

**THE KING OF NOBLE PRAYERS
ASPIRING TO THE DEEDS OF THE EXCELLENT**

I prostrate to the youthful Manjushri.

Seven preliminaries to purify one's mind.

I prostrate with pure mind, speech and body to all the lions of Mankind (Buddhas) in the three times and ten directions of the world.

By the power of this Aspiration of the Deeds of the Excellent, I manifest bodies as numerous as all the atoms in the whole world, fully aware of the presence of the innumerable Buddhas, and I prostrate to all of them.

I imagine that on each atom as many Buddhas as atoms are present, seated in the midst of Bodhisattvas, thus filling the whole universe with Buddha manifestations.

I praise all those Bliss-gone (Buddhas), expressing their ocean-like inexhaustible virtues with an ocean of melodies and voices.

I make offering to the Buddhas with the best of flowers, wreaths, musical instruments, perfume, canopies, lamps and incense.

I offer to the Buddhas the finest robes and fragrances and incense as high as Mt. Meru, all perfectly arranged.

By the power of my faith in the Deeds of the Excellent and devotion to the Buddhas, I prostrate and present these vast and unequalled offerings to all the Conquerors.

I confess (purify) each and every unvirtuous deed I have committed with my body, speech, and mind due to desire, hatred and ignorance.

I rejoice in all the meritorious deeds performed by the Buddhas as well as those performed by the Bodhisattvas, Pratyeka Buddhas, Arhats, those who are in the Path of Training, those who need No More Training, and by all the beings in the ten directions.

I entreat the enlightened protectors who have attained Buddhahood and freedom from attachments through stages of enlightenment, and who illuminate the worlds of the ten directions, to turn the peerless wheel of Dharma.

With folded hands I beseech those who intend to enter Nirvana to remain in the world for as many eons as there are particles of dust on earth, to benefit all beings.

Whatever virtue I may have gained by prostrating, offering, confessing, rejoicing, requesting, and beseeching, all of them I dedicate to the cause of Buddhahood (of all beings).

The Actual Aspiration

May all the Buddhas of the past and of the present in all the ten directions be made offerings. Those who are yet to come, may their wishes be accomplished and may they attain the stages of Enlightenment swiftly.

May the world of ten directions become extensively and completely pure. May it be filled with Buddhas, who have gone to the bodhi trees and the sons (Bodhisattvas) of the Buddhas.

May all the beings in the ten directions always be happy and healthy. May they be endowed with favorable circumstances for achieving the Dharmic goals, and may their wishes be accomplished.

May I be able to remember my previous lives while in the training of Enlightenment. May I always renounce mundane life in all my successive births and deaths.

May I perfect the Deeds of the Excellent and always engage in the spotless life of morality continuously without defect, in the footsteps of the Buddhas.

May I be able to spread the Dharma in all the languages of beings, in the languages of the gods, Nagas, Yakshas, Kumbhandas, and mankind.

Thus may I tame my mind and steadfastly apply myself to the six perfections, never forgetting the Enlightenment attitude. May I be free from all the unvirtuous deeds that might obscure my path.

May I be free from karma, emotional afflictions, and the influence of Mara while traversing the world, like the lotus unstained by water, or like the sun and the moon moving in the sky without hindrance.

May I completely alleviate the suffering of the inferior realms in all directions and over the breadth of the land. May I be able to bring happiness to and provide benefits for all beings.

Having perfected the enlightened deeds, may I be able to serve the beings according to their needs, by teaching and pursuing the Deeds of the Excellent in all the future eons.

May I always associate with companions who share similar practices to mine and may my aspirations be the same as my practice with my body, speech and mind.

May I always be associated with well wishing friends who teach me the Deeds of the Excellent, and may I never disappoint their minds.

May I always behold face to face the Buddhas surrounded by Bodhisattvas and without tiring in all future eons. May I always present them with magnificent offerings.

May I always preserve the holy Dharmas of all the Buddhas and illuminate the deeds of enlightenment. May I train in the Deeds of the Excellent in all future eons.

Through rebirths in all the states of existence, may I gather endless treasures of merit and wisdom; and May I become an inexhaustible treasure of all virtues of skillful means, wisdom, contemplation, and freedom.

May I always behold as many pure lands as there are atoms present in the world with inconceivable Buddhas sitting in the midst of Bodhisattvas in each pure land; and may I perform the deeds of enlightenment with them

May I be able to see everywhere, even on the top of a hair, the ocean of Buddhas of the three times and ten directions with their ocean of pure lands for an ocean of eons; and may I fully enter into the enlightened deeds in each pure land.

May I always heed the speech of the Buddhas, of which each single word is the pure voice of all the Buddhas and an ocean of languages precisely suited to the needs of all beings.

May I possess the strength of mind to heed the inexhaustible voice of Buddhas of the three times as they turn the wheels of Dharma.

As Buddha wisdom knows, enters all the future eons, so may I also know them in a single instant. May I know in one instant all that is encompassed in the duration of the three times.

May I behold all those who are the lions of men, the Buddhas of the three times in a single instant.

May I always be able to enjoy, enter their object of enjoyment with the power of liberation, by seeing them as illusions.

May I accomplish upon each atom the perfect array of the pure lands of the three times; and may I enter into the pure lands of the Buddhas of each atom in all directions.

When the Illuminators of the World (Buddhas) of the future realize the stages of Buddhahood, turn the wheel of Dharma, and go beyond sorrow, the profound peace of nirvana, may I always be in their presence.

May I perfectly accomplish the power of enlightenment through the nine powers: the power of miraculous swiftness, the power of all-sided vehicle (the means for benefiting others), the power of enjoying all the virtuous qualities, the power of all pervading loving kindness, the power of the totally virtuous merits, the power of wisdom which is free from passion, and the powers of knowledge, skillful means, and contemplation.

May the forces of karma be utterly purified, the power of emotions be utterly subdued, the power of Maras be utterly destroyed, and the power of the Deeds of the Excellent be perfected.

May I tirelessly perform the seven Enlightened Activities for oceans of eons: purifying the ocean of lands, liberating the ocean of beings, realizing the ocean of Dharma, attaining the ocean of wisdom, perfecting the ocean of activities, accomplishing the ocean of aspirations and ceaselessly serving the ocean of Buddhas.

May I completely fulfill all the aspirations of enlightened deeds of the Buddhas of the three times, by attaining enlightenment through the Deeds of the Excellent.

The eldest son of all the victorious Buddhas is Samantabhadra. I dedicated all of these merits so that my deeds may become like his. May my body, speech, mind, deeds and environment always be pure. May I become equal, in these excellent aspirations, to Samantabhadra.

May I tirelessly accomplish the virtuous Deeds of the Excellent by following the aspirations of Manjushri throughout all future eons.

May there be no limit to my enlightened activities and their virtues. Through countless efforts may I accomplish all the miracles, the virtues of enlightenment.

Extend of the Aspiration

Just as beings are limitless as the extent of space and just as their karma and emotions are limitless, so may the extent of my aspirations be without limit.

The Benefits of Making Aspirations

Having heard this greatest dedication prayer, whoever intensely desires supreme enlightenment and develops faith even just once, will gain greater merit than offering all the realms of the ten directions, beautified with jewels, to the victorious Buddhas, or offering to them all the supreme joys of gods and men for as many eons as there are atoms in those lands.

Whoever makes this Aspiration of the Deeds of the Excellent will (1) never again endure hellish rebirth, (2) abandon all evil friends, (3) and soon behold the Buddha of Boundless Light Amitabha.

They will (4) gain all the endowments, (5) live in happiness, (6) attain precious human rebirth, (7) and soon become like Samantabhadra himself.

(8) Even those who in ignorance committed the five unredeemable deeds, will soon be completely purified, if they recite this prayer of the Deeds of the Excellent.

(9) They will be endowed with perfect wisdom, (10) Beautiful form, excellent signs, a noble birth, and a radiant countenance, (11) Profane and devilish beings will not harm them, and (12) They will be honored in the three realms.

(13) They will quickly reach the Bodhi-tree, and sit there to benefit all beings, attain enlightenment, turn the wheel of Dharma, and tame Mara with all his forces.

Whoever preserves, teaches, or recites this aspiration (prayer) of the Deeds of the Excellent shall ultimately attain perfect Buddhahood. May none despair of complete enlightenment.

Dedication of the Merits of this Meritorious Aspiration

As glorious Manjushri knows as does Samantabhadra, I dedicate all my own merits so that I may train myself by following them.

As dedication is highly praised by the Buddhas of the three times, I dedicate all these roots of virtue for perfecting the Deeds of the Excellent.

At the moment of my death, may all my karmic obscurations be removed that I may see the Buddha of Boundless Light Amitabha face to face and go to his Blissful Pure Land Sukhavati.

In the Blissful Pure Land, may I completely realize and fulfill all the aspirations of the Deeds of the Excellent, and benefit all beings as long as the universe remains.

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

Having received the prophecy, may I thereafter perform great benefits for beings in all the ten direction, by the power of wisdom, through my myriad emanations.

Concluding

By whatever small virtue I have gathered by reciting this Aspiration of the Deeds of the Excellent, may all the virtuous wishes of beings be accomplished instantly.

By the boundless merit gained by the dedication of the Deeds of the Excellent, may the limitless beings be freed from drowning in the ocean of suffering. May they reach the higher realm of Amitabha.

May this king of aspirations bring benefits for all the countless beings; may they perfect the virtues promised in the scripture uttered by Samantabhadra, and may all the lower realms be emptied.

Note: The King of Noble Prayers Aspiring to the Deeds of the Excellent comes from the Gandhavyuha of Avatamsaka sutra, section of Kajur. This has two meanings: 1) as this text is an aspiration and training to perfect the excellent deeds such as the Six Perfections, it has been interpreted and translated as the Deeds of the Excellent; 2) as this text was uttered by Samantabhadra Bodhisattva to Sudhana and as the essence of this text is to bring the trainee into the enlightened deeds, trainings, and virtues of Samantabhadra Bodhisattva, it has been interpreted as the Deeds of Samantabhadra. Translated by Tulku Thondup and edited by Harold Talbott.



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