

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

with textual outline composed by

**Khenpo Sodargye**

## **A1. The Introduction**

### **B1. The Title**

*On Entering into the Inconceivable State of Emancipation by the Practice  
and Vows of the Bodhisattva Samantabhadra*

### **B2. The Translator**

Tripitaka Dharma Master Prajna of Kubha

## **A2. The Main Text**

### **B1. The Preliminaries: the Seven Branches**

#### **C1. Homage**

#### **D1. Concise Explanation**

To all the buddhas, the lions of the human race,  
In all directions of the universe, through past and present  
and future:

To every single one of you, I bow in homage;  
Devotion fills my body, speech, and mind.

#### **D2. Extensive Explanation**

#### **E1. Physical Homage**

Through the power of this prayer, aspiring to Good Action,  
All the victorious ones appear, vivid here before my mind

And I multiply my body as many times as atoms in the universe,  
Each one bowing in prostration to all the buddhas.

## **E2. Mental Homage**

In every atom preside as many buddhas as there are atoms,  
And around them, all their bodhisattva heirs:  
And so I imagine them filling  
Completely the entire space of reality.

## **E3. Verbal Homage**

Saluting them with an endless ocean of praise,  
With the sounds of an ocean of different melodies  
I sing of the buddhas' noble qualities,  
And praise all those who have gone to perfect bliss.

[Saluting them with an endless ocean of praise,  
With the sounds of an ocean of different melodies  
Throughout all future aeons, I sing of the buddhas' noble qualities,  
And praise all those who have gone to perfect bliss.]

## **C2. Offering**

### **D1. The Surpassed Offering**

To every buddha, I make offerings:  
Of the loveliest flowers, of beautiful garlands,

Of music and perfumed ointments, the best of parasols,  
The brightest lamps and finest incense.

To every buddha, I make offerings:  
Exquisite garments and the most fragrant scents,  
Powdered incense, heaped as high as Mount Meru,  
Arranged in perfect symmetry.

[To every buddha, I make offerings:  
Exquisite garments and the most fragrant scents,  
Powdered incense, heaped as high as Mount Meru,  
Arranged in the most sublime of displays.]

## **D2. The Unsurpassed Offering**

Then the vast and unsurpassable offerings—  
Inspired by my devotion to all the buddhas, and  
Moved by the power of my faith in Good Actions—  
I prostrate and offer to all you victorious ones.

[Through the vast mind of confident faith,  
I have deep devotion in all the buddhas of the three times.  
Moved by the power of my faith in Good Actions—  
I prostrate and offer to all you victorious ones.]

### **C3. Confession**

Whatever negative acts I have committed,  
While driven by desire, hatred, and ignorance,  
With my body, my speech, and also with my mind,  
Before you, I confess and purify each and every one.

### **C4. Rejoicing**

With a heart full of delight, I rejoice at all the merits  
Of buddhas and bodhisattvas,  
Pratyekabuddhas, those in training and the arhats beyond training,  
And every living being, throughout the entire universe.

### **C5. Imploring Buddhas to Turn the Dharma Wheel**

You who are like beacons of light shining through the worlds,  
Who passed through the stages of enlightenment,  
to attain buddhahood, freedom from all attachment,  
I exhort you: all of you protectors,  
Turn the unsurpassable Wheel of Dharma.

### **C6. Requesting Buddhas to Remain in the World but Not to Enter Nirvana**

Joining my palms together, I pray  
To you who intend to pass into nirvana,

Remain, for aeons as many as the atoms in this world,  
And bring well-being and happiness to all living beings.

### **C7. Dedication**

What little virtue I have gathered through my homage,  
Through offering, confession, and rejoicing,  
Through exhortation and prayer—all of it  
I dedicate to the enlightenment of all beings!

### **B2. The Main Practice: Vast Aspirations**

#### **C1. The Actual Aspiration**

#### **D1. Aspiration for Pure Intent**

#### **E1. Aspiration to Make Offerings to All the Buddhas**

Let offerings be made to buddhas of the past,  
And all who now dwell throughout the ten directions  
of this universe!

[Training in the footsteps of all the victorious buddhas,  
May I bring Good Actions to perfection.

Let offerings be made to buddhas of the past,  
And all who now dwell throughout the ten directions  
of this universe!]

## **E2. Aspiration to Fulfill All Wishes**

Let all who are yet to come swiftly fulfil their wishes  
And attain the stages of enlightenment and buddhahood!

[Let all the future teachers of gods and humans  
Fulfill all their intents and wishes!

May I emulate buddhas of the three times,  
And swiftly attain the stages of enlightenment and buddhahood!]

## **E3. Aspiration to Purify and Dignify All Worlds**

Let as many worlds as there are in all the ten directions  
Transform into realms that are vast and utterly pure,  
Filled with buddhas who have sat before the mighty bodhi tree,  
Around them all their bodhisattva sons and daughters!

## **E4. Aspiration to Bring Sentient Beings Benefit and Happiness**

Let as many sentient beings as there are in all the ten directions  
Live always and forever in happiness and health!

Let all beings meet the Dharma  
That befits them best! And so may all they hope for be fulfilled!

[Let as many sentient beings as there are in all the ten directions  
Live always and forever in happiness, free of illness!

Let all beings find benefit in the Dharma!  
And so all their afflictive emotions be eliminated!]

## **D2. Aspiration to Never Forget Bodhicitta**

### **E1. Aspiration to Recall Past Lives, Assume Monasticism, and Observe Pure Precepts**

As I practice the training for enlightenment,  
May I recall all my previous births,  
And in my successive lives, through death and through rebirth,  
May I always renounce the worldly life!

Training in the footsteps of all the victorious buddhas,  
May I bring Good Actions to perfection,  
And my moral conduct be taintless and pure,  
Never lapsing, and always free from fault!

[As I practice the training for enlightenment,  
May I recall all my previous births,  
And in my successive lives, through death and through rebirth,  
May I always renounce the worldly life!  
And may my moral conduct be taintless and pure,  
Never lapsing, and always free from fault!]

## **E2. Aspiration to Proclaim the Dharma in Multiple Languages**

In the language of the gods, nagas, and yakshas,  
In the language of demons and of humans too,  
In however many kinds of speech there may be—  
I shall proclaim the Dharma in the language of all!

[In the language of the gods, nagas, and yakshas,  
And in the language of kumbhandas, humans and non-humans,  
In however many kinds of speech there may be—  
I shall proclaim the Dharma in the language of all!]

## **E3. Aspiration to Exert for Enlightenment and Eliminate Obscurations**

Taming my mind, and striving in the paramitas,  
I will never forget the bodhicitta;  
May all my harmful actions and the obscurations they cause  
Be completely purified, every single one!

[Taming my mind, and striving in the pure paramitas,  
I will never forget the bodhicitta;  
May I completely purify all harmful actions and obscurations  
And fully accomplish all virtuous activities!]

### **D3. Aspiration to Be Free from Defiled Conduct**

May I be freed from karma, harmful emotions, and  
the work of negativity,  
And act for all beings in the world,  
Just like the lotus flower to which mud and water cannot cling,  
Or sun and moon that course unhindered through the sky.

[May I be freed from karma, harmful emotions,  
The work of negativity, and worldly pursuits.  
Just like the lotus flower to which mud and water cannot cling,  
Or sun and moon that course unhindered through the sky.]

### **D4. Aspiration to Bring Benefit to Sentient Beings**

Throughout the reach and range of the entire universe  
I shall pacify completely the suffering of all the lower realms,  
I shall lead all beings to happiness,  
And work for the ultimate benefit of each and every one!

[Throughout as many aeons as atoms in the universe,  
I shall pacify completely the suffering of all the lower realms,  
I shall lead all beings to happiness,  
And work for the benefit of each and every one in the  
ten directions!]

**D5. Aspiration to Act in Harmony with the Various Dispositions  
of Beings and Wear the Armor of Diligence**

I shall bring enlightened action to perfection,  
Serve beings so as to suit their needs,  
Teach them to accomplish Good Actions,  
And continue this, throughout all the aeons to come!

[I shall bring enlightened action to perfection,  
Act in accord with various dispositions of beings,  
Train to accomplish Good Actions,  
And continue this, throughout all the aeons to come!]

**D6. Aspiration to Accompany Virtuous Friends**

May I always meet and be accompanied by  
Those whose actions accord with mine;  
And in body, speech and mind as well,  
May our actions and aspirations always be one!

**D7. Aspiration to Follow Virtuous Teachers and to Please Them**

May I always meet spiritual friends  
Who long to be of true help to me,  
And who teach me the Good Actions;  
Never will I disappoint them!

**D8. Aspiration to Behold Buddhas and Make Offerings Before  
Them**

May I always behold the buddhas, here before my eyes,  
And around them all their bodhisattva sons and daughters.  
Without ever tiring, throughout all the aeons to come,  
May the offerings I make them be endless and vast!

**D9. Aspiration to Receive and Uphold the Authentic Dharma**

May I maintain the sacred teachings of the buddhas,  
And cause enlightened action to appear;  
May I train to perfection in Good Actions,  
And practice these in every age to come!

**D10. Aspiration to Acquire an Inexhaustible Treasury of Virtuous  
Qualities**

As I wander through all states of samsaric existence,  
May I gather inexhaustible merit and wisdom,  
And so become an inexhaustible treasury of noble qualities—  
Of skill and discernment, samadhi and liberation!

## **D11. Aspiration to Enter into Various Dharma Doors**

### **E1. Aspiration to Enter into Pure Buddha Realms**

In a single atom may I see as many pure realms as atoms  
in the universe:  
And in each realm, buddhas beyond all imagining,  
Encircled by all their bodhisattva heirs.  
Along with them, may I perform the actions of enlightenment!

And so, in each direction, everywhere,  
Even on the tip of a hair, may I see an ocean of buddhas—  
All to come in past, present and future—in an ocean of  
pure realms,  
And throughout an ocean of aeons, may I enter into  
enlightened action in each and every one!

### **E2. Aspiration to Engage with the Speech of Buddhas**

Each single word of a buddha's speech, that voice with its  
ocean of qualities,  
Bears all the purity of the speech of all the buddhas,  
Sounds that harmonize with the minds of all living beings:  
May I always be engaged with the speech of the buddhas!

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

Bears all the purity of the speech of all the buddhas,  
Sounds that harmonize with the minds of all living beings:  
May I always be engaged with the buddhas' eloquent speech!]

### **E3. Aspiration to Immerse in the Buddhadharma**

With all the power of my mind, may I hear and realize  
The inexhaustible melody of the teachings spoken by  
All the buddhas of past, present and future,  
As they turn the Wheels of Dharma!

### **E4. Aspiration to Enter into All Aeons of the Three Times in One Instant**

Just as the wisdom of the buddhas penetrates all future aeons,  
So may I too know them, instantly,  
And in each fraction of an instant may I know  
All that will ever be, in past, present and future!

[In a single instant, may I enter into  
All of the aeons that are yet to come.  
And in each fraction of an instant may I penetrate  
All aeons of past, present, and future.]

## **E5. Aspiration to Behold Buddhas and Enter into the State of Buddhas**

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

The buddhas of past, present and future!

May I always be engaged in the buddhas' way of life and action,  
Through the power of liberation, where all is realized as like  
an illusion!

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

The buddhas of past, present and future!

May I always enter the buddhas' state

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

## **E6. Aspiration to Enter into the Pure Realms Thoroughly**

On a single atom, may I actually bring about

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

And then enter into those pure buddha realms

In each atom, and in each and every direction.

[On a single atom, may I actually bring about

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

In all directions thus, without exception,  
May I enter the arrays of buddha realms.]

### **E7. Aspiration to Serve All Future Buddhas**

When those who illuminate the world, still to come,  
Gradually attain buddhahood, turn the Wheel of Dharma,  
And demonstrate the final, profound peace of nirvana:  
May I be always in their presence!

### **D12. Aspiration to Obtain Vast and Great Powers**

Through the power of swift miracles,  
The power of the vehicle, like a doorway,  
The power of conduct that possesses all virtuous qualities,  
The power of loving kindness, all-pervasive,  
  
The power of merit that is totally virtuous,  
The power of wisdom free from attachment, and  
The powers of knowledge, skillful means and samadhi,  
May I perfectly accomplish the power of enlightenment!

[Through the power of miracles, swift everywhere,  
The power of great vehicle from all gateways,  
The power of conduct that possesses all virtuous qualities,  
The power of loving kindness, all-pervasive,

The power of merit that is totally virtuous,  
The power of wisdom free from attachment, and  
The powers of knowledge, skillful means and samadhi,  
May I perfectly accomplish the power of enlightenment!]

### **D13. Aspiration to Practice the Sublime Dharma**

May I purify the power of karma;  
Destroy the power of harmful emotions;  
Render negativity utterly powerless;  
And perfect the power of Good Actions!

[May I purify the power of karma;  
Destroy the power of harmful emotions;  
Render the power of maras utterly powerless;  
And perfect the power of Good Actions!]

### **D14. Aspiration to Carry out Vast Activities**

I shall purify oceans of realms;  
Liberate oceans of sentient beings;  
Understand oceans of Dharma;  
Realize oceans of wisdom;

Perfect oceans of actions;  
Fulfil oceans of aspirations;  
Serve oceans of buddhas!

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

## **D15. Aspiration for Training to Emulate All the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas**

### **E1. Aspiration for Training to Emulate All the Buddhas**

All the buddhas throughout the whole of time,  
Attained enlightenment through Good Actions, and  
Their prayers and aspirations for enlightened action:  
May I fulfil them all completely!

### **E2. Aspiration for Training to Emulate the Bodhisattvas**

#### **F1. Aspiration for Training to Emulate Samantabhadra**

The eldest of the sons of all the buddhas  
Is called Samantabhadra: 'All-good'—  
So that I may act with a skill like his,  
I dedicate fully all these merits!

To purify my body, my speech and my mind as well,  
To purify my actions, and all realms,  
May I be the equal of Samantabhadra  
In his skill in good dedication!

[To purify my body, my speech and my mind as well,  
To purify my actions, and all realms,

May I be the equal of Samantabhadra  
The one with such profound wisdom!]

## **F2. Aspiration for Training to Emulate Manjushri**

In order to perform the full virtue of Good Actions,  
I shall act according to Manjushri's prayers of aspiration,  
And without ever growing weary, in all the aeons to come,  
I shall perfectly fulfill every one of his aims!

## **D16. Making Dedication through Summarizing All the Aspirations**

Let my bodhisattva acts be beyond measure!  
Let my enlightened qualities be measureless too!  
Keeping to this immeasurable activity,  
May I accomplish all the miraculous powers of enlightenment!

## **C2. The Manner of Making Dedication**

### **D1. Dedication that Follows the Bodhisattvas**

Just as the bodhisattva Manjushri attained omniscience,  
And Samantabhadra too  
All these merits now I dedicate  
To train and follow in their footsteps.

## **D2. Dedication that Follows the Buddhas**

As all the victorious buddhas of past, present and future  
Praise dedication as supreme,  
So now I dedicate all these roots of virtue  
For all beings to perfect Good Actions.

[As all the victorious buddhas of past, present and future  
Praise this dedication as supreme,  
So now I dedicate all these roots of virtue  
For the perfection of Good Actions.]

## **D3. Dedication Toward Rebirth in Pure Realm**

When it is time for me to die,  
Let all that obscures me fade away, so  
I look on Amitabha, there in person,  
And go at once to his pure land of Sukhavati.

## **D4. Dedication Toward Actualizing the Great Aspirations**

In that pure land, may I actualize every single one  
Of all these aspirations!  
May I fulfill them, each and every one,  
And bring help to beings for as long as the universe remains!

[Once in that pure land, may I actualize every single one  
Of all these aspirations!  
May I fulfill them, each and every one,  
And bring help to beings for as long as the universe remains!]

#### **D5. Dedication Toward Receiving a Prophecy**

Born there in a beautiful lotus flower,  
In that excellent and joyous buddha realm,  
May the Buddha Amitabha himself  
Grant me the prophecy foretelling my enlightenment!

#### **D6. Dedication Toward Benefitting Sentient Beings**

Having received the prophecy there,  
With my billions of emanations,  
Sent out through the power of my mind,  
May I bring enormous benefit to sentient beings,  
in all the ten directions!

#### **C3. The Extent of the Aspiration**

Sentient beings are as limitless  
As the boundless expanse of space;  
So shall my prayers of aspiration for them  
Be as limitless as their karma and harmful emotions!

### **B3. The Conclusion: Explanation on the Benefits of Making Aspirations**

#### **C1. The Karmic Rewards in Present Life**

##### **D1. To Attain Excellent Merit**

Whoever hears this king of dedication prayers,  
And yearns for supreme enlightenment,  
Who even once arouses faith,  
Will gain true merit greater still

Than by offering the victorious buddhas  
Infinite pure realms in every direction, all ornamented with jewels,  
Or offering them all the highest joys of gods and humans  
For as many aeons as there are atoms in those realms.

[Whoever hears this king of dedication prayers,  
And yearns for supreme enlightenment,  
Who even once arouses faith,  
Will gain true merit greater still

Than by offering the victorious buddhas  
Infinite realms in every direction, all ornamented with jewels,  
Or offering them all the highest joys of gods and humans  
For as many aeons as there are atoms in those realms.]

## **D2. To Behold the Tathagata in a Short Time**

Whoever truly makes this Aspiration to Good Actions,  
Will never again be born in lower realms;  
They will be free from harmful companions, and  
Soon behold the Buddha of Boundless Light.

## **D3. To Attain Virtuous Qualities Equivalent to Samantabhadra**

They will acquire all kind of benefits, and live in happiness;  
Even in this present life all will go well,  
And before long,  
They will become just like Samantabhadra.

## **D4. To Purify Karmic Obscurations**

All negative acts—even the five of immediate retribution—  
Whatever they have committed in the grip of ignorance,  
Will soon be completely purified,  
If they recite this Aspiration to Good Actions.

## **C2. The Karmic Rewards in Future Lives**

### **D1. Obtainment of Mundane Results of Ripening**

They will possess perfect wisdom, beauty, and excellent signs,  
Be born in a good family, and with a radiant appearance.

Demons and heretics will never harm them,  
And all three worlds will honor them with offerings.

## **D2. Obtainment of Supramundane Results**

They will quickly go beneath the bodhi-tree,  
And there, they will sit, to benefit all sentient beings, then  
Awaken into enlightenment, turn the Wheel of Dharma,  
And tame Mara with all his hordes.

[They will quickly go beneath the bodhi-tree,  
And there, they will sit, tame Mara with all his hordes, then  
Awaken into enlightenment, turn the Wheel of Dharma,  
And benefit all sentient beings.]

## **D3. Summary of the Benefits from Making Aspirations**

The full result of keeping, teaching, or reading  
This Prayer of Aspiration to Good Actions  
Is known to the buddhas alone:  
Have no doubt: supreme enlightenment will be yours!

### **A3. The Ending**

#### **B1. Temporary Dedication for Beings to Accomplish All Great Aspirations**

Through whatever small virtues I have gained  
By reciting this "Aspiration to Good Actions",  
May the virtuous wishes of all beings' prayers and aspirations  
All be instantly accomplished!

#### **B2. Ultimate Dedication for Beings to Take Rebirth in Sukhavati**

Through the true and boundless merit  
Attained by dedicating this "Aspiration to Good Actions",  
May all those now drowning in the ocean of suffering,  
Reach the supreme realm of Amitabha!

| *This textual outline is composed by Khenpo Sodargye, with the root text translated by the Rigpa Translations.*

*Khenpo Sodargye's teaching is based on the Chinese text of The King of Aspiration Prayers from the 40-scroll Avatamsaka Sutra translated by Master Prajna, which however, differs slightly from the English text translated from Tibetan by the Rigpa Translations. Therefore, the root text here is rearranged based on Master Prajna's version.*

*Meanwhile, there are cases that some stanzas vary slightly from Khenpo Sodargye's Chinese explanation. In such cases, another version revised from that of the Rigpa Translations is provided, so as to correspond to the teaching here, as well as to provide the audience a better understanding of the teaching. The revised translation is to be found in square bracket.*



མི་གཉི་ཤུ་རྩ་དྲུག་པ་འདྲི་དཔེ་ཚའི་ནང་དུ་ལམ་གྱི་ནང་དཔེ་ཆ་དེ་ཅི་ཡོད་ན་  
ལགོ་ལས་ཀྱང་ཉེས་པ་མི་འབྲུང་བར་འཇམ་དཔག་ཏུ་རྒྱུ་ལས་གསུངས་སོ།།

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