

# *Lama Tsongkhapa's Secret Biography*

*Je sang waí nam thar zhug so*



*by Jamyang Choje Tashi Palden (1379-1449)*

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

©2004 FPMT Inc.  
All rights reserved.  
Translation by Robert Thurman included with permission.

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.

# Lama Tsongkhapa's Secret Biography

*Je sang wai nam thar zhug so*

*by Jamyang Choje Tashi Palden (1379-1449)*

CHHÖ KYI GYÄL PO TSONG KHA PA LA CHHAG TSHÄL LO

**O sun-like Prince of the Conqueror,**

GANG GI KHYEN PA RAB YANG NAM KHÄ LA

**Whose wisdom, vast as the heavens, has the brilliance of  
knowledge**

JI TA JI NYE KHYEN PÄI Ö ZER CHÄN

**That sees what ultimately is and what merely seems to be<sup>1</sup>**

GYÄL SÄ NYI MA JE TSÜN CHHÖ KYI JE

**O Venerable Lord of Dharma, most perfect guru,**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB DÜL CHI WÖ TEN

**The dust of your feet I place on the crown of my head.**

KHYÖ KYI KU SUNG THUG KYI YÖN TÄN NAM

**Even the buddhas and bodhisattvas who fill the ten directions**

CHHOG CHUR ZHUG PÄI GYÄL WA SÄ CHÄ KYI

**Cannot describe the excellence of your body, speech, and  
mind;**

MA LÜ JÖ PAR MI NÜ ÖN KYANG NI

**Yet out of passionate inspiration I shall sing of them;**

DÄ PÄ PEL LA CHUNG ZÄ NYÄN PAR GYI  
**Pray, listen for but a few moments.**

YÖN TÄN GYA TSHÖI TÖ TSHIG ME TOG GI  
**As a blossoming garland of flowers**

THRENG WA PEL LEG LO SÄL DRIN PÄI GYÄN  
**To adorn the necks of the clear-minded**

DÄ PÄI SÖ NAM PEL WÄI RIN CHHEN NI  
**And as a precious jewel to enhance the force of conviction**

DAG GI DRUB LA KHÄ NAM GYE PAR DZÖ  
**This song in praise of your oceans of splendor to delight all sages,  
I have composed.**

KHYÖ KYI LEG PAR CHÄ PÄI SÖ NAM TRIN  
**Like a cloud, the merit of your superb deeds**

DÜL JÄI GE LEG PEL WÄI CHHAR GYÜN CHÄN  
**Releases a torrent of rain that swells the virtue of those to be  
trained**

ZAB DANG GYA CHHEI NYÄN PÄI DRUG DRA DROG  
**And proclaims with a dragon's thundering roar the sweetness  
of the vast and profound;<sup>2</sup>**

PÄL DÄN LA MA CHHU DZIN WANG PO ZHIN  
**O glorious, powerful, billowing Lama.**

TING DZIN JE WA MANG LA WANG GYUR ZHING  
**Foremost of tantric adepts, the mighty yogi**

LEG SHÄ TSOM DANG DRUB LA NGÖN TSÖN PA  
**Who mastered the many millions of samadhis,**

NÄL JOR WANG CHHUG NGAG RIG KÜN GYI TSÖ  
**Composed faultless expositions and made true effort in  
practice,**

PÄL DÄN LA MA LÜ CHÄN TSUG NA GYÄL  
**Most resplendent of Lamas, you tower over the heads of all.**

NGÖN TSHE DOR JE DÄN DU GYÄL WA LA  
**At Vajrasana<sup>3</sup> in a former birth to the Victorious One you offered**

RIN CHHEN SHEL GYI THRENG WA GYA TSA CHIG  
**A rosary of one hundred crystal beads.**

LEG PAR PHHÜL TE JANG CHHUB SEM KYE NÄ  
**Thus you acquired the fortune**

YANG DAG TA WA TOG PÄI KÄL DÄN GYUR  
**Later to attain the perfect view,<sup>4</sup>**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB  
**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

DUNG LO DÜN NÄ JE TSÜN SANG DAG DANG  
**At the age of seven you directly perceived**

SHING TA CHHEN PO PÄL DÄN MAR ME DZÄ  
**Dipamkara Atisha, the great Path Clearer, and Vajrapani, Lord of the Secret.**

NGÖN SUM ZIG SHING GYÜN DU JE ZUNG WÄ  
**The exhortations of both the sutras**

NGAG DANG PHA RÖL CHHIN ZHUNG DAM PAR SHAR  
**And tantras dawned upon you;**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB  
**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

YIN DRA NI LÄI DOG TAR RAB NGO WÄI  
**O Jetsun, Lord of phenomenal existence,**

RAB DZE Ö ZER NGA YI DRA WA CHÄN  
**You directly perceived Manjushri,**

SHIN TU DUM PÄI BÜ SU JAM PÄI JANG  
**Bodhisattva of the wisdom of emptiness,**

NGÖN SUM JIG PA JE TSÜN CHHÖ KYI JE  
**As the color of a perfect sapphire;**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB  
**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

DE NÄ TSAM TE JE TSÜN KHYEN PÄI TER

**From this time onward, O High One,**

NAM DÖ JIG SHING PÄL DÄN DÜ PA DANG

**Whenever you desired you could invoke Manjushri, Treasure of Stainless Wisdom,**

SHE RAB PHA RÖL CHHIN ZHUNG ZAB MÖI DÖN

**And constantly listen to the teachings**

GYÜN DU SÄN PA GYÄL SÄ CHHÖ KYI JE

**Of both Sutrayana's Transcendent Wisdom and Tantrayana's Secret Assembly;<sup>5</sup>**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

YÄN LAG DÜN PÄI CHHO GA DZÄ PÄI TSHE

**When practicing the seven-limbed ritual**

SANG GYÄ SUM CHU SO NGA NGÖN SUM DU

**Of the thirty-five Purification Buddhas,**

RANG RANG KU YI JIB DANG CHHAG TSÄN SOG

**Continually and clearly you beheld them**

JI ZHIN GYÜN DU JIG PA CHHÖ KYI JE

**And all their forms, mudras, and symbols;**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

YÄ YÖN CHHAG GI CHHÖ CHHÄ CHHAG GYA CHÄN

**Seated in the auspicious posture, hands in the Dharma teaching mudra,**

SANG PÖI ZHUG TANG DZÄ PÄI JAM GÖN GYI

**Buddha Maitreya prophesied that**

LAR WANG TOB CHU NGÄ WA SHEG WA ZHIN

**Just as the sugatas who possess the ten powers**

GYÄL WÄI DZÄ PA DRUB PAR LUNG TÄN PA

**You will one day perform the twelve acts of a supreme, universal teacher;<sup>6</sup>**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

LHA MII TÖN PA SHA KYAI GYÄL PO DANG

**Victorious Master of both life and death,**

MÄN GYI LA DANG DREN PA Ö PAG ME

**Truth visions you received of Amitabha Buddha, the Medicine Buddhas,**

KHOR TSHOG GYA TSHÖI BÜ NA LHAM ME WA

**And that teacher of men and gods, Shakyamuni, Prince of the Shakya Throne,**

NGÖN SUM JIG PA GYÄL SÄ CHHÖ KYI JE

**Each with a retinue vast as the oceans;**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

NGÖ DRUB JUNG NÄ JE TSÜN DRÖL MA DANG

**Saintly Tara, source of all siddhis,**

TSUG TOR NAM GYÄL PHAG MA Ö ZER CHÄN

**Ushnisha Vijaya, the one exalted and radiant,  
Ushnisha Sitatapatra, dispeller of obstacles,**

BAR CHHÄ KÜN SEL TSUG TOR DUG KAR SOG

**And other such mystic female buddhas**

LHAG PÄI LHA NAM YANG YANG SÄL WAR JIG

**Again and again you directly perceived;**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

GYÄL SÄ KU DRUB JE TSÜN SANG GYÄ KYANG

**Bodhisattva Nagarjuna, Aryadeva,**

PHAG PA LHA DANG PÄL DÄN DA WÄI ZHAB

**Holy Buddhapalita, Magnificent Chandrakirti**

NÄL JOR WANG CHHUG KU YI JANG CHHUB NAM

**And the mighty yogi Nagabodhi<sup>7</sup>**

NGÖN SUM JÖN NÄ GYÜN DU JE SUNG WA

**Appeared to, then constantly cared for you.**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

SA SUM NYE PA PHAG PA THHOG ME DANG

**Exalted Asanga, who delights the three worlds,**

KÜN KHYEN NYI PA GYÄL SÄ JIG GI NYEN

**The Brother, Vasubandhu, a Second Buddha,**

PHAG PÄ JE ZUNG CHHOG KYI LANG BO NAM

**And Dignaga<sup>8</sup>, child of Manjushri,**

NGÖN SUM JÖN NÄ GYÜN DU JE ZUNG WA

**Appeared to, then constantly cared for you;**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

MA WÄI DA WA CHHÖ KYI DRAG PA DANG

**Dharmakirti, a moon amongst teachers,**

YÖN TÄN Ö DANG GYÄL SÄ SHA KYA Ö

**As well as Gunaprabha, Shakyaprabha,**

ZHI WA LHA DANG PÄL DÄN AH BHA YA

**Shantideva and the glorious Abhaya,**

NGÖN SUM JÖN NÄ GYÜN DU JE ZUNG WA

**Appeared to, then constantly cared for you;**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

YIN DRA BHU TI PÄL DÄN SA RA HA

**All the mahasiddhas of India and Tibet,**

LU YI PA DANG JE TSÜN DRIL BÜI ZHAB

**Such as Indrabudhi, Saraha, Luipa,**

NAG PO CHÖ PA PAD MÄI NGANG TSHÜL SOG

**Krisnacharin, Tilbupa, Tilopa<sup>9</sup> and Naropa<sup>9</sup>**

NGÖN SUM JÖN NÄ GYÜN DU JE ZUNG WA

**Appeared to, then constantly cared for you;**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

DI DAG ZHUNG LA TEN NÄ RANG ZHÄN LA

**Clearly Manjushri prophesied**



PHÄN PA GYA CHER DRUB PÄI TEN DREL ZHE

**That, relying upon these lineages,**

JAM PÄI YANG KYI SÄL WAR LUNG TÄN CHING

**You would produce colossal spiritual boons for yourself and for all sentient beings.**

ZHÄN DÖN LHÜN GYI DRUB PÄI SEM PÄ CHHE

**Great Bold One who spontaneously fulfills the wishes of the world;**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

ZHI LHAG ZUNG DU DREL WÄ NÄL JOR GYI

**When the samadhi of the yoga combining mental tranquility with cognition of emptiness**

TING DZIN YAR ÖI DA TAR PHEL WA NA

**Increased like the waxing moon,**

CHOM DÄN DOR JE JIG JE RAB JI PÄI

**You beheld the form of the Destroyer Yamantaka, "Opponent of the Lord of Death,"<sup>10</sup>**

ZHÄL CHAG YONG SU DZOG PÄI KU CHHOG JIG

**Complete with all mudras and expressions.**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

JAM PÄI YANG DANG JE TSÜN LA MA YI

**Having touched your heart**

THHUG KAR SHE RAB RÄL DRI DREL WA LÄ

**To the wisdom sword of Manjushri,**

ZAG ME DÜ TSII CHHU GYÜN THHUG KAR ZHUG

**A stream of undefiled ambrosia flowed into the depth of your being,**

LHÄN KYE DE WÄI TING DZIN SANG PO THRUNG

**Spontaneously arousing the propitious absorption of highest joy.**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

DE WA CHÄN DU KYE WÄI MÖN LAM DANG

**Prayer for Rebirth in the Land of Bliss**

MI PHAM GÖN GYI YANG DAG DÖN TÖ PA

**And An Eulogy of the Perfect Intent of the Dauntless Protector  
Maitreya Buddha,<sup>11</sup>**

DÖN GYI NGO WO GO RIM JAM JANG KYI

**As well as their graduated levels of meaning**

SÄL WAR SUNG NÄ TSHIG JOR LEG JAR WA

**Manjushri lucidly conveyed to you, who recorded and skillfully  
presented them;**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

KU SUNG THUG TEN RAB NÄ DZÄ PÄI TSHE

**Whenever you consecrated a religious image,**

DAM TSHIG PA LA YE SHE NGÖN SUM ZHUG

**The wisdom beings actually entered into the symbolic beings.**

GANG GI JIN GYI LAB BÄI LHA TSOG NAM

**This host of deities that you summoned**

KYE GÜI SÖ NAM ZHING DU LEG DRUB PA

**Still generates fields of merit within beings;**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

GYÄL SÄ KU DRUB YAB SÄ TSO KHOR NGA

**One night you dreamed of Nagarjuna and his five spiritual  
sons**

ZAB MO TEN JUNG TAM GYI DRO WA DZÄ

**Amongst themselves discussing the fabric of dependent  
origination.**

DE YI NANG NÄ PÄL DÄN SANG GYÄ KYANG

**From their midst came Buddhapalita, who touched you with a  
scripture.**

GYA PE JIN LAB PHAG PÄI KONG PA THRUNG

**The very next day within you arose the mind of a High One,<sup>12</sup>**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

GYÜ KYI THAR THUG PÄL DÄN DÜ KHOR LÖI

**By focusing on the pith of the six branches of Kalachakra, 'The Wheel of Time,'**

YÄN LAG DRUG GI NÄ NAM GONG PA NA

**You directly perceived his Buddha-form.**

CHOM DÄN DU KYI KHOR LO NGÖN SUM JIG

**He foretold that soon you**

DA WA SANG PO DRA WAR LUNG TÄN PA

**Would equal even King Suchandra,<sup>13</sup>**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

CHHÖ KHOR LHA SAR CHHÖ THRÜL CHHEN PÖI DÜ

**When for the first time you led the Great Prayer Festival of Lhasa,**

NGO TSHAR TRA ZHI NA TSHOG GYA KÖ PÄI

**A hundred magical omens appeared.**

CHHÖ PA DE WA CHHEN POR JIN LAB NÄ

**At your making this joyous offering,**

CHOG CHÜI GYÄL WA SÄ CHÄ NYE PAR DZÄ

**The buddhas and their sons in the ten directions were filled with supreme delight.<sup>14</sup>**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

THA MÄL NÖ CHÜ NANG TONG GYU MA DANG

**Generating the form of a great-bliss deity**

ZAB SÄL NYI SU ME PÄ NÄL JOR GYI

**Through the yoga of the non-duality**

DE CHHEN LHA YI NAM PAR SHAR WÄI TSHE

**Of profound luminosity and illusory appearances,**

KU YI DOR JEI NÄL JOR CHHÖ KYI JE

**You attained the vajra yoga body;**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

NYING GÄI PAD MAR KU SUM DOR JE YI

**By practicing the mantric science of inhaling**

JUNG ZUG NGAG KYI DANG SU DÄ PA NA

**And exhaling OM AH HUM on the lotus heart,**

ZHUG NÄ THIM PÄI Ö SÄL CHHAG GYA CHHE

**The vital energies entered the central nadi, rested as breathing stopped, and then dissolved.**

SUNG GI DOR JEI NÄL JOR CHHÖ KYI JE

**Thus, you experienced the clear light, mahamudra, the great seal, attaining the vajra yoga speech;**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

TE WÄI KHOR LÖI TUM MO TSÄN TA LI

**Raising the navel chakra's mystic heat which rests at the base of the central channel,**

CHI WÖI HUM YIG BU MAR ZHU WA LÄ

**The letter HAM at the crown of your head melted and fell to your heart**

LHÄN KYE DE CHHEN PÄL LA NAM ROL WA

**As simultaneously the experience of the blisses dawned upon you.**

THHUG KYI DOR JE NÄL JOR CHHÖ KYI JE

**Thus you attained the vajra yoga mind;**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

CHHOG CHUR ZHUG PÄI GYÄL WA SÄ CHÄ NAM

**Having been invoked as witnesses to your pure and perfect aspirations,**

NAM DAG MÖN PÄI WANG POR CHÄN DRANG TSHE

**All buddhas and bodhisattvas came forth.**

RANG RANG CHHOG KYI DE ZHIN SHEG PA YI

**Only when you had summoned each of them into his respective position**

KU YI KÖ PÄ CHHÖ PA DAG GIR DZÄ

**Did you honor them with offerings;**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

JAM PÄI DOR JEI KYIL KHOR TSO WO YI

**While contemplating the principal mandala of Manjushrivajra, Guhyasamaja,**

JAM PÄI YANG DANG JE TSÜN JAM PA NYI

**You dreamed that Maitreya and Manjushri, who were speaking of Dharma,**

CHHÖ KYI DRO WA DZÄ PÄI CHHÜ KANG WÄI

**Passed down to you a jeweled vase brimming with water,**

RIN CHHEN BUM SANG TER WA SÄL WAR MI

**Portending that you would master all teachings.**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

RIN CHHEN DU MÄ TRÄ PÄ THRI TEN NA

**On a throne adorned with precious gems**

THAM CHÄ KHYEN PA BU TÖN RIN CHHEN DRUB

**Sat the omniscient Kargyu Lama, Buton Rinchen Trub.**

DÜ PA TSA WÄI GYÜ KYI LEG BAM NI

**A text of the Guhyasamaja Root Tantra**

NANG NÄ DI YI DAG PO GYI ZHE SUNG

**He gave to you, exhorting you to be its keeper;**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

LEG BAM TÄ DE NGAG DANG CHHAG GYA YI

**Accepting this responsibility,**

LÄN SUM BU YI TENG DU JIN LAB PÄ

**With mudras and mantras thrice you touched the text to your head.**

LHO DRAG MAR PÄI GONG PA SE PHÖI NÄ

**By its blessings it became obvious that the tantra Separating and Mixing**

GYÜ DANG PHAG PÄI MÄN NGAG YIN PAR NGE

**Obtained by Marpa of the Southern Hills is the true oral tradition of exalted Nagarjuna;**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

DEM CHHOG KHOR LÖI DRUB PA DZÄ PÄ TSHE

**Your mind absorbed in the mystic circle of Heruka –**

KYIL KHOR WA NAM NGÖN SUM SÄL WAR JIG

**Chakrasamvara, the Wheel of Perfect Bliss – myriads**

CHHI NANG NÄ SUM KHA DRÖI TSHOG NAM KYI

**Of dakinis of the outer, inner, and secret places**

DOR JE GU YI CHHÖ PÄ GYE PAR DZÄ

**Made you offerings of vajra songs, transporting you in ecstasy;**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

DU PUNG ZHIL WÄI THUG DAM DZÄ PÄI TSHE

**In meditation destroying the forces of darkness,**

SER YANG TSO MÄI DANG TAR RAB SÄL ZHING

**You beheld the radiant Buddha Mighty Demon Tamer,**

NYI MA JE WÄI Ö KYI KHOR YUG CHÄN

**Having an aura as pure as burnished gold,**

DÜ DÜL CHHEN PÖI THUB PA NGÖ SU JIG

**More brilliant than a million suns.**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

JE YI KU DANG GYÄL WÄI KU SUNG THUG

**Your being having become indivisible from the body, speech,  
and mind of all buddhas,**

YER ME DZÄ NÄ DÜ DE ZIL NÄN PÄ

**The might of the power of evil was subdued.**

TÄN SUNG NAM KYI DÜ RIG TSAR CHÄ TSHE

**As the Dharma protectors crushed the demon families,**

DÜ KYI MAG PUNG PHAM PÄI DRA CHHEN DRAG

**Shrieks of the defeated satanic forces resounded across the  
universe.**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

TÄN SUNG GYA TSHÖI TSHOG KYI NGÖN SUM DU

**These multitudes of Dharma protectors**

NGÖN TSHE DOR JE CHHANG GI KHA TSHÄL ZHIN

**That you brought under control**

KHYÖ KYI TÄN PA DZIN DANG PEL WA LA

**In a previous eon had been subjected by Buddha Vajradhara to  
guard your doctrine.**

LHAG PAR GÜ PÄI YI KYI TSHÜL ZHIN DRUB

**With profound reverence they work this still;**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

GAN DÄN NÄ SU MI PHAM CHHÖ JEI DRUNG

**That you would, after entering parinirvana,**

GYÄL WÄI SÄ PO JAM PÄL NYING PO ZHE

**Sit in the presence of dauntless Maitreya in Tushita, Pure Land  
of Joy,**

JAM PÄI YANG DANG SANG WÄI DAG PO YI

**And would be known as Wisdom Essence<sup>15</sup>**

SÄL WAR LUNG TÄN JE TSÜN CHHÖ KYI JE

**Was, O Lord of Life, rightly prophesied by both Manjushri and  
Vajrapani.**

PÄL DÄN LA MÄI ZHAB LA SÖL WA DEB

**O Illustrious Lama, at your feet I pay homage.**

DE TAR DANG WÄI YI KYI SÖL TAB PÄ

**By the strength of this eulogy sung from the depths of pure love,**

KHA NYAM DRO WÄI DUG NGÄL SEL JE CHING

**May the afflictions of beings limitless as the sky be extinguished.**

KYE DANG KYE WAR JE TSÜN LA MA YI

**In this and all future lives may all be nurtured by true teachers**

JE ZUNG DAM CHHÖ DIN PAR JIN GYI LOB

**And embraced by the sacred Dharma.**

DE CHHEN LHÄN KYI YE SHE CHHAR DU SÖL

**May the innate wisdom of great bliss rain throughout the world;**

NGÖ DZIN THRÜL PÄI DRI MA SÄL DU SÖL

**May the stains of erroneously grasping**

SEM NYI THE TSHOM DRA WA CHÄ DU SÖL

**Mind and its objects be uprooted;**

NYUR DU KHYE RANG TA BUR JIN GYI LOB

**And may all be inspired quickly to become like you, a jetsün lama.**

THÖ SAM GOM PÄI SHE RAB PHEL DU SÖL

**May the wisdoms of learning, contemplation and meditation overtake the earth;**

CHHÄ TSÖ TSOM PÄ LO DRÖ GYÄ SU SÖL

**May the arts of deliberation, debate, and composition; flourish;**

CHHOG DANG THÜN MONG NGÖ DRUB TSÄL TU SÖL

**May the ordinary and supreme siddhis come to each and every practitioner;**

NYUR DU KHYE RANG TA BUR JIN GYI LOB

**And may all be inspired quickly to become like you, a jetsün lama.**



KÜN ZANG CHHÖ TRIN NAM KHÄ NYAM PAR BÜL

**By the limitless oceans of merit of having presented, like Samantabhadra, clouds of offerings spanning the skies,**

THOG ME SAG PÄI DIG TUNG SO SOR SHAG

**Of having bared every negative imprint and downfall accumulated since infinity,**

GYÄL SÄ KÜN GYI GE LA YI RANG ZHING

**Of having rejoiced in the spirituality of those on the paths to enlightenment,**

NYA NGÄN MI DÄ CHHÖ KHOR KOR WAR KÜL

**And of having beseeched the lamas to turn the Wheel of Dharma and not to enter parinirvana;**

DE TAR GYI PÄI SÖ NAM GYA TSHO DE

**May all beings experience peerless samadhi;**

DRO KÜN TING DZIN PÄL LA NAM RÖL ZHING

**May goodness swell like the waxing moon;**

LEG TSHOG YAR NGÖI DA TAR PEL WA DANG

**And may the doctrine of Omniscient Tsongkhapa**

KÜN KHYEN GYÄL WÄI TÄN PA GYÄ PAR SHOG

**Thrive until time's end.**

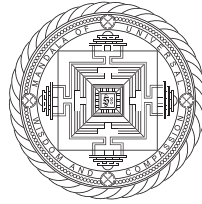
- 1 Tib. ji ltar and ji snyed. The former term, lit. "like whatever," is synonymous with "ultimate truth," "emptiness," "thatness," "suchness," etc. The latter, lit. "whatever findable," is synonymous with "conventional truth," etc. The former is also the same as gnas lugs, "The way things are," and the latter with snang lugs, "the way things appear."
- 2 The vast teachings on the far-reaching activities of the conventional bodhi-mind and the profound teachings on the depth of emptiness, the ultimate bodhi-mind.
- 3 Vajrasana, modern day Bodhgaya, Bihar, North India.
- 4 The perfect view; the understanding that everything is empty of true existence.
- 5 Skt. Prajnaparamita and Guhyasamaja.
- 6 Many beings attain Buddhahood, but only one thousand each eon manifest the twelve deeds of a universal teacher. Buddha Shakyamuni was the fourth this eon, and Je Tsongkhapa will be the eleventh.

- 7 The lineage gurus of emptiness meditation that Tsongkhapa received from Manjushri, who in turn received it from Shakyamuni. See G. Wangyal Door of Liberation, pp. 45–52.
- 8 Ibid. pp. 52–54. The lineage gurus of bodhimind meditation that Asanga received from Maitreya, who had received it from Shakyamuni.
- 9 The eighty-four Mahasiddhas, great adepts. Tsongkhapa's school, later known as "Gelug", synthesizes three Indian lineages: the wisdom lineage of Manjushri, Nagarjuna, etc.; the method lineage of Maitreya, Asanga, etc.; and the practice lineage of the eighty-four mahasiddhas, such as Saraha, Tilopa, Naropa, Maitripa, etc.
- 10 The Terrific embodiment of the wisdom of emptiness.
- 11 bDe-ba-can sKye-bai sMon-lam and Mi-pham mGon-gyi yang-dag don-bsTod.
- 12 Skt. *arya*.
- 13 The Great Adept to whom Shakyamuni originally gave the Kalachakra Tantra teaching at Dhanyakataka Stupa in South India. Suchandra was King of Shambhala at the time and immediately took the tantra back there with him. Thus, the tantra did not appear in India until over one thousand years later.
- 14 The Great Prayer Festival of Lhasa, conceived and founded by Je Tsongkhapa, continues to the present day. During the first fortnight of the lunar New Year more than twenty thousand monks would assemble to commemorate Shakyamuni's miracles at Shravasti. The tradition continues in the free Tibetan communities in India, though of course on a much smaller, scale. cf. The Great Prayer, Tangent Records, London.
- 15 Skt. Manjushrigarbha. Tib. 'Jam-dpal Snying-po.

### **Colophon:**

Written at Drepung Chokyi Dechen at the request of the two meritorious Drungtrapa Palsangpo brothers, by Lama Tashi Palden, a Buddhist monk and teacher who had searched many hundreds of thousands of scriptures with the lights of his wisdom. Translated by Professor Robert Thurman. Reprinted here with permission. Tibetan phonetics by Kendall Magnussen, FPMT Education Services, December 2004.

# *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)***



*Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition*