
And those following them, arose as practical training.

When I think this over, how well my destiny was fulfilled!
Thank you so very much, O Holy Wisdom Treasure!

Especially, depending on the *Shikshasamuccaya*,
Which grants certainty about all the essentials of the path
By arranging the profound and magnificent scriptures in states,
I saw clearly as stages of practice the many meanings
Of the best treatises of Nagarjuna such as *Sutrasamuccaya*.

When I think this over, how well my destiny was fulfilled!
Thank you so very much, O Holy Wisdom Treasure!

Then, relying on Buddhaguhya’s lucid practical instructions
On the *Dhyānottara*, and *Vairocanābhisambodhi*,
All the keys of the path dawned well as training.

When I think this over, how well my destiny was fulfilled!
Thank you so very much, O Holy Wisdom Treasure!

Seeing how the essentials of the path of the *Shri Tattvasamgraha*
Are contained in the three samadhis, and realizing
How hard to fathom is the way of meditation on that profound import
I relied on the great Pandit Buddhaguhya's correct explanation
Integrating the *Root, Explanatory, and Combined Yoga Tantras*,
And on the *Stages of Meditation's* proper explanations
Of the profound practices of the three Tantra classes;
And the confusion in my mind was dispelled!

When I think this over, how well my destiny was fulfilled!
Thank you so very much, O Holy Wisdom Treasure!

The ultimate of all eloquent teachings of the Sage
Is the glorious Unexcelled Yoga Tantra,
And among them the most unutterably profound
Is the king of Tantras, the Glorious *Guhyasamaja*
The supreme philosopher Nagarjuna said about it
That "the essentials of the path of the *Root Tantra*
Are sealed therein by the six limits and the four ways,
And thus they must be understood following the Guru's instructions
In accordance with the *Explanatory Tantras*."
Holding that fact as essential, I inquired deeply
Into all the subtleties of the Holy tradition of the *Samaja*,
The ultimate private instructions contained in the *Five Stages*,
The Lamp of Concentrated Practice, and the *Stages of Arrangements*, etc.
Relying on their lamp-like illumination of the *Root Tantra*,
Combining the five great *Explanatory Tantras*
I practiced with enormous efforts.
With practice I discovered all the essentials
Of the *Samaja's* two stages in general,
And especially the essentials of the perfection stage.

When I think this over, how well my destiny was fulfilled!
Thank you so very much, O Holy Wisdom Treasure!

By the power of that, the essential imports of many Tantras,
Such as *Samvara, Hevajra, and Kalachakra*,
Dawned in my mind as practical trainings.
I have explained these fully elsewhere,
This just opens the door for discerning.

When I think this over, how well my destiny was fulfilled!

Thank you so very much, O Holy Wisdom Treasure!

III. Constant Practice and Total Dedication

Thus having become filled with the treasure of instructions,
I practiced by combining the two Mahayana paths,
The ordinary path (of the Transcendences),
And the two stages of the extraordinary path,
Into a complete path of concentrated essentials.

When I think this over, how well my destiny was fulfilled!
Thank you so very much, O Holy Wisdom Treasure!

“All the Ganges Rivers of the vows of the Bodhisattvas
Are contained within the vow to uphold the Holy Dharma”
Thus whatever base of virtue I accumulated,
All was dedicated to the spread of Buddha’s Teaching!

When I think this over, how well my destiny was fulfilled!
Thank you so very much, O Holy Wisdom Treasure!

In order to extend enormously my own virtue
And to show the entrance without error in a way appropriate
To the many fortunate persons of clear discernment,
I wrote this record of my education.
By the mass of virtues thus attained,
May all beings, through this same procedure,
Maintain the unexcelled discipline of the Buddha,
And enter the path that pleases all the Victors!

Colophon:

Written by Easten Bhikshu Tsong Khapa Lo Sang Drag pay pal,
At the Triumph of Virtue Monastery on Nomad Mountain, with
Kabshipa Rin-chen pal as scribe.

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