



DIAMOND WAY BUDDHISM



Black Coat



Invocation of the Protector Black Coat

Dear Friends,

This short invocation of Black Coat (Tib. Bernakchen, Skt. Mahakala), the central protector of the Karma Kagyu School, was given by the 8th Karmapa, Mikyo Dorje, in the form presented here. Today, 400 years later, it is still recited to the original tune.

The following explanations are given to increase people's access to this important protective energy, which is manifesting with increasing visibility around the world. Since 1972, it has spearheaded the unique growth of the Karma Kagyu lineage in countries of a Western culture. Whoever feels a strong connection to other Buddhist protectors or has received their initiations should know that they are all active in his power-field as well. In essence they are the same – the love and protective activity of unlimited space.

This invocation may be done with empowerment (Tib. Wang), spoken authorisation (Tib. Lung) or while expecting to receive these. In itself, the text is a simple explanation (Tib. Tri). Whoever recites it daily will become fearless and the protection will only grow. Please use it.

Mikyo Dorje

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Diamond Way Buddhist Center,
P.O. Box 27901-452, San Francisco, CA 94127, USA
Tel: + 1 415-661-6467
Fax: + 1 415-665-2241
Email: publishing@diamondway.org
www.diamondway-buddhism.org

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Overview of the Invocation

First, everything disappears into space. In front of us, the limitless potential of mind manifests the wind and fire of liberating wisdom. Above appears a vast open skull-cup held by three small skulls. It contains the five kinds of meat and bodily fluids, which represent our senses and their objects. Through the heat of the fire and wind they all boil up. The content radiates clear light and wonderful fragrance; our whole perception is purified.

The letters OM, AH and HUNG manifest above the skull-cup and their light invokes the blessing of the body, speech and mind of all the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas. When the letters dissolve into the imagined fluid it becomes wisdom nectar of immaculate taste and fragrance.

Behind this perfect offering, the whole Kagyu Refuge manifests as clouds in the sky. Especially Black Coat and Radiant Goddess (Tib. Palden Lhamo, Skt. Shri Devi) appear together with their retinue, all surrounded by flames. We present them all the traditional perfect offerings, all the joys of our senses and the highest bliss of space itself, the source of everything. We wish all beings and ourselves the power to protect the Karmapa's teachings (currently the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa, Thaye Dorje).

Black Coat holds the skull-cup containing the life-blood of the ego and the chopping-knife which destroys all hindrances. The cut-off heads worn as a garland around his neck signify his conquest of all unenlightened mental functions.

When he appears in union, sitting with his consort Radiant Goddess, it denotes the highest level of insight. They then ride an

indestructible mule through oceans of blood. In her four hands, Radiant Goddess holds a mirror showing the world, a diamond dagger (Tib. phurba) cutting the disturbing feelings, a trident showing her awakened inner energies and a snake-lasso with which she catches all disturbing influences. Their mighty powerfield vibrates with the syllables HUNG and JO.

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om ma dak nö chü tong par jang

Om. Everything impure in the world and in all beings is purified into emptiness.

tong pai ngang le ye shi chi

Out of space, highest wisdom appears

lung me thö je teng nyi du

as wind and fire. On top of a fireplace of (three) skulls stands

thö par sha nga dü tsi nga

a skull cup filled with the five meats and the five fluids.

lung me köl wai dam tshik pai

The wind fans the fire, which brings the imagined

dütsi rab bar ö nyi de

contents (of the skull cup) to boil. Radiating light

yeshe dü tsi chen drang ne

invites the wisdom nectar,

yer me om dang ah hung gi

which merges into the (boiling) contents.

Through the blessing of OM, AH and HUNG,

jin lab dri ro thsung me jur
the taste and fragrance of the nectar becomes beyond comparison.

tsa gyü lama yidam lha tsog dang
We invoke all the root and lineage lamas, yidams,

pawo khandro chö chong thsog chen drang
dakas and dakinis, and the dharma protectors.

dün ji nam khar trin shin tib par jur
They assemble in front of us in space like clouds.

yidam kün dü tsa wai lama chö
We give this gift to the root lama, union of all yidams.

kön chok kün dü tsa wai lama chö
We give this gift to the root lama, union of the three jewels.

chö chong kün dü tsa wai lama chö
We give this gift to the root lama, union of the Dharma protectors.

che par chö chong ber gyi na za chen
In particular, we give this gift to the Dharma protector *Black Coat*

palden lhamo rang jung jal mo ni
and to *Radiant Goddess – Self-Arisen Queen*

che cham khor dang che pa chö par ji
together with their retinue:

jal po nam mang thö se, ngag chi dak,
King of the Northern Direction, Master of Mantras, Tantramaster,

dorje legpa, sin gön, shing chong dang
Good Diamond, Protector against harmful forces, Pure Land Protector,

khar nak dorje jal po la sog pai
Diamond King of the Black Castle, and so on.

karmapa yi ten pa chong nam la
You who protect Karmapa's teachings please accept

zag me sha nga dütsi nga chok gi
these completely pure five kinds of meat and five kinds of nectar,

torma tsa je pen tsa amrita
this perfect ritual gift (Torma), the eight medicinal roots, the five nectars,

dza ge raktai yön chab chö par she
and the intrinsically pure drink of blood (Rakta).

dö yön nga dang sang wai chö pa dang
We also give you everything pleasing to the five senses, the secret offering,

de kho na yi kün zang chö pai chö

and the ultimate gift of the (empty) nature of everything.

chö chi chön dank yön ten dzog pa dei

With the understanding that you are, free of faults and full of perfect qualities,

ne tsul ji shin tog pai go sum ji

with body speech and mind

tö pa ma lü pa yi tö par ji

we praise you in every possible way.

chö la dö dön söl wa tab pa ni

Please fulfil our beneficial wishes

dak sog kün la chog dang thün mong gi

and give me and all beings the perfect and the ordinary

ngö drub ten thok di la tsöl wa dang

attainments right now.

che par thse ring ne me pal jor je

Especially, give us a long life without sickness and full of richness and freedom.

yi la sam thse ke chig tsam nyi la

May all our wishes be fulfilled as soon as they are made

drub ne karmapa yi she pa kün

so that we can accomplish all Karmapa's wishes,

dak gi ma lü nyur du drub pa dang

quickly and without exception.

karmapa yi ten la nö je nam

May everything harmful to Karmapa's teachings

dak gi thal wa shin du lok pa yi

be completely destroyed by us

nüpa da ta nyi du tsal du söl

immediately.

de tar chö tö de pe ge wa de

May everything positive created through these gifts and devoted praise

ma jur dro wa sem chen tham che kün

bring all beings, my former parents,

dzog pe sang ye go phang thob chir ngo

to the perfect state of the Buddhas.

Since this is an invocation and we invite our protectors it is good to put a gift on the altar while you do the practice. It is common to put a cup of tea together with a biscuit, which is then thrown away afterwards.