

# *Praise by Way of 12 Deeds*



*By Jigten Gönpö, Protector of Drikung*

*Translated by Martin Willson*

FPMT Inc.  
1632 SE 11th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97214 USA  
[www.fpmt.org](http://www.fpmt.org)

© 2003 FPMT Inc.  
All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system or technologies now known or developed, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Set in Calibri 12.5./15, Century Gothic, and Lydian BT.

Printed in the USA.

# *Praise of the Lord, Our Teacher, By Way of His Twelve Deeds*

## *Introduction*

---

This praise is found in the Tängyur, attributed to Nagarjuna; according to the Tohoku catalogue it was translated into Tibetan by Patshab Nyima Drag (11th century). This attribution seems unlikely. Modern editions say it was composed by the great Kagyu Lama, Drikung Chhöje Jigten Gönpö, or Drikungpa, whose collected writings it opens. He lived from 1143 to 1217 and is named after the monastery of Drikung, northeast of Lhasa, which he established in 1179; it became the center of the Drikung Kagyu school.

Drikungpa was known to his contemporaries as the Second Nagarjuna and is reckoned to have been Nagarjuna's incarnation. This may help explain the confused attribution. When he taught, even the water used to go "lu dup, lu dup" – the Tibetan for Nagarjuna.

The list of twelve deeds here is unusual, with several more deeds after the Enlightenment than normal, and fewer before. Verses 1 and 16 to 18 are later additions, absent from the Tängyur version. This praise is sometimes chanted at sojong.

---

# Praise By Way of Twelve Deeds

THAB KHÄ THUG JE ZHUG SO

**Homage to Buddha Shakyamuni!**

THAB KHÄ THUG JEI SHA KYÄI RIG THRUNG SHING

ZHÄN GYI MI THUB DÜ YI PUNG CHOM PA

SER GYI LHÜN PO TA BUR JI PÄI KU

SHA KYÄI GYÄL PO DE LA CHHAG TSHÄL LO

**Through skillful compassion born in the Shakya clan,  
Unconquered One, subduer of Mara's horde,  
Your body shining like a pile of gold,  
King of the Shakyas – homage to you!**

GANG GI DANG POR JANG CHHUB THUG KYE NÄ

SÖ NAM YE SHE TSHOG NYI DZOG DZÄ CHING

DÜ DIR DZÄ PA GYA CHHEN DRO WA YI

GÖN GYUR KHYÖ LA DAG GI TÖ PAR GYI

**You who first produced the thought of bodhi,  
Then completed both accumulations  
Merits and wisdom – with vast deeds becoming  
Beings' protector in this age, I'll praise.**

LHA NAM DÜL DZÄ DÜL WÄI DÜ ZIG NÄ

LHA LÄ BAB NÄ LANG CHHEN TAR SHEG TE

RIG LA ZIG NÄ LHA MO GYU THRÜL MÄI

LHUM SU ZHUG PAR DZÄ LA LA CHHAG TSHÄL LO

**Knowing, O tamer of gods, it was time to tame [us],  
You came, descending from heaven as an elephant,  
Saw your caste, and entered in the womb  
Of Queen Maya – homage to this deed!**

DA WA CHU DZOG SHA KYÄI SÄ PO NI  
 TRA SHI LU MI TSHÄL DU TAM PÄI TSHE  
 TSANG DANG GYA JIN GYI TÛ TSHÄN CHHOG NI  
 JANG CHHUB RIG SU NGE DZÄ CHHAG TSHÄL LO

**When, ten months completed, you were born  
 Shakya Prince, in fortunate Lumbini Grove,  
 Supreme marks honoured by Brahma and Sakra confirmed  
 Your bodhi-lineage – homage to this deed!**

ZHÖN NU TOB DÄN MI YI SENG GE DE  
 OM GA MA DHAR NI GYU THRÜL TÄN  
 KYE WO DREG PA CHÄN NAM TSHAR CHÄ NÄ  
 DRÄN DA ME PAR DZÄ LA CHHAG TSHÄL LO

**As a powerful youth, lion among men,  
 You showed your skill in Anga-Magadha,  
 Put an end to men of pride, and had  
 None to match you – homage to this deed!**

JIG TEN CHHO DANG THÜN PAR JA WA DANG  
 KHA NA MA THO PANG CHHIR TSÜN MA YI  
 KHOR DANG DÄN DZÄ THAB LA KHÄ PA YI  
 GYÄL SI KYONG WAR DZÄ LA CHHAG TSHÄL LO

**By skillful means, to conform to the laws  
 Of the world, and for avoidance of  
 Blameworthiness, you ruled at court, possessed  
 Of female retinue – homage to this deed!**

KHOR WÄI JA WA NYING PO ME ZIG NÄ  
 KHYIM NÄ JUNG TE KHA LA SHEG NÄ KYANG  
 CHHÖ TEN NAM DAG DRUNG DU NYI LÄ NYI  
 RAB TU JUNG BAR DZÄ LA CHHAG TSHÄL LO

**Seeing samsaric doings had no essence,  
 You left your home and, going in the air,  
 Gave yourself the going forth, before  
 The Quite Pure Sanctuary – homage to this deed!**

TSÖN PÄ JANG CHHUB DRUB PA GONG NÄ KYANG  
NÄI RA DZA NÄI DRAM DU LO DRUG TU  
KA WA CHÄ DZÄ TSÖN DRÜ THAR CHIN NÄ  
SAM TÄN CHHOG NYE DZÄ LA CHHAG TSHÄL LO

**Thinking to reach enlightenment through effort,  
You practiced for six years austerities  
On Nairanjana's bank, and perfecting energy,  
Won highest dhyana – homage to this deed!**

THOG MA ME NÄ BÄ PA DÖN YÖ CHHIR  
MA GA NGA YI JANG CHHUB SHING DRUNG DU  
KYIL TRUNG MI YO NGÖN PAR SANG GYÄ NÄ  
JANG CHHUB DZOG PAR DZÄ LA CHHAG TSHÄL LO

**To make worthwhile your efforts without beginning,  
Sitting beneath the Bodhi-tree in Magadha  
In unshakeable posture, you fully awakened  
To perfect bodhi – homage to this deed!**

THUG JE DRO LA NYUR DU ZIG NÄ NI  
VA RA NA SI LA SOG NÄ CHHOG TU  
CHHÖ KYI KHOR LO KOR NÄ DÜL JA NAM  
THEG PA SUM LA GO DZÄ CHHAG TSHÄL LO

**Swiftly observing beings with compassion,  
In holy places like Varanasi  
You turned the Wheel of Dharma, setting disciples  
On the three vehicles – homage to this deed!**

ZHÄN GYI GÖL WA NGÄN PA TSHAR CHÄ NÄ  
MU TEG TÖN PA DRUG DANG LHÄ JIN SOG  
KHOR MO JIG GI YÜL DU DU NAM TUL  
THUB PA YÜL LÄ GYÄL LA CHAG TSHÄL LO

**To put an end to evil opposition,  
At Gaya in Bhanga you subdued the maras,  
Devadatta, six Tirthika teachers and others,  
Sage victorious in battle – homage to you!**

SI PA SUM NA PE ME YÖN TÄN GYI  
NYÄN DU YÖ PAR CHHO THRÜL CHHEN PO TÄN  
LHA MI DRO WA KÜN GYI RAB CHHÖ DE  
TÄN PA GYÄ PAR DZÄ LA CHHAG TSHÄL LO

**With qualities unmatched in the three worlds,  
At Sravasti you showed a mighty miracle,  
Worshipped by all beings divine and human,  
Spreading the doctrine – homage to this deed!**

LE LO CHÄN NAM CHHO LA KÜL WÄI CHHIR  
TSA CHHOG DRONG GI SA ZHI TSANG MA RU  
CHHI ME DOR JE TA BÜI KU SHIG NÄ  
NYA NGÄN DA BAR DZÄ LA CHHAG TSHÄL LO

**To exhort the lazy to be quicker,  
At the pure site Kusinagari  
You destroyed your deathless, vajra-like body,  
Ent'ring Nirvana – homage to this deed!**

YANG GA NYI DU JIG PA ME ZIG KYANG  
MA ONG SEM CHÄN SÖ NAM SAG JÄI CHHIR  
DE NYI DU NI RING SEL MANG TRUL NÄ  
KU DUNG CHHA GYÄ DZÄ LA CHHAG TSHÄL LO

**So future sentient beings could gather merits,  
And because really there was no destruction,  
You manifested many relics there,  
Remains in eight portions – homage to this deed!**

## *Dedication and Auspicious Wishes*

DE TAR TÄN PÄI DAG PO CHOM DÄN GYI  
DZÄ PAI TSHÜL LA DO TSAM TO PA YI  
GE WA DRO WA KÜN GYI CHÖ PA YANG  
DE SHEG NYI KYI DZÄ DANG TSHUNG PAR SHOG

**Through the virtue of praising briefly thus  
The manner of deeds of the lord, the doctrine's master,  
May the conduct of all migrating beings  
Be similar to the Sugata's own deeds!**

DE ZHIN SHEG PA KHYE KU CHI DRA DANG  
KHOR DANG KU TSHEI TSHÄ DANG ZHING KHAM DANG  
KHYE KYI TSHÄN CHHOG ZANG PO CHI DRA WA  
DE DRA KHO NA DAG SOG GYUR WAR SHOG

**As your body is, Tathagata,  
As your entourage and length of life,  
[Buddha-] land and excellent, supreme marks,  
So may mine and others' become too!**

KHYÖ LA TÖ CHING SOL WA TAB PÄI THÜ  
DAG SOG GANG DU NÄ PÄI SA CHHOG DER  
NÄ DANG BÜL PHONG THAB TSÖ ZHI WA DANG  
CHHÖ DANG TRA SHI PHEL WAR DZÄ DU SÖL

**Through these praises and requests to you,  
In the lands where I and others dwell,  
Quelling sickness, poverty and conflict,  
Please let Dharma and good fortune flourish!**



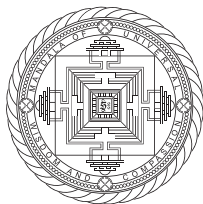
TÖN PA JIG TEN KHAM SU JÖN PA DANG  
TÄN PA NYI Ö ZHIN DU SÄL WA DANG  
TÄN DZIN BU LOB SHIN TU THÜN PA YI  
TÄN PA YÜN RING NÄ PÄI TRA SHI SHOG

**By the Teacher's coming to the world,  
By his doctrine's brilliance, like sunlight,  
And by close accord of its holders and their disciples,  
Long may the doctrine abide – let all be auspicious!**

### *Colophon*

Extracted from *Shakyamuni Puja, Worshipping the Buddha*, translated by Martin Willson. Reprinted with permission from Wisdom Publications, [www.wisdom-pubs.com](http://www.wisdom-pubs.com). Lightly edited and phonetics replaced with FPMT phonetics by Kendall Magnussen, FPMT Education Services, March 2003. Cover line drawing by Andy Weber.

# *Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition*



The Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition (FPMT) is a dynamic worldwide organization devoted to education and public service. Established by Lama Thubten Yeshe and Lama Zopa Rinpoche, FPMT touches the lives of beings all over the world. In the early 1970s, young Westerners inspired by the intelligence and practicality of the Buddhist approach made contact with these lamas in Nepal and the organization was born. Now encompassing over 150 Dharma centers, projects, social services and publishing houses in thirty-three countries, we continue to bring the enlightened message of compassion, wisdom, and peace to the world.

We invite you to join us in our work to develop compassion around the world! Visit our web site at [www.fpmt.org](http://www.fpmt.org) to find a center near you, a study program suited to your needs, practice materials, meditation supplies, sacred art, and online teachings. We offer a membership program with benefits such as Mandala magazine and discounts at the online Foundation Store. And check out some of the vast projects Lama Zopa Rinpoche has developed to preserve the Mahayana tradition and help end suffering in the world today. Lastly, never hesitate to contact us if we can be of service to you.

Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition  
1632 SE 11th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97214 USA  
(503) 808-1588

***[www.fpmt.org](http://www.fpmt.org)***

# *FPMT Education Services*



Education Services at FPMT International Office offers a vast range of Buddhist study programs, prayer books, and practice materials from the Gelugpa lineage. Our study programs meet the needs of beginners through to the most advanced students, from courses introducing Buddhism to the study of Tibetan and the highest philosophical texts.

As the Dharma takes root in the West, we make clear translations of Buddhist texts, prayers, and teachings available through our study programs and publications. We work with translators around the world to provide texts in English, Spanish, Chinese, French, German, and many other languages.

Working in collaboration with the Lama Yeshe Wisdom Archive, we publish Buddhist prayer books, sadhanas, retreat materials, and practice texts, many with commentary by Lama Thubten Yeshe and Lama Zopa Rinpoche. We also offer DVDs and CDs of prayers and teachings that inspire and inform. Whatever your interest, FPMT Education Services provides the materials you need to actualize the Buddhist path.

Education Services  
FPMT International Office  
1632 SE 11th Avenue  
Portland OR 97214  
(503) 808-1588  
education@fpmt.org

***[www.fpmt.org](http://www.fpmt.org)***



*Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition*