

The King of Aspiration Prayers: Samantabhadra's "Aspiration to Good Actions"

from the Gaṇḍavyūha chapter of the Avataṃsaka sūtra

gyagar ké du arya bhadratsarya pranidhana radza

In the language of India: *Ārya Bhadracarya Praṇidhāna Rāja*

böké du pakpa zangpo chöpé mönlam gyi gyalpo

In the language of Tibet: *Pakpa Zangpo Chöpé Mönlam gyi Gyalpo*

In the English language: *The King of Aspiration Prayers:
Samantabhadra's "Aspiration To Good Actions"*

The Translators' Homage

jampal shyönnur gyurpa la chaktsal lo

Homage to Mañjuśrī, the youthful!

The Seven Preliminaries for Purifying the Mind

1. Prostration

jinyé su dak chok chü jikten na

To all the buddhas, the lions of the human race,

dü sum shekpa mi yi sengé kün

In all directions of the universe, through past and present and future:

dak gi malü dedak tamché la

To every single one of you, I bow in homage;

lü dang ngak yi dangwé chak gyi o

Devotion fills my body, speech and mind.

zangpo chöpe mönlam tob dak gi

Through the power of this prayer, aspiring to Good Action,

gyalwa tamché yi kyi ngönsum du

All the victorious ones appear, vivid here before my mind

shying gi dul nyé lü rab tüpa yi

And I multiply my body as many times as atoms in the universe,

gyalwa kün la rabtu chaktsal lo

Each one bowing in prostration to all the buddhas.

2. Offering

dul chik teng na dul nyé sangye nam

In every atom preside as many buddhas as there are atoms,

sangye sé kyi ü na shyukpa dak

And around them, all their bodhisattva heirs:

detar chö kyi ying nam malüpa

And so I imagine them filling

tamché gyalwa dak gi gangwar mö

Completely the entire space of reality.

dedak ngakpa mizé gyatso nam

Saluting them with an endless ocean of praise,

yang kyi yenlak gyatsö dra kün gyi

With the sounds of an ocean of different melodies

gyalwa kün gyi yönten rab jö ching

I sing of the buddhas' noble qualities,

dewar shekpa tamché dak gi tö

And praise all those who have gone to perfect bliss.

metok dampa trengwa dampa dang

To every buddha, I make offerings:

silnyen nam dang jukpa duk chok dang

Of the loveliest flowers, of beautiful garlands,

marmé chok dang dukpö dampa yi

Of music and perfumed ointments, the best of parasols,

gyalwa dedak la ni chöpar gyi

The brightest lamps and finest incense.

naza dampa nam dang dri chok dang

To every buddha, I make offerings:

chema purma rirab nyampa dang

Exquisite garments and the most fragrant scents,

köpa khyepar pakpé chok kün gyi

Powdered incense, heaped as high as Mount Meru,

gyalwa dedak la ni chöpar gyi

Arranged in perfect symmetry.

chöpa gang nam lamé gya chewa

Then the vast and unsurpassable offerings—

dedak gyalwa tamché la yang mö

Inspired by my devotion to all the buddhas, and

zangpo chö la depé tob dak gi

Moved by the power of my faith in Good Actions—

gyalwa kün la chaktsal chöpar gyi

I prostrate and offer to all you victorious ones.

3. Confession

döchak shyedang timuk wang gi ni

Whatever negative acts I have committed,

lü dang ngak dang deshyin yi kyi kyang

While driven by desire, hatred and ignorance,

dikpa dak gi gyipa chi chipa

With my body, my speech and also with my mind,

dedak tamché dak gi sosor shak

Before you, I confess and purify each and every one.

4. Rejoicing

chok chü gyalwa kün dang sangye sé

With a heart full of delight, I rejoice at all the merits

ranggyal nam dang lob dang mi lob dang

Of buddhas and bodhisattvas,

drowa kün gyi sönam gangla yang

Pratyekabuddhas, those in training and the arhats beyond training,

dedak kün gyi jesu dak yi rang

And every living being, throughout the entire universe.

5. Imploring the Buddhas to Turn the Wheel of Dharma

gang nam chok chü jikten drönma nam

You who are like beacons of light shining through the worlds,

changchub rimpar sangye machak nyé

Who passed through the stages of enlightenment, to attain buddhahood, freedom from all attachment,

gönpo dedak dak gi tamché la

I exhort you: all of you protectors,

khorlo lanamepar korwar kul

Turn the unsurpassable wheel of Dharma.

6. Requesting the Buddhas not to Enter Nirvāṇa

nya ngen da tön gang shyé dedak la

Joining my palms together, I pray

drowa kün la pen shying dewé chir

To you who intend to pass into nirvāṇa,

kalpa shying gi dul nyé shyukpar yang

Remain, for aeons as many as the atoms in this world,

dak gi talmo rab jar solwar gyi

And bring well-being and happiness to all living beings.

7. Dedication

chaktsalwa dang chö ching shakpa dang

What little virtue I have gathered through my homage,

jesu yi rang kul shying solwa yi

Through offering, confession, and rejoicing,

gewa chungzé dak gi chi sakpa

Through exhortation and prayer—all of it

tamché dak gi changchub chir ngo o

I dedicate to the enlightenment of all beings!

The Actual Aspiration

1. Aspiration for Purity of Attitude

depé sangye nam dang chok chu yi

Let offerings be made to buddhas of the past,

jikten dak na gang shyuk chöpar gyur

And all who now dwell throughout the ten directions of this universe!

gangyang majön dedak rab nyurwar

Let all who are yet to come swiftly fulfil their wishes

sam dzok changchub rimpar sangye chön

And attain the stages of enlightenment and buddhahood!

chok chu galé shying nam jinyepa

Let as many worlds as there are in all the ten directions

dedak gyacher yongsu dakpar gyur

Transform into realms that are vast and utterly pure,

changchub shingwang drung shek gyalwa dang

Filled with buddhas who have sat before the mighty bodhi tree,

sangye sé kyī rabtu gangwar shok

Around them all their bodhisattva sons and daughters!

chok chü semchen gang nam jinyé pa

Let as many sentient beings as there are in all the ten directions

dedak taktu nemé dewar gyur

Live always and forever in happiness and health!

drowa kün gyi chö kyī dōn nam ni

Let all beings meet the Dharma

tünpar gyur ching rewang drubpar shok

That befits them best! And so may all they hope for be fulfilled!

2. Aspiration Never to Forget the Bodhicitta

changchub chöpa dak ni dak chö ching

As I practise the training for enlightenment,

drowa küntu kyewa drenpar gyur

May I recall all my previous births,

tserab küntu chipo kyewa na

And in my successive lives, through death and through rebirth,

taktu dak ni rabtu jungwar shok

May I always renounce the worldly life!

gyalwa kün gyi jesu lob gyur té

Training in the footsteps of all the victorious buddhas,

zangpo chöpa yongsu dzok jé ching

May I bring Good Actions to perfection,

tsultrim chöpa drimé yong dakpa

And my moral conduct be taintless and pure,

taktu manyam kyönmé chöpar shok

Never lapsing, and always free from fault!

lha yi ké dang lu dang nöjin ké

In the language of the gods, nāgas, and yakṣas,

drulbum dak dang mi yi ké nam dang

In the language of demons and of humans too,

drowa kün gyi dra nam ji tsampar

In however many kinds of speech there may be—

tamché ké du dak gi chö ten to

I shall proclaim the Dharma in the language of all!

dé shing parol chin la rab tsön té

Taming my mind, and striving in the pāramitās,

changchub sem ni namyang jé magyur

I will never forget the bodhicitta;

dikpa gang nam dribpar gyurpa dak

May all my harmful actions and the obscurations they cause

dedak malü yongsu jangwar shok

Be completely purified, every single one!

3. Aspiration to be Free from Defilements

lé dang nyönmong dü kyi lé nam lé

May I be freed from karma, harmful emotions, and the work of negativity,

drol shying jikten drowa nam su yang

And act for all beings in the world,

jitar pemo chü michakpa shyin

Just like the lotus flower to which mud and water cannot cling,

nyida namkhar tokpamé tar ché

Or sun and moon that course unhindered through the sky.

4. Aspiration to Lead Beings to Happiness

shying gi khyön dang chok nam chi tsampar

Throughout the reach and range of the entire universe

ngensong dukngal rabtu shyiwar jé

I shall pacify completely the suffering of all the lower realms,

dewa dak la drowa kün gö ching

I shall lead all beings to happiness,

drowa tamché la ni penpar ché

And work for the ultimate benefit of each and every one!

5. Aspiration to Wear the Armour of Dedication

changchub chöpa yongsu dzokjé ching

I shall bring enlightened action to perfection,

semchen dak gi chö dang tünpar juk

Serve beings so as to suit their needs,

zangpo chöpa dak ni rab tön ching

Teach them to accomplish Good Actions,

ma ong kalpa küntu chöpar gyur

And continue this, throughout all the aeons to come!

6. Aspiration to Accompany other Bodhisattvas

dak gi chö dang tsungpar gang chöpa

May I always meet and be accompanied by

dedak dang ni taktu drokpar shok

Those whose actions accord with mine;

lū dang ngak nam dang ni sem kyi kyang

And in body, speech and mind as well,

chöpa dak dang mönlam chik tu ché

May our actions and aspirations always be one!

7. Aspiration to Have Virtuous Teachers and to Please Them

dak la penpar döpe drokpo dak

May I always meet spiritual friends

zangpo chöpa rabtu tönpa nam

Who long to be of true help to me,

dedak dang yang taktu trepar shok

And who teach me the Good Actions;

dedak dak gi namyang yi miyung

Never will I disappoint them!

8. Aspiration to See the Buddhas and Serve them in Person

sangye sé kyi korwé gönpo nam

May I always behold the buddhas, here before my eyes,

ngönsum taktu dak gi gyalwa ta

And around them all their bodhisattva sons and daughters.

ma ong kalpa küntu mikyowar

Without ever tiring, throughout all the aeons to come,

dedak la yang chöpa gyacher gyi

May the offerings I make them be endless and vast!

9. Aspiration to Keep the Dharma Thriving

gyalwa nam kyi dampé chö dzin ching

May I maintain the sacred teachings of the buddhas,

changchub chöpa küntu nangwar jé

And cause enlightened action to appear;

zangpo chöpa nampar jongwa yang

May I train to perfection in Good Actions,

ma ong kalpa küntu chepar gyi

And practise these in every age to come!

10. Aspiration to Acquire Inexhaustible Treasure

sipa tamché du yang khorwa na

As I wander through all states of samsaric existence,

sönam yeshe dak ni mizé nyé

May I gather inexhaustible merit and wisdom,

tab dang sherab tingdzin namtar dang

And so become an inexhaustible treasury of noble qualities—

yönten kün gyi mizé dzö du gyur

Of skill and discernment, samādhi and liberation!

11. Aspiration to the Different Methods for Entering into the “Good Actions”

a) Seeing the Buddhas and their Pure Realms

dul chik teng na dul nyé shying nam té

In a single atom may I see as many pure realms as atoms in the universe:

shying der sam gyi mikhyab sangye nam

And in each realm, buddhas beyond all imagining,

sangye sé kyi ü na shyukpa la

Encircled by all their bodhisattva heirs.

changchub chepa chö ching tawar gyi

Along with them, may I perform the actions of enlightenment!

detar malü tamché chok su yang

And so, in each direction, everywhere,

tra tsam khyön la dü sum tsé nyé kyi

Even on the tip of a hair, may I see an ocean of buddhas—

sangye gyatso shying nam gyatso dang

All to come in past, present and future—in an ocean of pure realms,

kalpa gyatso chö ching rabtu juk

And throughout an ocean of aeons, may I enter into enlightened action in each and every one!

b) Listening to the Speech of the Buddhas

sung chik yenlak gyatsö draké kyi

Each single word of a buddha's speech, that voice with its ocean of qualities,

gyalwa kün yang yenlak namdakpa

Bears all the purity of the speech of all the buddhas,

drowa kün gyi sampa jishyin yang

Sounds that harmonize with the minds of all living beings:

sangye sung la taktu jukpar gyi

May I always be engaged with the speech of the buddhas!

c) Hearing the Turning of the Wheels of Dharma

dü sum shekpé gyalwa tamché dak

With all the power of my mind, may I hear and realize

khorlö tsul nam rabtu korwa yi

The inexhaustible melody of the teachings spoken by

dedak gi yang sung yang mizé la

All the buddhas of past, present and future,

lo yi tob kyi dak kyang rabtu juk

As they turn the wheels of Dharma!

d) Entering into All the Aeons

ma ong kalpa tamché jukpar yang

Just as the wisdom of the buddhas penetrates all future aeons,

kechik chik gi dak kyang jukpar gyi

So may I too know them, instantly,

gangyang kalpa dü sum tsé dedak

And in each fraction of an instant may I know

kechik chashé kyi ni shyukpar ché

All that will ever be, in past, present and future!

e) Seeing all the Buddhas in One Instant

dü sum shekpa mi yi sengé gang

In an instant, may I behold all those who are the lions of the human race—

dedak kechik chik la dak gi ta

The buddhas of past, present and future!

f) Entering the Sphere of Activity of the Buddhas

taktu dedak gi ni chöyul la

May I always be engaged in the buddhas' way of life and action,

gyumar gyurpé namtar tob kyi juk

Through the power of liberation, where all is realized as like an illusion!

g). Accomplishing and Entering the Pure Lands

gangyang dü sum dak gi shying köpa

On a single atom, may I actually bring about

dedak dul chik tengdu ngönpar drub

The entire array of pure realms of past, of present and future;

detar malü chok nam tamché du

And then enter into those pure buddha realms

gyalwa dak gi shying nam kö la juk

In each atom, and in each and every direction.

h) Entering into the Presence of the Buddhas

gangyang majön jikten drönma nam

When those who illuminate the world, still to come,

dedak rimpar tsang gya khorlo kor

Gradually attain buddhahood, turn the Wheel of Dharma,

nya ngen depa rabtu shyi ta tön

And demonstrate the final, profound peace of nirvāṇa:

gönpo kün gyi drung du dak chi o

May I be always in their presence!

*12. Aspiration to the Power of Enlightenment through
Nine Powers*

küntu nyurwé dzutrul tob nam dang

Through the power of swift miracles,

künné go yi tekpé tob dak dang

The power of the vehicle, like a doorway,

küntu yönten chöpé tob nam dang

The power of conduct that possesses all virtuous qualities,

küntu khyabpa jampa dak gi tob

The power of loving kindness, all-pervasive,

künné gewé sönam tob dak dang

The power of merit that is totally virtuous,

chakpa mepar gyurpé yeshe tob

The power of wisdom free from attachment, and

sherab tab dang tingdzin tob dak gi

The powers of knowledge, skilful means and samādhi,

changchub tob nam yangdak drubpar jé

May I perfectly accomplish the power of enlightenment!

*13. Aspiration to the Antidotes that Pacify the
Obscurations*

lé kyi tob nam yongsu dakjé ching

May I purify the power of karma;

nyönmong tob nam küntu jompar jé

Destroy the power of harmful emotions;

dü kyi tob nam tobmé rabjé ching

Render negativity utterly powerless;

zangpo chöpé tob ni dzokpar gyi

And perfect the power of Good Actions!

14. Aspiration to Enlightened Activities

shying nam gyatso nampar dakjé ching

I shall purify oceans of realms;

semchen gyatso dak ni nampar drol

Liberate oceans of sentient beings;

chö nam gyatso rabtu tongjé ching

Understand oceans of Dharma;

yeshe gyatso rabtu tokpar jé

Realize oceans of wisdom;

chöpa gyatso nampar dakjé ching

Perfect oceans of actions;

mönlam gyatso yongsu dzokpar jé

Fulfil oceans of aspirations;

sangye gyatso rabtu chöjé ching

Serve oceans of buddhas!

kalpa gyatso mikyo chepar gyi

And perform these, without ever growing weary, through oceans of aeons!

15. Aspiration for Training

a) To Emulate the buddhas

gangyang dü sum shekpé gyalwa yi

All the buddhas throughout the whole of time,

changchub chöpe mönlam jedrak nam

Attained enlightenment through Good Actions, and

zangpo chöpe changchub sangye né

Their prayers and aspirations for enlightened action:

dé kün dak gi malü dzokpar gyi

May I fulfil them all completely!

b) To emulate the bodhisattvas: Samantabhadra

gyalwa kün gyi sé kyi tuwopa

The eldest of the sons of all the buddhas

gang gi ming ni kuntuzang shyeja

Is called Samantabhadra: ‘All-good’:

khepa dé dang tsungpar chepe chir

So that I may act with a skill like his,

gewa didak tamché rabtu ngo

I dedicate fully all these merits!

lū dang ngak dang yi kyang namdak ching

To purify my body, my speech and my mind as well,

chöpa namdak shying nam yong dakpa

To purify my actions, and all realms,

ngowa zangpo khepa chindrawa

May I be the equal of Samantabhadra

dendrar dak kyang dé dang tsungpar shok

In his skill in good dedication!

c) Mañjuśrī

künné gewa zangpo chepé chir

In order to perform the full virtue of Good Actions,

jampal gyi ni mönlam chepar gyi

I shall act according to Mañjuśrī's prayers of aspiration,

ma ong kalpa küntu mikyowar

And without ever growing weary, in all the aeons to come,

dé yi jawa malü dzokpar gyi

I shall perfectly fulfil every one of his aims!

16. Concluding Aspiration

chöpa dak ni tsé yö magyur chik

Let my bodhisattva acts be beyond measure!

yönten nam kyang tsé zung mepar shok

Let my enlightened qualities be measureless too!

chöpa tsemepa la né né kyang

Keeping to this immeasurable activity,

dedak trulpa tamché tsalwar gyi

May I accomplish all the miraculous powers of enlightenment!

Extent of the Aspiration

namkhé tartuk gyurpa ji tsampar

Sentient beings are as limitless

semchen malü ta yang deshyin té

As the boundless expanse of space;

ji tsam lé dang nyönmong tar gyurpa

So shall my prayers of aspiration for them

dak gi mönlam ta yang detsam mo

Be as limitless as their karma and harmful emotions!

The Benefits of Making Aspirations

1. The Benefits of Making Aspirations in General

gangyang chok chü shying nam tayepa

Whoever hears this king of dedication prayers,

rinchen gyen té gyalwa nam la pul

And yearns for supreme enlightenment,

lha dang mi yi dewé chok nam kyang

Who even once arouses faith,

shying gi dul nyé kalpar pulwa bé

Will gain true merit greater still

gang gi ngowé gyalpo di tö né

Than by offering the victorious buddhas

changchub chok gi jesu rab mö shing

Infinite pure realms in every directions, all ornamented with jewels,

len chik tsam yang depa kyepa na

Or offering them all the highest joys of gods and humans

sönam dampé chok tu di gyur ro

For as many aeons as there are atoms in those realms.

2. The Thirteen Benefits in Detail

gang gi zangchö mönlam di tabpé

Whoever truly makes this Aspiration to Good Actions,

dé ni ngen song tamché pongwar gyur

Will be never again be born in lower realms;

dé ni drokpo ngenpa pangwa yin

They will be free from harmful companions, and

nangwa tayé deyang dé nyur tong

Soon behold the Buddha of Boundless Light.

dedak nyepa rab nyé dewar tso

They will acquire all kind of benefits, and live in happiness;

mitsé dir yang dedak lekpar ong

Even in this present life all will go well,

kuntuzangpo deyang chindrawar

And before long,

dedak ringpor mitok deshyin gyur

They will become just like Samantabhadra.

tsammé ngapo dak gi dikpa nam

All negative acts—even the five of immediate retribution—

gang gi mishe wang gi jepa dak

Whatever they have committed in the grip of ignorance,

dé yi zangpo chöpa di jö na

Will soon be completely purified,

nyurdu malü yongsu jangwar gyur

If they recite this Aspiration to Good Actions.

yeshe dang ni zuk dang tsen nam dang

They will possess perfect wisdom, beauty, and excellent signs,

rik dang khadok nam dang denpar gyur

Be born in a good family, and with a radiant appearance.

dü dang mutek mangpö dé mitub

Demons and heretics will never harm them,

jikten sumpo kün nang chöpar gyur

And all three worlds will honour them with offerings.

changchub shingwang drung du dé nyur dro

They will quickly go beneath the bodhi-tree,

song né semchen pen chir der duk té

And there, they will sit, to benefit all sentient beings, then

changchub sangye khorlo rabtu kor

Awaken into enlightenment, turn the wheel of Dharma,

dü nam dé dang chepa tamché tul

And tame Māra with all his hordes.

3. The Benefits in Brief

gangyang zangpo chöpe mönlam di

The full result of keeping, teaching, or reading

changwa dang ni tön tam lok na yang

This Prayer of Aspiration to Good Actions

dé yi nampar minpa ang sangye khyen

Is known to the buddhas alone:

changchub chok la somnyi majé chik

Have no doubt: supreme enlightenment will be yours!

Dedication of the Merits of this Meritorious Aspiration

1. Dedication that Follows the Bodhisattvas

jampal pawö jitar khyenpa dang

Just as the warrior Mañjuśrī attained omniscience,

kuntuzangpo deyang deshyin té

And Samantabhadra too

dedak kün gyi jesu dak lob chir

All these merits now I dedicate

gewa didak tamché rabtu ngo

To train and follow in their footsteps.

2. Dedication that Follows the Buddhas

dü sum shekpé gyalwa tamché kyi

As all the victorious buddhas of past, present and future

ngowa gangla chok tu ngakpa dé

Praise dedication as supreme,

dak gi gewé tsawa di kün kyang

So now I dedicate all these roots of virtue

zangpo chö chir rabtu ngowar gyi

For all beings to perfect Good Actions.

3. Dedication towards Actualizing the Result

dak ni chiwé dü jé gyurpa na

When it is time for me to die,

dribpa tamché dak ni chir sal té

Let all that obscures me fade away, so

ngönsum nangwa tayé dé tong né

I look on Amitābha, there in person,

dewachen gyi shying der rabtu dro

And go at once to his pure land of Sukhāvātī.

der song né ni mönlam didak kyang

In that pure land, may I actualize every single one

tamché malü ngön du gyurwar shok

Of all these aspirations!

dedak malü dak gi yongsu kang

May I fulfil them, each and every one,

jikten jisi semchen penpar gyi

And bring help to beings for as long as the universe remains!

4. Dedication towards Receiving a Prophecy from the Buddhas

gyalwé kyilkhör zang shying gawa der

Born there in a beautiful lotus flower,

pemo dampa shintu dzé lé kyé

In that excellent and joyous buddha realm,

nangwa tayé gyalwé ngönsum du

May the Buddha Amitābha himself

lungtenpa yang dak gi der tob shok

Grant me the prophecy foretelling my enlightenment!

5. Dedication towards Serving Others

der ni dak gi lungten rab tob né

Having received the prophecy there,

trulpa mangpo jewa trak gya yi

With my billions of emanations,

lo yi tob kyi chok chu nam su yang

Sent out through the power of my mind,

semchen nam la penpa mangpo gyi

May I bring enormous benefit to sentient beings, in all the ten directions!

Conclusion

zangpo chö pé mönlam tabpa yi

Through whatever small virtues I have gained

gewa chungzé dak gi chi sakpa

By reciting this “Aspiration to Good Actions”,

dé ni drowé mönlam gewa nam

May the virtuous wishes of all beings’ prayers and aspirations

kechik chik gi tamché jorwar shok

All be instantly accomplished!

gangyang zangpo chöpa di ngöpé

Through the true and boundless merit

sönam tayé dampa gang tob dé

Attained by dedicating this “Aspiration to Good Actions”,

drowa dukngal chuwor jingwa nam

May all those now drowning in the ocean of suffering,

öpakmepé né rab tobpar shok

Reach the supreme realm of Amitābha!

mönlam gyalpo didak chok gi tso

May this King of Aspirations bring about

tayé drowa kün la pen jé ching

The supreme aim and benefit of all infinite sentient beings;

kuntuzangpö gyenpé shyung drub té

May they perfect what is described in this holy prayer, uttered
by Samantabhadra!

ngensong né nam malü tongpar shok

May the lower realms be entirely emptied!

Words of Truth to Accomplish Aspirations

sangye ku sum nyepé jinlab dang

By the blessings of the buddhas who have attained the three
kāyas,

chönyi mingyur denpé jinlab dang

And the unchanging truth of reality

gendün miché dünpe jinlab kyi

As well as the unwavering aspirations of the Saṅgha,

jitar ngö shyin mönlam drubpar shok

May all the aspirations and dedication prayers be fulfilled!

The dhāraṇī for the accomplishment of all aspirations

teyata pentsa driya awa bodhanayé soha

pakpa zangpo chöpe mönlam gyi gyalpo dzok so

This completes the King of Aspiration Prayers,

Samantabhadra's "Aspiration to Good Actions."

