

བསམ་པ་ཐམས་ཅད་ཡོངས་སུ་ཚེགས་པའི་ཡོངས་སུ་བསྐྱོ་བ།

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## **The Dedication “Fulfilling All Aspirations”**

འཕགས་པ་བསམ་པ་ཐམས་ཅད་ཡོངས་སུ་རྫོགས་པར་བྱེད་པ་ཞེས་བྱ་བའི་ཡོངས་སུ་བསྐྱོ་བ།

*'phags pa bsam pa thams cad yongs su rdzogs par byed pa zhes bya ba'i yongs su bsngo ba*

The Noble Dedication “Fulfilling All Aspirations”



Toh 285  
Degé Kangyur, vol. 68 (mdo sde, ya), folios 77.a–79.b.

Translated by the Alexander Csoma de Kőrös Translation Group  
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co.

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s.

## SUMMARY

- s.1 This text is a prayer of dedication, and is meant to be recited. Its structure partly reflects the liturgy of “seven branches” or “seven limbs,” a set of practices that serves as the basic structure of many Mahāyāna Buddhist prayers and rituals. In this instance, however, the text consists of two sections: the first is a detailed prayer of confession, and the second a prayer of rejoicing, requesting that the wheel of the Dharma be turned, beseeching the buddhas not to pass into nirvāṇa, and extensively dedicating the merit.

ac.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ac.1 This text was translated from the Tibetan, introduced, and edited by the translator Zsuzsa Majer in collaboration with Karma Dorje (Rabjampa), a native Tibetan speaker and Tibetan language expert; Beáta Kakas, who checked the Sanskrit terms; and Nathaniel Rich, the English-language editor, in the framework of the Alexander Csoma de Kőrös Translation Group.

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i.

## INTRODUCTION

i.1 This short text and *The Dedication “Protecting Beings”* (<https://read.84000.co/translation/UT22084-068-020.html>) (Toh 286) seem to constitute a pair, and this for several reasons. First, the two texts, both of which lack Sanskrit titles, appear side by side both in the Denkarma (*ldan dkar ma*) imperial catalogue and in the extant Kangyurs of the Tshalpa and Thempangma lines. In the Tshalpa Kangyurs, the two are placed at the very end of the Mahāyāna division of the General Sūtra (*mdo sde*) section, and in the Thempangma Kangyurs toward the end of the entire General Sūtra section. Their function as dedications therefore seems to be reflected in that placement, and—in the Tshalpa Kangyurs at least—the two appear to be dedications meant specifically to seal the sections of Mahāyāna sūtras.

i.2 Furthermore, the fact that the two are consistently placed together in most Kangyurs suggests at least the possibility that the colophon to the following text refers also to this one, which otherwise lacks a colophon of its own. Since the two texts are dedications, it is perhaps not surprising that they are neither called sūtras, nor show features typical of sūtras, such as the opening “Thus did I hear” or an introductory passage describing the setting and audience of the discourse. What *is* somewhat surprising is that both are nonetheless included in the sūtra section of the Kangyur, indicating that they are to be considered discourses of the Buddha.<sup>1</sup> Along those lines, the lack of features that typically distinguish sūtras led the fifteenth-century scholar Pekar Sangpo (*pad dkar bzang po*), in his analytical survey of all the sūtras found in the Kangyur, to conclude that the two texts are extracts from another, longer sūtra—though he does not say which,<sup>2</sup> and our own search for matches (at least in the Tibetan corpus) has not yet identified any such text, sūtra or otherwise. Intriguingly, Pekar Sangpo also characterizes the present text as a sūtra of the Third Turning (*bka’ tha ma*).<sup>3</sup> What can be said with a reasonable degree of confidence, however, is that, regardless of their exact provenance, the two texts were translated from Sanskrit or another

Indic language in the early ninth century, as evidenced by the fact that the present text is listed in both the Denkarma and Phangthangma (*'phang thang ma*) catalogs.<sup>4</sup>

i.3 There is no extant Sanskrit text of this sūtra, and there are no known canonical or Tibetan commentaries. There is no known English translation of it nor any translation into any European language, and no academic research or scholarly studies of it are known. A translation of the Tibetan text is, however, available in the Mongolian Kangyur.<sup>5</sup> The translation presented here is based on the Tibetan version in the Degé Kangyur and consultation of the Comparative Edition (*dpe bsdur ma*) as well as the Stok Palace manuscript.

i.4 The structure of the present text partly reflects the liturgy of “seven branches” or “seven limbs” (*yan lag bdun pa*), a set of practices that came to serve as the basic structure of many Mahāyāna and Vajrayāna Buddhist prayers, sādhanas, and pūjās. The seven branches are commonly as follows: prostration or homage, offering, confession, rejoicing in virtue, requesting the buddhas to teach, requesting the buddhas not to pass into nirvāṇa, and dedication of merit. Not all of these seven are present in this text, which suggests that perhaps the set was formalized only later. Here, there is only a single line of homage at the very beginning of the text, which might have been intended only as the customary line of homage found at the beginning of all Kangyur works. Offering is not mentioned at all. The body of the text consists of two main sections, each of which opens with a request that the buddhas and bodhisattvas pay heed to the reciter and closes (intriguingly) with the sentence “Thus I recite a second time, and thus a third time.” The first section is devoted solely to confession, while the second is devoted to rejoicing, requesting to teach, requesting to remain, and dedication. Each of these features a lengthy enumeration of deeds, qualities, and accomplishments that are confessed, rejoiced in, requested, or dedicated. This division into two parts, the one a detailed confession and the other ending with a detailed dedication, has the effect of emphasizing those two elements, the distinguishing feature of this prayer.

The Noble Dedication

## **Fulfilling All Aspirations**

1.

## The Translation

1.1 [F.77.a] I bow my head at the feet of all the Buddhas, to the Teaching, and to the Assembly of fully ordained monks.

1.2 Blessed buddhas residing in the inexpressibly many world systems of the ten directions, and bodhisattva great beings who have entered the higher stages of complete awakening, please pay heed to me!

1.3 Whatever sins and nonvirtuous actions I have committed and accumulated from cyclic existence's undiscoverable beginning, in this life and in other lives, as a householder and as a renunciant—what I have done physically, verbally, and mentally; what I have exhorted others to do and what I have rejoiced in others doing; what I have done knowingly or unknowingly, intentionally or unintentionally, and what I have remembered or forgotten; what I have done under the influence of desire, under the influence of anger, under the influence of ignorance, under the influence of relationships with those who are not virtuous spiritual friends, under the influence of ignorance, under the influence of place, [F.77.b] and under the influence of birth at a particular time; violations of proper ethics, violations of ethical rules, and violations of natural ethics;<sup>6</sup> the faults I have engaged in toward the Buddha, the Teaching, the Assembly, my father and mother, my abbot, my spiritual master, or other teachers through the three kinds of physical wrongdoing, the four kinds of verbal wrongdoing, and the three kinds of mental wrongdoing; turning sentient beings toward perverted views; creating obstacles for sentient beings engaged in proper practice; dedicating my roots of virtue incorrectly; speaking falsely to a tathāgata; teaching non-Dharma as Dharma and teaching Dharma as non-Dharma; teaching what is not the vinaya as the vinaya and teaching the vinaya as not the vinaya; teaching what is not the path as the path and teaching what is the path as not the path; that, clouded by whichever obscurations, I gave rise to nonvirtuous qualities and did not establish my mind properly in virtue; that, clouded by other obscurations, I was distracted and mentally agitated—all such faults I confess. In whatever ways I was childish, in whatever ways

foolish, in whatever ways confused, in whatever ways unwise, and in whatever ways misguided—all such faults I confess as faults. Having confessed those faults as faults, I vow that in the future I will not act in such ways again.

1.4 Thus I recite a second time, and thus a third time.

1.5 Again, blessed buddhas, please pay heed to me!

1.6 I rejoice that all the buddhas who formerly were bodhisattvas completely accomplished the six perfections, which [F.78.a] is to say that they completely and manifestly awakened to unexcelled, perfect, complete enlightenment by means of generosity, ethical discipline, endurance, diligence, meditative absorption, and wisdom; that they turned the wheel of the Dharma, blew the conch of the Dharma, beat the drum of the Dharma, and set ablaze the lamp of the Dharma; that they led the mass of sentient beings to the practice of the Dharma in accordance with the Dharma; and that they taught the methods of the holy Dharma—and I rejoice in the roots of virtue by which the pratyekabuddhas realized the state of a pratyekabuddha; in the roots of virtue by which the śrāvakas realized the state of a śrāvaka, realized the three knowledges and the six superknowledges, and manifested discernment, the meditative absorptions, the liberations, the meditative concentrations, and the meditative attainments; in the roots of virtue by which sentient beings completely overcome falling into the lower, infernal realms of the hells, the realms of animals, and the realm of the Lord of the Dead; in their abandoning of the primary afflictions of desire, anger, and ignorance and the secondary afflictions; in their longevity, health, good complexions, excellent figures, great splendor, great power, high status, great wealth, and great wisdom; in their abandoning of all roots of nonvirtue and the possession of all roots of virtue; and in even as little as a single prostration, joining the palms for prayer even a single time, the offering of a single flower, and sentient beings who give rise to just a single moment of faith—in all of these things I rejoice! Supremely pleased I rejoice! I rejoice with rejoicing that is most excellent, supreme, best, perfect, [F.78.b] unsurpassed, highest, even higher than the highest, unequaled, equal to the unequaled, matchless, and pure, completely pure like the sky.

1.7 I exhort those who, having understood all of the holy Dharma, know how to delight in the Dharma, how to discern the Dharma, how to generate all roots of virtue, how to protect all beings, and how to nurture and dedicate all good qualities; who know all the thousands of compilations of the Dharma, and all the meditative absorptions, liberations, meditative concentrations, and meditative attainments; who know the vows,<sup>7</sup> the prayers, and the exhaustion of defilements; who know beings' intentions, latent dispositions,

temperament, and intrinsic nature<sup>8</sup> and understand them correctly; yet who, having that understanding, also know that sentient beings do not delight in instruction, and so remain at ease, rest their minds and do not teach the Dharma—I exhort them! For the benefit of the many, for the happiness of the many, out of compassion for the world, for the sake of the many masses of beings, and for the benefit and happiness of gods and humans, I entreat them to explain the holy Dharma. I entreat them to turn the wheel of the Dharma. I entreat them to blow the conch of the Dharma. I entreat them to beat the drum of the Dharma. I entreat them to set the lamp of the Dharma ablaze. I entreat them to establish the mass of sentient beings in the practice of the Dharma in accordance with the Dharma.

1.8 I entreat those who have gained mastery over life, mastery of emanation, mastery of blessing, and mastery of miraculous power; those who have and have not gained mastery of ripening the mass of sentient beings to be trained, [F.79.a] who have forsaken life, intending to enter final nirvāṇa—I entreat them. For the benefit of the many, for the happiness of the many, out of compassion for the world, for the sake of the many masses of beings, and for the benefit and happiness of gods and humans, I entreat them to grant the blessing of the conditions for their longevity.

1.9 I dedicate whatever roots of virtue I have created and accumulated from cyclic existence’s undiscoverable beginning—what I have done physically, verbally, and mentally; what I have exhorted others to do and what I have rejoiced in others doing; meritorious deeds arisen from generosity; meritorious deeds arisen from ethical discipline; meritorious deeds arisen from meditation; and even causing just a single sentient being to give rise to a single moment of faith—all of these I dedicate to all sentient beings. By these roots of virtue may all the roots of virtue of all sentient beings be completely perfected!

1.10 Having a long life, health, a good complexion, an excellent figure, great splendor, great power, high status, great wealth, great wisdom, possessions, magic spells, and medicine; encountering virtuous spiritual friends; listening to the holy Dharma; directing the mind appropriately; the practice in accordance with the Dharma; the abandoning of the primary afflictions of desire, anger, and ignorance as well as the secondary afflictions; completely overcoming falling into the lower, infernal realms of the hells, the realms of animals, and the realm of the Lord of the Dead; attaining all the meditative absorptions, liberations, meditative concentrations, and meditative attainments; completely overcoming physical and mental [F.79.b] unhappiness; attaining all bliss and happiness; attaining the excellence of the enlightened attributes of the śrāvakas, the excellence of the enlightened attributes of the pratyekabuddhas, the ten powers of the tathāgatas, the four

states of fearlessness, the four discernments, the eighteen distinctive qualities of a buddha, great loving kindness, great compassion, great joy, great equanimity, the vanquishing of the latent tendencies, the state of non-forgetfulness, the state of omniscience, the state of the knowledge of all aspects, the state of inexhaustible wisdom, the state of inexhaustible knowledge, the state of inexhaustible courage, the state of inexhaustible merit, the state of the sky treasury, the state of the jewel holder, and the unsurpassed wisdom of omniscience; and whatever mundane and transcendent roots of virtue<sup>9</sup> there are—may all of these come to be for all sentient beings!

1.11      Whatever fruit there may be from the merit of dedicating my roots of virtue to all sentient beings, by the roots of virtue of having so dedicated them, having completely and manifestly awakened to unexcelled, perfect, complete enlightenment, may I ferry those sentient beings across who have not crossed over, may I liberate those who are not yet liberated, may I give relief to those who are unrelieved, may I cause all those who have not entered nirvāṇa to enter final nirvāṇa, and may I establish them in the realm of ultimate benefit and bliss!

1.12      Thus I recite a second time, and thus a third time.

*The Noble Dedication “Fulfilling All Aspirations” is concluded.*

n.

## NOTES

- n.1 Most Kangyurs include one or more sections of dedication and aspiration texts, designated as such in the catalogs, and containing both extracts from longer texts and standalone works, all of them being canonical texts translated into Tibetan. In the Degé Kangyur, two such sections are found, one (Toh 809–27) at the end of the main Tantra collection (*rgyud 'bum*), and the other (Toh 1094–1108) at the end of the Compendium of Incantations (*gzungs 'dus*). It is in these sections that we would perhaps most expect to find these texts placed; instead, however, they are treated in just the same way as the other texts in the General Sūtra section.
- n.2 Pekar Sangpo (2006), pp. 383–90. In this regard, it is worth noting that Pekar Sangpo gives both texts titles that include the word “sūtra.”
- n.3 Pekar Sangpo (2006), p. 383.
- n.4 The present text is found in the Denkarma catalog in the “Various Prayers” (*smon lam sna tshogs*) section under the title *bsam pa thams cad yongs su rdzogs par byed pa'i bsngo ba*. The Phangthangma catalog has it in the “One Hundred and Eight Names, Praises, Blessings, and Various Prayers” (*mtshan brgya rtsa brgyad dang stod ra dang bkra shis dang smon lam sna tshogs*) section under the title *bsam pa thams cad yongs su rdzogs par byed pa zhes bya ba'i bsngo ba*; its length is said to be fifty ślokas. See Denkarma, folio 304.a; Herrmann-Pfandt (2008), p. 268, no. 466; and Phangthangma, p. 33.
- n.5 It is located in the “Various Sūtras” (Mongolian *eldeb*, Tib. *mdo sna tshogs*) section. Mongolian Kangyur vol. 84, folios 89.b–92.b; cf. Ligeti (1942), p. 279.
- n.6 “Violations of ethical rules” (*sbyor bas tshul khrims 'chal pa*) and “violations of natural ethics” (*dngos pos tshul khrims 'chal pa*) refer to two types of unwholesome actions or “faults” (*kha na ma tho ba*; literally, “unmentionable”). The former are actions that are unwholesome because they violate a precept established by the Buddha to which one is committed, called “faults related to rules” (*bcas pa'i kha na ma tho ba*), which include

- actions forbidden for monks and nuns by rule but allowed for laypeople (such as, for example, eating after noon). These actions are not in themselves considered sins. The latter are actions that are “inherently unwholesome faults” (*rang bzhin gyi kha na ma tho ba*), such as killing, that relate also to laypeople.
- n.7 Degé and other Kangyurs read: *snyoms par 'jug pa thams cad dam bcas pa dang /*, which is difficult to interpret. Here we have followed instead the reading in Yongle, Kangxi, Stok Palace, and Shey Kangyurs: *snyoms par 'jug pa thams cad dang / dam bcas pa dang /*.
- n.8 A very similar set of four terms (*bsam pa, bag la nyal, khams, rang bzhin*) is common in the Vinaya literature and related texts such as *The Hundred Deeds* to describe the knowledge used by an arhat to assess the best approach in teaching an individual; indeed, that same set of four appears in the following text with which this one seems to form a pair (see *The Dedication “Protecting All Beings”*, Toh 286, 1.5 (<https://read.84000.co/translation/toh286.html#UT22084-068-020-20>)). Here, however, in the place of the first of the four terms, *bsam pa*, different Kangyurs instead have three variants: *snon pa*, “addition, increase” (Degé); *ston pa*, “teach, show, demonstrate,” or possibly “teacher” (Narthang, Lhasa, Stok Palace, Shey, Gangteng); and *smon pa*, “aspiration, intention, wish” (Choné). The latter, though a minority variant, seems to correspond best to the other instances of this set of terms.
- n.9 Tib. *'jig rten dang / 'jig rten las 'das pa'i dge ba'i rtsa ba* (“mundane and transcendent roots of virtue”). This division relates to the roots of virtue that are gathered on the paths of ordinary beings and the paths of noble ones (*so so skye bo'i lam* and *'phags [pa'i] lam*); that is, paths that are not world transcending and paths that are (*'jig rten gyi lam* and *'jig rten las 'das pa'i lam*).

b.

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g.

## GLOSSARY

g.1

Abbot

*mkhan po*

མཁན་པོ།

*upādhyāya*

A monastic preceptor. Usually refers either to the abbot of a monastery or to the preceptor from whom one receives monastic ordination.

g.2

Anger

*zhe sdang*

ཞེ་སྤང།

*dveṣa*

Hatred, aggression, and/or aversion. One of the affective behavior patterns or “afflictions” known as the three poisons.

g.3

Blessed one

*bcom ldan 'das*

བཅོམ་ལྷན་འདས།

*bhagavat · bhagavān*

An epithet of a buddha.

g.4

Bodhisattva great beings

*byang chub sems dpa' sems dpa' chen po*

བྱང་ལྷུ་བ་སེམས་དཔའ་སེམས་དཔའ་ཆེན་པོ།

*bodhisattvamahāsattva*

Those “great beings” who have the intention to achieve the complete enlightenment of a buddha in order to liberate all sentient beings from cyclic existence. An epithet of a bodhisattva.

g.5

Compilations of the Dharma

*chos kyi phung po*

ཚོས་ཀྱི་ཕུང་པོ།

*dharmaskandha*

Collections of the Buddha's teachings.

g.6 Cyclic existence

*'khor ba*

འཁོར་བ།

*saṃsāra*

The cycle of transmigrations through which sentient beings revolve and suffer.

g.7 Dedication

*bsngo ba · yongs su bsngo ba*

བསྐྱོ་བ། · ཡོངས་སུ་བསྐྱོ་བ།

*pariṇāma · pariṇāmana*

Dedication of the merit at the end of a spiritual practice or virtuous action, usually for the attainment of full enlightenment by all sentient beings. In this way the actions thus dedicated contribute to the purpose of attaining enlightenment for the sake of all sentient beings.

g.8 Defilements

*zag pa*

ཟག་པ།

*āsrava*

Literally "outflows," these are mental defilements that "flow out" toward the objects of cyclic existence, binding us to them.

g.9 Desire

*'dod chags*

འདོད་ཆགས།

*rāga · lobha*

Passion, attachment, and/or lust. One of the affective behavior patterns or "afflictions" known as the three poisons.

g.10 Diligence

*brtson 'grus*

བརྩོན་འགྲུས།

*vīrya*

Diligence or perseverance. One of the six perfections of the bodhisattva.

g.11 Discernment

*so so yang dag par rig pa*

སོ་སོ་ཡང་དག་པར་རིག་པ།

*pratisaṃvoid · pratisaṃvedanā*

Correct and unhindered discriminating knowledge. See also the four discernments.

g.12 Eighteen distinctive qualities of a buddha

*sangs rgyas kyi chos ma 'dres pa bco brgyad*

སངས་རྒྱས་ཀྱི་ཚོས་མ་འདྲེས་པ་བཅོ་བརྒྱད།

*aṣṭādaśāveṇīkabuddhadharma*

They are as follows: (1) he never makes a mistake; (2) he is never boisterous; (3) he never forgets; (4) his concentration never falters; (5) he has no notion of distinctness; (6) his equanimity is not due to lack of consideration; (7) his motivation never falters; (8) his endeavor never fails; (9) his mindfulness never falters; (10) he never abandons his concentration; (11) his wisdom (*prajñā*) never decreases; (12) his liberation never fails; (13) all his physical actions are preceded and followed by wisdom (*jñāna*); (14) all his verbal actions are preceded and followed by wisdom (*jñāna*); (15) all his mental actions are preceded and followed by wisdom (*jñāna*); (16) his wisdom (*jñāna*) and vision perceive the past without any attachment or hindrance; (17) his wisdom (*jñāna*) and vision perceive the future without any attachment or hindrance; and (18) his wisdom (*jñāna*) and vision perceive the present without any attachment or hindrance.

g.13 Emanation

*sprul pa*

སྤྱུལ་པ།

*nirmāṇa*

This refers to the miraculous power of the buddhas, and bodhisattvas at a certain stage of spiritual development, to project emanations of themselves in order to develop and teach sentient beings.

g.14 Endurance

*bzod pa*

བཟོན་པ།

*kṣānti*

Forbearance, patience, and/or tolerance. One of the six perfections of the bodhisattva.

g.15 Ethics

*tshul khrims*

རྒྱལ་ཁྲིམས།

*śīla*

Morally virtuous or disciplined conduct and the abandonment of morally undisciplined conduct of body, speech, and mind. One of the six perfections of the bodhisattva. Also rendered here as “ethical rules” and “ethical discipline.” See also [n.6](#).

g.16 Four discernments

*so so yang dag par rig pa bzhi*

སོ་སོ་ཡང་དག་པར་རིག་པ་བཞི།

*catuḥpratisaṃvid*

The four correct and unhindered discriminating knowledges of the doctrine or Dharma, of meaning, of language, and of brilliance or eloquence. These are the essential means by which the buddhas impart their teachings.

g.17 Four kinds of verbal wrongdoing

*ngag gi rnam bzhi*

ངག་གི་རྣམ་བཞི།

—

The four sinful or nonvirtuous verbal actions, namely telling lies, using abusive language, slandering others, and indulging in irrelevant talk. Their counterparts are the four wholesome or virtuous actions of speech, namely, not telling falsehoods, not using abusive language, not slandering others, and not indulging in irrelevant talk.

**g.18 Four states of fearlessness**

*mi 'jigs pa bzhi*

མི་འཇིགས་པ་བཞི།

*caturvaiśāradya · caturabhaya*

The fourfold fearlessness or the four assurances proclaimed by the tathāgatas: fearlessness in declaring that one has awakened, that one has ceased all illusions, that one has taugth the obstacles to awakening, and that one has shown the way to liberation.

**g.19 Fully ordained monk**

*dge slong*

དགེ་སློང།

*bhikṣu*

A monk of the Buddhist saṅgha observing all the vinaya vows (253 in the Tibetan tradition).

**g.20 Generosity**

*spyin pa, sbyin pa*

སྤྱིན་པ་, སྤྱིན་པ།

*dāna*

The practice of giving or making offerings to others. One of the six perfections of the bodhisattva.

**g.21 Higher stages of complete awakening**

*sa chen po*

ས་ཆེན་པོ།

*mahābhūmi*

A reference to the last three of the ten bhūmis, (Tib. *sa bcu*); the bhūmis, often called the “grounds” or “levels,” are the successive stages through which a bodhisattva’s realization evolves.

**g.22 Holy Dharma**

*dam pa'i chos*

དམ་པའི་ཚོས།

*saddharma*

The Buddhadharma or the Buddha’s teachings.

**g.23 Ignorance**

*gti mug*

—

གཏི་ལྷུག

*moha*

Delusion, stupidity, closed-mindedness, and/or mental darkness. One of the affective behavior patterns or “afflictions” known as the three poisons.

g.24 Intrinsic nature

*rang bzhin*

རང་བཞིན།

*svabhāva*

The inherent nature of a phenomenon; in the present text, this is possibly a reference to the buddha-nature, or *tathāgatagarbha*.

g.25 Latent dispositions

*bag la nyal*

བག་ལ་ཉལ།

*anusāya*

Habitual impulses or subconscious habit patterns that underlie emotions such as desire and hatred. These are also causes for the perpetuation of cyclic existence.

g.26 Latent tendencies

*bag chags*

བག་ཆགས།

*vāsanā*

Karmic traces or residues imprinted by past actions and constituting tendencies that predispose one to particular patterns of behavior.

g.27 Liberations

*rnam par thar pa*

རྣམ་པར་ཐར་པ།

*vimokṣa*

In this context, this refers to a category of advanced meditative attainments.

g.28 Meditative absorption

*bsam gtan*

བསམ་གཏོན།

*dhyāna*

One of the synonyms for meditation, referring specifically to states of mental stability or one-pointed abiding in an undistracted state of mind free from afflicted mental states. *bsam gtan* / *dhyāna* can refer to the specific states of absorption of the form and formless realms (eight in total). One of the six perfections of the bodhisattva.

g.29 Meditative attainment

*snyoms par 'jug pa*

སྒྲོམས་པར་འཇུག་པ།

*samāpatti*

Meditative equipoise or evenness of mind. Another synonym for meditation, this also refers to a category of advanced meditative attainments.

g.30 Meditative concentration

*ting nge 'dzin*

ཉིང་ངེ་འཇིག།

*samādhi*

A general term for states of deep concentration. One of the synonyms for meditation, referring in particular to a state of complete concentration or focus.

g.31 Merit

*bsod nams*

བསོད་ནམས།

*punya*

Virtuous thoughts, words, and actions that produce positive results, or merit. In Mahāyāna practice, these are to be dedicated for the benefit of all sentient beings. Also rendered here as “meritorious deeds.”

g.32 Meritorious deeds

*bsod nams*

བསོད་ནམས།

*punya*

See “merit.”

g.33 Miraculous power

*rdzu 'phrul*

རྩེ་འཕྲུལ།

*ṛddhi*

The ability to make manifest miraculous displays evident to ordinary beings.

g.34 Obscurations

*sgrib pa*

སློབ་པ།

*āvaraṇa · nivaraṇa*

Defilements that obstruct liberation and omniscience. This term refers both to affective (or “afflictive”) and cognitive obscurations.

g.35 Omniscience

*thams cad mkhyen pa nyid*

ཐམས་ཅད་མཁྲེན་པ་ཉིད།

*sarvajñatā*

This refers to the gnosis or omniscience of the Buddha, the “All-Knowing” or “Omniscient” One.

g.36 Perfection

*pha rol tu phyin pa*

ཕ་རོལ་ཏུ་ཕྱིན་པ།

*pāramitā*

Literally “to have crossed over” or “transcended”; typically this refers to the specific practices of the bodhisattva that are motivated by bodhicitta and embraced by wisdom.

g.37 Pratyekabuddha

*rang sangs rgyas*

རང་སངས་རྒྱས།

*pratyekabuddha*

A “solitary enlightened one,” or “buddha on one’s own,” this refers to one who has attained liberation but does not teach the path to liberation to others. Pratyekabuddhas are said to appear in universes and at times in which there is no fully enlightened buddha who has rediscovered the path and taught it to others.

g.38 Prayer

*smon lam*

སློན་ལམ།

*praṇidhāna*

A declaration of one’s aspirations and vows, and/or an invocation and request of the buddhas, bodhisattvas, etc.

g.39 Primary afflictions

*nyon mongs pa*

ཉོན་མོངས་པ།

*kleśa*

Afflictive emotions, such as the three poisons, that bind one to cyclic existence.

g.40 Realm of the Lord of the Dead

*gshin rje'i 'jig rten*

གཤིན་རྗེའི་འཇིག་རྟེན།

*yamaloka*

The preta realm, or the realm of ghosts, where Yama, the Lord of Death, is the ruler and judges the dead. Yama is also said to rule over the hells. This term is also the name of the Vedic afterlife inhabited by the ancestors (*pitr*).

g.41 Secondary afflictions

*nye ba'i nyon mongs pa*

ཉེ་བའི་ཉོན་མོངས་པ།

*upakleśa*

Literally “near-afflictions,” or the subsidiary afflictive emotions derivative of or related to the primary afflictions.

g.42 Sentient being

*sems can*

སེམས་ཅན།

*sattva*

Any living being in one of the six realms.

g.43 Six perfections

*pha rol tu phyin pa drug*

ཕ་རོལ་ཏུ་ཕྱིན་པ་བླུག་

*ṣaṭpāramitā*

The six practices or qualities that a bodhisattva perfects and by which a bodhisattva transcends cyclic existence. A bodhisattva practices these perfections motivated by bodhicitta, the intention to attain full enlightenment for the sake of all sentient beings, and with an awareness of the ultimate reality of all phenomena. These six perfections are generosity, ethics, endurance, diligence, meditative absorption, and wisdom.

g.44 Six superknowledges

*mngon par shes pa drug*

མངོན་པར་ཤེས་པ་བླུག་

*ṣaḍabhijñā*

The six modes of supernormal cognition or ability, namely, clairvoyance, clairaudience, knowledge of the minds of others, remembrance of past lives, the ability to perform miracles, and the knowledge of the destruction of all mental defilements. The first five are considered mundane or worldly and can be attained to some extent by non-Buddhist yogis as well as Buddhist arhats and bodhisattvas. The sixth is considered to be supramundane and can be attained only by Buddhist yogis.

g.45 Śrāvaka

*nyan thos*

ཉན་ཐོས།

*śrāvaka*

A “hearer” or “listener,” someone who first hears the Dharma from another. This refers to the disciples of the Buddha who sought the enlightenment of an arhat, that is, their own liberation from cyclic existence.

g.46 Tathāgata

*de bzhin gshegs pa*

དེ་བཞིན་གཤེགས་པ།

*tathāgata*

“Thus-Gone One,” an epithet of a buddha. A buddha is one who has “gone” to thusness, suchness, or ultimate reality.

g.47 Teacher  
*slob dpon*

སློབ་དཔོན།

*ācārya*

Instructor or spiritual teacher. Usually refers either to an accomplished master of meditation practice or to a learned scholar. The title of an official position in a monastery.

g.48 Ten powers of the tathāgatas  
*de bzhin gshegs pa'i stobs bcu*

དེ་བཞིན་གཤེགས་པའི་སྟོབས་བརྒྱ།

*daśatathāgatabala*

A category of the distinctive qualities of a tathāgata. They are: knowing what is possible and what is impossible; knowing the results of actions or the ripening of karma; knowing the various inclinations of sentient beings; knowing the various elements; knowing the supreme and lesser faculties of sentient beings; knowing the paths that lead to all destinations of rebirth; knowing the concentrations, liberations, absorptions, equilibriums, afflictions, purifications, and abidings; knowing previous lives; knowing the death and rebirth of sentient beings; and knowing the cessation of the defilements.

g.49 Three kinds of mental wrongdoing  
*yid kyi rnam gsum*

ཡིད་ཀྱི་རྣམ་གསུམ།

—

The three sinful or nonvirtuous mental actions, namely being covetous, being malicious, and holding perverted views. Their counterparts are the three wholesome or virtuous mental actions. These are the following: not being covetous, not being malicious, and not holding perverted beliefs.

g.50 Three kinds of physical wrongdoing  
*lus kyi rnam gsum*

ལུས་ཀྱི་རྣམ་གསུམ།

—

The three sinful or nonvirtuous physical actions, namely, destroying life, taking what has not been given, and engaging in improper sexual practices. Their counterparts are the three wholesome or virtuous physical actions, namely, not destroying life, not taking what has not been given, and refraining from improper sexual practices.

g.51 Three knowledges  
*rig pa gsum*

རིག་པ་གསུམ།

*trividyā*

The three kinds of knowledge obtained by the Buddha on the night of his enlightenment. These comprise the knowledge of the death and rebirth of sentient beings, the knowledge of past lives, and the knowledge of the cessation of defilements. These are the last three of the six superknowledges or of the ten powers of the tathāgatas.

g.52 Three poisons

*dug gsum*

དུག་གསུམ།

*triviṣa*

The three main affective behavior patterns, or “afflictions,” namely ignorance, desire, and anger.

g.53 Unexcelled, perfect, complete enlightenment

*bla na med pa yang dag par rdzogs pa'i byang chub*

ལྷ་ན་མེད་པ་ཡང་དག་པར་རྫོགས་པའི་བྱང་ཆུབ།

*anuttarāsamyaksambodhi*

The complete enlightenment of a buddha, as opposed to the attainments of arhats and pratyekabuddhas.

g.54 Virtuous spiritual friend

*dge ba'i bshes gnyen*

དག་པའི་བཤེས་གཉེན།

*kalyāṇamitra*

A spiritual mentor.

g.55 Wisdom

*shes rab*

ཤེས་རབ།

*prajñā*

Transcendent or discriminating awareness; the mind that sees the ultimate truth. One of the six perfections of the bodhisattva.