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Ascertaining the Vinaya: Upāli's Questions

Vinayaviniścayopāliparipṛcchā

འཕགས་པ་འདུལ་བ་རྣམ་པར་གཏན་ལ་དབབ་པ་ཉེབར་འཁོར་གྱིས་ལྷུས་པ་ཞེས་བྱ་བ་ཐེག་པ་ཆེན་པོའི་མདོ།
*'phags pa 'dul ba rnam par gtan la dbab pa nye bar 'khor gyis zhus pa zhes bya ba theg pa
chen po'i mdo*

The Noble Mahāyāna Sūtra “Ascertaining the Vinaya: Upāli’s Questions”

Āryavinayaviniścayopālipariṣcchānāmamahāyānasūtra



Toh 68
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SUMMARY

- s.1 *Ascertaining the Vinaya: Upāli's Questions* is a sūtra focused on the relationship between and integration of the *prātimokṣa* vows of monastic discipline and the conduct of a bodhisattva who follows the Mahāyāna tradition. The sūtra's two main interlocuters, Śāriputra and Upāli, query the Buddha about the relationship between these two levels of commitments, eliciting a teaching on the different orientations held by the followers of different Buddhist vehicles and how their different views affect the application of their vows. *Ascertaining the Vinaya* is a particularly valuable sūtra for its inclusion of a unique form of the confessional "Three Sections" rite, making it one of the few extant canonical sources to describe it at length.

ac.

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ac.1 Translated, edited, and introduced by ErdeneBaatar Erdene-Ochir, Jake Nagasawa, and Jaakko Takkinen, members of the UCSB Buddhist Studies Translation Group. The group wishes to thank José I. Cabezón for his support and guidance.

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i.

INTRODUCTION

i.1

Ascertaining the Vinaya: Upāli's Questions (hereafter *Ascertaining the Vinaya*) is a sūtra from the Heap of Jewels (Skt. *Ratnakūṭa*; Tib. *dkon brtsegs*) section of the Kangyur that explores the relationship between the *prātimokṣa* vows and the conduct of a bodhisattva. The sūtra can be loosely divided into two parts: a first section for which the monk Śāriputra is the main interlocutor, and which contains the pledge by numerous bodhisattvas to work for the benefit of beings, followed by a general discourse by the Buddha on the conduct of a bodhisattva. In the second section, the titular Upāli poses a series of questions that prompt a more in-depth discourse from the Buddha on the relationship between monastic codes of conduct and the commitments of a bodhisattva, with a focus on the views that guide the followers of the śrāvaka, pratyekabuddha, and bodhisattva vehicles.

i.2

The sūtra opens in the north Indian city of Śrāvastī, where the Buddha resides among a vast assembly of monks and bodhisattvas in Anāthapiṇḍada's Park at Prince Jeta's Grove. Addressing the bodhisattvas in the assembly, the Buddha asks who will uphold the Dharma and bring beings to maturity in future times. A number of the bodhisattvas present in the assembly voice their desire to uphold various aspects of the Dharma or to help beings through specific powers. At Śāriputra's prompting, the Buddha next describes the special means that bodhisattvas utilize to bring beings to spiritual maturity, and how the three poisons—desire, anger, and delusion—are to be understood in the context of bodhisattva conduct. It is at this point that the Buddha teaches a special method for confessing misdeeds: the "Three Sections" rite, which will be discussed below. He offers this rite of confession as a potent means for bodhisattvas to purify their faults and attain samādhi.

i.3

Following this, the eponymous Upāli emerges from meditative seclusion and joins the assembly to address questions to the Buddha about the relationship between the *prātimokṣa* vows as they are observed by śrāvakas

and pratyekabuddhas, and the conduct of bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna. Upāli is a famous figure in Buddhist literature and is regarded as foremost among the Buddha's disciples in upholding the monastic discipline detailed in the Vinaya. Such was Upāli's mastery of the Vinaya that he was selected to recite the Vinaya at the first full assembly of the saṅgha after the Buddha's passing. As a recurring figure in Pāli literature, Upāli is more generally linked to the rules of monastic conduct of non-Mahāyāna Buddhism; here, however, Upāli's questions primarily concern the observation of monastic discipline in the context of a bodhisattva's conduct according to the Mahāyāna tradition. Upāli's close connection to the Vinaya and the code of monastic conduct thus make him a particularly potent interlocutor in exploring the relationship between these two overlapping but seemingly contradictory modes of Buddhist conduct.

i.4 At Upāli's prompting, the Buddha clarifies the relationship between these two modes of conduct. He explains that the training of a śrāvaka and that of a bodhisattva are both aimed at the highest goal, but their respective practices are essentially different. For bodhisattvas, the training of śrāvakas and pratyekabuddhas is limiting because they do not engage with other beings, and they seek a quick exit from saṃsāra instead of returning life after life to continue helping beings. Moreover, the core of the bodhisattva's training is the mind of awakening (Skt. *bodhicitta*), an aspiration that guides a bodhisattva's conduct and that, if violated, can easily be mended by again turning the mind toward awakening. A follower of the Śrāvakayāna, on the other hand, is bound by vows, especially serious ones, that once broken cannot be easily repaired. The relationship between these two modes of conduct is further clarified by a question posed by the bodhisattva Mañjuśrī: If phenomena themselves are already "inherently tamed," i.e., if there is nothing inherent in phenomena that causes affliction within beings, then what is the purpose of the rules of monastic discipline? The Buddha responds by saying that if beings already knew this, then the Tathāgata would not have to continually explain the rules of monastic discipline; the rules, therefore, are provisional, and meant to help beings gradually understand that all phenomena are innately disciplined.

i.5 As part of its focus on the conduct of a bodhisattva, *Ascertaining the Vinaya* includes a version of the "Three Sections" rite, a confessional practice for mending breaches of a bodhisattva's discipline. This sūtra, along with the *Ugraparipṛcchā Sūtra*,¹ serves as one of the principal canonical sources for the rite, but the rite presented here is distinctive for the set of thirty-five buddhas before which bodhisattvas are directed to make their confession. That the "Three Sections" became an important practice in Indian Buddhism is attested by the fact that it is referenced in Śāntideva's *Śikṣāsamuccaya*² and was

commented on by Nāgārjuna in his *Bodhyāpattideśanāvṛtti*.³ Additionally, the Indian Buddhist master Kṛṣṇa composed a liturgical text (Skt. *sādhana*), the *Skandhatrisādhana*, that explains a full procedure for the confession ritual. Kṛṣṇa's text and the rite it describes were deemed important by the Bengali master Atiśa Dīpaṅkaraśrījñāna (982–c. 1055 CE), who worked with Tibetan translators to make it available to a Tibetan audience.

i.6 *Ascertaining the Vinaya* was translated into Tibetan during Tibet's imperial period by the Tibetan translator and monk Yeshé Dé, with the assistance of the Indian masters Jinamitra, Prajñāvarman, and Surendrabodhi. This is evidenced not only by the colophon of the text, but also by its mention in the two extant imperial-period catalogs, the *Denkarma*⁴ and *Phangthangma* catalogs.⁵ There are several extant Sanskrit witnesses for portions of this sūtra: a lengthy citation drawn from the sūtra's second section is preserved in the *Bodhisattvaprātimokṣa Sūtra*, which was studied and reproduced by Nalinaksha Dutt in 1931,⁶ and verses from *Ascertaining the Discipline* are cited by Śāntideva in his *Śikṣāsamuccaya* and by Candrakīrti in the *Prasannapadā*.⁷ The Pāli Canon contains a text called *Upāliparipucchāsutta*, which has been studied by Valentina Stache-Rosen in comparison to a Chinese version, but it does not appear to be the same text translated herein.⁸ Chinese translations of the whole or part of the text can be found in the Chinese Buddhist Canon (Taishō 235, 325, and 1466), and Garma C. C. Chang has translated the Chinese version into English in *A Treasury of Mahāyāna Sūtras: Selections from the Mahāratnakūṭa Sūtra* (1983). A French translation of *Ascertaining the Discipline* was made by Pierre Python (1973) based on the available Sanskrit, Tibetan, and Chinese versions.

i.7 This English translation was prepared based on the Tibetan translation in the Degé Kangyur in consultation with the Pedurma comparative edition (Tib. *dpe bsdur ma*) and the version of the translation recorded in the Stok Palace Kangyur. We also consulted the Sanskrit fragments listed above, along with Python's French translation and the Mongolian canonical translation.

The Noble Mahāyāna Sūtra

Ascertaining the Vinaya: Upāli's Questions

1.

The Translation

[B1] [F.115.a]

1.1 Homage to all the buddhas and bodhisattvas!

1.2 Thus did I hear at one time: The Bhagavān was dwelling in Śrāvastī, at Anāthapiṇḍada's park in Prince Jeta's Grove, together with a great monastic assembly of about five hundred monks as well as a thousand bodhisattvas. The Bhagavān looked upon those bodhisattva mahāsattvas with a gaze like an elephant's and said to them, "Sons of noble birth, for the sake of upholding the holy Dharma in the future, in later times, who among you wishes to take up the unsurpassed, completely perfect awakening that took the Tathāgata countless myriads of eons to accomplish? Who among you, for the sake of bringing beings to maturity, wishes to nurture them by means of various methods, ways, and ideas?"

1.3 Then the bodhisattva mahāsattva Maitreya arose from his seat, adjusted his upper robe on one shoulder, knelt on his right knee, bowed to the Bhagavān with his palms joined in devotion, and said, "Bhagavān, for the sake of upholding the holy Dharma in the future, in later times, I wish to take up the unsurpassed, completely perfect awakening that took the Tathāgata countless myriads of eons to accomplish."

1.4 The bodhisattva Siṃha said, "Bhagavān, I wish to nurture beings using various methods, ways, and ideas." [F.115.b]

The bodhisattva Vajrapāṇi said, "Bhagavān, I wish to release beings from going to the lower realms."

1.5 The bodhisattva Youthful Mañjuśrī said, "Bhagavān, I wish to fulfill the individual aspirations of beings."

The bodhisattva Jñānaketu said, "Bhagavān, I wish to bring untold numbers of beings to maturity."

1.6 The bodhisattva Dharmaketu said, "Bhagavān, I wish to bring beings to maturity through the gift of Dharma."

- The bodhisattva Candraketu said, “Bhagavān, I wish to bring beings to maturity by means of good qualities.”
- 1.7 The bodhisattva Sūryaketu said, “Bhagavān, I wish to bring beings to maturity by means of the easy vehicle.”
- The bodhisattva Niḥśaṅka said, “Bhagavān, I wish to bring the limitless realms of beings to maturity and to support them.”
- 1.8 The bodhisattva Bhadrāpāla said, “Bhagavān, I wish to bring beings to maturity by proclaiming the names they are to attain as result.”⁹
- The bodhisattva Akṣayamati said, “Bhagavān, I wish to liberate inexhaustible realms of beings through extensive aspirations.”
- 1.9 The bodhisattva Youthful Candraprabha said, “Bhagavān, I wish to supply beings with all the requisites of happiness.” [F.116.a]
- The bodhisattva Sunetra said, “Bhagavān, I wish to establish the foundation for the happiness and contentment of beings.”
- 1.10 The bodhisattva Avalokiteśvara said, “Bhagavān, I wish to protect beings from lower realms and bad rebirths.”
- The bodhisattva Mahāsthāmaprāpta said, “Bhagavān, I wish to save beings who have not escaped from the lower realms.”
- 1.11 The bodhisattva Rāśika said, “Bhagavān, I wish to teach undisciplined beings the way of discipline.”
- The bodhisattva Sumanas said, “Bhagavān, I wish to bring beings with inferior inclinations to maturity.”
- 1.12 The bodhisattva Sūrata said, “Bhagavān, I wish to bring beings with inferior wisdom to maturity.”
- The bodhisattva Tejorāśi said, “Bhagavān, I wish to bring beings who have been born from the wombs of animals to maturity.”
- 1.13 The bodhisattva Recognizer of Unafflicted Realization said, “Bhagavān, I wish to bring beings to maturity by correctly teaching them the way.”
- The bodhisattva Priyadarśana said, “Bhagavān, I wish to equip beings with the immeasurable requisites of happiness.”
- 1.14 The bodhisattva Excellent Faculties said, “Bhagavān, I wish to bring beings to maturity by causing them to reflect on suffering.”
- The bodhisattva Engaged in Inconceivable Liberation said, “Bhagavān, with merely a thought I wish to liberate beings born in the world of pretas.” [F.116.b]
- 1.15 The bodhisattva Sūryaprabha said, “Bhagavān, I wish to bring to maturity those beings who are not yet mature.”
- The bodhisattva Vimalakīrti said, “Bhagavān, I wish to fulfill every intention beings have.”
- 1.16 The bodhisattva Tejobala said, “Bhagavān, I wish to destroy the way beings take unfortunate rebirths.”

- The bodhisattva Vimatiprahāṇa said, “Bhagavān, I wish to liberate inferior beings.”
- 1.17 The bodhisattva Niḥśaṅksthāna said, “Bhagavān, for the sake of gathering beings I wish to express encouragement by saying ‘Wonderful!’ ”
- The bodhisattva Jñānaśrī said, “Bhagavān, I wish to bring beings to maturity according to their varying predispositions.”
- 1.18 The bodhisattva Boundless Stillness said, “Bhagavān, I wish to teach beings the way of the unconditioned.”
- The bodhisattva Fearless toward All Phenomena said, “Bhagavān, I wish to teach beings according to their own predisposition.”
- 1.19 The bodhisattva Ratnaśrī said, “Bhagavān, I wish to display a heap of jewels to beings.”
- The bodhisattva Sumati said, “Bhagavān, I wish to bring beings to maturity by showing them a beautiful form.”
- 1.20 The bodhisattva Vimalatejas said, [F.117.a] “Bhagavān, I wish to support and bring beings to maturity through affection.”
- The bodhisattva Maṇibhadra said, “Bhagavān, I wish to bring beings to maturity by causing them to remember their past births.”
- 1.21 The bodhisattva Puṇyaraśmi said, “Bhagavān, I wish to guide beings by means of perfect aspiration prayers.”
- The bodhisattva Bhadraśrī said, “Bhagavān, I wish to permanently liberate beings from suffering.”
- 1.22 The bodhisattva Ratnapāṇi said, “Bhagavān, I wish to make beings happy with jewels.”
- The bodhisattva Mati said, “Bhagavān, I wish to end the poverty of poor beings.”
- 1.23 The bodhisattva Sarvanīvaraṇaviṣkambhin said, “Bhagavān, I wish to liberate beings from all the afflictions.”
- The bodhisattva Vajra Light said, “Bhagavān, I wish to teach beings the exalted way.”
- 1.24 The bodhisattva Manifesting the Appearance of Good Qualities said, “Bhagavān, I wish to liberate beings by causing all their thoughts to be joyful.”
- The bodhisattva Exalted Dharma said, “Bhagavān, I wish to show the pure eye of Dharma to beings.”
- 1.25 The bodhisattva Vajragarbha said, “Bhagavān, I wish to liberate beings from the obscurations. [F.117.b]
- The bodhisattva Dharmākara said, “Bhagavān, I wish to liberate beings through the Dharma.”
- 1.26 The bodhisattva Nothing said, “Bhagavān, I wish to eliminate all the poisonous afflictions of beings.”

- The bodhisattva Candrottara said, “Bhagavān, I wish to teach the perspective of the Dharma to beings.”
- 1.27 The bodhisattva Siṃhamati said, “Bhagavān, I wish to give the gift of Dharma to beings.”
- The bodhisattva Luminous Youth said, “Bhagavān, I wish to liberate beings from inferior states.”
- 1.28 The bodhisattva Glorious Awakening said, “Bhagavān, I wish to block beings’ way to lower rebirths by teaching them the exalted way.”
- The bodhisattva Suvarṇaprabha said, “Bhagavān, I wish to bring beings to maturity by displaying a physical body.”
- 1.29 The bodhisattva Puṇyaketu said, “Bhagavān, I wish to help those beings who help others.”
- The bodhisattva Jagatīndhara said, “Bhagavān, I wish to destroy beings’ gateway into hell.”
- 1.30 The bodhisattva Nectar Holder said, “Bhagavān, I wish to save beings from saṃsāra.”
- The youthful bodhisattva Jālinīprabha said, “Bhagavān, in the future, in later times, I wish to pacify beings’ afflictions through displays of light.”
- 1.31 After hearing such revelations from the bodhisattvas about [F.118.a] donning the armor that will mature beings, the venerable Śāriputra was seized with wonder and amazement. He said to the Bhagavān, “Ah! Bhagavān, the great compassion possessed by these bodhisattva mahāsattvas is amazing, as is their inconceivable skill in means and their donning of the great armor of stable diligence. It is amazing how these bodhisattvas cannot be overcome by any being, how difficult they are to fathom, to meet with, or to subjugate, and how their brilliance cannot be overcome. Furthermore, Bhagavān, when supplicants come before these bodhisattva mahāsattvas, whose brilliance cannot be overcome, and beg for their heads, hands, feet, and eyes—even when they beg for everything—these bodhisattva mahāsattvas do not recoil or become discouraged but rather are overjoyed. This is amazing to me. Bhagavān, I also think that any beings who harm bodhisattva mahāsattvas and then ask for their various inner and outer constituents will surely become bodhisattva mahāsattvas who rest in inconceivable liberation.”
- 1.32 The Bhagavān replied to the venerable Śāriputra, “So it is, Śāriputra, so it is! Such is the scope of these bodhisattvas’ samādhi, methods, wisdom, and gnosis. Śāriputra, the scope of these bodhisattvas is not that of śrāvakas or pratyekabuddhas. Śāriputra, bodhisattva mahāsattvas, in order to meet the inclinations of beings, manifest all the emanations of the buddhas, but while doing so they do not waver from their bodhisattva nature. [F.118.b]
- 1.33

“Śāriputra, bodhisattva mahāsattvas will manifest the bodies of householders in order to dispel the delusions of grandeur held by householders who are intoxicated with arrogance. In order to remove the manic arrogance of beings who are inflated and intoxicated by mania, they display the power of a champion,¹⁰ or the exuberant power of Nārāyaṇa. They reveal the various paths to nirvāṇa for those beings who seek nirvāṇa. They display the form of śrāvakas to those beings oriented to the Śrāvakayāna and use the Śrāvakayāna to bring them to complete nirvāṇa. They display the form of pratyekabuddhas to beings oriented to the Pratyekabuddhayāna so that they can direct them toward dependent arising. They display the forms of buddhas to those beings who seek awakening so that they may attain all the qualities of a buddha.

1.34 “Śāriputra, in this way, once bodhisattva mahāsattvas have matured the realm of beings using a variety of methods, they set beings firmly in the qualities of buddhahood. Why? Śāriputra, beings will find no liberation apart from the liberation of final nirvāṇa, the gnosis of the tathāgatas. This is why they are called *tathāgatas*. Why? They are called *tathāgatas* because tathāgatas know the nature of reality just as it is. They are called *tathāgatas* because they use various concepts to induce understanding in beings. [F.119.a] They are called *tathāgatas* because they possess all virtuous qualities and have abandoned all nonvirtuous qualities. They are called *tathāgatas* because they demonstrate liberation to beings who are in bondage. They are called *tathāgatas* because they reveal the exalted path to beings who have embarked on an evil path. They are called *tathāgatas* because they teach emptiness and arise from emptiness.

1.35 “Śāriputra, bodhisattva mahāsattvas demonstrate liberation to ordinary, deluded, childish beings by using various forms of knowledge that align with their inclinations and thus bring them to an understanding of the true Dharma. And yet, they never waver from their bodhisattva nature. They display various types of illusion in order cause beings to progressively reach the seat of awakening.

1.36 “Furthermore, Śāriputra, lay householder bodhisattva mahāsattvas should practice two types of giving: giving the Dharma and giving material goods. Śāriputra, lay householder bodhisattva mahāsattvas should practice these two types of giving without attachment or anger.

1.37 “Śāriputra, renunciant bodhisattva mahāsattvas should engage in four types of giving:¹¹ giving pens, giving ink, giving books, and giving the Dharma. Śāriputra, renunciant bodhisattva mahāsattvas should practice these four types of giving.

1.38

“Śāriputra, bodhisattva mahāsattvas who have accepted that phenomena are unproduced should practice three types of relinquishment: [F.119.b] relinquishment, great relinquishment, and the highest relinquishment. With respect to these, “relinquishment” means to give away the kingdom; “great relinquishment” is to give away one’s wives, sons, and daughters; and the “greatest relinquishment” is to give away one’s own head, hands, feet, eyes, skin, bones, and marrow. Śāriputra, a bodhisattva mahāsattva who has accepted that phenomena are unproduced should practice these three types of relinquishment.”

1.39 Śāriputra asked, “Bhagavān, are bodhisattvas not afraid of desire? Are they not afraid of anger and delusion?”

1.40 The Bhagavān replied,¹² “Śāriputra, the faults associated with the great misdeeds of bodhisattvas are twofold: those related to anger and those related to delusion. Śāriputra, these are the two faults associated with the great misdeeds of bodhisattvas.

1.41 “Śāriputra,¹³ among these, desire is a minor misdeed and is given up slowly. Anger is a major misdeed and is given up quickly. Delusion is a major misdeed and is given up slowly. Why is this? Śāriputra, desire is the ensnaring vine of saṃsāra and thus the seed of rebirth. Anger is eliminated quickly and is the cause of unfortunate rebirths. Delusion is difficult to relinquish and is the cause of falling into the eight great hells.

1.42 “Regarding these, Śāriputra, a bodhisattva should openly confess the weightiest of faults to an assembly of ten.¹⁴ A weighty fault of the hand—that is, grasping a woman’s hand—should be confessed to an assembly of five. [F.120.a] The fault of looking at a woman with ill intent should be confessed before one or two people.¹⁵ A bodhisattva should confess the faults associated with the five grave acts of immediate retribution, faults related to women, faults related to boys, faults related to the hand, faults related to stūpas, faults related to the saṅgha, or any other weighty fault before the thirty-five bhagavān buddhas, doing so on their own throughout the day and night. The confession is as follows:

1.43

“I (name) seek refuge in the Buddha, I seek refuge in the Dharma, I seek refuge in the Saṅgha. I pay homage to the tathāgata, the arhat, the completely perfect Buddha Śākyamuni! I pay homage to Vajragarbha-pramardin.¹⁶ I pay homage to Ratnārcis. I pay homage to Nāgeśvararāja. I pay homage to Vīrasena. I pay homage to Vīranandin. I pay homage to Ratnāgni.¹⁷ I pay homage to Ratnacandrārabha. I pay homage to Amoghadarśin. I pay homage to Ratnacandra. I pay homage to Vimala.¹⁸ I pay homage to Śūradatta. I pay homage to Brahmā. I pay homage to Brahma-datta. I pay homage to Varuṇa. I pay homage to Varuṇadeva. I pay homage to Bhadraśrī. I pay homage to Candanaśrī. I pay homage to Anantauijas. I pay homage to Prabhāsaśrī. I pay homage to Aśokaśrī. I pay homage to Nārāyaṇa. I pay homage to Kusumaśrī. I pay homage to the Tathāgata Brahmajyotirvikrīḍitābhijña. I pay homage to the Tathāgata Padmajyotirvikrīḍitābhijña.¹⁹ [F.120.b] I pay homage to Dhanaśrī. I pay homage to Smṛtiśrī. I pay homage to Suparikīrtitanāmadheyaśrī. I pay homage to Indraketuḍhvajarāja. I pay homage to Suvikrāntaśrī. I pay homage to Suvijitasamgrāma.²⁰ I pay homage to Vikrāntagāmin. I pay homage to Samantāvabhāsavyūhaśrī. I pay homage to Ratnapadmavikrāmin. I pay homage to the tathāgata, the arhat, the completely perfect Buddha Ratnapadmasupratīṣṭhitaśailendrarāja.

1.44 “To them, and all the other tathāgata, arhat, and completely perfect buddhas who dwell, live, and endure in all realms throughout the ten directions—to those blessed buddhas, I pray, please pay heed to me!

1.45 “In this and in all the other births that I have taken in saṃsāra without beginning or end, I have committed evil actions, I have asked others to commit them, or have rejoiced when they were committed. I have stolen the property of stūpas,²¹ the property of the saṅgha, or the property of the saṅghas of the four directions,²² have made others steal them, or have rejoiced when they were stolen. I have committed the five grave acts of immediate retribution, have made others commit them, or have rejoiced when they were committed. I have taken the path of the ten nonvirtuous actions, have made others take it, or have rejoiced in their taking it. Having been affected by karmic obscurations, I will go to hell,²³ I will go to the animal realm,²⁴ I will go to the preta realm, I will be born among barbarians in a border region,²⁵ I will be born among the long-lived devas, I will have incomplete faculties, I will hold false views, or I will not be able to delight in the appearance of a buddha in the world.²⁶ [F.121.a] All these karmic obscurations I confess in the presence of the bhagavān buddhas, who are wise, who have vision, who witness, who are authoritative, and who know and see. I reveal these actions; I do not conceal them, and I will henceforth show restraint.

- 1.46 “May those bhagavān buddhas pay heed to me! In this and in all the other births that I have taken in saṃsāra without beginning or end, whatever gifts I have given, even if just a small bit of food to an animal, whatever roots of virtue I may possess from maintaining discipline, whatever roots of virtue I may possess from chaste conduct, whatever roots of virtue I may possess by bringing beings to maturity, whatever roots of virtue I may possess through the mind of awakening, and whatever roots of virtue I may possess through unsurpassed gnosis, I collect, combine, and coalesce all of it and dedicate it to unsurpassed, completely perfect awakening by making unsurpassable, unexcelled, and supreme dedications. Just as the bhagavān buddhas of the past have dedicated, just as the bhagavān buddhas of the future will dedicate, and just as the bhagavān buddhas of the present now dedicate,²⁷ in the same way, I also dedicate the virtue. I confess all evil actions.²⁸ I rejoice in all merit. I supplicate all buddhas. May my gnosis be unsurpassed.
- 1.47 “With folded hands I seek refuge
 In all the conquerors, the most supreme beings
 Of the present, of the past, and who have not yet come,
 Who possess an ocean of qualities limitless and praiseworthy.²⁹ [F.121.b]
- 1.48 “Śāriputra, in the same way, a bodhisattva should follow all tathāgatas in contemplating the thirty-five bhagavān buddhas and the rest, and thereby purify all their evil actions.
- 1.49 “Similarly, for the sole purpose of liberating beings, those very bhagavān buddhas reveal themselves directly to those who purify all evil actions. They likewise teach confused, foolish beings using a variety of words in order to bring them to maturity,³⁰ all without wavering from the dharmadhātu. They make perfect aspirations for the sake of liberating beings, liberating each according to their own predispositions.
- 1.50 “Śāriputra, bodhisattva mahāsattvas who have entered into the samādhi of *great compassion* appear in the form of hell beings, animals, beings in the world of Yama, and asuras for the sake of bringing beings to maturity. Bodhisattva mahāsattvas who have entered into the samādhi of *great array* appear in the form of householders for the sake of bringing beings to maturity. Bodhisattva mahāsattvas who have entered into the *supreme* samādhi appear in the form of cakravartins for the sake of bringing beings to maturity. Bodhisattva mahāsattvas who have entered into the samādhi of *intense brilliance* appear in the forms of Indra and Brahmā for the sake of bringing beings to maturity. Bodhisattva mahāsattvas who have entered into the *single-pointed* samādhi appear in the form of śrāvakas for the sake of bringing beings to maturity. [F.122.a] Bodhisattva mahāsattvas who have entered into the samādhi of *nondual purity* appear in the form of

pratyekabuddhas for the sake of bringing beings to maturity. Bodhisattva mahāsattvas who have entered into the samādhi of *peace* appear in the form of completely perfect buddhas for the sake of bringing beings to maturity. Bodhisattva mahāsattvas who have entered into the samādhi *mastery of all phenomena* appear in forms aligned with various predispositions for the sake of bringing beings to maturity.

1.51 “Śāriputra, in that way, for the sake of bringing beings to maturity, holy beings sometimes appear in the form of Indra, sometimes in the form of Brahmā, and sometimes in the form of a cakravartin, all without wavering from the dharmadhātu. How so? Bodhisattvas, for the sake of bringing beings to maturity, appear to beings of different predispositions in a variety of recognizable forms, but the bodhisattvas objectify neither themselves nor beings as they appear in various forms to those beings.

1.52 “Śāriputra, what do you think? Can a cat withstand the roar of a lion, the king of beasts?”

Śāriputra replied, “Bhagavān, it cannot withstand it.”

1.53 The Bhagavān said, “Śāriputra, what do you think? Can a donkey bear the load of a great rutting elephant?”

Śāriputra replied, “Bhagavān, it cannot bear it.”

1.54 The Bhagavān said, [F.122.b] “Śāriputra, what do you think? Can poor people endure the lordly magnificence of Indra and Brahmā?”

Śāriputra replied, “Bhagavān, they cannot endure it.”

1.55 The Bhagavān said, “Śāriputra, what do you think? Can a fledgling vulture withstand the attack of a garuḍa, the king of birds?”

Śāriputra replied, “Bhagavān, it cannot withstand it.”

1.56 “Similarly Śāriputra,³¹ no ordinary being or follower of the Śrāvakayāna or Pratyekabuddhayāna is able to purify the faults of bodhisattvas that have arisen from the power of their courageous mind and roots of virtue or from their knowledge, nor can they purify pernicious faults, which are purified by entering the samādhi of *seeing the buddhas*. Bodhisattvas memorize and recite the names of these bhagavān buddhas, and by reciting the Dharma discourse of the Three Sections³² three times during the day and three times at night, they renounce their pernicious faults and obtain samādhi.”³³ [B2]

1.57 On the same occasion, the venerable Upāli emerged from meditative seclusion and came to where the Bhagavān was staying.³⁴ Upon arriving, he bowed his head at the feet of the Bhagavān, circumambulated him three times, and sat to one side. The venerable Upāli then said to the Bhagavān, “Bhagavān, when I was in solitary meditative seclusion, this thought arose in my mind: [F.123.a] the Bhagavān has taught the followers of the Śrāvakayāna and the Pratyekabuddhayāna that the prātimokṣa vows are the pure training and superior ethical discipline. The Bhagavān has also taught

that followers of the Bodhisattvayāna do not abandon their training even for the sake of their lives.³⁵ How then would a bhagavān, one who has either passed into parinirvāṇa or still remains, explain the prātimokṣa vows of the followers of the Śrāvakayāna? How would the prātimokṣa vows of the followers of the Pratyekabuddhayāna be explained? How would the prātimokṣa vows of bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna be explained? The Bhagavān has said that I am supreme among those who uphold the Vinaya. I will certainly listen closely to the Bhagavān's expertise in the Vinaya and, having mastered it precisely, will gain fearlessness and teach it perfectly and in detail to the assemblies. Therefore, I thought to ask the Bhagavān to teach me perfectly and in detail.³⁶

1.58 “Bhagavān, while I was alone in private meditative seclusion, I thought, ‘I should go before the Tathāgata and request a detailed explanation of the Vinaya.’ Since this thought came to mind, Bhagavān, I ask the Tathāgata to offer a clear, thorough, and detailed explanation of the Vinaya to this great assembly of monks and bodhisattvas.”

1.59 The Bhagavān responded to the venerable Upāli, “Upāli, you should say that the training of the followers of the Śrāvakayāna is pure in terms of its distinctive application and distinctive orientation. [F.123.b] You should also say that the training of bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna is pure in terms of its distinctive application and distinctive orientation. Why? Upāli, it is because the followers of the Śrāvakayāna have a distinctive application and orientation, while bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna have another distinctive application and orientation.

1.60 “Upāli, the pure ethical discipline of the followers of the Śrāvakayāna is impure ethical discipline for bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna; for the latter it is highly corrupt ethical discipline. The pure ethical discipline of bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna is impure ethical discipline for the followers of the Śrāvakayāna; for the latter it is highly corrupt ethical discipline. Why? Upāli, it is because the followers of the Śrāvakayāna do not even have the fleeting desire to take rebirth in the world. This is pure ethical discipline for the followers of the Śrāvakayāna but is impure, highly corrupt ethical discipline for bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna. Upāli, why is it that pure ethical discipline of bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna is impure, highly corrupt ethical discipline for the followers of the Śrāvakayāna? Upāli, it is because bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna take rebirth in saṃsāra for countless eons without aversion or weariness. This is pure ethical discipline for bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna [F.124.a] but is impure, highly corrupt ethical discipline for the followers of the Śrāvakayāna.

1.61

“Upāli, you should therefore say that the training of bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna guards and that the training of the followers of the Śrāvakayāna does not guard. You should say that the training of bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna serves as a remedy and that the training of those who follow the Śrāvakayāna does not serve as a remedy. You should say that the training of bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna is pursued over a long duration and that the training of the followers of the Śrāvakayāna proceeds in stages.

1.62 “Upāli, why is it that the training of bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna guards, while the training of the followers of the Śrāvakayāna does not guard? Upāli, bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna should work with the minds of other beings and other people,³⁷ while the followers of the Śrāvakayāna do not need to. Upāli, that is why the training of bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna guards, while the training of the followers of the Śrāvakayāna does not guard.

1.63 “Upāli, why is it that the training of bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna serves as a remedy, while the training of the followers of the Śrāvakayāna does not serve as a remedy? Upāli,³⁸ if a bodhisattva who follows the Mahāyāna commits a fault in the morning and does not part from the omniscient mind at midday, [F.124.b] then the complement of ethical discipline of the bodhisattva who follows the Mahāyāna is not at all inhibited. If the bodhisattva commits a fault at midday and has not parted from, but rather maintains, the omniscient mind in the afternoon, then the complement of ethical discipline of the bodhisattva who follows the Mahāyāna is not at all inhibited. If the bodhisattva commits a fault in the afternoon and has not parted from, but rather maintains, the omniscient mind in the first watch of the night, then the complement of ethical discipline of the bodhisattva who follows the Mahāyāna is not at all inhibited. If the bodhisattva commits a fault in the first watch of the night and has not parted from, but rather maintains, the omniscient mind in the middle watch of the night, then the complement of ethical discipline of the bodhisattva who follows the Mahāyāna is not at all inhibited. If the bodhisattva commits a fault in the middle watch of the night and has not parted from, but rather maintains, the omniscient mind in the last watch of the night, then the complement of ethical discipline of the bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna is not at all inhibited. Therefore, Upāli, the training of bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna serves as a remedy. Bodhisattvas should neither give rise to excess remorse for nor feel overly dejected about their faults.

1.64

“Upāli, you should understand that when the followers of the Śrāvakayāna commit a fault repeatedly, the complement of ethical discipline of those followers of the Śrāvakayāna deteriorates,³⁹ degenerates, and is exhausted.⁴⁰ Why? Because followers of the Śrāvakayāna, for the sake of eliminating all afflictions, act as if their head and clothes were on fire. [F.125.a] In this way, the training of the followers of the Śrāvakayāna—who fervently desire parinirvāṇa—does not serve as a remedy.

1.65 “Upāli, how is it that the training of bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna is pursued over a long duration, while the training of the Śrāvakayāna proceeds in stages? Upāli, you should understand that even if bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna revel in, relish, and enjoy the five sense pleasures for as many eons as there are grains of sand in the river Ganges but do not give up the mind of awakening, then the training of bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna will not be inhibited at all.⁴¹ Why? Because, Upāli, there are times and instances in which bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna have so fully assimilated bodhicitta that they are not even affected by the afflictions in their dreams. Upāli, bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna do not eliminate the afflictions in a single lifetime; the afflictions of bodhisattvas whose roots of virtue have matured are exhausted gradually. Followers of the Śrāvakayāna, whose roots of virtue have not matured⁴² and who act as if their head and clothes were on fire, will not take rebirth in saṃsāra for even an instant. Therefore, Upāli, the training of bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna is to be pursued over a long duration, and the training of the followers of the Śrāvakayāna proceeds in stages.

1.66 “Therefore, Upāli, you should say that the training of bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna guards, serves as a remedy, and is pursued over a long duration. [F.125.b] You should say that the training of the followers of the Śrāvakayāna does not guard, does not serve as a remedy, and proceeds in stages. Why? Upāli, unsurpassed, completely perfect awakening requires significant requisites; it is not easy for bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna to take rebirth and transmigrate for limitless eons if they are singularly discontented with saṃsāra.

1.67 “Upāli, the tathāgata, arhat, completely perfect buddhas recognize that there is a purpose in not teaching bodhisattvas engaged in the Mahāyāna about discontentment alone, or in teaching them about dispassion alone or only about revulsion. They also teach on being joyful and delighted,⁴³ on what is profound and what is not defiled, about subtleties, analysis,⁴⁴ and about being without regret and obsession. They teach about what is unobstructed, about what is unobscured, and about emptiness. Hearing

these teachings, bodhisattvas are overjoyed, do not feel discontent for saṃsāra, and perfect nonattachment, the unsurpassed, completely perfect state of awakening.”⁴⁵

1.68 Then the venerable Upāli asked the Bhagavān, “Bhagavān, among the things considered to be errors, some are associated with desire, some are associated with anger, and some are associated with delusion. That being so, Bhagavān, which of those are the weightiest errors for bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna—those associated with desire, those associated with anger, or those associated with delusion?” [F.126.a]

1.69 The Bhagavān replied to the venerable Upāli,⁴⁶ “Upāli, suppose that, on the one hand, a bodhisattva who follows the Mahāyāna commits faults associated with desire for as many eons as there are grains of sand in the river Ganges; and suppose that, on the other hand, the same bodhisattva commits a single fault related to anger. If we consider each of these cases in the context of the Bodhisattvayāna, then the fault related to anger is much weightier than the faults related to desire. Why? Upāli, anger forsakes beings, whereas desire brings beings together. Upāli, bodhisattvas are not deceived by and do not fear afflictions that gather beings together; but bodhisattvas are deceived by and fear the afflictions that forsake beings.

1.70 “Moreover, Upāli, the Tathāgata has taught that desire is a minor misdeed that is given up slowly, anger is a major misdeed that is given up quickly, and delusion is a major misdeed that is given up slowly. Among those, Upāli, minor misdeeds that are given up slowly are not considered afflictions for bodhisattvas. Major misdeeds that are given up quickly should be viewed as afflictions for bodhisattvas; indeed, they should not desire them, even in their dreams. Therefore, Upāli, you should say that the faults of bodhisattvas that are associated with desire are not faults, because for bodhisattvas there is no deception or fault in them. [F.126.b] You should say that faults associated with anger are faults, because for bodhisattvas there is deception and fault in them.⁴⁷ Upāli, those bodhisattvas who are not skilled in means are frightened by the faults associated with desire but are not frightened by the faults associated with anger. Bodhisattvas who are skilled in means are frightened by the faults associated with anger but are not frightened by the faults associated with desire.”⁴⁸

1.71 Then Youthful Mañjuśrī, who was in the assembly, said to the Bhagavān, “Bhagavān, what is discipline when all phenomena are thoroughly tamed?”

1.72 The Bhagavān replied to Youthful Mañjuśrī, “Mañjuśrī, if foolish beings knew that all phenomena are thoroughly tamed, then the Tathāgata would not have to formulate the Vinaya over and over. Because beings do not know this, the Tathāgata gradually formulated the Vinaya so that they may understand that all phenomena are thoroughly tamed.”⁴⁹

- 1.73 Then the venerable Upāli said to the Bhagavān, “Bhagavān, Youthful Mañjuśrī has not offered any kind of explanation on the instructions for ascertaining the Vinaya. Bhagavān, for that reason, please have Youthful Mañjuśrī teach some of the important points.”
- 1.74 The Bhagavān said to Youthful Mañjuśrī, [F.127.a] “Mañjuśrī, because the monk Upāli wishes to hear about mastering the Vinaya, give a teaching beginning with the topic of the *thoroughly tamed*.”
- 1.75 Then Youthful Mañjuśrī said to the venerable Upāli, “Honorable Upāli, all phenomena are thoroughly tamed—it is for the sake of disciplining one’s own mind that the topic of the *thoroughly tamed* is taught. No phenomenon is defiled; it is because the self cannot be apprehended that the discipline of remorse is taught. No phenomenon is mistaken; it is because they are inherently pure that the topic of the *thoroughly tamed* is taught. All phenomena are an ultimate gateway to suchness; it is because training should be free of deceit that pure training is taught. All phenomena are nonconceptual, cannot be accepted, and cannot be rejected; it is because they are inconceivable that the state of nonattachment is taught. All phenomena are free of attachment and do not persist; it is because they do not persist for long that the purity of all beings is taught. All phenomena are found within the limits of space; it is because they lack materiality that the lack of inherent existence has been taught. No phenomenon can be differentiated; it is because the limits of past, future, and present are not apprehended that the sameness of the three times is taught. All phenomena lack designations; it is because the mind is oriented to equanimity that the elimination of doubt is taught.
- 1.76 “Honorable Upāli, that is the thoroughly tamed dharmadhātu realized by bhagavān buddhas. Noble sons and daughters who do not have faith in the true nature of phenomena are far removed from the training of the Tathāgata.”
- 1.77 Then the venerable Upāli said to the Bhagavān, [F.127.b] “Bhagavān, the teaching that Youthful Mañjuśrī has given emerges from the inconceivable itself.”
- 1.78 The Bhagavān replied to the venerable Upāli, “Upāli, the Dharma teaching of Youthful Mañjuśrī is aligned with liberation; there is no liberation that is not rooted in inconceivability. For that reason Youthful Mañjuśrī teaches the Dharma for the sake of removing the arrogance of those arrogant ones who believe that they are free of all concepts but are caught up in thought.”
- 1.79 Then the venerable Upāli asked the Bhagavān, “Bhagavān, what thoughts do monks have that illustrate this arrogance?”
- 1.80

The Bhagavān then replied to the venerable Upāli, “Upāli, if a monk thinks he has eliminated desire, then he acts with arrogance. If he thinks he has eliminated anger and delusion, then he acts with arrogance. If he thinks, ‘The qualities of desire are one thing, and the qualities of a buddha are another,’ then he acts with arrogance. If he thinks, ‘The qualities of anger are one thing and the qualities of a buddha are another,’ or ‘the qualities of delusion are one thing and the qualities of the Buddha are another,’ he acts with arrogance. If he thinks he is happy, he acts with arrogance. If he thinks of his deeds, he acts with arrogance. If he thinks he is liberated, he acts with arrogance. If he thinks of emptiness, he acts with arrogance. If he thinks of signlessness, he acts with arrogance. If he thinks of wishlessness, he acts with arrogance. [F.128.a] If he thinks of preconceived notions, he acts with arrogance. If he thinks of nonorigination, he acts with arrogance. If he thinks of immateriality, he acts with arrogance. If he thinks that phenomena exist, he acts with arrogance. If he thinks that all phenomena are impermanent, he acts with arrogance. If he thinks, ‘What is there to do if all phenomena are empty?’ then he acts with arrogance. This is the arrogance of a follower of the Śrāvakayāna.

1.81 “What is the arrogance of a follower of the Bodhisattvayāna? If he thinks, ‘I have generated the attitude that aspires to the gnosis of the buddhas, which is superior to everything else,’ then he acts with arrogance. If he thinks, ‘I should practice the six perfections,’ then he acts with arrogance. If he thinks that the perfection of wisdom refers to renunciation, then he acts with arrogance. If he thinks, ‘This is profound, and that is not profound,’ then he acts with arrogance. If he thinks, ‘This leads to purity, and that does not lead to purity,’ then he acts with arrogance. If he thinks, ‘These are the qualities of buddhas, these are the qualities of pratyekabuddhas, and these are the qualities of śrāvakas,’ then he acts with arrogance. If he thinks, ‘This is logical, and that is not logical,’ then he acts with arrogance. If he thinks, ‘This is defiled, and that is not defiled,’ then he acts with arrogance. If he thinks, ‘This is the path, and that is not the path,’ then he acts with arrogance. [F.128.b] If he thinks, ‘I will quickly and fully attain unsurpassed, completely perfect awakening,’ then he acts with arrogance. If he thinks, ‘Since all phenomena are inconceivable, I will not contemplate them,’ then he acts with arrogance. If he thinks, ‘Since unsurpassed, completely perfect awakening is inconceivable, there is nothing to be contemplated,’ then he is engaged in significant objectification. This is the arrogance of a follower of the Bodhisattvayāna.”

1.82 Then the venerable Upāli asked the Bhagavān, “How does a monk avoid arrogance?”

The Bhagavān replied to the venerable Upāli, “Upāli, a monk avoids arrogance if he is not attached to the causal conditions for omniscient gnosis, to the inconceivable.”

1.83 Then, to explain the inconceivable in detail, the Bhagavān spoke in verse:

“Always happy are those people
Who understand that phenomena are inconceivable.
They have no concept of Dharma and non-Dharma;
Everything is differentiated by mental elaboration.⁵⁰

1.84 “Since everything is inconceivable and everything is unreal,
Gnosis should discern between the existent and non-existent.⁵¹
But fools who have fallen under the power of mind
Suffer for billions of existences.⁵²

1.85 “The Buddha is inconceivable and nonexistent;
Monks who do not consider him supreme are incorrect in their thinking.
The Buddha is a product of their conceptualization,
But even this conceptualization is unreal.

1.86 “Fools who think that phenomena are empty
Have taken a wrong path. [F.129.a]
Phenomena that are declared empty with words
Are themselves wordless but expressed in words.⁵³

1.87 “The mind that thinks phenomena are peaceful and pacified
Is itself unborn and unreal.
All conceptual elaborations are postulations of the mind.
Therefore, know that phenomena are inconceivable.⁵⁴

1.88 “All of these phenomena are unthinkable, unimaginable;
To the extent they are unthought, so are they empty.
A person who wants to think about emptiness
Finds it all the more inconceivable.

1.89 “When all conditions are right, the eye sees.
But forms that the eye normally sees
Cannot be seen at night or when conditions are not right.
Thus the presence or absence of conditions are concepts.⁵⁵

1.90 “In dependence on light, the eye sees
Various forms both pleasing and unpleasant.⁵⁶
Since it sees depending on the right conditions,
The eye in fact never sees.⁵⁷

- 1.91 "Pleasant sounds that are heard
Never actually enter the ear.
Their entry is not observable;
Sound occurs through the force of concepts.⁵⁸
- 1.92 "All these phenomena have been explained
Using words to label and account for them.
Although phenomena are neither present nor absent,
That is not how it appears to fools.
- 1.93 "Although I have praised generosity to the world,
The phenomenon of avarice is not to be found.
Similarly, the Conqueror's qualities are inconceivable;
They are also not found and not seen.
- 1.94 "Although I have taught pure ethical discipline,
Ethical infractions are like a hand in space.
All bad ethical discipline is like space,
And so too is proper ethical discipline.
- 1.95 "Although I have explained the excellence of patience,
Its essence can never be seen.
Even though there is no phenomenon to be upset by,
The Conqueror has explained patience. [F.129.b]
- 1.96 "I have praised supreme wakefulness,
For the purpose of remaining vigilant day and night.
Although one may exert oneself for hundreds of eons,
Nothing increases and nothing diminishes.
- 1.97 "Beings have been taught the excellence of meditation, liberation, and
samādhi,
As well as their points of entry.
Although there is no end to the doctrines they contain,
I have taught them after determining their sections.
- 1.98 "Stating that phenomena must be understood through wisdom,
I have taught on wisdom, insight, and the intellect.
And yet, nature and its lack can never be understood,
But it is still necessary to teach them.
- 1.99 "I have taught the world that asceticism is bad,
Saying, 'Take delight in cultivating isolation and contentment!'⁵⁹
Anything that cannot be attained through contentment⁶⁰

Is not to be found in this Dharma.⁶¹

- 1.100 “I have taught about the frightening hells
That terrify many thousands of beings.
And yet, there is no one who, upon death,
Takes a terrifying rebirth.⁶²
- 1.101 “There is no one who inflicts harm
With a sword, a spear, or a blade.
It is through the power of concepts that in those lower realms
Nonexistent weapons are seen to fall upon the body.
- 1.102 “There is no one who has made
The various delightful, blossoming flowers
And pleasant, radiant golden palaces;
They manifest through the power of concepts.
- 1.103 “The world is fabricated by concepts;
Fools discriminate by clinging to ideas.
Clinging and non-clinging do not exist;
Fabrications are like illusions and mirages.
- 1.104 “Although I have taught exalted, supreme conduct,
Saying, ‘Generate the mind of awakening for the benefit of beings!’⁶³
There is no awakening to be observed;
That which is desired simply does not exist.
- 1.105 “I have taught that the mind is luminous and pure by nature,
That it is dustless, free of dust, and stainless.
Fools conceptualize that which is nonexistent,
And so they develop desire, anger, and delusion. [F.130.a]
- 1.106 “When the sublime Dharma of meditative equanimity is attained,
Desire, anger, and delusion do not exist.
Phenomena, which are free of desire and liberated,
Do not serve as the basis of anything, and nirvāṇa is attained.
- 1.107 “Those who understand these space-like phenomena
Can go to hundreds of realms unhindered.
Since their mind is free of desire,
They must cultivate the path without obstruction.
- 1.108 “Although one has practiced for hundreds of eons
And liberated countless beings,
There never were beings;

- They neither decrease nor proliferate endlessly.
- 1.109 “A magician can conjure
Hundreds of beings into the world
And then kill all those emanations
Without any illusions being killed.
- 1.110 “Similarly, all beings have an illusory nature,
And their extent is wholly unknown.
Those who invested themselves in this infinite multitude
Are insensitive to the world.
- 1.111 “Those who know that phenomena lack inherent nature
Are heroes who found nirvāṇa in the world.
Although they enjoy sense pleasures, they are unattached;
They forsake attachments and discipline beings.⁶⁴
- 1.112 “Although there are neither beings nor living things here,
The lords of men work for the welfare of beings.⁶⁵
They benefit beings, even though beings do not exist.
For them, this is an arduous task.⁶⁶
- 1.113 “If one shows a closed hand to a child
And says ‘Here is a laḍḍu,’
The child will cry
Upon seeing an empty hand.
- 1.114 “Likewise, the inconceivable buddhas,
Who know and are proficient in the ways of beings,
Realize that all phenomena are deceptive
But teach the world about material things.
- 1.115 “In this delightful instruction,
The compassionate one also taught,
‘Abandon the trappings of a householder and renounce.
Then the best results will come.’⁶⁷ [F.130.b]
- 1.116 “Having abandoned the trappings of a householder and renounced,
One will attain every result.
Yet if one considers the nature of phenomena,
There is no attainment and no results at all.
- 1.117 “However, those who attain results and attainments⁶⁸
Feel great astonishment and say,
‘Ah! The best of men,⁶⁹ the compassionate Conqueror,

- Has explained his reasoning well.'
- 1.118 "In this way these peaceful phenomena
Have been taught using thousands of terms and phrases.
They are referred to as *sense faculties, meditative concentration, liberation,
Powers, factors of awakening, and peace.*
- 1.119 "Sense faculties have never developed, and there are no powers;
No factor of awakening or peace has ever been generated.
Though these phenomena are neither material nor immaterial,
They have been explained in the world through the force of knowledge.
- 1.120 "Of the attainments that I have explained to beings,
All completely lack characteristics.
Those who think that they have reached attainment
Are arrogant about an attainment they have never actually had.
- 1.121 "Since there is nothing substantial in the entire world,
There is also no attainment whatsoever.
One who understands attainment and nonattainment as I have taught it to
beings
Is one who has reached attainment.
- 1.122 "This attainment of the result is superior to all others.
I have taught that such beings do not actually exist,
That beings are not found at all;
If beings do not exist, who is it that attains?
- 1.123 "Sprouts do not grow in a field
Where seeds have not been planted.
Likewise, if beings are nowhere to be found,
Where is attainment in the absence of beings?
- 1.124 "All these beings have reached nirvāṇa,
But its roots are nowhere to be found.
To those who believe in this way of Dharma,
I taught nirvāṇa without remainder.
- 1.125 "Many hundreds of buddhas have passed beyond,
And none have tamed any beings. [F.131.a]
If any beings were to appear here,
They would never pass into nirvāṇa.
- 1.126 "Therefore, this path has no defilement,
And there is no attachment in it at all.

The minds of those who believe in this reality
Will have no attachment to mundane existence.”

- 1.127 When the Bhagavān finished speaking these verses that teach accomplishment, two hundred arrogant monks, freed from clinging, were liberated from the defilements. Sixty thousand bodhisattvas accepted that phenomena are unproduced.
- 1.128 Then the venerable Upāli said to the Bhagavān, “Bhagavān, what is the name of this Dharma discourse? How should it be preserved?”
- 1.129 The Bhagavān said, “Upāli, since you asked, this Dharma discourse should be preserved under the name *Ascertaining the Vinaya* or *Conquering All Beings*.”
- 1.130 After the Bhagavān spoke, the venerable Upāli, Youthful Mañjuśrī, the bodhisattvas, the monks, everyone assembled there, and the gods, humans, asuras, and gandharvas rejoiced and praised the Bhagavān’s teaching.
- 1.131 *This concludes the twenty-fourth chapter, entitled “Ascertaining the Vinaya: Upāli’s Questions,” from the one-hundred-thousand-section “Dharma Discourse of the Noble Heap of Jewels.”*

c.

Colophon

c.1 This was translated, edited, and finalized by the Indian preceptors Jinamitra, Prajñāvarman, and Surendrabodhi, with the chief Tibetan editor and translator, Bandé Yeshé Dé, and others.

n.

NOTES

- n.1 The *Ugrapariṣcchā* has been extensively studied and translated from Chinese and Tibetan in Nattier 2003.
- n.2 See Barnes 2012.
- n.3 Both the confession liturgy and Nāgārjuna’s commentary have been translated in Beresford 1980.
- n.4 *dkar chag ldan kar ma*, Herrmann-Pfandt 2009, text no. 48; Toh 4364.
- n.5 *dkar chag ’phang thang ma*, Kawagoe 2005, text no. 28.
- n.6 Dutt 1931, 278–85.
- n.7 For the Sanskrit text of the *Śīkṣāsamuccaya* see Bendall 1902, and for the *Prasannapadā* see La Vallée Poussin 1903. The verses from *Ascertaining the Vinaya* recorded in the *Śīkṣāsamuccaya* have been studied, edited, and translated in Lang 2001.
- n.8 See Stache-Rosen 1984 and Matsumura 1990.
- n.9 Tib. *ming ’bras bu mchis pa*. This translation is conjectural and is informed by the act of bestowing names upon newly awakened beings.
- n.10 Tib. *tshan po che chen po*; Skt. *mahānagna*. This enigmatic term seems to refer to someone with athletic strength and prowess or a seasoned fighter.
- n.11 The Lhasa, Narthang, and Stok Palace versions of the translation read *sbyin pa chen po bzhi*, “the four types of great giving.”
- n.12 The following passage, with some variants and omissions, is cited by Śāntideva in the *Śīkṣāsamuccaya*. See Bendall’s edition (1902), 168–71.

- [n.13](#) This paragraph is not included in the citation recorded in the *Śikṣāsamuccaya*.
- [n.14](#) Given the sequence that follows, the “weightiest fault” or “primary fault” (Skt. *prathamāpatti*; Tib. *nyes pa dang po'i lci ba*) perhaps refers to sexual intercourse on the part of a renunciant bodhisattva.
- [n.15](#) The Skt. passage cited in the *Śikṣāsamuccaya* reads, “The heavy fault of the hand should be confessed to an assembly of five. Holding a woman’s hand or looking at her—the weighty fault of ill intent (*duṣṭacittāpatti*)—should, Śāriputra, be confessed before one or two people.”
- [n.16](#) Tib. *rdo rje'i snying pos rab tu 'joms pa*. In the *Śikṣāsamuccaya* this name is given as Vajrapramardin.
- [n.17](#) Tib. *rin chen me*. In the *Śikṣāsamuccaya* this name is given as Ratnaśrī.
- [n.18](#) Tib. *dri ma med pa*. The *Śikṣāsamuccaya* lists two names here: Nirmala and Vimala.
- [n.19](#) This name does not appear in the *Śikṣāsamuccaya*.
- [n.20](#) In the *Śikṣāsamuccaya* this name is replaced with Vicitrasmṅkrama. The names are orthographically similar, so the difference is likely the result of a variant or scribal error in the Skt. manuscript.
- [n.21](#) John Strong notes that stūpas containing relics were venerated as if they were the Buddha himself. If built near or in a monastery, the stūpa was treated as a legal resident of that monastery and was considered to have personal ownership of the land it was built on; thus, destroying a stūpa was tantamount to murder. See Strong 2004, 3–4.
- [n.22](#) “The saṅghas of the four directions” is not found in the *Śikṣāsamuccaya* citation.
- [n.23](#) For more on the complex conceptions of hells in Buddhist cosmography, see the entry for *nāraka* in the *Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism*, 575.
- [n.24](#) Here the passage in the *Śikṣāsamuccaya* includes the additional line “I will go to the realm of Yama.”
- [n.25](#) “Border region” refers to a place where the Dharma of the Buddha is unknown. The English translation here follows the Skt. syntax *pratyantajana-padeṣu mleccheṣu*.
- [n.26](#) This is a version of the “eight freedoms” (Skt. *aṣṭakṣaṇa*; Tib. *dal ba brgyad*), the requirements for proper practice of the Dharma.

- n.27 The passage cited in the *Śikṣāsamuccaya* reads, “and just as the bhagavān buddhas of the present from throughout the ten directions.”
- n.28 This line is not found in the passage cited in the *Śikṣāsamuccaya*.
- n.29 The citation in the *Śikṣāsamuccaya* includes another verse not attested in Tibetan sources.
- n.30 At this point the passage cited in the *Śikṣāsamuccaya* skips ahead to a later section of the sūtra.
- n.31 The *Śikṣāsamuccaya* cites this passage, with some variation from what appears in the Tib. translation.
- n.32 This rite of the Three Sections is further explained in the introduction to this translation.
- n.33 The passage from the *Śikṣāsamuccaya* reads, “A bodhisattva escapes pernicious faults—a condition that anyone belonging to the Śrāvakayāna or Pratyekabuddhayāna is unable to purify—by recalling and reciting the names and epithets of those bhagavān buddhas day and night and by employing the Dharma discourse of Three Sections. [They then] attain samādhi.”
- n.34 The abridged citation of this sūtra found in the *Bodhisattvapratimokṣasūtra* begins here. The Sanskrit of the *Bodhisattvapratimokṣasūtra* was edited and published in Dutt 1931.
- n.35 This translation follows the reading consistent across Tibetan versions of the text. The attested Skt., however, reads, “But the Bhagavān has taught followers of the Bodhisattvayāna that the training is also [forsaken] when [the current] life is forsaken.”
- n.36 The Skt. witness preserves a slightly different reading: “Grant me understanding of this, Bhagavān. Demonstrate expertise in the Vinaya. Bhagavān, listening closely in the Bhagavān’s presence, learning what [I was taught] directly, I will have attained fearlessness and will illuminate [the topic] in detail among the assemblies.” Here we disagree with Dutt’s conjecture of *upāyakauśalya*, and instead read *vinayakauśalya*, “expertise in the Vinaya,” as supported by the Tibetan.
- n.37 In the section of this sūtra found in the *Bodhisattvapratimokṣasūtra*, this line reads “take up the benefit (*hita*) of other beings and other people.” It would thus seem that the Sanskrit witness translated by the Tibetans reads *cittam anuvartitavyam*, where the extant Sanskrit witness reads *hitam anuvartitavyam*.

- n.38 In addition to being cited in the *Bodhisattvaprātimokṣasūtra*, the Skt. of the following paragraph is also cited in the *Śikṣāsamuccaya*. See Bendall’s edition, 178. The translation that follows here is deeply informed by the attested Skt. terminology and syntax from both these sources, which are in general agreement.
- n.39 Śāntideva’s citation ends here.
- n.40 “Degenerates and is exhausted” is not found in the two Skt. witnesses.
- n.41 As incorporated into the *Bodhisattvaprātimokṣasūtra*, this line reads, “Upāli, bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna revel in, relish, and enjoy the five sense pleasures for as many eons as there are grains of sand in the river Ganges but do not give up the mind of awakening. This, Upāli, is to be understood as the training of a bodhisattva who follows in the Mahāyāna” (Dutt 1931, 282).
- n.42 The Narthang and Lhasa versions of the Tib. translation, as well as the Skt. of the *Bodhisattvaprātimokṣasūtra*, read “followers of the Śrāvakayāna whose roots of virtue have matured.”
- n.43 At this point the passage in the *Bodhisattvaprātimokṣasūtra* includes the line, “teach on experiencing dependent origination.”
- n.44 “Analysis” is not found in the passage from the *Bodhisattvaprātimokṣasūtra*.
- n.45 This line, as cited in the *Bodhisattvaprātimokṣasūtra*, reads, “Having heard these teachings, [bodhisattvas] are overjoyed, fulfilled, and do not feel discontent. They perfect the requisites for awakening” (Dutt 1931, 283).
- n.46 Śāntideva cites an abridged version of the following passage in the *Śikṣāsamuccaya*. See Bendall (1902), 164–65.
- n.47 This line is not found in the passage from the *Bodhisattvaprātimokṣasūtra*.
- n.48 Śāntideva’s citation ends here.
- n.49 The citation of this sūtra preserved in the *Bodhisattvaprātimokṣasūtra* ends here.
- n.50 This verse is cited by Candrakīrti in chapter 21 of the *Prasannapadā*. See La Vallée Poussin (1903), 429 and Lang (2001), 237, 239.
- n.51 Here we understand the Tib. term *rnam par shig* to be a translation of the Skt. *vibhāvayī* and have translated it into English accordingly.
- n.52

- This verse is cited by Candrakīrti in chapter 21 of the *Prasannapadā*. See La Vallée Poussin (1903), 429 and Lang (2001), 237, 239.
- n.53 This verse is cited by Candrakīrti in chapter 21 of the *Prasannapadā*. See La Vallée Poussin (1903), 429 and Lang (2001), 237, 239.
- n.54 This verse is cited by Candrakīrti in chapter 21 of the *Prasannapadā*. See La Vallée Poussin (1903), 430 and Lang (2001), 237, 239. In this version, the fourth line reads, “Know that phenomena are subtle and inconceivable.”
- n.55 This verse is cited by Candrakīrti in chapter 3 of the *Prasannapadā*. See La Vallée Poussin (1903), 121 and Lang (2001), 237, 239.
- n.56 For this line the Skt. reads, “[The eye] distinguishes various pleasing forms.”
- n.57 This verse is cited by Candrakīrti in chapter 3 of the *Prasannapadā*. See La Vallée Poussin (1903), 121 and Lang (2001), 237, 239.
- n.58 This verse is cited by Candrakīrti in chapter 3 of the *Prasannapadā*. See La Vallée Poussin (1903), 122 and Lang (2001), 237, 239.
- n.59 The Stok Palace and Phukdrak versions of the translation read *chos shes* (“knowledge of the Dharma”) for *chog shes* (“contentment”). This is a compelling variant, as many versions of the translation, including the Degé, Stok Palace, and Phukdrak versions, read *chos shes* in line three of this verse.
- n.60 In this case, we follow the Kangxi reading of *chog shes* for *chos shes*. The Narthang and Lhasa read *mchog shes*. Also in this line the Stok Palace and Phukdrak versions read *mi mthong* (“not see”) in place of *mi ’thob* (“not attain).”
- n.61 This Tibetan translation of this verse varies substantially across the versions found in the diverse Kangyur collections. For this reason, this translation can only be a conjecture. We have elected to consistently read the variant *chog shes* (“contentment”), but this verse could just as viably read *chos shes* (“knowledge of the Dharma”) in place of one or both instances of “contentment.”
- n.62 This and the next three verses are cited by Candrakīrti in chapter 1 of the *Prasannapadā*. See La Vallée Poussin (1903), 53–54 and Lang (2001), 237–39.
- n.63 Reading the variant, imperative form *skyed* attested in the Yongle and Kangxi versions of the translation.
- n.64

This verse is cited by Candrakīrti in chapter 23 of the *Prasannapadā*. See La Vallée Poussin (1903), 474 and Lang (2001), 238–39.

n.65 Where the Tib. reads *mi'i dbang po* (“lords of men”) the extant Sanskrit reads *jinendra* (“lords of conquerors”).

n.66 This verse is cited by Candrakīrti in chapter 14 of the *Prasannapadā*. The Sanskrit manuscript edited by La Vallée Poussin (1903, 257) was illegible in places but has been restored by Lang (2001, 238–39).

n.67 This and the next two verses are cited by Candrakīrti in chapter 20 of the *Prasannapadā*. See La Vallée Poussin (1903), 408–9 and Lang (2001), 238–39.

n.68 The citation from the *Prasannapadā* reads “those who do not attain” (*alabhanta*).

n.69 Here the Tib. reads *mi mchog* (“best of men”) where the extant Skt. reads *narasiṃha* (“lion among men”).

b.

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g.

GLOSSARY

g.1 Acceptance that phenomena are unproduced

mi skye ba'i chos la bzod pa

མི་སྐྱེ་བའི་ཚོས་ལ་བཟོད་པ།

anutpattikadharmakṣānti

A bodhisattva's realization that all phenomena are unproduced and empty. This attainment is variously said to occur on either the first or eighth bodhisattva level.

g.2 Affliction

nyon mongs

ཉོན་མོངས།

kleśa

Mental factors that disturb the mind and incite unwholesome deeds of body, speech, and mind.

g.3 Akṣayamati

blo gros mi zad pa

བློ་གྲོས་མི་བཟད་པ།

Akṣayamati

g.4 Amoghadarśin

mthong ba don yod

མཐོང་བ་དོན་ཡོད།

Amoghadarśin

g.5 Anantaujas

gzi brjid mtha' yas

་་

གཟི་བརྗིད་མཐའ་ཡས།

Anantauijas

g.6 Anāthapiṇḍada

mgon med zas sbyin

མགོན་མེད་ཟས་སྦྱིན།

Anāthapiṇḍada

A wealthy merchant from the city of Śrāvastī who was a great patron of the Buddha Śākyamuni and the saṅgha. He is better known in the West by the alternative form Anāthapiṇḍika.

g.7 Arhat

dgra bcom pa

དགའ་བཙེམ་པ།

arhat

A “worthy one,” who has destroyed the afflictions (Skt. *kleśa*) and all causes for future rebirth, and who thus will reach awakening at death.

g.8 Aśokaśrī

mya ngan med pa'i dpal

མྱ་ངན་མེད་པའི་དཔལ།

Aśokaśrī

g.9 Asura

lha ma yin

ལྷ་མ་ཡིན།

asura

One of the six classes of sentient beings. The asuras are engendered and dominated by envy, ambition, and hostility and are metaphorically described as being incessantly embroiled in disputes with the gods (*deva*). They are frequently portrayed in brahmanical mythology as having a disruptive effect on cosmological and social harmony.

g.10 Avalokiteśvara

spyang ras gzigs dbang phyug

སྤྱན་རས་གཟིགས་དབང་ཕྱུག

Avalokiteśvara

- g.11 **Bhadrapāla**
bzang skyong
 བཟང་སྐྱོང་།
Bhadrapāla
- g.12 **Bhadraśrī**
dpal bzang po · dpal bzang
 དཔལ་བཟང་པོ། . དཔལ་བཟང་།
Bhadraśrī
 (1) A buddha (*dpal bzang*). (2) A bodhisattva (*dpal bzang po*).
- g.13 **Bhagavān**
bcom ldan 'das
 བཅོམ་ལྷན་འདས།
bhagavat
 A common epithet for a buddha, often rendered in English as “Blessed One.”
- g.14 **Bodhisattva**
byang chub sems dpa'
 བྱང་ལྷུང་སེམས་དཔལ་འ།
bodhisattva
 Literally, “awakening being”; a being on the path to awakening who has generated *bodhicitta* for the benefit of all beings.
- g.15 **Bodhisattva mahāsattva**
byang chub sems dpa' sems dpa' chen po
 བྱང་ལྷུང་སེམས་དཔལ་འ་སེམས་དཔལ་འ་ཆེན་པོ།
bodhisattvamahāsattva
 Generally refers to bodhisattvas who have reached at least the seventh of the ten bodhisattva levels (*bhūmis*).
- g.16 **Bodhisattvayāna**
byang chub sems dpa' i theg pa
 བྱང་ལྷུང་སེམས་དཔལ་འི་སྐྱེག་པ།
Bodhisattvayāna
 The path of the bodhisattvas.

g.17 Boundless Stillness

gnas pa dpag med

གནས་པ་དཔག་མེད།

—

g.18 Brahmā

tshangs pa

ཚེངས་པ།

Brahmā

g.19 Brahmadatta

tshangs pas byin

ཚེངས་པས་བྱིན།

Brahmadatta

g.20 Brahmajyotirvikrīḍitābhijñā

tshangs pa'i 'od zer rnam par rol pas mngon par mkhyen pa

ཚེངས་པའི་འོད་ཟེར་རྣམ་པར་འོལ་བས་མངོན་པར་མཁྱེན་པ།

Brahmajyotirvikrīḍitābhijñā

g.21 Cakravartin

'khor los sgyur ba

འཁོར་ལོས་སྐྱུར་བ།

cakravartin

A term for an idealized, utopic vision of kingship in South Asian cultures. A cakravartin reigns over vast regions of the universe in accordance with principles of righteous law (*dharma*). Such a king is called a cakravartin because he possesses a wheel or discus (*cakra*) that rolls across different realms and brings them all under his power.

g.22 Candanaśrī

tsan dan dpal

ཅན་དན་དཔལ།

Candanaśrī

g.23 Candraketu

zla ba'i tog

ཟླ་བའི་དོག།

Candraketu

g.24 Candrottara

zla mchog

ལྷ་མཚོག

Candrottara

g.25 Conqueror

rgyal ba

རྒྱལ་བ།

jina

An epithet of the Buddha.

g.26 Desire

'dod chags

འདོད་ཚགས།

rāga

One of the six root afflictions (Skt. *mūlakleśa*), often listed as one of the three poisons (Skt. *triviṣa*) along with anger (Skt. *dveṣa*) and delusion (Skt. *moha*).

g.27 Deva

lha

ལྷ།

deva

Cognate with the English term “divine,” the devas are most generically a class of divine, celestial beings who populate the narratives of Indian mythology. Devas make regular appearances in Buddhist literature at the head of the assemblies of celestial and supernatural beings who attend the teachings, interact with the Buddha, bodhisattvas and other spiritual figures, and celebrate the delivery of their sermons. In Buddhist cosmology, the devas are subdivided into numerous classes based on the specific *devalokas*, the “heavens” in which they reside. Traditionally there are between twenty-six and twenty-eight devalokas, divided between the desire realm (*kāmadhātu*), material realm (*rūpadhātu*), and immaterial realm (*arūpyadhātu*). The state of deva is reached either through meritorious acts or the cultivation of subtle meditative states, and is therefore considered a higher mode of rebirth in comparison to rebirth among hell beings, pretas, and animals. Nonetheless, all the devalokas are within the three realms of saṃsāra and therefore transitory. Thus, while the devas occupy the highest strata within

the scheme of the five or six “destinies” (*gati*), the realms within *saṃsāra* where beings take rebirth, their state is still one determined by the fetters (*saṃyojana*) that bind one to the perpetual cycle of rebirth.

g.28 Dhanaśrī

nor dpal

ནོར་དཔལ།

Dhanaśrī

g.29 Dharma

chos

ཚོས།

dharma

Teachings of the Buddha.

g.30 Dharmadhātu

chos kyi dbyings

ཚོས་ཀྱི་དབྱིངས།

dharmadhātu

The nature of phenomena; the dimension or space (*dhātu*) in which phenomena (*dharmā*) appear.

g.31 Dharmākara

chos 'byung

ཚོས་འབྱུང།

Dharmākara

g.32 Dharmaketu

chos kyi tog

ཚོས་ཀྱི་རྟོག།

Dharmaketu

g.33 Doors of liberation

rnam par thar pa'i sgo

རྣམ་པར་ཐར་པའི་སྒོ།

vimokṣamukha

A set of three points associated with the nature of reality that when contemplated and integrated lead to liberation. The three are emptiness, signlessness, and wishlessness.

g.34 Emptiness

stong pa nyid

སྟོང་པ་ཉིད།

śūnyatā

A term used to describe how phenomena are devoid of any nature of their own. One of the three doors of liberation.

g.35 Engaged in Inconceivable Liberation

rnam par thar pa bsam gyis mi khyab pa la yang dag par zhugs pa

རྣམ་པར་ཐར་པ་བསམ་གྱིས་མི་ཁྱེད་པ་ལ་ཡང་དག་པར་ཞུགས་པ།

—

g.36 Eon

bskal pa

བསྐལ་པ།

kalpa

g.37 Ethical discipline

tshul khrims

ཚུལ་ཁྲིམས།

śīla

The second of the six perfections (Skt. *pāramitā*).

g.38 Exalted Dharma

chos mngon par 'phags

ཚོས་མངོན་པར་འཕགས།

—

g.39 Excellent Faculties

dbang po bzang

དབང་པོ་བཟང།

—

g.40 Eye of Dharma

chos kyi mig

ཚོས་ཀྱི་མིག

dharmacakṣus

The capacity of awakened beings to comprehend the inherent truth of impermanence.

g.41 Fearless toward All Phenomena

chos thams cad la bag tsha ba med par gnas pa

ཚོས་ཐམས་ཅད་ལ་བག་ཚིབ་མེད་པར་གནས་པ།

—

g.42 Five grave acts of immediate retribution

mtshams ma mchis pa lnga'i las

མཚམས་མ་མཆིས་པ་ལྔའི་ལས།

ānantaryakarman

The five heinous deeds or acts that bring immediate retribution: (1) killing one's father, (2) killing one's mother, (3) killing an arhat, (4) drawing blood from the body of a tathāgata with malicious intent, and (5) causing schism in the saṅgha.

g.43 Five sense pleasures

dod pa'i yon tan lnga po

དོད་པའི་ཡོན་ཏན་ལྔ་པོ།

pañcakāmaguṇāḥ

Pleasures corresponding to each of the five senses: vision, hearing, smell, taste, and touch.

g.44 Gandharva

dri za

དྷི་ཟ།

gandharva

A class of generally benevolent nonhuman beings who inhabit the sky and are most renowned as celestial musicians.

g.45 Garuḍa

nam mkha' lding

ནམ་མཁའ་ལྗིང་།

garuḍa

A class of being described as an eagle-type bird with a gigantic wingspan. They were traditionally enemies of the nāgas. In the Vedas, they were thought to have brought nectar from the heavens to earth.

g.46 Giving

sbyin pa

སྤྱོན་པ།

dāna

The first of the six perfections (Skt. *pāramitā*).

g.47 Glorious Awakening

sangs rgyas dpal

སངས་རྒྱས་དཔལ།

—

g.48 Gnosis

ye shes

ཡེ་ཤེས།

jñāna

Pure knowledge free of conceptual impediments.

g.49 Indra

dbang po

དབང་པོ།

Indra

Indra is the Vedic king of the gods of the atmosphere or sky. Indra was incorporated into the Buddhist pantheon as a guardian of the Dharma and the king of the deva realm.

g.50 Indraketudhvajarāja

dbang po tog gi rgyal mtshan gyi rgyal po

དབང་པོ་ཏོག་གི་རྒྱལ་མཚན་གྱི་རྒྱལ་པོ།

Indraketudhvajarāja

g.51 Inner and outer constituents

nang dang phyi'i dngos po

ནང་དང་ཕྱི་འདོམ་པོ།

—

Various inner bodily parts and outer material things that may be requested from bodhisattvas.

g.52 Jagatīndhara

'gro ba 'dzin

འགོ་བ་འཛིན།

Jagatīndhara

g.53 Jālinīprabha

dra ba can gyi 'od

དྲ་བ་ཅན་གྱི་འོད།

Jālinīprabha

g.54 Jñānaketu

ye shes tog

ཡེ་ཤེས་ཏོག།

Jñānaketu

g.55 Jñānaśrī

ye shes dpal

ཡེ་ཤེས་དཔལ།

Jñānaśrī

g.56 Karmic obscuration

las kyi sgrib pa

ལས་ཀྱི་སློབ་པ།

karmāvaraṇa

The persistent physical, mental, or emotional obstacles to spiritual progress.

g.57 Kusumaśrī

me tog dpal

མེ་ཏོག་དཔལ།

Kusumaśrī

g.58 Laḍḍu

la du

ལ་དུ།

laḍḍu

A popular South Asian sweet.

g.59 Luminous Youth

gzhon nu 'od

གཞོན་ལུ་འོད།

—

g.60 Mahāsthāmaprāpta

mthu chen thob

མཐུ་ཆེན་ཐོབ།

Mahāsthāmaprāpta

g.61 Mahāyāna

theg pa chen po

ཐེག་པ་ཆེན་པོ།

Mahāyāna

g.62 Maitreya

byams pa

བྱམས་པ།

Maitreya

The name of the next buddha, “The Benevolent One,” who now abides in Tuṣita heaven as a bodhisattva, awaiting the proper time to take his final rebirth.

g.63 Maṇibhadra

nor bu bzang

ནོར་བུ་བཟང་།

Maṇibhadra

g.64 Manifesting the Appearance of Good Qualities

yon tan gzugs ston

ཡོན་ཏན་གསུགས་སྟོན།

—

g.65 Mati

blo gros

—

མོ་ལྷོས།

Mati

g.66 Meditative concentration

bsam gtan

བསམ་གཏན།

dhyāna

The fifth of the six perfections (Skt. *pāramitā*).

g.67 Meditative seclusion

nang du yang dag 'jog

ནང་དུ་ཡང་དག་འཛོག།

pratisamlāna

g.68 Mind of awakening

byang chub kyi sems

བྱང་ལྡན་གྱི་སེམས།

bodhicitta

The intention to reach unsurpassed, completely perfect awakening (Skt. *anuttarasamyakṣambodhi*) in order to liberate all beings from suffering.

g.69 Nāgeśvararāja

klu dbang gi rgyal po

ལྷ་དབང་གི་རྒྱལ་པོ།

Nāgeśvararāja

g.70 Nārāyaṇa

sred med kyi bu

སྲེད་མེད་གྱི་བུ།

Nārāyaṇa

Literally, “Child of No Craving”; a name of the god Viṣṇu.

g.71 Nectar Holder

bdud rtsi 'chang

བདུད་རྩི་འཚང།

—

g.72 Niḥśaṅka

bag tsha ba med pa

བག་ཚ་བ་མེད་པ།

Niḥśaṅka

g.73 Niḥśaṅkasthāna

bag tsha ba med par gnas pa

བག་ཚ་བ་མེད་པར་གནས་པ།

Niḥśaṅkasthāna

g.74 Nirvāṇa

mya ngan las 'das pa

མྱ་ངན་ལས་འདས་པ།

nirvāṇa

Meaning “extinguished” in Sanskrit and “beyond suffering” in Tibetan translation, this is a term for the state of awakening.

g.75 Nirvāṇa without remainder

lhag med mya ngan 'das pa

ལྷག་མེད་མྱ་ངན་འདས་པ།

anupadhiśeṣanirvāṇa · nirupadhiśeṣanirvāṇa

The mode of nirvāṇa in which all physical and mental attributes have been relinquished. This mode occurs after death, as some physical and mental attributes remain when an awakened being is still alive.

g.76 Nothing

ci yang min

ཅི་ཡང་མིན།

—

The name of a bodhisattva.

g.77 Obscuration

sgrib pa

སྒྲིབ་པ།

āvaraṇa · nivarāṇa

The obscurations to liberation and omniscience. They are generally categorized as two types: affective obscurations (*kleśāvaraṇa*), the arising of afflictive emotions, and cognitive obscurations (*jñeyāvaraṇa*), those caused by

misapprehension and incorrect understanding about the nature of reality.

g.78 Padmajyotirvikrīḍitābhijña

pad ma'i 'od zer rnam par rol pas mngon par mkhyen pa

པད་མའི་འོད་ཟེར་རྣམ་པར་རོལ་པས་མཛོན་པར་མཚུན་པ།

Padmajyotirvikrīḍitābhijña

g.79 Parinirvāṇa

yongs su myan ngan las 'das pa

ཡོངས་སུ་སྐྱུན་ངན་ལས་འདས་པ།

parinirvāṇa

The final passage into nirvāṇa upon the death of a buddha or an arhat.

g.80 Path of the ten nonvirtuous actions

mi dge ba bcu'i las kyi lam

མི་དགེ་བ་བརྒྱུད་ལས་ཀྱི་ལམ།

daśākuśalakarmapatha

Physical, verbal, and mental activities that lead to unsalutary rebirths.

g.81 Phenomena

chos

ཚོས།

dharma

g.82 Prabhāsaśrī

'od dpal

འོད་དཔལ།

Prabhāsaśrī

g.83 Prātimokṣa vows

so sor thar pa'i sdom pa

སོ་སོར་ཐར་པའི་སྡོམ་པ།

prātimokṣasaṃvara

The regulations and rules that constitute Buddhist discipline. The number and scope of the vows differs depending on one's status (lay, novice monastic, or full monastic) and whether one is a monk or a nun.

Pratyekabuddha

- g.84 *rang sangs rgyas*
 རང་སངས་རྒྱལ།
 pratyekabuddha
 Someone who has attained liberation entirely through their own
 contemplation as a result of progress in previous lives but, unlike a buddha,
 does not have the accumulated merit and motivation to teach others. Like
 śrāvaka, this term is also used to denote Buddhists who do not follow the
 Mahāyāna.
- g.85 Pratyekabuddhayāna
 rang sangs rgyas kyi theg pa
 རང་སངས་རྒྱལ་གྱི་ཐེག་པ།
 pratyekabuddhayāna
 The path of the pratyekabuddhas.
- g.86 Preta
 yi dags
 ཡི་དགས།
 preta
 Literally “the departed” and analogous to the ancestral spirits of the Vedic
 tradition, the *pitṛs*, who starve without the offerings of descendants. In
 Buddhism they are said to suffer intensely, particularly from hunger and
 thirst, and their realm is one of the three or four unfortunate realms of
 rebirth.
- g.87 Prince Jeta’s Grove
 rgyal bu rgyal byed kyi tshal
 རྒྱལ་བུ་རྒྱལ་བྱེད་གྱི་ཚལ།
 Jetavana
 The grove of Prince Jeta in Śrāvastī; the Buddha taught many of his
 discourses there, especially during the rainy season retreat.
- g.88 Priyadarśana
 mthong dga’
 མཐོང་དགའ།
 Priyadarśana
- g.89 Puṇyaketu

bsod nams dpal

བསོདནནམས་དཔལ།

Puṇyaketu

g.90 Puṇyaraśmi

bsod nams 'od zer

བསོདནནམས་འོད་ཟེར།

Puṇyaraśmi

g.91 Rāśika

tshogs can

ཚོགས་ཅན།

Rāśika

g.92 Ratnacandra

rin chen zla ba

རིན་ཆེན་སྐུ་བ།

Ratnacandra

g.93 Ratnacandraprabha

rin chen zla 'od

རིན་ཆེན་སྐུ་འོད།

Ratnacandraprabha

g.94 Ratnāgni

rin chen me

རིན་ཆེན་མེ།

Ratnāgni

g.95 Ratnapadmasupraṭiṣṭhitaśailendrarāja

rin po che'i pad ma la rab tu bzhugs pa ri dbang gi rgyal po

རིན་པོ་ཆེའི་པད་མ་ལ་རབ་ཏུ་བཞུགས་པ་རི་དབང་གི་རྒྱལ་པོ།

Ratnapadmasupraṭiṣṭhitaśailendrarāja

g.96 Ratnapadmavikrāmin

rin chen pad mas rnam par gnon pa

རིན་ཆེན་པད་མས་རྣམ་པར་གཞོན་པ།

g.97 Ratnapāṇi

lag na rin po che

ལག་ན་རིན་པོ་ཆེ།

Ratnapāṇi

g.98 Ratnārcis

rin chen 'od 'phro

རིན་ཆེན་འོད་འཕྲོ།

Ratnārcis

g.99 Ratnaśrī

rin chen dpal

རིན་ཆེན་དཔལ།

Ratnaśrī

g.100 Recognizer of Unafflicted Realization

nyon mongs pa med pa rtogs par khong du chud pa

ཉོན་མོངས་པ་མེད་པ་རྟོགས་པར་ཁོང་དུ་ཚུད་པ།

—

g.101 River Ganges

gang gA'i klung

གང་གའི་ཀླུང།

Gaṅgānadī

The major river in North India and, according to Buddhist cosmology, one of the four sacred rivers that flow through the southernmost continent of Jambudvīpa.

g.102 Roots of virtue

dge ba'i rtsa ba

དགེ་བའི་རྩ་བ།

kuśalamūla

Cumulative meritorious deeds performed by an individual throughout past lives. The most common threefold list of roots of virtue include non-greed (Skt. *alobha*), non-hatred (Skt. *adveṣa*), and non-delusion (Skt. *amoha*).

- g.103 Śākyamuni
shAkya thub pa
 །ལྷན་ལྷན་པ།
Śākyamuni
 A common epithet of the historical Buddha, Siddhārtha Gautama, meaning
 “the sage (*muni*) of the Śākya clan.”
- g.104 Samādhi
ting nge 'dzin
 ཉིང་རིམ་འཛིན།
samādhi
 A state of deep meditative absorption. There are numerous samādhis that
 can be entered into and sustained by realized beings.
- g.105 Samantāvabhāsavvyūhaśrī
kun nas snang ba bkod pa'i dpal
 ཀུན་ནས་སྣང་བ་བཀོད་པའི་དཔལ།
Samantāvabhāsavvyūhaśrī
- g.106 Saṃsāra
'khor ba
 འཁོར་བ།
saṃsāra
 The cycle of rebirth.
- g.107 Saṅgha
dge 'dun
 དགེ་འདུན།
saṅgha
 The “community” of ordained Buddhist monks and nuns.
- g.108 Śāriputra
shA ri'i bu
 །ལྷ་རིའི་བུ།
Śāriputra
 One of the chief disciples of the Buddha.

g.109 Sarvanīvaraṇaviṣkambhin

sgrib pa thams cad rnam par sel ba

སྒྲིབ་པ་གསལ་ཅད་རྣམ་པར་སེལ་བ།

Sarvanīvaraṇaviṣkambhin

g.110 Seat of awakening

byang chub kyi snying po

བྱང་ལྡན་གྱི་སྙིང་པོ།

bodhimaṇḍa

The place where every buddha in this world system will attain buddhahood.

It is identified with the spot beneath the Bodhi tree in the Bodhgaya.

g.111 Signlessness

mtshan ma med pa

མཚན་མ་མེད་པ།

animitta

The absence of the conceptual identification of perceptions. One of the three doors of liberation.

g.112 Siṃha

seng ge

སེང་གེ།

Siṃha

g.113 Siṃhamati

seng ge blo gros

སེང་གེ་བློ་གྲོས།

Siṃhamati

g.114 Six perfections

pha rol du phyin pa drug

ཕ་རོལ་དུ་ཕྱིན་པ་རྩུག།

ṣaṭpāramitā

The six perfections are giving (Skt. *dāna*), ethical discipline (Skt. *śīla*), patience or acceptance (Skt. *kṣānti*), effort (Skt. *vīrya*), meditative concentration (Skt. *dhyāna*), and wisdom (Skt. *prajñā*).

g.115 Skill in means

thabs la mkhas pa

ཐབས་ལ་མཁས་པ།

upāyakauśalya

The extraordinary skills of the buddhas and advanced bodhisattvas.

g.116 Smṛtiśrī

dran pa'i dpal

དྲན་པའི་དཔལ།

Smṛtiśrī

g.117 Śrāvaka

nyan thos

ཉན་ཐོས།

śrāvaka

Based on the verb “to hear,” the Sanskrit term *śrāvaka* is used in reference to followers of the non-Mahāyāna traditions of Buddhism, in contrast to the bodhisattvas who follow the Mahāyāna path.

g.118 Śrāvakayāna

nyan thos kyi theg pa

ཉན་ཐོས་ཀྱི་ཐེག་པ།

śrāvakayāna

The path of the śrāvakas.

g.119 Śrāvastī

mnyan yod

མཉན་ཡོད།

Śrāvastī

Capital city of Kośala and one of the major cities in India at the time of the Buddha.

g.120 Stūpa

mchod rten

མཚོད་རྟེན།

stūpa

A reliquary, often in the shape of a hemispherical mound that contains relics or possessions of the Buddha or a saint.

- g.121 Sumanas
yid bzangs
ཡིད་བཟངས།
Sumanas
- g.122 Sumati
blo gros bzang po
བློ་གྲོས་བཟང་པོ།
Sumati
- g.123 Sunetra
mig bzang
མིག་བཟང།
Sunetra
- g.124 Suparikīrtitanāmadheyaśrī
mtshan dpal shin tu yongs bsgrags
མཚན་དཔལ་ཤིན་ཏུ་ཡོངས་བསྐྱགས།
Suparikīrtitanāmadheyaśrī
- g.125 Śūradatta
dpas byin
དཔས་བྱིན།
Śūradatta
- g.126 Sūrata
des pa
དེས་པ།
Sūrata
- g.127 Sūryaketu
nyi ma'i tog
ཉི་མའི་རྟོག།
Sūryaketu
- g.128 Sūryaprabha
nyi 'od

ཉིའོད།

Sūryaprabha

g.129 Suvarṇaprabha

gser 'od

གསེར་འོད།

Suvarṇaprabha

g.130 Suvijitasamgrāma

g.yul las shin tu rnam par rgyal ba

གཡུལ་ལས་ཤིན་ཏུ་རྣམ་པར་རྒྱལ་བ།

Suvijitasamgrāma

g.131 Suvikrāntaśrī

shin tu rnam par gnon pa'i dpal

ཤིན་ཏུ་རྣམ་པར་གཞོན་པའི་དཔལ།

Suvikrāntaśrī

g.132 Tathāgata

de bzhin gshegs pa

དེ་བཞིན་གཤེགས་པ།

tathāgata

Literally, “Thus-Gone One”; epithet of the Buddha and a general term for buddhas.

g.133 Tejobala

gzi brjid stobs

གཟི་བརྗིད་སྟོབས།

Tejobala

g.134 Tejorāśi

gzi brjid phung po

གཟི་བརྗིད་ཕུང་པོ།

Tejorāśi

g.135 Those who uphold the Vinaya

'dul ba 'dzin pa

འདུལ་བ་འཛོལ་བ།
vinayadhāra

Those who are expert in monastic discipline.

g.136 “Three Sections” rite

phung po gsum pa'i chos

ཕུང་པོ་གསུམ་པའི་ཚོས།

Triskandhakadharmā

A confessional practice for mending breaches of a bodhisattva's discipline.

g.137 Unsurpassed, completely perfect awakening

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

བླ་ན་མེད་པ་ཡང་དག་པར་རྫོགས་པའི་བྱང་ལུབ།

anuttarasamyaksambodhi

The awakening of a buddha, which is superior to all other forms of awakening. According to the Mahāyāna, in *anuttarasamyaksambodhi*, both of the two kinds of obscuration, the afflictive obscuration (Skt. *klesāvāraṇa*) and the obscurations to omniscience (Skt. *jñeyāvāraṇa*), have been completely overcome.

g.138 Upāli

nye bar 'khor

ཉེ་བར་འཁོར།

Upāli

An arhat who was foremost among the Buddha's disciples in his knowledge of the monastic code of discipline (*vinaya*).

g.139 Vajra Light

rdo rje'i 'od

རྫོགས་འོད།

—

g.140 Vajragarbha

rdo rje'i snying po

རྫོགས་སྤྱིང་པོ།

—

g.141 Vajragarbhapramardin

rdo rje'i snying pos rab tu 'joms pa
རྫོགས་ལྷིང་པོས་རབ་ཏུ་འཛོམས་པ།
Vajragarbhapramardin

g.142 Vajrapāṇi
lag na rdo rje
ལག་ན་རྫོགས།
Vajrapāṇi

g.143 Varuṇa
chu lha
ཚུལྷ།
Varuṇa

g.144 Varuṇadeva
chu lha'i lha
ཚུལྷའི་ལྷ།
Varuṇadeva

g.145 Vikrāntagāmin
rnam par gnon pas gshegs pa
རྣམ་པར་གཞོན་པས་གཤེགས་པ།
Vikrāntagāmin

g.146 Vimala
dri ma med pa
དྲི་མ་མེད་པ།
Vimala

g.147 Vimalakīrti
dri ma med par grags pa
དྲི་མ་མེད་པར་གྲགས་པ།
—

g.148 Vimalatejas
dri med gzi brjid
དྲི་མེད་གཟི་བརྗིད།

Vimalatejas

g.149 Vimatiprahāṇa

yid gnyis spong

ཡིད་གཉིས་སྟོང་།

Vimatiprahāṇa

g.150 Vinaya

'dul ba

འདུལ་བ།

vinaya

“Discipline”; one of the Three Baskets (*Tripitaka*), the Vinaya is the body of literature on monastic discipline and training.

g.151 Vīranandin

dpal dgyes

དཔལ་དགེས།

Vīranandin

g.152 Vīrasena

dpa' bo'i sde

དཔའ་བོའི་སྡེ།

Vīrasena

g.153 Wisdom

shes rab

ཤེས་རབ།

prajñā

The sixth of the six perfections (Skt. *pāramitā*); the precise discernment of all things.

g.154 Wishlessness

smon pa med pa

སྟོན་པ་མེད་པ།

apraṇihita

The absence of any conceptual goal that one is focused upon achieving. One of the three doors of liberation.

g.155 World of Yama

gshin rje'i 'jig rten

གཤིན་རྗེའི་འཇིག་རྟེན།

Yamaloka

The world of Yama, the Lord of Death.

g.156 Yama

gshin rje

གཤིན་རྗེ།

Yama

The Lord of Death, who judges the dead and rules over the hells.

g.157 Youthful Candraprabha

zla 'od gzhon nur gyur pa

ཟླ་འོད་གཞོན་ནུར་གྱུར་པ།

Candraprabha

g.158 Youthful Mañjuśrī

'jam dpal gzhon nur gyur pa

འཇམ་དཔལ་གཞོན་ནུར་གྱུར་པ།

Mañjuśrīkumārabhūta

A common epithet for the bodhisattva Mañjuśrī.