

བྱམས་པས་ལྷུས་པ།

The Question of Maitreya

Maitreyapariṣcchā

འཕགས་པ་བྱམས་པས་ལྷུས་པ་ཞེས་བྱ་བ་ཐེག་པ་ཆེན་པོའི་མདོ།

'phags pa byams pas zhus pa zhes bya ba theg pa chen po'i mdo

The Noble Mahāyāna Sūtra “The Question of Maitreya”

Āryamaitreyapariṣcchānāmamahāyānasūtra



Toh 85

Degé Kangyur, vol. 44 (dkon brtsegs, cha), folios 104b–116b.

Translated by Karen Liljenberg
under the patronage and supervision of 84000: Translating the Words of the Buddha.

v 1.21 2016

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SUMMARY

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In *The Question of Maitreya*, the Bodhisattva Maitreya asks the Buddha what qualities a bodhisattva needs to attain enlightenment quickly. The Buddha outlines several sets of qualities, foremost among them the altruistic intention of perfect bodhicitta. The Buddha then recounts to Ānanda how, in a former life, Maitreya revered a previous Buddha and, wishing to become just like him, at once realized that all phenomena are unproduced. Ānanda asks why Maitreya did not become a buddha sooner, and in answer the Buddha compares Maitreya's bodhisattva career with his own, listing further sets of qualities that differentiate them and recounting examples of the hardships he himself faced in previous lives. Maitreya, on the other hand, has followed the easy bodhisattva vehicle using its skillful means, such as the seven branch practice and the training in the six perfections; the aspirations he thus made are set out in the famous "Prayer of Maitreya" for which this sūtra is perhaps best known. The Buddha declares that Maitreya will become enlightened when sentient beings have fewer negative emotions, in contrast to the ignorant and turbulent beings he himself vowed to help.

ac.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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This sūtra was translated by Dr. Karen Liljenberg, with Dr. Ulrich Pagel acting as consultant.

This translation has been completed under the patronage and supervision of 84000: Translating the Words of the Buddha.

INTRODUCTION

i.

i.1 *The Question of Maitreya (Maitreyapariṣcchā)*,¹ like most of the sūtras that comprise the *Ratnakūṭa* collection, was translated into Tibetan from a Sanskrit original that is now lost, but that may have dated back as far as the 1st or 2nd centuries CE, i.e. several centuries before the collection itself was compiled. Apart from the Tibetan Kangyur version, translated in the 9th century, and a fragment in Sanskrit found in Central Asia,² the sūtra is extant only in an earlier Chinese translation.

i.2 Both the work translated here and the work that follows it in the collection, *The Question of Maitreya on the Eight Qualities*,³ focus on the important figure of the bodhisattva Maitreya, who is generally accepted as destined to be the future Buddha of this world-system.

i.3 In *The Question of Maitreya*, the Buddha predicts that Maitreya will attain enlightenment due to having applied the skillful means of the Bodhisattva Vehicle (*Bodhisattvayāna*), a synonym for the Mahāyāna. This vehicle, its entry, and its path are described as “easy,” in contrast to the difficulties encountered by the Buddha himself. His hardship is detailed in a passage that is unusual for its portrayal of the harsh rejection of the Buddha and his teachings by some of his contemporaries.

i.4 The sūtra’s stories of the Buddha’s great sacrifices in three of his former lives derive from earlier Jātaka literature. Although influential to some extent in forming the ideal of the bodhisattva, such supreme heroic acts were doubtless too daunting for most people. The reader is led to infer that by following the example of Maitreya future bodhisattvas will be able to attain enlightenment with relative ease. Thus, the sūtra implicitly promotes the Mahāyāna, without devaluing earlier Buddhist traditions.

i.5 The sūtra is probably best known for an aspiration prayer in verse that, the Buddha tells Ānanda, was used by Maitreya six times daily as he was training on the bodhisattva path (F.114.a – F.115.a, see milestones [1.67](#) - [1.90](#)). This prayer is widely known as *The Prayer of Maitreya (byams pa’i smon lam)* or *The Sovereign Prayer of Maitreya (Maitreyaprañidhanarāja, byams pa’i smon lam gyi rgyal po)*; at least in Tibetan Buddhism, its importance as a general Mahāyāna aspiration prayer is perhaps second only to Samantabhadra’s *Prayer of Good Action (bzang spyod smon lam, from the Gaṇḍavyūhasūtra)*, and it is recited daily in many monasteries. The verses are also found as an independent text (but with this sūtra mentioned in the colophon as their source) both in the Dhāraṇī section of the Kangyur (Toh 1096), and in the Tengyur (Toh 4378). Although no Indian commentaries on this prayer are known, it seems to have been recognized as a distinct feature of the sūtra at least as far back as the early translation period, as evidenced by the sūtra’s description in the Phangthangma catalogue (*dkar chag ’phang thang ma*) as “the longer *Noble [Sūtra] of the Question of Maitreya* containing the aspiration” (*’phags pa byams pas zhus pa chen po smon lam can*). It is also, presumably, the “Former Prayer that is Truly Noble” that the Buddha gives Ānanda as an alternative title for the sūtra (see 1.95). The prayer is the topic of several commentaries in the Tibetan literature, notably those of Shākya Chokden (*shA kya mchog ldan*, 1428-1507); Drukpa Padma Karpo (*brug pa pad ma dkar po*, 1527-1592); Tāranātha (*tA ra nA tha*, 1575-1634), who adds comments on the significance of the whole sūtra; Cone Trakpa Shedrup (*co ne grags pa bshad sgrub*, 1675-1748); Ngulchu Dharmabhadra (*ngul chu dhar ma bha dra*, 1772-1851); and Kyedor Khenpo Ngawang Khedrup (*kye rdor mkhan po ngag dbang mkhas grub*, 1779-1838).

i.6 It is difficult to determine the precise historical relationship of *The Question of Maitreya* with the much shorter sūtra that follows it, *The Question of Maitreya on the Eight Qualities* (Toh 86). Their themes are closely linked—in both, Maitreya questions the Buddha about the bodhisattva’s qualities. However, their geographic setting differs—*The Question of Maitreya* is delivered in a relatively obscure location, Mount Śuśumāra in the country of the Bhargas, while *The Question of Maitreya on the Eight Qualities* is set on Vulture Peak Mountain near Rājagṛha, like many other *Ratnakūṭa* sūtras. The two texts also have different colophons—the translation of the longer sūtra is attributed to Jinamitra and Surendrabodhi, under the editorial supervision of Yeshé Dé, which would date its Tibetan translation to the early ninth century. *The Question of Maitreya on the Eight Qualities*, however, is said to have been translated by Jinamitra and Danaśīla, while Yeshé Dé is said to have corrected it using the revised terminology (*skad gsar*). This may imply a slightly later date for this translation, but could also indicate the existence of an earlier Tibetan translation of *The Question of Maitreya on the Eight Qualities* which required updating in its terminology.

i.7 Other sūtras in which previous lives of Maitreya are recounted include the *Saddharmapuṇḍarīka* (Toh 113),⁴ *Maitreyapraśṅhāna* (Toh 198),⁵ and *Suvarṇaprabhāsa* (Toh 556-7). The story of his obtaining the prophecy of his future buddhahood (*vyākaraṇa*) at the time of the Buddha Ratnaśikhin is told in the *Mūlasarvāstivāda-vinaya* (in the *Bhaiṣajyavastu*,⁶ the sixth chapter of the *Vinayavastu*, Toh 1)—the same account being found in the non-canonical *Divyāvadāna* collection—and in the *Maitreyavyākaraṇa*, a text found in several Sanskrit manuscripts, in a Chinese translation, and in a Tibetan version in the Peking (P 1011) and Narthang Kangyurs, but not included in the Degé Kangyur.

These two sūtras in the Ratnakūṭa, which are both often simply called *The Question of Maitreya*, are not to be confused with a third sūtra of the same name in the General Sūtra (*mdo sde*) section, Toh 149, a short work also set in Rājagṛha in which Maitreya asks a quite different question.

i.8 The main Tibetan text used for the present translation was the Degé edition of the Kangyur. Other Tibetan editions were also consulted but no significant variations were found except for the single one noted.

THE TRANSLATION

The Noble Mahāyāna Sūtra

The Question of Maitreya

- 1.1 [F.104.b] Homage to all the buddhas and bodhisattvas!
- 1.2 Thus have I heard at one time. The Blessed One was staying in the Country of the Bhargas, on Mount Śuśumāra in a fearsome forest of wild animals, together with a great saṅgha of about 500 monks, eminent śrāvaka-elders who possessed clairvoyance. These included the omniscient venerable Kauṇḍinya, and the venerables Aśvajit, Vaṣpa, Mahānāman, Bhadrīka, Vīmala, Pūrṇa, Gavāṃpati, Mṛgaśīras, Uruvilva Kāśyapa, Nadi Kāśyapa, Gayā Kāśyapa, Jaṅghā Kāśyapa, Mahākāśyapa, Amogharāja, Sumati, Śāriputra, the eminent Maudgalyāyana, Parvatarāja, Nanda, Upananda, Ānanda, Rāhula, and so on. [F.105.a]
- 1.3 Maitreya and 10,000 other bodhisattva mahāsattvas endowed with clairvoyance had also assembled there. These included the bodhisattvas Vardhamānamati, Sumati, Sthiramati, Viśālamati, Pratibhānakūṭa, Avalokiteśvara, Mahāsthāmaprāpta, Kusumaśrī, Mañjuśrī, Abhijñāpuṣpasupariṣṭa, Anupalambha-manasikāra, Prasādavat, Ratnaketu, Indradeva, Varunadeva,⁷ Mṛdusvara, Kṣetraviśodhana, Merukūṭa, Pratibhānasampad, Indraśrī, Nimiṃdhara, Scourer of the Hell-Dwellers, Abandoner of Unfavorable Rebirths, Ratnakesarin and others.
- 1.4 The Blessed One, surrounded by this retinue of many hundreds of thousands, surveyed those before him, and taught the Dharma. At that time, the bodhisattva Maitreya was present in that very retinue. He surveyed the great assembly of bodhisattvas, rose from his seat, draped his upper shawl over one shoulder, set his right knee on the ground, and paid homage with palms joined to the Blessed One.
- 1.5 He asked the Blessed One, “Would the Blessed One, if he has time, please answer a certain question that I would like to put to the Tathāgata, the Arhat, the completely and perfectly enlightened Buddha?”
- The Blessed One then replied to the bodhisattva mahāsattva Maitreya, “Maitreya, [F.105.b] the Tathāgata always has time to answer such questions. Ask whatever you wish, Maitreya. What I shall say in response to your question will cause you to rejoice.”
- 1.6 So the bodhisattva mahāsattva Maitreya asked the Blessed One, “Blessed One, how many qualities does a bodhisattva need to possess in order to abandon all evil rebirths and not fall into the clutches of sinful associates, but swiftly realize supreme, perfect enlightenment and become a buddha?”
- The Blessed One answered the bodhisattva mahāsattva Maitreya, “Maitreya, you have served the victorious ones of the past, cultivated the roots of virtue, recalled your past lives, acquired eloquence, and for a long time, lived chastely. Maitreya, you work for the benefit of many people, bring happiness to many people, and are compassionate toward the world. You live to bring welfare, benefit, and well-being to ordinary beings, gods, and men, and to assist the noble sons and daughters, present and future, who belong to the vehicle of the bodhisattvas. It is indeed good that you have thought of asking the Blessed One a question on this subject. Therefore, Maitreya, listen well and carefully, and retain all that I say in your mind.”
- The bodhisattva mahāsattva Maitreya assented to the Blessed One, and listened as the Blessed One had instructed.

- 1.7 The Blessed One said, “Maitreya, if a bodhisattva possesses one single quality, he will abandon all evil rebirths and not fall into the clutches of sinful associates, but swiftly realize supreme, perfect enlightenment and become a buddha. What is that single quality? Having the altruistic intention [F.106.a] of excellent bodhicitta. Maitreya, if a bodhisattva possesses this single quality, he will abandon all evil rebirths and not fall into the clutches of sinful associates, but swiftly realize supreme, perfect enlightenment and become a buddha.
- 1.8 “Furthermore, Maitreya, if a bodhisattva possesses two qualities, he will abandon all evil rebirths and not fall into the clutches of sinful associates, but swiftly realize supreme, perfect enlightenment and become a buddha. What two qualities? Thoroughly applying himself in calm abiding and developing skill in insight. If a bodhisattva possesses these two qualities, he will abandon all evil rebirths and not fall into the clutches of sinful associates, but swiftly realize supreme, perfect enlightenment and become a buddha.
- 1.9 “Furthermore, Maitreya, if a bodhisattva possesses three qualities he will abandon all evil rebirths and not fall into the clutches of sinful associates, but swiftly realize supreme, perfect enlightenment and become a buddha. What three qualities? Attaining great compassion and having definitive understanding of the teaching of emptiness, yet without being arrogant. Maitreya, if a bodhisattva possesses these three qualities, he will abandon all evil rebirths and not fall into the clutches of sinful associates, but swiftly realize supreme, perfect enlightenment and become a buddha.
- 1.10 “Furthermore, Maitreya, if a bodhisattva possesses four qualities, he will abandon all evil rebirths and not fall into the clutches of sinful associates, but swiftly realize supreme, perfect enlightenment and become a buddha. What four qualities? Observing moral conduct, having no doubt about the whole of the Dharma, delighting in seclusion, and not wavering from the undertaking to which he has committed himself. [F.106.b] Maitreya, if a bodhisattva possesses these four qualities, he will abandon all evil rebirths and not fall into the clutches of sinful associates, but swiftly realize supreme, perfect enlightenment and become a buddha.
- 1.11 “Furthermore, Maitreya, if a bodhisattva possesses five qualities, he will abandon all evil rebirths and not fall into the clutches of sinful associates, but swiftly realize supreme, perfect enlightenment and become a buddha. What five qualities? Dwelling in emptiness, not seeking the delusions of others, investigating the self, delighting in the Dharma, and being committed to helping others. Maitreya, if a bodhisattva possesses these five qualities, he will abandon all evil rebirths and not fall into the clutches of sinful associates, but swiftly realize supreme, perfect enlightenment and become a buddha.
- 1.12 “Furthermore, Maitreya, if a bodhisattva possesses six qualities, he will abandon all evil rebirths and not fall into the clutches of sinful associates, but swiftly realize supreme, perfect enlightenment and become a buddha. What six qualities? Being without attachment, aversion, and ignorance; immediately answering questions correctly and properly; being tireless in his ritual observance; and experiencing emptiness. Maitreya, if a bodhisattva possesses these six qualities, he will abandon all evil rebirths and not fall into the clutches of sinful associates, but swiftly realize supreme, perfect enlightenment and become a buddha.
- 1.13 “Furthermore, Maitreya, if a bodhisattva possesses seven qualities, he will abandon all evil rebirths and not fall into the clutches of sinful associates, but swiftly realize supreme, perfect enlightenment and become a buddha. What seven qualities? Being learned in mindfulness and [F.107.a] in the Dharma. Being diligent in his undertakings, joyful, mentally supple, and skilled in meditative concentration and analysis through wisdom. Maitreya, if a bodhisattva possesses these seven qualities, he will abandon all evil rebirths and not fall into the clutches of sinful associates, but swiftly realize supreme, perfect enlightenment and become a buddha.
- 1.14 “Furthermore, Maitreya, if a bodhisattva possesses eight qualities, he will abandon all evil rebirths and not fall into the clutches of sinful associates, but swiftly realize supreme, perfect enlightenment and become a buddha. What eight qualities? Possessing right view, right thought, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, and right concentration.⁸ Maitreya, if a bodhisattva possesses these eight qualities, he will abandon all evil rebirths and not fall into the clutches of sinful associates, but swiftly realize supreme, perfect enlightenment and become a buddha.
- 1.15 “Furthermore, Maitreya, if a bodhisattva possesses nine qualities, he will abandon all evil rebirths and not fall into the clutches of sinful associates, but swiftly realize supreme, perfect enlightenment and become a buddha. What nine qualities?
- 1.16 “Maitreya, that bodhisattva distances himself from desires and from sinful, non-virtuous things. He investigates, examines, and possesses the joy and happiness that arise from solitude. Thus, he accomplishes the first meditative absorption and maintains it.⁹

- 1.17 “He is free from thinking or examining, and possesses inner serenity. Because his mindstream is one-pointed, he does not think [F.107.b] or examine. Endowed with the joy and happiness that arise from meditative concentration, he then accomplishes the second meditative absorption and maintains it.
- 1.18 “Because he is free from attachment to joy, he maintains equipoise and possesses mindfulness and awareness. He experiences the physical happiness of which the noble ones say, ‘To possess mindfulness and remain in happiness is equanimity.’¹⁰ Free of joy he then accomplishes the third meditative absorption and maintains it.
- 1.19 “He renounces happiness after already renouncing suffering. Because both mental happiness and mental displeasure decline, there is neither happiness nor suffering. He then accomplishes the fourth meditative absorption and maintains it, with immaculate equipoise and mindfulness.
- 1.20 “He transcends conceptions of form in all aspects, and his conceptions of materiality decline. When he does not fabricate conceptions of any kind, he thinks, ‘This is the infinity of space,’ and then accomplishes the sphere of the infinity of space and maintains it. After he has transcended the sphere of the infinity of space in all aspects, he thinks, ‘This is the infinity of consciousness,’ and then accomplishes the sphere of the infinity of consciousness and maintains it. After he has transcended the sphere of the infinity of consciousness in all aspects, he thinks, ‘This is nothingness,’ and then accomplishes the sphere of nothingness and maintains it. After he has transcended the sphere of nothingness in all aspects, he then accomplishes the sphere of neither perception nor non-perception and maintains it. After he has transcended the sphere of neither perception nor non-perception in all aspects, he then accomplishes the cessation of perception and feeling and maintains it.¹¹ Maitreya, if a bodhisattva possesses these nine qualities, he will abandon all evil rebirths and not fall into the clutches of sinful associates, but swiftly realize supreme, perfect enlightenment and become a buddha.
- 1.21 “Furthermore, Maitreya, if a bodhisattva [F.108.a] possesses ten qualities, he will abandon all evil rebirths and not fall into the clutches of sinful associates, but swiftly realize supreme, perfect enlightenment and become a buddha. What ten qualities? Having vajra-like meditative concentration, meditative concentration that is assiduous regarding what is correct and incorrect, meditative concentration of going via methods, illuminating meditative concentration, all-illuminating meditative concentration, manifest meditative concentration, precious moon meditative concentration, moon-lamp meditative concentration, meditative concentration without afflictive emotions, and victory-banner final meditative concentration. Maitreya, if a bodhisattva possesses these ten qualities, he will abandon all evil rebirths and not fall into the clutches of sinful associates, but swiftly realize supreme, perfect enlightenment and become a buddha.”
- 1.22 The bodhisattva mahāsattva Maitreya was then satisfied and delighted. Joyful and pleased, he rose from his seat, draped his shawl over one shoulder, set his right knee on the ground, and bowed to the Blessed One with joined palms. He praised the Blessed One with these fitting verses:
- 1.23 “In former times, you practiced generous giving.
Giving away dear sons, food and drink,
And even your head and eyes,
You perfected the total generosity of a buddha.
- 1.24 “For a long time, like a yak its tail,¹²
You observed unimpaired moral conduct.
Peerless in your conduct,
You wholly perfected the conduct of a buddha.
- 1.25 “You generated the power of patience,
And patiently endured the wrong deeds of ignorant people. [F.108.b]
Possessing all the powers of patience,
You wholly perfected the patience of a buddha.
- 1.26 “You generated the power of diligence,
Then found unsurpassed peace and happiness.
Powerful due to your diligence,

You wholly perfected the diligence of a buddha.

1.27 “After burning up all sins,
You, great guide and being, took pleasure in your meditation.
Powerful due to the power of meditation,
You wholly perfected the meditation of a buddha.

1.28 “Through wisdom that realizes
That phenomena are by nature empty
And that nothing intrinsically arises,
You reached the other shore and wholly perfected the wisdom of a buddha.

1.29 “Wise One, beneath the Bodhi tree
You subdued clawed demons
And attained the supreme goal.
As the Buddha, you vanquished the evil gathering of demons.

1.30 “Great being, at Vārāṇasī
You turned the wheel of the Dharma.
You terrified the assembly of evil unbelievers,
And, as the Buddha, vanquished the unbelievers’ gatherings.

1.31 “Unsurpassed for your vast wisdom,
Utterly without compare,
You teach the Jewel of the Dharma,
O guide and Buddha, you bring about illumination.

1.32 “You are peerless in generosity,
Strength of moral conduct, patience, and diligence.
You have accomplished the perfection of everything.
You excel, O Buddha, with your many qualities.”

After the bodhisattva mahāsattva Maitreya had praised the Blessed One in verse with such fitting words, he stood to one side.

1.33 The venerable Ānanda then said to the Blessed One, “Lord, Blessed One, it is wonderful that the bodhisattva mahāsattva Maitreya is so supremely eloquent, and that he teaches the Dharma with such words of certainty, that he teaches the Dharma with such matching words and letters, that he teaches the Dharma with such profound words, that he teaches the Dharma with words that explain it so well, [F.109.a] and that he teaches the Dharma with such memorable words.”

1.34 The Blessed One replied, “Exactly, Ānanda. It is just as you have said—it is wonderful that the bodhisattva Maitreya is so supremely eloquent, that the bodhisattva Maitreya teaches the Dharma with such words of certainty, and all of what you said, up to his teaching the Dharma with such memorable words. Ānanda, this is not the first time that the bodhisattva Maitreya has praised me with such fitting verses. Why? Formerly, Ānanda, in times gone by, at a time when ten countless ages had passed, there came into the world a tathāgata, arhat, completely and perfectly enlightened buddha, endowed with perfect knowledge and perfect conduct, established in a state of bliss, commanding all worldly knowledge, an unsurpassed guide who converted all beings, a teacher of gods and men, the Buddha Arhat named Jyotivikrīḍitābhijña.¹³

1.35 “At that time, there lived a brahmin boy named Bhadrāsuddha, good-looking, handsome and beautiful to behold, endowed with a supremely good complexion and excellent figure. He was going to a pleasure grove, when between the villages he saw the Tathāgata, the Arhat, the completely and perfectly enlightened Buddha Jyotivikrīḍitābhijña. The Tathāgata was handsome and charismatic, controlled in his faculties and in his mind. He had attained excellence in control and calm abiding, and superiority in control and calm abiding. He guarded his faculties, elephant-like in control of his passions, and was

- radiant, unsullied, and clear like a lake. His body was adorned with the thirty-two marks of a great being, and with the eighty minor marks, like the blossoming flower of a royal sal tree, and towering like Mount Meru, the king of mountains. His face was as calm as the sphere of the moon, [F.109.b] and radiantly clear and brilliant like the sphere of the sun. His body was proportioned like a nyagrodha tree, blazing with light and great splendor.
- 1.36 “Seeing him, Bhadraśuddha developed an attitude of faith toward the Blessed One. With this attitude of faith, he thought, ‘How marvelous! How wondrously this body of the Tathāgata is adorned in its complexion and splendor. It blazes with glory, the marks of buddhahood, and clear, brilliant radiance.’ The brahmin boy Bhadraśuddha then spoke out loud, ‘How marvelous! May I also, in the future, come to possess such a body, blazing like this in complexion, magnificence, splendor, the marks of buddhahood, with clear, brilliant radiance!’
- “After he had prayed thus, he lay on the ground and thought, ‘If I shall come to possess, in the future, such a body, blazing like this in complexion, magnificence, splendor, marks of buddhahood, with clear, brilliant radiance, may the Tathāgata touch me with his foot.’
- 1.37 “Then, Ānanda, the Tathāgata, the Arhat, the completely and perfectly enlightened Buddha Jyotivikrīḍitābhijña, learning of the noble intention of the brahmin boy Bhadraśuddha, approached him and touched him with his foot. As soon as the Tathāgata Jyotivikrīḍitābhijña had touched the brahmin boy Bhadraśuddha with his foot, at that very moment the boy attained acceptance of the fact that all phenomena are unproduced. Ānanda, the Tathāgata Jyotivikrīḍitābhijña looked behind him and addressed the monks, ‘Monks, on no account should you tread on the brahmin boy Bhadraśuddha with your feet. Why? Because he is [F.110.a] a bodhisattva mahāsattva who has accepted the fact that all phenomena are unproduced.’
- 1.38 “At that very moment, the brahmin boy Bhadraśuddha obtained the knowledge of the divine eye, knowledge of the divine ear, knowledge of the thoughts of others, and knowledge recollecting his past lives, and also accomplished miraculous powers. In the presence of the Tathāgata Jyotivikrīḍitābhijña he spoke the following fitting verses of praise:
- 1.39 “‘Though I roamed and searched in all the cardinal and intermediate directions,
There is no lord of man such as you in all the worlds.
The perfect Buddha is supreme in all realms of existence.
O great self-arisen guide, to you I pay homage.
- 1.40 “‘Just as the bright sun in the sky,
In all worldly realms of the cardinal and intermediate directions,
Illuminates all these worlds with its light,
So do your splendid qualities—O Buddha, to you I pay homage.
- 1.41 “‘Just as a lion roaring in the deep forests
Subdues the fox and all other ordinary animals,
So you, the noblest and most powerful of men,
Subdue all the great assemblies of unbelievers.
- 1.42 “‘The Sugata’s fair ringlet between his eyebrows,
Endlessly splendid like a hoard of silver or snow,
Illuminates all these worlds.
In all the worlds there is nobody who equals you, O Buddha.
- 1.43 “‘Best of beings, you possess celestial wheels
Bright and fair, with a thousand spokes and spinning rims,
On your feet: these marks cause the earth, with its mountains and forests, to tremble.
O Sage, you are unrivaled by ordinary beings.
- 1.44 “‘Your great knowledge discards afflictive emotions and abandons everything.
Noble One, you discovered the path of deliverance; [F.110.b]

- Possessing every wealth, rich in qualities,
You array the wealth of a noble one as you please.
- 1.45 “You are comparable to the earth, and without equal as a recipient of offerings.
You have obtained mastery of all good qualities, and your moral conduct is pure.
Just as hands cannot grasp or capture space,
So too, in the worlds you possess no attachment or anger.
- 1.46 “Reaching ultimate acceptance,¹⁴ you learnt that all objects and phenomena
Are without essence, fictitious, and impure.
In all those arrogant sentient beings that migrate in saṃsāra,
You found no life force or substance.
- 1.47 “Adapting to their dispositions and actions, and knowing their thoughts,
You are a wondrous lamp that discerns them.
Since you witnessed beings carried away by the great river,
You formerly produced the power of firm strength of diligence.
- 1.48 “You possess a mind that rejects rebirth and pacifies afflictive emotions;
Your vast mind brought birth, old age, and death to an end.
Like the sphere of space you are without attachment;
Untainted by worldly qualities, you roam the three worlds.
- 1.49 “O great being, your wisdom brings illumination,
Dispelling every darkness that has gathered.
You calm the dust of attachment and dispel the darkness
Of the various stains of anger and ignorance—to you I pay homage.’
- 1.50 “Ānanda, this does not yet exhaust the miraculous displays and supernormal powers of the brahmin boy
Bhadraśuddha.
“Ānanda, if you wonder whether the brahmin boy Bhadraśuddha was then at that time someone else,
or you are of two minds about it, or doubtful, do not see him so. Why? Because the bodhisattva
mahāsattva Maitreya himself was then at that time the brahmin boy Bhadraśuddha, [F.111.a] who uttered
these verses of praise to the Tathāgata, the Arhat, the perfectly enlightened Buddha Jyotivikrīḍitābhijña.”
- 1.51 The venerable Ānanda asked, “Blessed One, if this bodhisattva mahāsattva Maitreya developed acceptance
so long ago of the fact that all phenomena are unproduced, why did he not quickly realize supreme, perfect
enlightenment and become a buddha?”
- 1.52 The Blessed One replied to the venerable Ānanda, “Ānanda, the bodhisattvas set in place and protect¹⁵
two things. What two things? They set in place and protect sentient beings, and they set in place and
protect their buddha realms. But of these two, when formerly the bodhisattva mahāsattva Maitreya was
engaged in the conduct of a bodhisattva, he set in place, consecrated, and protected his buddha realm.
- 1.53 “Ānanda, when I myself was formerly engaged in the conduct of a bodhisattva, I set in place and
protected sentient beings, and I also set in place and protected my buddha realm. Ānanda, I knew through
foresight that forty-two eons after the bodhisattva mahāsattva Maitreya entered the path I would first
arouse the mind of supreme, perfect enlightenment. Ānanda, with the knowledge that, ninety-four eons
after that good eon had passed, I would realize supreme, perfect enlightenment, I applied myself, Ānanda,
with burning diligence [F.111.b] and quickly realized supreme, perfect enlightenment and became a
buddha.
- 1.54 “Ānanda, it was by means of ten qualities that I quickly accomplished supreme, perfect enlightenment
and became a buddha. What ten qualities? I abandoned and let go of all doubts, abandoned and let go of
my spouse, abandoned and let go of my child, abandoned and let go of my head, abandoned and let go of
my eyes, abandoned and let go of my kingdom, abandoned and let go of my wealth, abandoned and let go

- of my blood, abandoned and let go of my bones and marrow, and abandoned my limbs. By letting go of everything I quickly realized supreme, perfect enlightenment and became a buddha. Ānanda, it was by means of those ten qualities that I quickly realized supreme, perfect enlightenment and became a buddha.
- 1.55 “Ānanda, it was also by means of a further ten qualities that I quickly accomplished supreme, perfect enlightenment and became a buddha. What ten qualities? Ānanda, I adhered to the teaching of the qualities of moral conduct, and so I quickly realized supreme, perfect enlightenment and became a buddha. Ānanda, I possessed the power of patience, and so I quickly realized supreme, perfect enlightenment and became a buddha. Ānanda, I applied ardent diligence, and so I quickly realized supreme, perfect enlightenment and became a buddha. Ānanda, I adhered to the qualities of meditation, and so I quickly realized supreme, perfect enlightenment and became a buddha. [F.112.a] Ānanda, I adhered to the perfection of wisdom, and so I quickly realized supreme, perfect enlightenment and became a buddha. Ānanda, I did not abandon any sentient being in any way, and so I quickly realized supreme, perfect enlightenment and became a buddha. Ānanda, I was skillful in my means, and so I quickly realized supreme, perfect enlightenment and became a buddha. Ānanda, I treated all sentient beings equally, and so I quickly realized supreme, perfect enlightenment and became a buddha. Ānanda, I realized the teaching of emptiness, and so I quickly realized supreme, perfect enlightenment and became a buddha. Ānanda, I realized the teaching of signlessness and wishlessness, and so I quickly realized supreme, perfect enlightenment and became a buddha. Ānanda, it was by means of those ten qualities that I quickly realized supreme, perfect enlightenment and became a buddha.
- 1.56 “Ānanda, if you were aware of how harsh and severe were the sensations of suffering by which I realized supreme and completely perfect enlightenment, perfect buddhahood, you, Ānanda, would not be so forthright. The reason, Ānanda, is that formerly, in times gone by, there lived a prince named Giver of All Wealth, good-looking, handsome, and beautiful to behold, endowed with a supremely good complexion, excellent figure, and with the great wealth and power of a king. He was going to a pleasure grove when he saw between the villages a man afflicted with suffering and seriously ill. At this sight, he felt compassion, approached the man, and said, [F.112.b] ‘Man, what are you suffering from?’
- 1.57 “The man said, ‘Your Highness, I have contracted an illness.’
- “The prince said, ‘Man, what will assuage your illness? What shall I give you?’
- “The man replied, ‘Your Highness, if I were to drink just enough of the blood from your body to satisfy me, my illness would be assuaged.’
- 1.58 “Then, Ānanda, Prince Giver of All Wealth took a sharp knife, cut himself, and gave the man the blood that drained from the wound to drink. Ānanda, as soon as the man drank it, his illness was cured. Ānanda, even though Prince Giver of All Wealth cut himself and all his blood drained out, he never had a moment’s regret. Ānanda, if you wonder whether Prince Giver of All Wealth was then, at that time, someone else, or you are of two minds about it, or doubtful, do not see him so. Why? Because I myself was then, at that time, Prince Giver of All Wealth. Ānanda, all the water of the four great oceans can be measured, but the blood that I have given to sentient beings as I sought supreme, completely perfect enlightenment cannot.
- 1.59 “Ānanda, formerly, in times gone by, there lived a prince named Puṣpa, good-looking, handsome, and beautiful to behold, endowed with a supremely good complexion, excellent figure, and with the great wealth and power of a king. He was going to the site of a pleasure grove when he saw between the villages a man who had contracted dropsy, afflicted with suffering and seriously ill.
- “At this sight, he felt compassion and approached the man, and said, ‘Man, what will assuage this illness of yours? What shall I give you?’
- “The man replied, [F.113.a] ‘Your Majesty, if I were to get just enough of the marrow from your body to satisfy me, my illness would be assuaged.’
- 1.60 “Prince Puṣpa was satisfied and delighted; he rejoiced, and then pleasure and happiness arose in him. He beat his own body, then gouged out the marrow and smeared it on that man’s body. Ānanda, as soon as he smeared it on him, the man’s illness was cured. Ānanda, even though Prince Puṣpa beat his own body so that the marrow dripped out, he felt no regret in his mind.
- 1.61 “Ānanda, if you wonder whether Prince Puṣpa was then at that time someone else, or you are of two minds about it, or doubtful, do not see him so. Why? Because I myself was then, at that time, Prince Puṣpa. Ānanda, all the water of the four great oceans can be measured, but the marrow that I have given to sentient beings as I sought supreme, completely perfect enlightenment cannot.

- 1.62 “Ānanda, formerly in times gone by there lived a king named Candraprabha, good-looking, handsome and beautiful to behold, endowed with a supremely good complexion, excellent figure, and with the great wealth and power of a king. He was going to a pleasure grove, when between villages he saw a poor, eyeless blind man, a destitute beggar. At this sight, he felt compassion.
“That man then approached King Candraprabha and said, ‘Your Majesty, you are happy. Your Majesty, you are joyful, but I suffer. I am blind; I have no eyes. I am poor and destitute. I am a beggar without refuge.’
- 1.63 “Then, Ānanda, King Candraprabha saw the man again, and after listening to his words again he wept, and still in tears, asked him, ‘Man, what do you need? [F.113.b] Should I give you food or drink? A riding-mount? Jewelry? Gold, gems, pearls, or various kinds of precious things? Tell me whatever you need.’
“The man replied, ‘I beg you, please give me your eye.’
- 1.64 “So, Ānanda, King Candraprabha plucked out his eye and gave it to the man. But, Ānanda, although King Candraprabha had plucked out his eye and given it to the man, he did not become regretful. Ānanda, if you wonder whether King Candraprabha was then at that time someone else, or you are of two minds about it, or doubtful, do not see him so. Why? Because I myself was then, at that time, King Candraprabha. Ānanda, Mount Meru, the king of mountains, can be measured, but the eyes that I have given to sentient beings as I sought supreme, completely perfect enlightenment are too great and cannot.
- 1.65 “Ānanda, when the bodhisattva mahāsattva Maitreya was formerly engaged in the conduct of a bodhisattva, because the vehicle is easy, the entry is easy, and the path is easy,¹⁶ he perfectly accomplished supreme, perfect enlightenment. Ānanda, when the bodhisattva mahāsattva Maitreya was formerly engaged in the conduct of a bodhisattva he did not let go of his arms, legs, or marrow. He did not renounce and let go of his spouse, or his child, village, town, city, royal palace, or retinue. But, Ānanda, when the bodhisattva mahāsattva Maitreya was formerly engaged in the conduct of a bodhisattva, because he fully embraced skillful means, through the easy vehicle, the easy entry, and the easy path [F.114.a] he accomplished supreme, perfect enlightenment.”
- 1.66 Then the venerable Ānanda asked, “Blessed One, what were the skillful means to which the bodhisattva mahāsattva Maitreya adhered, thus accomplishing supreme, perfect enlightenment?”
The Blessed One replied, “Ānanda, when formerly the bodhisattva mahāsattva Maitreya engaged in the conduct of a bodhisattva, he would drape his shawl over one shoulder, set his right knee on the ground, and put the palms of his hands together three times during the day and three times during the night. Making all the buddhas visible, he would then speak to them in these words:
- 1.67 “‘Homage to all the buddhas!
Homage to the bodhisattvas,
Those sages with the divine eye—
And to the śrāvakas, too.
- 1.68 “‘Homage to the mind of enlightenment,
Which reverses all negative rebirths,
Shows the path to higher rebirths,
And leads beings to the state without aging or death.
- 1.69 “‘Whatever negative actions I have done
Under the influence of mind,
Here in the presence of the buddhas
I confess them.
- 1.70 “‘Whatever accumulation of merit
I have produced through the three kinds of action,¹⁷
May it be the seed of my omniscience
And inexhaustible enlightenment.
- 1.71 “‘Whatever offerings to the buddhas

- Arise in all realms throughout the ten directions,
The buddhas know and rejoice in them,
And at that I myself rejoice.
- 1.72 “I confess all negative actions.
I rejoice in all meritorious acts.
I pay homage to all the buddhas.
May I attain supreme awareness! [F.114.b]
- 1.73 “I exhort the bodhisattvas
Of all ten directions,
Who abide on the ten bodhisattva levels,
To attain supreme enlightenment.
- 1.74 “May they become truly enlightened buddhas,
Overcoming negative influences of every kind,
And then, to benefit living beings,
May they turn the wheel of the Dharma.
- 1.75 “Through the sound of the great Dharma drum,
May they bring the suffering of sentient beings to an end.
For unimaginable millions of eons,
May they teach the Dharma and continue to remain in this world.
- 1.76 “I beg you, best of all humans,
Look upon those who are trapped in the swamp of desire,
And tightly bound by the cords of craving,
Fettered in every kind of bond.
- 1.77 “Buddhas, do not belittle
Those whose minds are defiled,
But with loving intent toward all sentient beings,
Save them from the sea of existence.
- 1.78 “May I train in the footsteps
Of the perfect buddhas, those present now,
Those of the past, and those of the future,
And may I engage in the conduct of the bodhisattvas.
- 1.79 “May I complete the six perfections
And liberate beings of the six realms.
May I realize the six supernormal powers
And reach supreme enlightenment.
- 1.80 “Unproduced and non-arising,
Without self-nature or location,
Neither mental cognition, nor substance—
May I realize the teaching of emptiness.
- 1.81 “Just like the Buddha, the great sage,
May I realize the teaching of non-self—
A sentient being does not exist, nor does a living being,
Nor does an individual, or a person.¹⁸
- 1.82 “May I not dwell on there being anything substantial,
A belief in a self, or what I take to be mine,

- But in order to make all sentient beings happy,
May I give everything away without miserliness.
- 1.83 “‘Since material objects do not really exist,
May my wealth be spontaneously accomplished.
Since all material objects decay,
May I complete the perfection of generosity.
- 1.84 “ ‘Possessing conduct that is flawless,
Conduct that is perfect,
And conduct that is without arrogance, [F.115.a]
May I complete the perfection of moral conduct.
- 1.85 “ ‘Like the elements of earth, water, fire,
And wind, not dwelling on anything,¹⁹
With patience and²⁰ free of anger,
May I complete the perfection of patience.
- 1.86 “ ‘Through assiduous application of diligence,
May I have constant enthusiasm without laziness,
And with strength of body and mind,
May I complete the perfection of diligence.
- 1.87 “ ‘Through magic-like meditative concentration,
Meditative concentration of bravery,
And vajra-like meditative concentration,
May I complete the perfection of meditation.
- 1.88 “ ‘Actualizing the three gates to liberation,
The sameness of the three times,
And the threefold knowledge,²¹
May I complete the perfection of wisdom.
- 1.89 “ ‘May I be praised by all the buddhas,
And blaze with light and splendor;
Through the diligence of a bodhisattva,
May my intention be fulfilled.
- 1.90 “ ‘Thus engaging in such conduct,
May I, who am known as Maitreya,
Complete the six perfections
And dwell on the ten bodhisattva levels.’
- 1.91 “Ānanda, those are the skillful means through which the bodhisattva mahāsattva Maitreya, by adhering to them, through the easy vehicle, the easy entry, and the easy path, perfectly accomplished supreme, perfect, and complete enlightenment. Ānanda, when the bodhisattva mahāsattva Maitreya was formerly engaged in the conduct of a bodhisattva, he thought to himself, ‘How I wish that sentient beings, having less desire, anger, and ignorance, might acquire the path of the ten virtuous actions! In the future, may I perfectly accomplish supreme, perfect, and complete enlightenment and become a buddha.’ It was thus that he consecrated his buddha realm.
- 1.92 “Ānanda, such a time and period will come about; then sentient beings will become less desiring, angry, [F.115.b] and ignorant, and keep to the path of the ten virtuous actions. After that, the bodhisattva mahāsattva Maitreya, due to the power of his prayer, will perfectly accomplish supreme, perfect, and completely enlightened buddhahood.

- 1.93 “Ānanda, when I formerly engaged in the conduct of a bodhisattva, I made this prayer: ‘When the world is beset with the five degenerations, sentient beings will have great desire, anger, and ignorance. Desire, anger, and ignorance will all increase. Beings will desire and crave irreligious things. They will be overcome by fearsome desire, and adopt false doctrines. They will despise their fathers, their mothers, their cousins, and their siblings, their partners, their relatives, noble beings, abbots, spiritual teachers, themselves, and others. These people will be filthy, wild, and stupid. How wonderful it will be if I can perfectly realize supreme, perfect enlightenment and become a buddha among them!’
- 1.94 “Having lived in such a terrible epoch, Ānanda, I have kindled great compassion. Today, when I enter villages, cities, towns, districts and provinces, and the surroundings of royal palaces with great compassion, as soon as I teach the Dharma I am slandered and reviled, harshly abused, and told not to create a gathering. Ānanda, it is even said that I am a nihilist, or that I am an eternalist. They say that those in my retinue have many desires, and that their desires are great. When I enter into houses, earth is thrown at me. I am given food mixed with poison. They even have [F.116.a] bonfires made for me.²² So it is. Although I am a buddha, I am denigrated as cohabiting with so-called ‘beautiful women’ and the like. Ānanda, I kindled great compassion, and with great compassion, I now teach the Dharma to such sentient beings.”
- 1.95 The venerable Ānanda then said to the Blessed One, “The Blessed One who teaches the Dharma to such sentient beings, converting those not previously converted by the Tathāgata, the Arhat, the perfectly enlightened Buddha, has taken on a great burden, and undergone hardships.”
- The Blessed One replied to the venerable Ānanda, “Exactly, Ānanda. It is just as you have said. Ānanda, the Tathāgata, the Arhat, the perfectly enlightened Buddha has tamed those not previously tamed, taken on a great burden, and himself endowed with every virtuous quality, undergone hardship by teaching the Dharma to such sentient beings. Why? Because this is how much he was gripped by great compassion.”
- 1.96 The venerable Ānanda then exclaimed, “That the Blessed One should bestow such a Dharma discourse, that I should hear this Dharma discourse, and hear this topic from the Blessed One, the best of men, is hair-raising and amazing. Blessed One, what is the name of this Dharma discourse? How should it be remembered?”
- The Blessed One replied, “From now onward, Ānanda, you should remember this Dharma discourse as ‘The Former Prayer that is Truly Noble.’ You should also remember it as ‘The True Arising of the Tathāgata.’ You should also remember it as ‘The Arising of the Intention of Enlightenment.’ You should also remember it as ‘The Question of Maitreya.’ ”
- 1.97 When the Blessed One had spoken, the venerable Ānanda and the bodhisattva Maitreya, together with the five hundred monks [F.116.b] , and the entire retinue, as well as the worlds of gods and men, demi-gods and gandharvas, rejoiced and praised the Blessed One’s words.

c.

Colophon

c.1

This concludes the “Section of the Question of Maitreya,” the forty-first section of the Noble Dharma Discourse, *The Great Heap of Jewels*, in one hundred thousand sections.

This text was translated, edited, and finalized by the Indian scholars Jinamitra and Surendrabodhi, together with the chief editor and translator Yeshé Dé.

ab.

ABBREVIATIONS

D - Degé (sde dge) Kangyur

H - Lhasa (zhol) Kangyur

N - Narthang (snar thang) Kangyur

S - Stok Palace (stog pho brang bris ma) Kangyur

n.

NOTES

- 1 In D this title, included within the text, is preceded by the introductory sentence: “From The Noble Great Heap of Jewels Dharma discourse in one hundred thousand sections, section 41: The Noble Elucidation of the Question of Maitreya in one fascicle” (*’phags pa dkon mchog brtsegs pa chen po’i chos kyi nmam grangs le’u stong phrag brgya pa las le’u bzhi bcu rtsa gcig pa ste / ’phags pa byams pas zhus pa lung bstan pa / bam po gcig pa*).
- 2 A fragment of the Stein collection, published in 1911 by Louis de La Vallée Poussin, was identified as part of this sūtra (corresponding to D, F.108.b – 110.a) by Hisashi Matsumura in 1993 (see bibliography).
- 3 They are sūtra numbers 41 and 42 in the Tibetan version of the *Ratnakūṭa* collection, but are numbered 85 and 86 respectively in the Tōhoku catalogue of the Degé Kangyur as a whole.
- 4 See Roberts and Bower (forthcoming).
- 5 See Dharmachakra Translation Committee (forthcoming).
- 6 See Yao (forthcoming).
- 7 This inclusion of Indradeva and Varuṇadeva, Vedic deities, among the assembly of attendant bodhisattvas is unusual. It is, however, paralleled in another Ratnakūṭa sūtra, the *Tathāgata-cintyaguhyanirdeśa* (Toh 47).
- 8 These eight, of course, comprise the noble eightfold path.
- 9 This section outlines the system of the eight meditative absorptions (Skt. *dhyāna*; Pali *jhāna*), which are progressively deeper states of meditation. The first four are termed “form” (*rūpa*) *jhānas* because the absorption takes place within the fine material sphere (Skt. *rūpadhātu*; Pali *rūpaloka*). The final four are called “formless” (*arūpa*) because they take place in the formless spheres (Skt. *arūpyadhātu*; Pali *arūpaloka*), and are also known as the four attainments (*samāpatti*). For a presentation of the *Jhāna* system followed in the present-day Theravāda, see Gunaratana (1988) pp 9-20.
- 10 This is a citation from the *Aṣṭādaśasāhasrikāprajñāpāramitā* (*Perfection of Wisdom in 18,000 Lines*), (Toh 11, vol. 29, F.162b). The preceding passage is also found there.
- 11 This is a fifth accomplishment sometimes added to the four formless absorptions.
- 12 This odd, seemingly culturally Himalayan simile does not appear to be due to any corruption in the text: N and H merely offer *yul ring(s)* instead of D *yun ring*. Indeed, the same simile is found in other Kangyur texts, again in the context of guarding moral conduct.
- 13 The Sanskrit name of this tathāgata is attested in the Sanskrit fragment mentioned in the Introduction (see also Matsumura 1993). The name is also a component of the names of two of the 35 “tathāgatas of confession,” found in a liturgy much used in the Tibetan tradition and

extracted from the *Vinayaviniścayopāliparipṛcchā* (Toh 68); the Tibetan of the equivalent part of the names in the latter text is slightly different, 'od zer rnam par rol pa mngon par mkhyen pa (see Python 1973, pp. 34 and 100).

- 14 This translation of *bzod pa zad kyis gtugs pa* is tentative.
- 15 The Tibetan terms provisionally translated here as “set in place” and “protect” are *bkod pa* and *yongs su gzung ba*.
- 16 We have not found the phrase *theg pa bde ba 'jug pa bde ba lam bde ba* attested elsewhere.
- 17 *las rnam pa gsum*, “the three [kinds of] actions” is interpreted by Dharmabhadra and Ngawang Khedrup to mean meritorious actions of body, speech, and mind, but by Padma Karpo to be meritorious actions causing rebirth as a human, meritorious actions causing rebirth as a god, and “non-transferring” actions (*mi g.yo ba'i las*) causing rebirth in the two higher realms (of form and no-form).
- 18 “Person” here is a translation of *gso ba*.
- 19 The commentaries differ considerably in their interpretations of these two lines, with Padma Karpo emphasizing simply the inanimate nature of the four elements, and most of the others detailing particular qualities of patience for which each of the four is a simile. Despite the syntax, most agree that “not dwelling” (*mi gnas pa*) refers principally to the wind element. The translation here is an attempt to remain open to more than one interpretation.
- 20 D and most other Kangyurs have *bzod pa'am* here in Toh 85, but *bzod pa'ang* in the versions in the Dhāraṇī section (Toh 1096) and in the Tengyur (Toh 4378), which makes more sense; S has simply *bzod pa*.
- 21 According to Tāranātha's commentary, the threefold knowledge (*rig pa gsum*) comprises 1) knowledge of the whole of the past (*sngon gyi mtha' rig pa*), 2) knowledge of the whole of the future (*phyi ma'i mtha' rig pa*), and 3) knowledge of the exhaustion of defilements (*zag zad rig pa*); the other commentaries, however, take the three kinds of knowledge as knowledge of the minds, mental events, and their causes, of all sentient beings in the past, present, and future.
- 22 One such story is recounted in the *Śrīgūptasūtra* (*dpal sbas kyi mdo*, Toh 217), see bibliography; for a translation, see Liljenberg (forthcoming).

b.

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GLOSSARY

g.

g.1 Abandoner of Unfavorable Rebirths

ངན་སོང་སྤོང་

ngan song spong

g.2 Abhijñāpuṣpasupariṇa

མངོན་པར་ཤེས་པའི་མེ་ཏོག་གི་ནུ་རྒྱས་པ་

mngon par shes pa'i me tog shin tu rgyas pa

Abhijñāpuṣpasupariṇa

g.3 Amogharāja

དོན་ཡོད་རྒྱལ་པོ་

don yod rgyal po

Amogharāja

Close Śravaka disciple of the Buddha.

g.4 Ānanda

ཀུན་དགའ་ལོ་

kun dga' bo

Ānanda

The cousin and close attendant monk of the Buddha.

g.5 Anupalambhamanasikāra

དམིགས་པ་མེད་པ་ཡིད་ལ་བྱེད་པ་

dmigs pa med pa yid la byed pa

Anupalambhamanasikāra

g.6 Aśvajit

རྟ་ཐུལ་

rta thul

Aśvajit

One of the first five disciples of the Buddha.

g.7

Avalokiteśvara

སྤྱན་རས་གཟིགས་དབང་ཕྱུག་

spyan ras gzigs dbang phyug

Avalokiteśvara

g.8

Bhadraśuddha

བཟང་དག་

bzang dag

Bhadraśuddha

g.9

Bhadrika

བཟང་ལྗན་

bzang ldan

Bhadrika

One of the first five disciples of the Buddha.

g.10

Calm abiding

ཞི་གནས་

zhi gnas

śamatha

Meditation technique to calm the mind.

g.11

Candraprabhā

ཟླ་འོད་

zla 'od

Candraprabhā

g.12

Country of the Bhargas

ཡུལ་བླ་ག་

yul bha rga

Bharga

g.13

Eightfold noble path

འཕགས་ལམ་ཡན་ལག་བརྒྱད་

'phags lam yan lag brgyad

- āryaṣṭāṅgamārga
- g.14 Emptiness
 ལྷོང་པ་ཉིད་
 stong pa nyid
 śūnyatā
 Meditative concentration which realizes the non-self of persons and phenomena; the first of the three doors of liberation.
- g.15 Four great oceans
 ལྷོ་མཚོ་ཆེན་པོ་བཞི་
 rgya mtsho chen po bzhi
 catvaro samudrāḥ
 Four oceans believed to surround the central mountain, Mt. Meru, in Indian cosmology.
- g.16 Gavāṃpati
 བ་ལང་བདག་
 ba lang bdag
 Gavāṃpati
 Close Śravaka disciple of the Buddha.
- g.17 Gayā Kāśyapa
 ག་ཡ་འོད་སྤྱང་
 ga ya 'od srung
 Gayā Kāśyapa
 Close Śravaka disciple of the Buddha.
- g.18 Giver of All Wealth
 རྣོ་རྩ་མཚན་ཅན་ཕྱིན་པ་
 nor thams cad phyin pa
- g.19 God
 ལྷ། ལྷ་ཉི་བུ།
 lha/ _lha'i bu/
 deva, devaputra
- g.20 Indradeva
 དབང་པོ་ཉི་བུ་
 dbang po'i lha
 Indradeva

- g.21 Indraśrī
 དབང་པོའི་དཔལ་
 dbang po'i dpal
 Indraśrī
- g.22 Jaṅghā Kāśyapa
 ཕྱིན་པ་འོད་སྤྱང་
 byin pa 'od srung
 Jaṅghā Kāśyapa
 Close Śravaka disciple of the Buddha.
- g.23 Jyotivikrīḍitābhijña
 སྤང་བས་རྣམ་པར་འོལ་པའི་མངོན་པར་ཤེས་པ་
 snang bas rnam par rol pa'i mngon par shes pa
 Jyotivikrīḍitābhijña
- g.24 Kaṇḍinya
 ཀོ་དི་ལྷ་
 kau di nya
 Kaṇḍinya
 One of the first five disciples of the Buddha.
- g.25 Kṣetraviśodhana
 ཞིང་རྣམ་པར་སྦྱོང་
 zhing rnam par sbyong
 Kṣetraviśodhana
- g.26 Kusumaśrī
 མེ་ཏོག་དཔལ་
 me tog dpal
 Kusumaśrī
- g.27 Mahākāśyapa
 འོད་སྤྱང་ཆེན་པོ་
 'od srung chen po
 Mahākāśyapa
 Close Śravaka disciple of the Buddha.
- g.28 Mahānāman
 -

- མིང་ཚེན་
ming chen
Mahānāman
One of the first five disciples of the Buddha.
- g.29 Mahāsthāmaprāpta
མཐུ་ཚེན་ཐོབ་
mthu chen thob
Mahāsthāmaprāpta
- g.30 Mañjuśrī
བུམ་དཔལ་
byam dpal
Mañjuśrī
- g.31 Maudgalyāyana
མོད་གལ་གྱི་བུ་
maud gal gyi bu
Maudgalyāyana
- g.32 Meditative absorption
བསམ་གཏན་
bsam gtan
dhyāna
Four levels of meditation within the Form Realm.
- g.33 Merukūṭa
ལུན་པོ་བརྟེན་གས་
lhun po brtsegs
Merukūṭa
- g.34 Mount Śuśumāra
ཇུ་སིན་བྱིས་པ་གསོད་ལྷ་བུའི་རི་
chu srin byis pa gsod lta bu'i ri
Śuśumāragiri
Sometimes has the alternative Sanskrit spelling Śísūmāragiri.
- g.35 Mr̥dusvara
སྐྱ་དབྱངས་སྟོན་

- sgra dbyangs snyan
Mṛdusvara
- g.36 Mrgaśīras
རི་དགས་མགོ་
ri dags mgo
Mrgaśīras
Close Śravaka disciple of the Buddha.
- g.37 Nadi Kāśyapa
ཚུ་ལུང་འོད་སྤུང་
chu klung 'od srung
Nadi Kāśyapa
Close Śravaka disciple of the Buddha.
- g.38 Nanda
དགའ་བོ་
dga' bo
Nanda
- g.39 Nimimdhara
ས་འཛིན་
sa 'dzin
Nimimdhara
- g.40 Nyagrodha tree
ཤིང་ཉ་གོ་ན་
shing nya gro dha
nyagrodha
A tree, *Ficus benghalensis*, native to the Indian subcontinent, that can cover large areas by putting down aerial roots that become subsidiary trunks.
- g.41 Parvatarāja
རི་རྒྱལ་
ri rgyal
Parvatarāja
- g.42 Perfection of wisdom
ཤེས་རབ་ཀྱི་ཕ་རོལ་ཏུ་ཕྱིན་པ་
shes rab kyi pha rol tu phyin pa

prajñāpāramitā

The sixth of the six perfections.

g.43 Prasādatvat

དད་ལྷན་

dad ldan

Prasādatvat

g.44 Pratibhānakūṭa

སྟོབས་པ་བརྟེན་པ་

spobs pa brtsegs

Pratibhānakūṭa

g.45 Pratibhānasampad

སྟོབས་པ་ཕུན་སུམ་ཚོགས་

spobs pa phun sum tshogs

Pratibhānasampad

g.46 Pūrṇa

གང་པོ་

gang po

Pūrṇa

Close Śravaka disciple of the Buddha.

g.47 Puṣpa

མེ་ཏོག་

me tog

Puṣpa

g.48 Rāhula

སླ་གཙན་ཟིན་

sgra gcan zin

Rāhula

g.49 Ratnakesarin

རིན་ཚེན་ཟེ་བ་ཙན་

rin chen ze ba can

Ratnakesarin

g.50 Ratnaketu

- རིན་ཆེན་རྟོག་
 rin chen tog
 Ratnaketu
- g.51 Sal tree
 ཤིང་སུ་ལ་
 shing sA la
 śāla
 A hardwood tree, *Shorea robusta*, widespread on the Indian subcontinent.
- g.52 Śāriputra
 ཤ་རི་བུ་
 sha ri'i bu
 Śāriputra
 Close Śravaka disciple of the Buddha.
- g.53 Scourer of the Hell-dwellers
 སེམས་ཅན་དུལ་བ་སྐླེམས་
 sems can dmyal ba skems
- g.54 Signlessness
 མཚན་མ་མེད་པ་
 mtshan ma med pa
 animitta
 Meditative concentration which views the five aggregates, the basis for the conception of a self, as faulty; the second of the three doors of liberation.
- g.55 Sphere of neither perception nor non-perception
 འདུ་ཤེས་མེད་འདུ་ཤེས་མེད་མིན་སྐྱེ་མཆེད་
 'du shes med 'du shes med min skye mched
 naivasamjñānāsamjñāyatanam
 Fourth of the four formless absorptions.
- g.56 Sphere of nothingness
 ཅི་ཡང་མེད་པའི་སྐྱེ་མཆེད་
 ci yang med pa'i skye mched
 akiñcanyāyatanam
 Third of the four formless absorptions.
- g.57 Sphere of the infinity of consciousness

- རྣམ་ཤེས་མཐའ་ཡས་སྐྱེ་མཆེད་
 rnam shes mtha' yas skye mched
 vijñānānantyāyatanam
 Second of the four formless absorptions.
- g.58 Sphere of the infinity of space
 རྣམ་མཁའ་མཐ་ཡས་སྐྱེ་མཆེད་
 nam mkha' mtha yas skye mched
 ākāśānantyāyatanam
 First of the four formless absorptions.
- g.59 Sthiramati
 ལྷོ་གྲོས་བརྟན་
 blo gros brtan
 Sthiramati
- g.60 Sumati
 ལྷོ་གྲོས་བཟང་པོ་
 blo gros bzang po
 Sumati
 Name shared by a close Śravaka disciple of the Buddha, and by a bodhisattva.
- g.61 Upananda
 ཉེདགའ་
 nye dga'
 Upananda
- g.62 Uruvilva Kāśyapa
 ལྷེང་རྒྱལ་འོད་སྲུང་
 lteng rgyas 'od srung
 Uruvilva Kāśyapa
 Close Śravaka disciple of the Buddha.
- g.63 Vardhamānamati
 ལྷོ་གྲོས་འཕེལ་
 blo gros 'phel
 Vardhamānamati
- g.64 Varuṇadeva