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.