

༄༅། །ཐུ་ལ་ཀུན་ཡེ་ཤེས་གཅིག་བསྟན།

An Amazing Line of Incarnations

Jamyang Khyentse Wangpo



KHYENTSE VISION
PROJECT

rgyal kun ye shes gcig bsidus

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CONTENTS

TRANSLATOR'S INTRODUCTION	1
AN AMAZING LINE OF INCARNATIONS	3
NOTES	7
GLOSSARY	9

TRANSLATOR'S INTRODUCTION

This brief prayer of seven verses is in the second volume of Jamyang Khyentse Wangpo's Collected Works. In the colophon, Khyentse Wangpo tells us that he composed it to identify his previous rebirths by relying on statements found in profound treasure teachings and the words of other realized beings. The composition takes the form of a prayer addressed to Khyentse Wangpo himself, presumably intended for disciples and devotees to use. The famous figures identified here are important to Tibetan Buddhism, starting with the Indian Dzogchen master Vimalamitra and including famous representatives of Tibetan Buddhist lineages.

དོ་མཚར་སྐྱལ་པའི་ཕྱེད་བ།

An Amazing Line of Incarnations

རྒྱལ་ཀུན་ཡེ་ཤེས་གཅིག་བསྐྱུས་མཁྱེན་པའི་གཏིར།།

gyal kün yeshé chik dü khyenpé ter

Mañjuśrīmitra and the Dharma king Trisong, those treasures of knowledge,

འཇམ་དཔལ་བཤེས་གཉེན་ཚོས་རྒྱལ་ཁྱི་མོང་ཞབས།།

jampal shenye chögyal trisong zhab

United the wisdom of all the victorious ones.

གང་དེའི་སྐྱུ་གསུང་བླགས་ཡོན་ཤིན་ལས་ཀྱི།།

gangdé ku sung tuk yön triné kyi

I pray to you, who appeared as the many manifestations

ནམ་འཕྱུལ་དུ་མར་སྒྲུང་ལ་གསོལ་བ་འདེབས།།

namtrül dumar nang la sölwa deb

Of their body, speech, mind, qualities, and activity.

འཇར་ལུས་འཆི་མེད་སྐུ་བརྟེས་བློ་མ་ལ།།

jalü chimé ku nyé bimala

Vimala,¹ who has obtained the deathless rainbow body,

རྩེ་བཙུན་གྲགས་པ་རས་རྩུང་རྩེ་རྩེ་གྲགས།།

jetsün dragpa rechung dorjé drak

Jetsun Dragpa, Rechung Dorje Drak,

ནགས་ཀྱི་རིན་ཆེན་བཙོན་འབྲས་བཟང་པོ་སོགས།།

nag kyi rinchen tsön drü zangpo sok

Vanaratna, and Tsöndru Zangpo,

རོ་མཚར་སྤྱུ་པའི་སྤང་བར་གསོལ་བ་འདེབས།།

ngotsar trülpé trengwar sölwa deb

I pray to your amazing line of incarnations.

ཀུན་མཁྱེན་ཆོས་ཀྱི་རྒྱལ་པོ་གྲོང་ཆེན་པ།།

künkhyen chökyi gyalpo longchenpa

As the omniscient Dharma king Longchenpa,

མཁྱེན་བཙུང་འདུག་ནམ་མཁའི་མཚན་ཅན་སོགས།།

khyentse wangchuk namkhé tsenchen sok

Khyentse Wangchuk, the one called Namkha,² and so on,

གང་འདུལ་སྒྲུ་འཕྲུལ་དྲ་བའི་རོལ་པ་ཡིས།།

gang dül gyutrül drawé rôlpa yi

Through the play of a magical net suitable to the needs of beings,

རིས་མེད་བསྟན་པ་སྤེལ་ལ་གསོལ་བ་འདེབས།།

rimé tenpa pel la sölwa deb

You spread the teachings without partiality—I pray to you.

དེང་འདིར་མཁས་གྲུབ་དམ་པའི་རིགས་སུ་འབྱུངས།།

deng dir khedrub dampé rik su trung

Now born into the noble family of the learned and accomplished,

མཁྱེན་རབ་མཐའ་ཡས་ངེས་འབྱུང་བྱང་སེམས་འབྱོརས།།

khyenrab tayé ngejung jangsem jong

Your wisdom is limitless, and you have perfected renunciation and bodhicitta.

ཚུལ་ཁྲིམས་དག་ཅིང་གསལ་བསམ་སྒྲོམ་གསུམ་རྫོགས།

tsültrim dak ching sen sam gom sum dzok

Your morality is pure, and your listening, reflection, and cultivation are complete.

ཀུན་གྱི་དམ་པར་བསྐྱབས་ལ་གསོལ་བ་འདེབས།

kün gyi dampar ngak la sölwa deb

I pray to you, praised as supreme in every way.

སྤྲུལ་ལྷག་པའི་ལྷ་ཡིས་རྗེས་སུ་བཟུང་།

lama lhagpé lha yi jesu zung

The lama, the highest deity, accepted you,

འཁོར་ལོ་གསུམ་གྱི་ཕྱིན་ལས་ཆེད་དུ་བྱུང་།

khorlo sum gyi triné mé du jung

And the threefold wheel of your enlightened [359] activity is astonishing.

འཇམ་པའི་དབྱངས་དངོས་མཁྱེན་བཟེའི་དབང་པོ་ཡི།

jampé yang ngö khyentsé wangpo yi

Khyentse Wangpo, you are Mañjughoṣa in person;

ནམ་ཐར་བྲན་བཞིན་སྟིང་ནས་གསོལ་བ་འདེབས།

namtar drenzhin nying né sölwa deb

As I recall your life, I pray to you from the depth of my heart.

གསང་གསུམ་མི་ཤིགས་དྲོ་རྗེའི་ཆོས་སུ་བརྟན།

sang sum mi shik dorjé chö su ten

Your three secrets rest in the indestructible vajra teachings.

བབ་རྒྱས་ཆོས་འཁོར་རྒྱ་ཆད་མེད་པར་བསྐྱོར།

zab gyé chökhör gyün ché mepar kor

You unceasingly spin the vast and profound wheel of Dharma.

ཕན་བདེའི་ལེགས་མཛད་ནམ་མཁའི་མཐའ་བྱབ་པས།

pendé lek dzé namkhé ta khyabpé

Your noble work for beings' benefit and happiness reaching the ends of space,

བསྟན་འགྲོའི་དག་མཚན་རྒྱས་པར་མཛད་དུ་གསོལ།།

tendrö getsen gyepar dzé du söl

Please increase the good fortune of the doctrine and beings!

ནམ་ཞིག་མགོན་ཚུད་བྱང་ཆུབ་ཤིང་བྱུང་དུ།།

namzhik gön khyö jangchub shing drung du

When you, protector, at the foot of the bodhi tree,

མངོན་པར་རྫོགས་སངས་རྒྱས་པའི་ཚུལ་བསྟན་ཆོ།།

ngönpar dzok sangyepé tsül ten tsé

Display the attainment of complete awakening,

བདག་སོགས་འཁོར་གྱི་ཐོག་མར་སྦྱིས་ནས་ཀྱང་།།

dak sok khor gyi togmar kyé né kyang

Even though we have been born since the beginning in saṃsāra,

དོན་གཉིས་ལྷན་གྱིས་སྦྱབ་པའི་བྲག་ཤིས་ཤོག།

dön nyi lhün gyi drubpé tashi shok

May everything be auspicious for the two benefits to be naturally accomplished!

With this weak memory of mine, I forget even most of the activities I have performed in this life, and so there is not much hope for me to recall my past lives, hidden from sight. Nevertheless, by relying on the scriptures of profound treasures, and by following the statements of realized beings, in accordance with the earnest request that was made by the spiritual friend Lama Kunga Gyatso, I, Jamyang Khyentse Wangpo, who is free from activity, composed this out of pure intentions.³ May it bring benefit! Maṅgalam! Virtue!

NOTES

1. Emended to Vimala.
2. “Namkha” is a reference to a name of Jigme Lingpa: Longchen Namkhe Naljor, “Yogi of the Expanse of Space.”
3. Emended to *lhag bsam*.

GLOSSARY

beings

འགྲོ། • *'gro*

Sentient beings.

bodhi tree

བྱང་ཆུབ་ཤིང་། • *byang chub shing*

The tree under which the historical Buddha attained awakening, and under which all future buddhas will also be awakened.

bodhicitta

བྱང་སེམས། • *byang sems*

Means the “thought of awakening.”

complete awakening

མཐོན་པར་རྫོགས་སངས་རྒྱས་པ། • *mngon par rdzogs sangs rgyas pa*

The full and final state of awakening.

cultivation

སྦྱོམ། • *sgom*

The third type of insight that directly cultivates the realization of reality.

deathless rainbow body

འཇའ་ལུས་འཆི་མེད་སྒྱུ། • *'ja' lus 'chi med sku*

Refers to an advanced stage of realization of Dzogchen practice, at which the physical body turns into an insubstantial light body.

Dharma king Trisong

ཆོས་རྒྱལ་ཁྲི་སྲོང་ལབས། • *chos rgyal khri srong zhabs*

The Tibetan king who, in the eighth century, was largely responsible for the establishment of Buddhist teachings in Tibet. He is also considered a manifestation of Mañjuśrī.

doctrine

བསྟན། • *bstan*

Refers collectively to all the Buddhist teachings.

Jetsun Dragpa

རྗེ་བརྩུན་གྲགས་པ། • *rje btsun grags pa*

Jetsun Dragpa Gyaltsen (1147–1216), the fifth throne holder of the Sakya school.

Khyentse Wangchuk

མཆེན་བཟེའི་དབང་ཕྱུག་ • *mkhyen brtse'i dbang phyug*

Nesar Jamyang Khyentse Wangchuk (1524–1568), a teacher associated with the Lamdre, Nyingma, and Drukpa Kagyu lineages, and who served as abbot of Shalu monastery.

Kunga Gyatso

ཀུན་དགའ་རྒྱ་མཚོ། • *kun dga' rgya mtsbo*

listening

གསལ། • *gsan*

One of the three types of insight, refers to studying the teachings and understanding their meaning.

Longchenpa

ཁྲོང་ཆེན་པ། • *klong chen pa*

Longchen Rabjam (1308–1364) was a prolific author and great systematizer of the Nyingma and especially Dzogchen teachings.

Mañjughoṣa

འཇམ་པའི་དབྱངས། • *'jam pa'i dbyangs*

Another name for the bodhisattva Mañjuśrī.

Mañjuśrīmitra

འཇམ་དཔལ་བཤེས་གཉིན། • *'jam dpal bshes gnyen* • mañjuśrīmitra

An early lineage holder of the Dzogchen teachings.

morality

ཚུལ་ཁྲིམས། • *tsbul kbrims*

With concentration and wisdom, one of the three main qualities developed on the Buddhist path.

one called Namkha

ནམ་མཁའི་མཚན་ཅན། • *nam mkha'i mtshan can*

Refers to Rigzin Jigme Lingpa (1729/30–1798), the great tertön who also bore the name Longchen Namkhe Naljor.

Rechung Dorje Drak

རས་ཚུང་རྡོ་རྗེ་གྲགས། • *ras chung rdo rje grags*

Also known as Rechungpa (1083/4–1161), he is considered one of the two main students of Jetsun Milarepa.

reflection

བསམ། • *bsam*

The second type of insight, where one reflects on the status of teachings as provisional or definitive, and their veracity.

renunciation

ངེས་འབྱུང་། • *nges 'byung*

The quality consisting of losing interest in saṃsāra.

three secrets

གསང་གསུམ། • *gsang gsum*

Body, speech, and mind.

threefold wheel

འཁོར་ལོ་གསུམ། • *'khor lo gsum*

The threefold wheel includes study, meditation, and dharma activities, and generally describes the way a teacher benefits beings.

Tsöndru Zangpo

བཙོན་འགྲུས་བཟང་པོ། • *btson 'grus bzang po*

One of the names of Tangtong Gyalpo (1385–1464 or 1361–1485), a renowned teacher associated with the Nyingma, Sakya, and Shangpa lineages of Tibetan Buddhism.

two benefits

དོན་གཉིས། • *don gnyis*

The two benefits are the benefit of oneself and the benefit of others.

Vanaratna

ནགས་ཀྱི་རིན་ཆེན། • *nags kyi rin chen* • vanaratna

An Indian Buddhist teacher (1384?–1468), he visited Tibet on three occasions.

Vimala

བི་མ་ལ། • *bi ma la*

A shortened name for Vimalamitra, the great Indian pandit and Dzogchen teacher who visited Tibet in the early stages of the establishment of Buddhism in that country.

wheel of Dharma

ཆོས་འཁོར། • *chos 'khor*

The wheel of Dharma symbolizes the Buddhist teachings.

wisdom

མཐུན་རབ། • *mkhyen rab*

A synonym of *prajñā*, meaning insight into reality.