A Prayer for the Swift Return of Lama Zopa Rinpoche

By His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso

with additional prayers by other distinguished lamas

Provisional Version 3

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A Prayer for the Swift Return of Lama Zopa Rinpoche

By His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso

Peerless Teacher and assembly of the children of the victorious ones, śrāvakas, and pratyekabuddhas;
Victorious Lozang, father and sons, along with the lineage masters;
All the objects of refuge of infinite lands—
Please bestow the virtue and goodness of accomplishing this prayer here and now.
A Prayer for the Swift Return of Lama Zopa Rinpoche

Holding and spreading the Muni's (thub) precious and complete teachings (ten)
Through explanation and practice,
You wore the armor of patience (zopa) that is never discouraged—Incomparable venerable guru, to you I make request.

While striving single-pointedly for the sake of the Victorious One’s teachings,
The sole gateway through which all benefit and happiness emerge, And for mother living beings, You suddenly departed to peace—what a great loss!
Nevertheless, through the undeceiving truth
Of the blessings of the ocean of the Three Jewels
And the great waves of bodhicitta of the children of
the victorious ones,
May the smile of a reincarnation swiftly beam in glory
for fortunate disciples!
I composed this swift return prayer at the request of the centres of the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition in general, Kopan Ogmin Jangchub Choling, Khachoe Gakhyil Ling Nunnery, and all the students of the late Rinpoche, headed by Roger Kunsang, who said that since the elucidator of the Buddha’s teachings, the incomparable Zopa Rinpoche, had suddenly departed to peace, a swift return prayer was needed. I also composed it because of our special connection, exemplified, for instance, by the fact that when Rinpoche was with us, he would consult me on his projects, big or small.

While it is devastating that Zopa Rinpoche has departed in this way, the most important thing is that when he was with us, he made the precious mind of enlightenment the foundation of his practice, and so, if his followers who have been left behind properly emulate the Guru’s life, it is exactly that which will definitely fulfill Rinpoche’s wishes. Therefore, keep this in mind, and from now on also make requests to the Three Jewels and earnest dedication prayers.

Composed by the Dalai Lama, a Dharma teacher and śākya bhikṣu, on the 25th day of the second month of the Year of the Water Rabbit in the 17th Rabjung cycle, April 15, 2023.

**Publisher’s Colophon:**

A Swift Return Prayer
to Lama Zopa Rinpoche

By Khenzur Jhado Rinpoche

Patient in bearing the hardships of spreading the teachings of the Muni in general,
And the teachings of the Victorious Jamgon [Tsongkhapa] in hundreds of directions,
Lord of Dharma holding the three vows and wearing saffron robes,
Please quickly return as the glory of the peerless teachings.
A Prayer for the Swift Return of Lama Zopa Rinpoche

You held the teachings of explanation and practice with great asceticism.
Unable to bear that transmigratory beings are confused by the darkness of suffering,
Through your great loving kindness you skilfully led them to happiness.
Unparalleled sun of the teachings, please return quickly.

Beautified by the ornament of supreme patience in increasing the practice
Of the supreme authentic teachings of the Victorious One through listening, reflection, and meditation,
Guide of all transmigratory beings along the perfect path,
True and perfect pure guru, please return quickly.
This request for a swift return of the sublime being, the supreme refuge, Thubten Zopa Rinpoche, who actualized the power of his bodhicitta prayers by spreading the teachings of the Victorious One in general, and in particular, the teachings of Jamgon, the Second Victorious One, to the furthest limit in all directions, was composed on the occasion of his having displayed the act of passing into peace, with the prayer that his profound, immaculate wishes be completely fulfilled, and that the youthful moon of his unmistaken reincarnation will be found with certainty. It was written by the one bearing the name “Khenzur Jhado Tulku” while staying at the Muni Gyana Dharma Centre in Italy on April 13, 2023. May virtue and goodness flourish!

Publisher’s Colophon:
Translated by Ven. Steve Carlier; translation reviewed by Joona Repo and edited by Ven. Tenzin Tsomo and Doris Low, April 15, 2023. FPMT Education Services.
A Lamenting Wail
A Supplication for the Swift Return
of Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche
By Rangjung Neljorma Khandro Tseringma

Guru, think of me! Guru, consider me! Most gracious Root Guru, care for me!
Most gracious Root Guru,
Do not deprive us of your compassionate refuge—
Listen and consider this heartfelt prayer made by a tormented disciple.
Guru, embodiment of the buddhas of the three times, please bless me.

You may rest in all-pervading great bliss, equipoise within the dhātu of unimpeded luminosity,
Yet the playful dance of your loving compassion emanates in myriad ways—
The time has come for the return Of the swift appearance of your magical wisdom, the rūpakāya, And for you to care for us once again with your affectionate compassion!
A Prayer for the Swift Return of Lama Zopa Rinpoche

Arise! Arise! Arise from the dharmakāya!
I invoke you! I call upon you! I implore you on behalf of all beings! Do not rest in Khecara or other pure realms. Rather, to benefit the Buddha’s teachings and all living beings, Swiftly return to this southern continent to spread the Buddhadharma of study and realization.

Quickly return to guide us poor, wretched beings!
Such is the desperate cry of us, your disciples! Return so that we may actually behold your presence and receive the blessings of your body, speech, and mind.
All violations, errors, mistakes, and broken samaya that we have made
In relation to your body, speech, mind, and spontaneous activity, Through our being confused and conceiving things in erroneous ways,
We confess within the luminous emptiness of your three kāyas.

Of everything auspicious, the supreme auspiciousness—
May there be the auspiciousness of emptiness and compassion.
May there be the auspiciousness of a timely meeting between master and disciples.
A Prayer for the Swift Return of Lama Zopa Rinpoche

Through the force of the truth of unchanging suchness, 
May the unmistaken incarnation return quickly!

This lament was made by me, a ḍākinī with pure faith and samaya, 
Her eyes filled with tears of sorrow. 
May these wishes of a beggar woman be fulfilled 
Through the blessings of the deities of the Three Roots.

Perception, its object, and the perceiver all dissolve within the expanse, 
The blissful clarity of suchness, A.
Colophons

*Original Colophon:*

At the special time of the ḍākinī (the twenty-fifth day of the second month of the lunar calendar, the fifteenth of April, 2023), I, Rangjung Neljorma Khandro Tseringma, uttered these words as they came to me, at a time of unbearable sadness.

*Publisher’s Colophon:*

A Swift Return Prayer to Lama Zopa Rínpoche

By the 11th Lelung Rínpoche

The lamp of the Geden teachings,
The supreme refuge, Lama Zopa,
Has departed in order to rouse to the Dharma
Disciples who cling to permanence.
Supreme being,
You took upon yourself the Kadam teachers’ way of life
And were bound to it night and day,
Greatly benefiting the teachings and transmigratory beings.

Great mast of the teachings,
Supreme guide for east and west,
Hidden yogi,
Lama Thubten Zopa.
Unrivalled Lama Zopa,
You took His Holiness, the Sovereign, Lord of the Victorious Ones,
As your crown,
And followed all his instructions.

Benefactor Lama Zopa,
For the many public and personal needs of Tibetans and others,
You opened the vase of resources
And cleared away the suffering of hardship.
One of great mind, Lama Zopa,
You held helpless and voiceless animals
With a mind of loving kindness,
And were their holy savior and protector.

Siddha Lama Zopa,
Lord of the ocean of manḍalas,
With the wings of emptiness and compassion
You crossed the waters of the generation and completion stages.
A Prayer for the Swift Return of Lama Zopa Rinpoche

Lama Thubten Zopa,
Great hidden yogi,
Ornament of the activities of the Geden teachings,
In truth, a great son of the victorious ones.

Having thought of me
And other transmigratory beings of the degenerate age
From your seat of lotus and sun
At the heart of Sangwa Yeshe,¹

¹ Tib. gsang ba ye shes. This dākinī is the principal deity of a cycle of treasure teachings associated with the Lelung incarnation lineage. The teachings were hidden by Padmasambhava, discovered by Mingling Choje Terdag Lingpa, and transmitted to the Fifth Lelung Rinpoche.
May the jewel that fulfills all wishes,
Emanating again with the brilliance of ten thousand suns,
Smile swiftly and without obstacles
To our eyes filled with tears of faith.

Colophons

Original Colophon:
This was written spontaneously by Lelung while remembering the life and activities of the great being, the great unequalled lamp of the teachings, the supreme Lama Thubten Zopa Rinpoche, at the time when he departed for the sake of others. April 13, 2023.

Publisher’s Colophon: