

༄༅། །ཐུབ་དབང་གནས་བརྟན་བཅས་ལ་སྟོན་ཚིག་སྟོ་ཀ་གཅིག

A Verse of Aspiration to the Lord of Sages Together with the Sixteen Arhats

Jamyang Khyentse Wangpo



KHYENTSE VISION
PROJECT

thub dbang gnas brtan bcas la smon tshig sb+lo ka gcig

B126

Kabum, vol. 1 (ka), 357.5–357.6, Dzongsar 2014.

Translated by Abraham Ta-Quan. Previously published by [Lotsawa House](#) in 2019. Revised and edited for Khyentse Vision Project.

First Published 2023

Version 1

Generated from KVP's reading room on 16-Sep-2026

Khyentse Vision Project: Translating the Works of
Jamyang Khyentse Wangpo

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TRANSLATOR'S INTRODUCTION

In this short supplication, Jamyang Khyentse Wangpo prays for the blessings of the Lord of Sages—that is, Śākyamuni Buddha—and the sixteen arhats.¹ The grouping of sixteen special arhats, or elders, originated in India but became especially important and popular in China (where the number grew to eighteen). They feature strongly in Tibetan art and liturgy as well, being associated with the festival of the Buddha's birth.

The four lines are given an official tone with Khyentse Wangpo's use of titles like "lord" and "regents," as well as the Sanskrit word for "subjects" and his reference to himself as a "servant" who pleases the guru. At the same time, the language is softened with classical aesthetic motifs, such as the "lotus of well-being and happiness" and the "nectar of blessings," overall resulting in an elegant composition.

ཐུབ་དབང་ལ་སློན་ཆོག་སྟོ་ཀ་གཅིག

A Verse of Aspiration to the Lord of Sages

ཨོ་སྐྱིད་པ་ཇེ་བྱེ་

om swasti pra dzé bhya

*Om svasti prajebhyah.*²

སྟོབ་ཆུ་འབྲུག་རྒྱལ་བ་ཉི་མའི་གཉེན།།

tob chü wang chuk gyal wa nyi mé nyen

O lord of the ten strengths, victorious Ādityabandhu,

རྒྱལ་ཙམ་པཎ་པེ་འཛུགས་ཀྱིས་ཁོ་མོ་འཆོལ་བཅས་ཀྱིས།།

gyal tsab pak pé né ten khor ché kyi

Together with your entourage of regents, the arhats—

ཁྱིམ་ལ་དུད་ཅིང་སྤང་བས་འཇིག་རྟེན་ན།།

jin lab dü tsi nang wé jik ten na

Through your amṛta blessings radiating throughout the world,

པཎ་པེ་འཛུགས་ཀྱིས་རྒྱལ་བ་པར་ཤོག།

pen dé pemo tak tu gyé par shok

May the lotus of well-being and happiness forever bloom!

*This is a supplication by Khyentse Wangpo, a monk of Lord Śākya and servant who pleases Guru Mañjughoṣa. Siddhir astu.*³

NOTES

1. Note that this translation uses the title found in both the index (*dkar chag*) of the 1919 edition and the table of contents of the 2014 edition (see vol. 1). The earlier translation published by Lotsawa House is titled *Supplication to Lord Buddha together with the Sixteen Arhats* (cf. *thub pa gnas brtan bcu drug dang bcas pa gsol ba 'debs pa*; BDRC W21807).
2. “Blessings to humankind!” Since the Sanskrit word *praja* can mean either “progeny, offspring” or “subject of a monarch,” this opening supplication can also be read as referring to the arhats, figuratively understood as being both the sons of the Buddha and his subjects.
3. “May there be accomplishment!”

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GLOSSARY

Ādityabandhu

ཉི་མའི་གཉེན། • *nyi ma'i gnyen*

Literally, “Kinsman of the Sun.” An epithet for Śākyamuni Buddha.

ten strengths

ཇོ་བས་བརྒྱ། • *stobs bcu* • *daśabala*

The ten strengths of a buddha whose knowledge has become unobstructed are knowing (1) what is correct and incorrect; (2) the results of actions; (3) the aspirations of beings; (4) the elements; (5) the different capacities of beings; (6) all paths; (7) the different ways to establish meditative concentration; (8) the previous lives of oneself and others; (9) transference, death, and future births; and (10) that the defilements are exhausted or knowing the path and result.