

༄༅། །ཡུལ་དམ་པ་རྣམས་ལ་གསོལ་བ་འདེབས་པ་  
དག་ལེགས་ཤིས་པའི་དབྱངས་སྒྲུབ།

# Auspicious Melody of Virtue and Excellence: A Supplication to Sublime Objects of Veneration

Jamyang Khyentse Wangpo



*gul dam pa rnams la gsol ba 'debs pa dge legs sbis pa'i dbyangs snyan*

B84

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Jamyang Khyentse Wangpo

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## INTRODUCTION

Jamyang Khyentse Wangpo's *Auspicious Melody of Virtue and Excellence* is one of the numerous short praises found in the first volume of his Collected Works, in the section entitled *Collection of Praises*.<sup>1</sup> In it, Khyentse Wangpo pays homage to the Buddhadharma's most eminent protagonists in India, the land of its origin, to the figures involved in the early promulgation of the doctrine in Tibet, and to the major traditions that evolved over time in the Land of Snows. As he explains in the colophon, it may be performed either as a supplication prayer or adapted for making a tea offering.

དགེ་ལེགས་ཤིས་པའི་དབྱངས་སྒྲུབ།

## Auspicious Melody of Virtue and Excellence

*Oṃ svasti siddham.*

Fourth Lamp of the Fortunate Eon, Foremost One of the Śākya,  
Lord of the Ten Grounds, regent Ajita,  
Prince Mañjuḥoṣa, two supreme disciples, and so forth—  
I pray to you and your gathered assembly of noble beings.

Sixteen elders, seven great patriarchs,  
Six adornments of the world, three wondrous masters,  
Eighty-four mahāsiddhas, and so forth—  
I pray to you, paṇḍitas and siddhas of India.

Emanation of Avalokiteśvara, Dharma king Lord Songtsen, [281]  
Emanation of the Wheel of Stability, Tönmi Saṃbhoṭa,  
Emanation of Vajrapāṇi, Tongtsen Yulzung, and so forth—  
I pray to you, emanated king and ministers.

Mighty Holder of Secrets, great abbot Śāntarakṣita,  
Great Compassionate One in person, master Padmākara,  
Emanation of Mañjuśrīkumāra, Dharma king Trisong, and so forth—  
I pray to you whose kindness is incomparable.

Sakyapas, charioteers of the teachings of Sūtra and Mantra,  
Lord Ngorchen, secret treasury of the profound and vast tantras,

Yak and Rong, lions of speech, and so forth—  
I pray to you, holders of the teachings in the land of Tibet.

You other holders of the *kama* and *terma* lineages of the early translations,  
Fathers and sons of the new and old Kadam tradition and the Kagyu school,  
Who illuminate the excellent path of benefit and happiness for beings—  
I pray to you, sublime masters of all traditions.

By the power of praying thus with unwavering reverence,  
May the holders and patrons of the teachings live for a hundred eons,  
May their activities of teaching and practice flourish,  
And may the three worlds be flooded with the light of virtue and excellence!

*This supplication prayer was uttered spontaneously by Khyentse Wangpo, a servant who delights Lama Mañjughoṣa, the fearless master, on the thirteenth day of the bright fortnight of the waxing moon in the twelfth month of the earth dragon year in the fifteenth sexagenary cycle (1868). May it be meaningful. If one wishes to perform a tea offering with it, instead of “I pray,” recite “I make offerings,” [282] and in place of “by the power of praying,” say “by the power of making this offering.”*

## NOTES

1. Tib. *bstod tshogs*.

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# GLOSSARY

## Ajita

མ་ཕམ་པ། • *ma pham pa*

An epithet of Maitreya.

## Foremost One of the Śākyas

ཤུག་འོ་ཏོག་། • *shAkya'i tog*

An epithet of Buddha Śākyamuni.

## Fourth Lamp of the Fortunate Eon

བསྐལ་བཟང་སྒྲོན་མེ་བཞི་པ། • *bskal bzang sgron me bzhi pa*

This refers to Buddha Śākyamuni, the fourth of the one thousand buddhas of the fortunate eon (*bskal pa bzang po*). The first three buddhas were Krakucchanda, Kanakamuni, and Kāśyapa. The fifth buddha will be Maitreya; see Dharmachakra Translation Committee, *The Good Eon*, introduction and 2.A.7.

## Holder of Secrets

གསང་འཛིན། • *gsang 'dzin*

An epithet of Vajrapāṇi.

## seven great patriarchs

གཏད་རབས་ཚེན་པོ་བདུན། • *gtad rabs chen po bdun*

These are the first seven heirs of Buddha Śākyamuni's teachings: Mahākāśyapa, Ānanda, Śāṇavāsika, Upagupta, Dhītika, Kṛṣṇa, and Sudarśana; see Dudjom Rinpoche, *Nyingma School*, 432–39.

## six supreme ornaments of the world

འཛོམས་སྒྲིང་རྒྱན་རྣམས་མཚོགས། • *'dzam gling rgyan drug mchog*

Nāgārjuna, Āryadeva, Asaṅga, Vasubandhu, Dignāga, and Dharmakīrti.

### sixteen elders

གནས་བརྟན་བཅུ་དྲུག་ • *gnas brtan bcu drug* • ṣoḍaśasthavira

This group of sixteen arhats, which are often depicted as surrounding the Buddha in tangka paintings, was chosen by the Buddha to protect and uphold the teachings and to do so, staying in the world, until the advent of Buddha Maitreya. These were: Aṅgirāja, Ajita, Vanavāsin, Mahākālīka, Vajrīputra, Śrībhadrā, Kanakavatsa, Kanaka, Bakkula, Rāhula, Kṣudrapanthaka, Piṅḍolabhāradvāja, Panthaka, Nāgasena, Gopaka, and Abhedya.

### Tongtsen Yulzung

སྟོང་བཅོན་ཡུལ་བཟུང་། • *stong btsan yul bzung*

Gar Tongtsen Yulzung (d. 667/8), like Tönmi Saṃbhota, was one of the four indispensable ministers (*med thabs med pa'i blon po bzhi*) during the reign of Songtsen Gampo.

### two supreme disciples

སྟོབ་མ་མཚོག་ཟུང་། • *slob ma mchog zung*

These are Buddha Śākyamuni's disciples Śāriputra and Maudgalyāyana.

### Yak and Rong

གཡག་འོང་རྣམ་གཉིས། • *g.yag rong rnam gnyis*

These are the great Sakya scholars, in particular with regard to the teachings of the Sūtrayāna, Yaktön Sangye Pal (1350–1414) and his disciple Rongtön Sheja Kunrik (1367–1449).

### Ngorchen

ངོར་ཚེན། • *ngor chen*

Ngorchen Kunga Zangpo (1382–1456).

### Wheel of Stability

བརྟན་པའི་འཁོར་ལོ། • *brtan pa'i 'kbor lo* • sthiracakra

An epithet of Mañjuśrī.

### three worlds

ས་གསུམ། • *sa gsum*

These are (1) the level or world of the nāga spirits below the ground, (2) the level of humans on the ground, and (3) the level of the gods above the earth.