The Sound of the Divine Drum: Advice at a Time of Victory

by Khenchen Jigme Phuntsok

Every-youthful and glorious Mañjuśrī,

Embodiment of all the victorious buddhas’ wisdom,

Remain forever upon the eight-petalled lotus in my heart,

And make whatever I say a source of healing for all beings!

Simply to hear the words of the essence of clear light,

The most profound of paths, is to undermine saṃsāric existence,

While meditation on its key points brings liberation in a mere six months—

So, let this alone penetrate into the glorious knot of your heart.

For fortunate ones to encounter this teaching
ngön kal mang tsok sak lak jé té
Is a sign of having gathered merit over many aeons in the past,

pal kuntu zang dang kalwa nyam
And provides an opportunity equal to that of Samantabhadra—

tuk gawar gyi shik nying drok nam
So rejoice, my dear heart-friends!

né jik rung khorwé semchen nam
To bring relief to beings throughout saṃsāra’s terrible realms

ten dé yi sa la uk yung chir
By leading them to a state of lasting happiness,

shyen pen gyi sam chö khur du shyé
Take on the task of helping others in thought and deed,

rang ché dzin halé zé shyin dor
And avoid self-cherishing as if it were food laced with poison!

men ngendrö go par di yi gok
It is this that closes the door to the lower realms below,

gong tori dé pal di yi dren
That leads to the blissful splendour of the higher realms above,

tar tarpé kam sar di yi chin
And that ultimately brings us to the dry land of liberation—
lo ma mang nyam shyé di la dzö
Without undue thought then, put this into practice!

yul khorwé puntsok tadak la
Towards all the luxuries and enjoyments of saṃsāra,

yi mönpé sampa lhöpö ngang
Let your desires and aspirations subside in relaxation,

to lhar ché drowé chödong chok
And prize pure dharma discipline as the supreme adornment,

chö dul trim gyen gyi chok tu zung
The greatest source of reverence for gods and other beings alike.

chir ngön to ngé lek tadak gi
From this derives all the joys and splendours

dé pal kun di la ten né jung
Of the higher realms and definitive goodness;

di nyam na ngen dro ta mé khyam
While transgressions mean wandering endlessly in the lower realms,

rang gowo ma khor lang dor dzö
So do not deceive yourself, but adopt and avoid actions in the proper way!

du kuntu sam chö drok dang tün
Always be in harmony with friends in attitude and deeds,
And exert yourself in cultivating sincerity and pure motivation;

Even if you seek your own best interest in the long term,

The method is still to benefit others—this is the instruction.

This advice encapsulates the essence of the rules of pure human conduct,

The skilful methods of the buddhas of past, present and future,

And the four means of attracting others,

So, my disciples, never ever forget this!

Through the virtue of pronouncing this advice,

May all beings be freed from samsāra’s abyss,

May fortunate disciples be sustained with joy
nub dé den shying du kyewar shok
And reborn in the blissful pure land to the west!

I, Ngawang Lodrö Tsungmé, sang these words of advice before an assembly of almost five thousand sangha members on the ninth day of the eighth month of the Fire Mouse year during the seventeenth calendrical cycle (21 September 1996), when we, the teacher and disciples, were celebrating victory over outer, inner and secret obstacles. May virtue abound!

Translated by Adam Pearcey, 2018.

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