

Kopan Monastery Prayers and Practices

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The King of Prayers

THE PRAYER OF WAYS HIGH AND SUBLIME

(Skt: Arya bhadra charya prani dana raja)
(Tib: phag pa bzang po spyod pai smon lan gyi rgyal po)

O lions amongst men
Buddhas, past, present and future
To as many of your as exist in the ten directions
I bow with my body, speech and mind.

On waves of strength of this king
Of prayers for exalted, sublime ways
With bodies numerous as atoms of the world
I bow to the Buddhas pervading space

On every atom is found a Buddha
Sitting amidst countless Buddha sons
I look with eyes of faith to the Victorious ones
Thus filling the entire Dharmadatu.

Of these with endless oceans of excellences
Endowed with an ocean of wondrous speech
I sing praises of the greatness of all Buddhas
An eulogy to those gone to bliss.

Garlands of flowers I offer them
And beautiful sounds, supreme perfumes
Butter lamps and sacred incense
I offer to all victorious ones.

Excellent food, supreme fragrances
And a mound of mystic substances high as Mt Meru
I arrange in special formation
And offer to those who have conquered themselves.

And all peerless offerings I hold up
In admiration of those gone to bliss
With strength of faith in sublime ways
I prostrate and make offerings to the conquerors.

Long overpowered by attachment, aversion and ignorance
Countless evils I have committed
With acts of body speech and mind
Each and every one of there I now confess.

In the perfections of the Buddhas, the Bodhisattvas
The Arhats training and beyond
And in the latent goodness of every living being
I lift up my heart and rejoice.

O lights unto the ten directions
Buddhas who have found the passionless stage of Enlightenment
To all of you I direct this request
Turn the incomparable wheel of Dharma.

O Masters wishing to show parinirvana
Stay with us and teach, I pray.
For as many aeons as there are specks of dust
In order to bring goodness and joy to beings.

May any small merits that may have amassed
By thus prostrating, making offerings, confessing, rejoicing
And asking the Buddhas to remain and teach the Dharma
Be dedicated now to supreme and perfect Enlightenment.

May my offerings be received by all passed Buddhas
And by all those now abiding in the ten directions
And may all the Buddhas who have not yet come
Quickly perfect their minds and reach Buddhahood, the state of full awakening.

May all the Buddha realms of the ten directions
Remain forever vast and completely pure
May the world be completely filled with Buddhas
Who have attained illumination under sacred trees
And may they all be surrounded by Bodhisattvas.

May all living beings of the ten directions
Always abide in health and joy
May they live in accord with the ways of Dharma
And may their every wish become fulfilled.

By my living in the ways of Enlightenment
May I remember my past lives in all my reincarnations
And in all cycles of death, migration and rebirth
May a sensitivity for truth be ever strong within me.

By my following in the footsteps of the Buddhas
May I utterly perfect the sublime ways of the Bodhisattvas
And may I practice the faultless un-degenerating stainless and pure ways of self control

May I master all languages that exist, including those of the gods, nagas, yakshas, spirits and the varieties
of men
As well as all forms of communication of living beings
That I may be able to show Dharma in every way.

Striving thus and in the transcending perfections
May I never forget the Bodhi mind
And may I totally cleanse from within my mind stream
All negativities and mental veils.

May I gain freedom from karma, delusion and karmic maras
To be able to live in the world unaffected by its stains
like a stainless lotus grows out he mud
And like the sun and moon shine without obstruction in the sky.

For long as there are Buddha fields and directions
May I strive to quell the misery of the lower realms,
May I place the living beings only in happiness
And bring them all only benefits and joy.

May I strive to complete the ways of Enlightenment
And to abide in ways harmonious with the world
May I expose others to the ways most sublime
And myself abide in them throughout all future aeons.

May my ways and the ways of a Bodhisattva
Always go together hand in hand
In body, speech and also in mind
May I attune to their sublime ways.

May I never be separated from the good friends
Who reveal the path of sublime ways
And who wish only to benefit me
May I never disappoint them even for a moment.

May I constantly envision the perfect Buddhas
The protectors who are surrounded by Bodhisattvas
And in the future may I never weary
Of devoting myself to them with all my strength.

May I forever uphold the holy Dharma of the Buddhas
And illuminate the sublime ways of enlightenment
May I practice throughout all future ages
The ways and deeds of the sublime path.

Circling in the various realms of existence
May I amass inexhaustible goodness and wisdom
And may I become an unending treasure of qualities
Such as methods, wisdom, samadhi and the experiences of the bodhisattva.

On every atom are Buddha fields numberless as atoms
Each field is filled with Buddhas beyond conception
And each Buddha is surrounded by a myriad Bodhisattvas
To all these dwellers in sublime ways I turn my attention.

Thus all atoms within the directions
Abide within a space of a single hair
An ocean of Buddhas in an ocean of Buddha fields
Performing enlightened activities for an ocean of aeons

Each Buddha with his perfected speech releases
An ocean of sounds with every word he says
To satisfy the infinitely diverse tendencies of beings
Thus does the speech of a Buddha constantly flow.

All these conquerors past, present and future
Continually turn the method of Dharma wheels
With all the powers of my mind I listen
For the inexhaustible sound of their works.

All future aeons that could possible be
Manifest within me in a single instant
And I myself in a fraction of a moment
Enter into all aeons of the three times.

All past, present and future lions amongst men
I envision with the instantaneous wisdom
And by the power of the Bodhisattvas examples
I focus upon the objects of their experience.

I manifest Buddha fields past, present and future
Upon a single atom of existence
And then I transform every single atom
Of existence into Buddha field.

By this, when the future lights of the worlds
Eventually gain Bodhi, turn the Dharma wheels
And reveal the passing to nirvanas supreme peace
May I take rebirth in their very presence.

Then may I attain the ten powers:
The power of instant magical emanations
The power which is a vehicle with every door
The power of excellent activity
The power of all pervading love
The power of constantly positive energy
The power of passionless wisdom
The powers of knowledge method and samadhi
And the power of enlightenment itself.

May I purify the powers of karma
May I crush the powers of delusion
May I render powerless the powerful maras
And may I perfect the power of sublime ways.

May I purify an ocean of realms
May I liberate an ocean of sentient beings
May I see an ocean of truths and
May I realize an ocean of wisdom.

May I perform an ocean of perfect deeds
May I perfect an ocean of prayers
May I revere an ocean of Buddhas, and
May I practice untiringly for an ocean of aeons.

Through my practice of the sublime Bodhisattva ways
May I gain the enlightenment of Buddhahood
And then fulfil the enlightened and sublime aspirations
Of the Buddhas past present and future.

In order to match the ways of the sage
Called Samantabhadra, the always sublime one
Chief amongst the awakened one's sons
I now dedicate all virtues that I possess.

Just as the sublime sage Samantabhadra
Dedicated all pure practice of body speech and mind
To the attainment of a pure state and pure realms
So do I now dedicate the fruit of all my efforts.

In order to engage in all sublime virtues
I offer the prayer of Manjushri
In the future may I never become faint
In striving to perfect the exalted Bodhisattva ways.

May my deeds never reach a limit
May my qualities of excellence become boundless
And, by abiding in immeasurable activity,
May I find Buddhahood, the state of limitless manifestation.

Limitless is the extent of space
Limitless is the number of sentient beings
And limitless are the karma and delusion of beings
Such are the limits of my aspirations.

One may offer supreme ornaments of the Buddha fields
Of the ten directions to the conquerors
And also offer the highest joys of men and gods
For aeons numerous as atoms of the world

But to read or hear The Kind of Prayers
With eyes looking to supreme illumination
And faith stirring in ones heart for even an instant
Gives birth to a far more superior merit.

Should anyone recite this aspiration of sublime ways
They will pass beyond all states of sorrow
Will rise above all inferior beings and gain
A vision of Amitabha, Buddha of Boundless Light.

Given in this very lifetime
All sublime joys will be theirs
The experiences of the always sublime Samantabhadra
Without obstruction will quickly be theirs.

Merely by giving voice to these aspirations
Of the sublime ways of a Bodhisattva
All evils, such as the five inexplicable deeds that out of ignorance were done
Will be completely and utterly washed away.

One will gain the wisdom form signs
Marks, family and complexion of a supreme Nirmanakaya
The most revered goal of all three worlds
And thus transcend the harms of devils and fools.

One will travel to the great tree of illumination
And there, for the sake of living beings will make ones seat,
Then one will turn the mighty wheel of Dharma
And tame evil Mara and his forces.

Should anyone touch, read or teach to others
This prayer of the sublime way of a Bodhisattva
The effects can be known only by an omniscient Buddha
Therefore, doubt not that it leads to enlightenment.

In order to follow the excellent examples set
By the wisdom of the Bodhisattva Manjushri
And the always sublime
All virtue I dedicate to their peerless ideals.

All conquerors passed into the three times
Have praised as supreme this peerless dedication
Therefore I also surrender all roots of my activities
To the sublime goals of a Bodhisattva.

When the moment of my death arrives
May I remain free from spiritual obscurations
May I perceive the countenance of Amitabha
And transmigrate to sukavati, the pure land of joy.

Having arrived there, may I fulfil
All aims of this prayer of aspirations
And benefit the countless living beings
Residing throughout the ten directions.

In the joyous mandala of Amitabha Buddha
May I be reborn from a beautiful lotus
And may I there have the pleasure of gaining
A pure prophesy from Amitabha himself.

Having won his words of prophesy
By the power of mind may I fill all directions
With many millions of mystical emanations
And bring limitless benefits to the world.

If by reciting this prayer of sublime ways
I have amassed a tiny fragment of goodness]
May it work immediately to fulfil
All dharmic hopes of the living beings...

Thus is complete The Great King of Prayers,
The Prayer of Ways High and Sublime.