

OFFERING PRAYER

An Ocean of Butter Lamps

Wrought from the most precious metal,
Vast as the threefold universe,
Chalice brimming with purest, life-giving butter,
The wick as tall as Mount Meru.

The flame is the fire of the five transcendental wisdom,
Luminous as million suns combined,
The light of its majestic radiance pervades space,
In all directions.

From the butter lamp radiates an ocean-like cloud of offerings
Like the Aspiration of Samantabhadra.

May this offering endure until the end of Samsara.
By its merit, may I, those related to me,
All beings living and dead
Gather the two accumulations, purify all obscurations,
And quickly attain perfect enlightenment.

THE TRANSFERENCE OF MERIT TO A DECEASED PERSON

If you transfer merit for the sake of deceased person, recite the following prayer three times:

All the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas who dwell in the ten Directions, please take heed of us. May the whole of whatever roots of virtue we have achieved within threefold time and especially all the roots of virtue we have obtained through offering made to our present teachers and to the Three Jewels, through the giving of gifts to the poor and protectorless, and through proffering food offering to spirits and ghosts, and by similar deeds, all be amassed into one.

These we share now with all beings who live within the boundaries of space, with the lateforemost among them, that all might quickly attain the stage of omniscience in Buddhahood.

Then recite the following prayer once:

Until then, wherever the deceased, by the power of karma, has been reborn or will be reborn, may he be followed by this power of merit. May every vicissitude of the six realm be allayed for him and may he quickly attain the stage of the omniscience in Buddhahood.

Until then, may he be foremost among those of noble lineage. May he be foremost among those of goodly form. May he be foremost among those of vast wisdom. May he be foremost among those of strong courage. May he be foremost among those of great longevity. May he be foremost among those of excellent health. May he be foremost among those of much health. May he be foremost among those of mighty vigor. May he be foremost among those of great merits.

Further, may he give gifts without any hope of reward. May he uphold moral conduct without seeking rebirth in existence. May he meditate patience toward all beings without indifference. May he undertake to be diligent in quickly gathering all factors of virtue and enter into meditative absorptions thoroughly eliminate the realm of formlessness. May he realize the meaning of transcendent wisdom, unbreft of the means of great compassion.

May all of his physical deeds be preceded by gnosis and followed by gnosis. May all of his vocal deeds be preceded by gnosis and followed by gnosis. May all of his mental deeds be preceded by gnosis and followed by gnosis. May he enter into the perception of gnosis, unattached to, and unhindered by, the past. May he enter into the perception of gnosis, unattached to, and unhindered by, the future. May he enter into the perception of gnosis, unattached to, and unhindered by, the present.

In brief, in whatever way the Buddhas and Bodhisattva of the past fully transferred merit, in whatever way the Buddhas and Bodhisattva of the future will fully transfer merit, in whatever way the Buddhas and Bodhisattva of the present fully transfer merit, so do we fully turn over the roots of the virtue that are linked with three periods of time.

Even as valiant Manjushri and Samantabhadra know how to transfer merit, so, too, do we turn over all these virtues of ours that we might train to be like them.

ASPIRATION OF SAMANTABHADRA

Salutations to the ever-youthful Arya Manjushri!

With clarity of body, speech, and mind, I bow without exception to all the heroic Buddhas of the past, present, and future in every world in all the ten directions.

By the power of this Aspiration of Samantabhadra, I manifest bodies as numerous as all the atoms in all the lands, aware in mind of the presence of numberless victorious Buddhas, and I prostrate to all of them.

I conceive the entire realm of truth to be completely filled with enlightened ones. There are as many Buddhas as atoms present in each atom, each Buddha surrounded by many Bodhisattvas.

I honor all these blissful lords, praising their perfections with an ocean of all melodies and sounds, an ocean of endless praise.

I offer to those heroic Buddhas the best flowers, garlands, music, and ointments, excellent canopies, finest lamps, and the best incense.

I offer as well the finest robes and fragrances, and incense piled as high as Mount Meru, all perfectly arranged.

By the power of my faith in the deeds of Samantabhadra, I prostrate and present vast and unequalled offerings to each of the victorious Buddhas.

I confess every type of wrong that I have done in thought, word, or deed, under the influence of desire, anger, or ignorance.

I rejoice in the meritorious deeds of all the Buddhas of the ten directions, the Bodhisattvas, Pratyeka Buddhas, Arhats, and practitioners, and all sentient beings.

I request the enlightened protectors who have attained the detachment of Buddhahood and illumine the worlds of the ten directions to turn the peerless wheel of Dharma.

With hands folded, I beseech those who intend to manifest the final nirvana, to remain for as many eons as there are atoms in all the Buddha lands, to gladden and benefit all living beings.

May whatever little virtue I may have gained from prostrating, offering, confessing, rejoicing, requesting, and beseeching, be dedicated to attaining perfect enlightenment.

May I worship the Buddhas of the past and those now present in the worlds of the ten directions; may those to come quickly fulfill their aspiration and reach Buddhahood by traversing the stages of enlightenment.

May all the worlds of the ten directions become pure and filled with Bodhisattvas and victorious Buddhas who proceed to the royal tree of enlightenment.

May all living beings in the ten directions always be happy and free of sickness. May the contents of the Dharma be in harmony with the needs of all living beings and fulfill their hopes.

May I perform all the deeds of enlightenment and remember my lives in all states of existence. And in all my lives, after death, migration, and rebirth, may I always renounce the world.

May I follow all the victorious Buddhas and perfect all the deeds of Samantabhadra; pure in the immaculate deeds of morality, may my conduct always be flawless and without lapses.

May I teach the Dharma in every tongue, in whatever sounds are understood by living beings, in the language of the gods, nagas, demons, spirits, and human beings.

May I always diligently and patiently perform the perfections. May I never disregard enlightenment mind, and completely remove whatever sins may obscure it.

Freed from karma, defilements, and actions of demons, as a lotus is unsoiled by the mire, so in every rebirth in the world may I proceed unhindered, like the sun and moon in a clear sky.

Throughout all the lands in all the directions, may the sufferings of the lower realms be completely relieved. Establishing beings in happiness, may I work for the benefit of all living beings.

Fully accomplishing the deeds of enlightenment, may I work in harmony with the deeds of all beings. May I practice and demonstrate the deeds of Samantabhadra, through all future eons.

May I always associate with those whose deeds are similar to mine. May we act alike in thought, word, and deed, and may our aspirations be as one.

May those friends who wish to help me, and also demonstrate the deeds of Samantabhadra, always meet me again, and may I never cause them pain.

May I always personally behold the victorious Buddhas, those guardians surrounded by Bodhisattvas. And without tiring in all future eons, may I always present them magnificent offerings.

May I always uphold the Buddhas' holy Dharma and illuminate the deeds of enlightenment. May I train in the practice of Samantabhadra in all future eons.

Through rebirth in all the states of existence, may I gather endless stores of merit and wisdom. May I become an inexhaustible treasure of all virtues of method, wisdom, concentration, and freedom.

May I always behold as many lands as there are atoms present in each atom, in each land inconceivable Buddhas sitting in the midst of their Bodhisattvas and performing the deeds of enlightenment.

In this way may I be able to see everywhere, even on every mote of dust, countless Buddhas of the past, present, and future, limitless pure lands, and endless eons.

May I always heed the pure speech of the victorious Buddhas, which holds within each word the totality of the perfect Dharma, and an ocean of words and languages precisely suited to the needs of all beings.

May I possess perfect intelligence so as to heed the endless melody of speech when the victorious Buddhas of the past, present, and future turn the wheels of Dharma.

May I accomplish the Bodhisattva's practice of entering the past, present, and future in a fraction of a second. May I enter all the future eons in a single instant.

May I behold all the heroic Buddhas of the past, present, and future in a single instant. May I always perform their activities through the power of liberation from illusion.

May I perceive upon a single atom the perfect design of the pure realms of the past, present, and future. Thus may I enter into the realms of the victorious Buddhas in all directions.

May the illuminators of the worlds of the future realize the stages of Buddhahood, of turning the wheel, and of the profound peace of nirvana, and may I always be in their presence.

May I acquire the perfectly accomplished powers of enlightenment; the power of miraculous swiftness, the power of perfection of every spiritual path, the power of all virtuous qualities.

The power of all-pervasive love, the power of the merit of every virtue, the power of all-transcendent wisdom, and the powers of perfect knowledge, method, and meditation.

May the power of action be utterly purified, the power of passions be utterly subdued, the power of demons be utterly destroyed, and the power of the deeds of Samantabhadra be perfected.

May the ocean of lands be purified, the ocean of beings liberated, the ocean of Dharma realized, and the ocean of wisdom fully attained.

May the ocean of practice be purified and the ocean of aspirations accomplished. May oceans of Buddhas be ceaselessly worshipped and the deeds of enlightenment tirelessly performed.

May I completely fulfill all perfect aspirations to enlightened deeds in order to attain the stage of the victorious Buddhas of the past, present, and future according to the deeds of Samantabhadra.

The eldest son of the victorious Buddhas is called Samantabhadra. I dedicate all of these merits that my deeds may be like his.

May my body, speech, and mind, deeds, and environment always be pure. And may I become equal to this excellent Aspiration of Samantabhadra.

May I tirelessly accomplish the virtuous deeds of Samantabhadra and the aspiration of the Bodhisattva Manjushri, throughout all future eons.

May there be no limit to my activities. May there be no limit to my virtues. Through limitless perseverance may I accomplish all miraculous deeds.

The limit of living beings is as the limit of open space. May the limit of my aspirations be equal to the limit of their activities and passions.

Whoever offers to the victorious Buddhas all the perfect joys of gods and men, and all realms of the ten directions, adorned with jewels, for as many eons as there are atoms in those realms, shall gain great merit.

But whoever hears this greatest dedication prayer and is inspired by faith to intensely desire supreme enlightenment, shall gain even higher and holier merit.

Whoever utters this Aspiration of Samantabhadra will never again endure hellish rebirth, will abandon all evil friends, and soon behold the Buddhas of boundless light.

They will gain all benefits, live in happiness, attain precious human rebirth, and soon become like Samantabhadra himself.

Even those who in ignorance committed the five unredeemable sins, will soon be completely purified through uttering this Aspiration of Samantabhadra.

They will achieve perfect wisdom, a radiant countenance, ethereal form, auspicious physical marks, and a noble birth. Profane and devilish beings will not trouble them, and they will be honored in the three realms.

They will quickly reach the royal tree of enlightenment, residing there to benefit all beings. As enlightened Buddhas, they will turn the wheel of the Dharma, taming the demonic hosts.

Whoever knows, teaches, or recites this Aspiration of Samantabhadra, shall ultimately attain perfect Buddhahood. May none despair of complete enlightenment.

In whatever way valiant Manjushri and Samantabhadra know how to transfer merit, so do I dedicate all of my own virtues, that I might train to be like them.

Through this dedication, praised as supreme by the victorious Buddhas of the past, present, and future, I dedicate all of these roots of virtue to accomplishing the deeds of Samantabhadra.

At the moment of my death, may all obscurations be removed that I may behold the Buddhas of boundless light and go to the pure land of perfect bliss.

In that blissful land, may I completely fulfill all of these vows, and benefit all beings as long as the universe remains.

Joyful there, in that blessed assembly of the Buddhas, may I be reborn in the beautiful, perfect body of a lotus, and the Buddha Amitabha himself foretell my own enlightenment.

May I thereafter accomplish countless benefits for living beings in all the ten directions, by the power of perfect wisdom in its myriad incarnations.

Through whatever small virtue I have gathered by uttering this Aspiration of Samantabhadra, may all the virtuous aspirations of living beings be accomplished in a single instant.

Through the boundless merit gained by so dedicating these Aspirations of Samantabhadra, may the countless beings drowning in the torrent of suffering reach the stage of Amitabha.

May this greatest of dedication prayers benefit countless living beings. May uttering this ornament of Samantabhadra release all beings from the suffering of the lower realms.