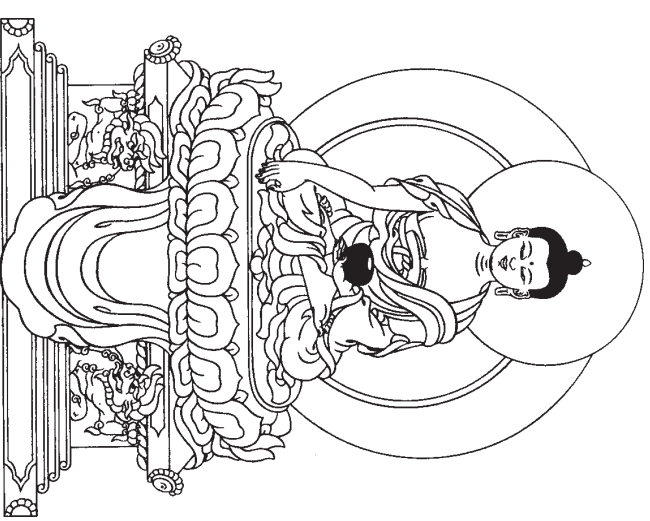


Praise by Way of the Twelve Deeds



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Praise of the Lord, Our Teacher, By Way of His Twelve Deeds



Introduction

This praise is found in the Tängyur, attributed to Nagarjuna, according to the *Tohoku catalogue* it was translated into Tibetan by Paṣṣhab Njyima Drag (11th century). This attribution seems unlikely. Modern editions say it was composed by the great Kagyu Lama, Drikung Chhoje Jigen Gönpö, or Drikungpa, whose collected writings it opens. He lived from 1143 to 1217 and is named after the monastery of Drikung, northeast of Lhasa, which he established in 1179; it became the center of the Drikung Kagyu school.

Drikungpa was known to his contemporaries as the Second Nagarjuna and is reckoned to have been Nagarjuna's incarnation. This may help explain the confused attribution. When he taught, even the water used to go “*lu dap, lu dap*” – the Tibetan for Nagarjuna.

The list of twelve deeds here is unusual, with several more deeds after the Enlightenment than normal, and fewer before. Verses 1 and 16 to 18 are later additions, absent from the Tängyur version. This praise is sometimes chanted at sojong.



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.



Praise By Way of Twelve Deeds



Thab khä thug je zhug so

Thab khä thug jei sha kyäi rig thrung shing
Zhan gyi mi thub dü yi pung chom pa
Ser gyi lhuin po ta bur ji päi ku
Sha kyäi gyäl po de la chhag tshäl lo

Gang gi dang por jang chhub thug kye nä
Sö nam ye she tshog nyi dzog dzä ching
Dü dir dzä pa gya chhen dro wa yi
Gön gyur kh yö la dag gi tö par gyi

Lha nam dül dzä dül wäi dü zig nä
Lha lä bab nä lang chhen tar sheg te
Rig la zig nä lha mo gyu thrül mäi
Lhum su zhug par dzä la la chhag tshäl lo

Da wa chu dzog sha kyäi sä po ni
Tra shi lu mi tshäl du tam päi tshé
Tsang dang gya jin gyi tü tshän chhog ni
Jang chhub rig su nge dzä chhag tshäl lo

Zhön nu tob dân mi yi seng ge de
OM ga ma dhar ni gyu thrül tän
Kye wo dreg pa chän nam tshar chä nä
Drän da me par dzä la chhag tshäl lo

Jig ten chho dang thün par ja wa dang
Kha na ma tho pang chhir tsün ma yi
Khor dang dân dzä thab la khä pa yi
Gyäl si kyong war dzä la chhag tshäl lo

Khor wäi ja wa nying po me zig nä
Khyim nä jung te kha la sheg nä kyang
Chhö ten nam dag drung du nyi lä nyi
Rab tu jung bar dzä la chhag tshäl lo



Dedication and Auspicious Wishes



Through the virtue of praising briefly thus
The manner of deeds of the lord, the doctrine's master,
May the conduct of all migrating beings
Be similar to the Sugata's own deeds!

As your body is, Tathagata,
As your entourage and length of life,
[Buddha-]land and excellent, supreme marks,
So may mine and others' become too!

Through these praises and requests to you,
In the lands where I and others dwell,
Quelling sickness, poverty and conflict,
Please let Dharma and good fortune flourish!

By the Teacher's coming to the world,
By his doctrine's brilliance, like sunlight,
And by close accord of its holders and their disciples,
Long may the doctrine abide – let all be auspicious!

Colophon

Extracted from *Shakyaamuni Puja*, *Worshipping the Buddha*, translated by Martin Wilson. Reprinted with permission from Wisdom Publications, www.wisdompubs.com. Lightly edited and phonetics replaced with FPMT phonetics by Kendall Magnusson, FPMT Education Services, March 2003. Cover line drawing by Andy Weber.





Dedication and Auspicious Wishes

De tar tän päi dag po chom dân gyi
 Dzä pai tshül la do tsam to pa yi
 Ge wa dro wa kün gyi chö pa yang
 De sheg nyi kyi dzä dang tshung par shog

De zhin sheg pa khye ku chi dra dang
 Khor dang ku tshai tshä dang zhing kham dang
 Khye kyi tshän chhog zang po chi dra wa
 De dra kho na dag sog gyur war shog

Kh yö la tö ching sol wa tab päi thü
 Dag sog gang du nä päi sa chhog der
 Nä dang bül phong thab tsö zhi wa dang
 Chhö dang tra shi phel war dzä du sö!

Tön pa jig ten kham su jön pa dang
 Tän pa nyi ö zhin du sä! wa dang
 Tän dzin bu lob shin tu thün pa yi
 Tän pa yün ring nä päi tra shi shog



Praise By Way of Twelve Deeds

Homage to Buddha Shakyamuni!

Through skillful compassion born in the Shakya clan,
 Unconquered One, subduer of Mara's horde,
 Your body shining like a pile of gold,
 King of the Shakyas – homage to you!

You who first produced the thought of bodhi,
 Then completed both accumulations
 Merits and wisdom – with vast deeds becoming
 Beings' protector in this age, I'll praise.

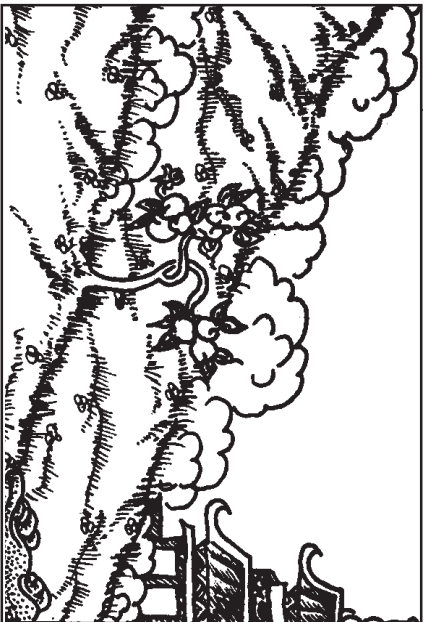
Knowing, O tamer of gods, it was time to tame [us],
 You came, descending from heaven as an elephant,
 Saw your caste, and entered in the womb
 Of Queen Maya – homage to this deed!

When, ten months completed, you were born
 Shakya Prince, in fortunate Lumbini Grove,
 Supreme marks honoured by Brahma and Sakra confirmed
 Your bodhi-lineage – homage to this deed!

As a powerful youth, lion among men,
 You showed your skill in Anga-Magadha,
 Put an end to men of pride, and had
 None to match you – homage to this deed!

By skillful means, to conform to the laws
 Of the world, and for avoidance of
 Blameworthiness, you ruled at court, possessed
 Of female retinue – homage to this deed!

Seeing samsaric doings had no essence,
 You left your home and, going in the air,
 Gave yourself the going forth, before
 The Quite Pure Sanctuary – homage to this deed!





Tsön pä jang chhub drub pa gong nä kyang
 Näi ra dza näi dram du lo drug tu
 Ka wa chä dzä tsön drü thar chin nä
 Sam tän chhog nye dzä la chhag tshäl lo

Thog ma me nä bä pa dön yö chhir
 Ma ga nga yi jang chhub shing drung du
 Kyil trung mi yo ngön par sang gyä nä
 Jang chhub dzog par dzä la chhag tshäl lo

Thug je dro la nyur du zig nä ni
 Va ra na si la sog nä chhog tu
 Chhö kyi khor lo kor nä dül ja nam
 Theg pa sum la go dzä la chhag tshäl lo

Zhän gyi göl wa ngän pa tshar chä nä
 Mu teg tön pa drug dang lhä jin sog
 Khor mo jig gi yül du du nam tul
 Thub pa yül lä gyäl la chag tshäl lo

Si pa sum na pe me yön tän gyi
 Nyän du yö par chho thrül chhen po tän
 Lha mi dro wa kün gyi rab chhö de
 Tän pa gyä par dzä la chhag tshäl lo

Le lo chän nam chho la küil wäi chhir
 Tsa chhog drong gi sa zhi tsang ma ru
 Chhi me dor je ta büi ku shig nä
 Nya ngän da bar dzä la chhag tshäl lo

Yang ga nyi du jig pa me zig kyang
 Ma ong sem chän sö nam sag jät chhir
 De nyi du ni ring sel mang trul nä
 Ku dung chha gyä dzä la chhag tshäl lo



Thinking to reach enlightenment through effort,
 You practiced for six years austerities
 On Nairanjana's bank, and perfecting energy,
 Won highest dh yana – homage to this deed!

To make worthwhile your efforts without beginning,
 Sitting beneath the Bodhi-tree in Magadha
 In unshakeable posture, you fully awakened
 To perfect bodhi – homage to this deed!

Swiftly observing beings with compassion,
 In holy places like Varanasi
 You turned the Wheel of Dharma, setting disciples
 On the three vehicles – homage to this deed!

To put an end to evil opposition,
 At Gaya in Bhanga you subdued the maras,
 Devadatta, six Tirthika teachers and others,
 Sage victorious in battle – homage to you!

With qualities unmatched in the three worlds,
 At Sravasti you showed a mighty miracle,
 Worshiped by all beings divine and human,
 Spreading the doctrine – homage to this deed!

To exhort the lazy to be quicker,
 At the pure site Kusinagari
 You destroyed your deathless, vajra-like body,
 Ent'ring Nirvana – homage to this deed!

So future sentient beings could gather merits,
 And because really there was no destruction,
 You manifested many relics there,
 Remains in eight portions – homage to this deed!

