

Praise of the Buddha

The Unrivalled Lion of the Shakyas

KAP SUM PA ZHUG SO

By Jamgön Lama Tsongkhapa

KAB SUM PA DANG WANG PÖ DRA
DRI ZA DENG CHEN DRUB PAI TSO
KUN GYI TSUG GYEN NOR BU YI
GANG GI ZHAB PE DZE JE PA

Indra, king of the gods,
his enemy, the Asura leader,
Pramudita, celestial musician
king, naga kings and great rishis
beautify your lotus feet with the jewels of their crowns.

SER Ö CHUG PAI PEL GYI JI PAI KU
DRI ZÄ YANG CHI DRÜN DU ME PAI SUNG
NYI MA JE WAI DANG LE SEL WÄI THUG
THAR YE DRO WAI DRIN CHOG SHAKYAI
TOG

Glorious body bathing in splendor of its golden glow,
voice unrivaled even by melodies of celestial musicians,
mind brighter than ten million suns,
guide supreme for infinite living beings,
paragon of the Shakyas.

DAG PAI KA LA SHAR WAI SA KAR NAM
CHU TER U NA YONG SU SEL WA ZHIN
DANG WAI YI TSHOR KYÖ KYI YÖN TEN GYI
SUNG NYEN MA DRE SEL WAR RAB KÖ NE

Moon and stars on a cloudless night
appear crystal-clear in the midst of a lake,
so in the clear waters of my untroubled mind
are your qualities reflected one by one.

DA ZER PHOK PAI CHU KYE ZHÖN NU ZHIN
LAG PAI SOR MO NYING KAI NGÖ SU ZUM
TSE CHAG YI KYI KYÖ KUR NGÖN CHOG TE
CHUNG ZE TÖ LA THUG JE CHEN KYÖ GONG

Fingertips fold at my heart
like a lotus touched by moonlight,
single-pointedly I hold you before me.
You of great compassion heed this modest praise.

KAR MAI TSHOG KYI KA LA DA WA ZHIN
GYAL SE PA WO NAM KYI KUN NE KOR
BA LANG KYU WI THOG MAR KYU CHOG ZHIN
DRA CHOM KHOR GYI TSHOG KYI DUN DU DAR
NAM KHAI KYÖN KUN GENG PAI Ö ZER GYI
DR WA TONG GI YONG SU TRIG PAI KU
NAM KHAĪ LAM NE CHO TRUL DU MA YI
NANG PAI GYAL PO ZHIN DU DING ZHIN SHEG

Ringed by noble bodhisattvas
as the moon is circled by stars,
leading your arhat entourage
as the mighty bull leads the herd,

your body dense with a thousand
garlands of golden light filling the realms
of space as you soared through the sky
to arrive like the king of swans
in a magical display of corporal power.

DE TSHE RING NE TRÜN PAI ZANG PÖ LE
YONG SU SE PAI LHA MI TONG TRAG GYA
KYÖ ZHAL THONG PAI MÖ LA MI TRUN YI
NYE GYAI CHING WA KUN NE LHÖ PAR GYUR

At that time thousands of gods and men,
whose wholesome deeds stored over ages were awakened,
beheld your face and their untamed minds at once
loosened from the chains of countless faults.

PA WO KYÖ KYI JANG CHUB SHING DRUNG
DU KYEN TSEI PUNG GI YI TRUB DAG PÖ DE
MA LÜ ZIL GYI NÖN PAR DZE PA NI
DRAG POI LUNG DANG NYE WAI TRIN NAG
ZHIN DA TSÖN GO CHA MA ZUNG BAR
RANG NYI CHIG PÜ JE WAI DÜ
MA LÜ PHAM DZE YUL GYI LE
KYÖ LE ZHEN PA SU YI SHE

Under your bodhi tree, great warrior,
like a violent wind in a dark storm,
you overwhelmed Mara's hosts
with an army of compassion and wisdom.
Without weapons, without armor,

you routed unaided a million demons.
Other than you, who could fight such battles?

DE TAR KYÖ KYI JAM PAI ME
DÖ LHAI NYING NI RAB DUNG KYANG
TSE WAI TER KYÖ LÜ CHEN LA
RI SU CHE PAR GYUR PA ME
KYÖ NI DRO WAI DÖN GYI LE
CHUNG ZE TSAM YANG MI NGAL ZHING
DRO WA NAM KYANG KYÖ KYI NI
YÖN TEN JÖ LA NGAL MA GYUR

With the fire of love
you scorched the hearts of lustful gods,
and yet, jewel of compassion, to all beings,
you show no favor or displeasure.
In your work for others you do not rest for an instant.
In their praise of your qualities,
living beings do not rest for an instant.

GYA TSO-I LONG TAR RAB TU ZAB PAI THUG
LHA YI NGA ZHIN LEG PAR DOM PAI SUNG
LHUN PÖ-I PO TAR NGÖN PAR PHAG PAI KU
THONG THÖ DRAN PE DÖN DEN DZE PA KYÖ
ZIG TEN KUN GYI SEM CHEN THAM CHE KYI
DÜ CHIG NYI DU TE TSHOM DÖN ZHUG KYANG
DE DAG RE RE-I DUN DU-ANG DE NYE KYI
KU DANG SUNG GI KÖ PA DÜ CHIG TU
DZE PA DZE KYANG TOG PA NYER ZHI WA
KYÖ KYI KU SUNG THUG KYI SANG WA YI
TSHÜL DI GYAL SE RANG GYAL NYEN THÖ KYI
ZI TSAM DAG KYANG LO YI YUL MIN NA
TSHANG DANG WANG PO SOG KYI MÖ CHI TSHAL

Mind as deep as on ocean,
words resounding like the celestial drum,
body taller even than Meru,
you are meaningful to see, hear or bring to mind.
Were every living being of every world
to raise simultaneously individual doubts,
in front of each would you simultaneously
display as many creations of body and of word,
and yet all thoughts are stilled.

Such mysteries of body, speech, and mind
are not in the experience of bodhisattvas,
hearers, and solitary practitioners, however they try.
What need to mention Brahma, Indra, and others?

KHA DING WANG PÖ KHA LA TRÖ TRÖ NE
NAM ZHIG RANG THOB DR WE TOG GYUR GYI
NAM KHA ZE PE TOG PAR MI GYUR ZHIN
KYÖ KYI YÖN TEN JÖ PA-ANG DE TAR LAG

The mighty garuda hawk wings its way
onward, onward through the skies
but on tiring turns and heads for home.
The skies, however, lie unhindered by limitation.
To talk of your qualities is likewise.

SHOG TSHAM RAB TU TSOG PAI KHA DING
GI TRÖ PAI LAM DU ZHI-WUI TSÖL WA TAR
THOB CHU MANG NGA WA GANG DU SHEG PA YI
LAM CHOG DER NI JUG PAR DÖN PA DAG
NE LUG DÖN LA TA WAI LO MIG NYAM
NGE JUNG JANG CHUB SEM KYI JOR WE BUL
THOB DEN NYÖN MONG DRA WÖ GYUN DU TSE
DAG DZIN CHONG RONG ZAB MO-I PUB SU LHUNG
DI DRA-I NYAM THAG NE SU GYUR LAG PA
TSE CHEN KYÖ KYI YAL WAR DOR LAG NA
MEN PA NAM LA CHE CHER TSE WAI GÖN
KYÖ LE ZHEN PA GANG LE KYAB SU ZUNG
NYIG MA NGA YI LHA CHANG BAK PA YI
ZHING DI ZHEN GYI PANG DÜ GÖN KYÖ KYI
YONG SU ZUNG TE GYAL WA SE CHE KYI
PE KAR TA BU NGAG PAI GÖ PA-ANG CHI

Like a tiny bird yearning to follow the
path traveled by the mighty garuda
in whom the art of flight is perfected,
I long to enter that great highway
on which you have travelled to the realm of the ten powers,
but my mind's eye is of sight too weak
to see the reality of phenomena.

I am impoverished, moreover,
by the lack of bodhimind and true renunciation,
persecuted constantly by enemy-like delusions of mind,
cast headlong into the pit of grasping to self.
Were I abandoned by you in such a wretched state,
what other guardian who gazes on the pitiful
with such tremendous love could I turn to for refuge?
When this realm, sullied by the five remains,
was ignored by others but adopted by you,
what purpose would the buddhas and bodhisattvas
have for praising and likening you to a white lotus?

ÖN KYANG KYÖ KYI THRIN LE DUL JA LA
MA TAG TANG NYOM CHUNG ZE MI NGA
WE KAL DEN DAG GI NYE PA GO NAR ZE
DE CHIR KYÖ LA KYÖN GYI KAB ME PE

Within your deeds however,
no trace of neglect or indifference
towards any disciple is found.
Solely by my own faults, therefore,
am I rendered so unfortunate,
and no failing is attached to you.

DENG NE JANG CHUB NYING POR DÜ TE LE
ZI SI GYAL WAR MA GYUR DE SI DU
KYE ZHING KYE WAR KYÖ KYI JE ZUNG NE
SUNG GI DÜ TSI NGOM PA ME PAR SHOG

Therefore, until under the bodhi tree
I emerge victorious over the hosts of Mara,
I pray to be cared for life after life by you
and never tire of your nectar-like words.

Translation: Gavin Kilty