



TREASURY of PRECIOUS QUALITIES

Root Text

by JIGME LINGPA

Translated by the Padmakara Translation Group

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TREASURY *of* PRECIOUS QUALITIES ☯
called

The Rain of Joy

KUNKHYEN JIGME LINGPA

I PROSTRATE IN HOMAGE TO THE THREE JEWELS

Prologue

1. A letter that proclaimed the Three Most Precious Ones,
Brought princess Vine-of-Pearls to Perfect Joy;
The lily faces of the demon's daughters withered,
And she progressed, for such is Buddha's power.
2. This cleansing treasury, these perfect qualities of supreme minds,
Impudently I have massed together in a single book,
In rude, unlovely words that chatter like a torrent's waves.
Yet grounded in the words of Sacred Dharma, it is worthy to be
heard.
3. For all the woes of birth, ills, age, and death,
Which from unstated time strike beings down,
There is a sovereign, nectar-flavored cure.
Yet how might I teach those who hold
This Sacred Dharma in their hands yet cast it all away?

The Value of Human Existence

1. So long enchanted in samsara's wilderness,
Tormented by the cutting of their heads and limbs,
With seeds of future sorrow hidden in their minds,
Beings long so foolishly for bliss of higher realms.

2. From there they fall again, their states of mind destroying them,
To wander in three evil realms, or as insensate gods,
Or else in barbarous lands, with false views, handicapped,
In places where the Buddhas have not come.

3. On blazing iron grounds without reprieve,
With dreadful weapons wounded time and time again,
The denizens of hell are slain but cannot die—
Still tangled in the webs of hatred's evil deeds.

4. What need is there to say that hungry ghosts are racked by want?
For food they find not even pus or blood or filth,
And streams and orchards dry before their eyes.
Their vitals burn in endless pain,
Their length of life uncertain,
Measured by the strength of obscuration.

5. Beasts prey on one another, are each other's food.
And, hunter's quarry, they are slain by cruel means;
Or caught and tamed, they are reduced to bondage.
Born to such great misery, what can they do?

6. The insensate gods, whose life-supporting karma is immense,
Live long in formlessness; no sorrow do they know.
But lacking the support for learning and reflection,
At death they have false views and so lack freedom to progress.

7. Supported on the palanquin of legs and feet,
But yet with minds untouched by virtue,
Barbarous men live sunk and skilled in evil ways,
And wander in the jungles of a false morality.
8. Some have senses that belie their promise.
Though they meet with teachers, holy and sublime,
They hear their words like echoes sounding from a cliff,
And suffer in the wasteland of no understanding.
9. Some achieve the great ship [of a human life]
With wits like sails wherewith to cross the ocean of rebirth.
But overwhelmed by demons, they espouse false views,
Wherein the Buddha who has come takes no delight.
10. Some fall in blind and lightless chasms:
Ages where no Buddhas manifest.
And though they try to rise, they find no path
And in despair sink down from low to lower destinies.
11. Eight states therefore where beings are not free to practice
Dharma,
Where world-destroying gales of sin and suffering rage,
Where merit is defiled in weariness and fear—
O think of this and profit from your freedom!
12. To be a human being in a pure and central land,
With limbs and senses whole, with faith in Buddha's teaching,
With karmic fortune blossoming, unmarred by evil deeds—
All this is like the wishing-tree, extremely rare.

13. But rarer still, the Buddha, like an udumbara, has appeared within our world.

The flower of the Dharma is in bloom. The garden of the doctrine,

Undiminished, still exists, and perfectly do holy beings enter it,
Within whose cooling shade we may find rest.

14. Such fortune in ourselves is rarer than the wishing tree;

Such outer circumstances are like udumbara flowers.

These ten together joined with eight-fold leisure—
Such coincidence will scarce be found again!

15. Examples make this clear—the turtle's head, the floating yoke,
And numbers also, whereby humans in comparison with beasts
Are like the stars that shine by day compared with those by night,
With, in a like proportion, hungry ghosts and denizens of hell.

16. If once aboard this great ship of our freedom,

We now fail to reach the far shore of this sea of pain,

This meeting with the helmsman will indeed have been in vain
For us who strive and fare upon the Dharma's path.

Impermanence

1. The stable world with all its moving occupants is said to last a kalpa,
Which, by its nature, has four ages: forming, dwelling, ruin, and the void.
It is disparaged with the name of Basis of Decay,
For it will be assailed by seven conflagrations and one flood.

2. The teachers of the gods and humankind perceive our trust in permanence
And therefore, though they have supreme and adamantine forms,
Relax their hold on indestructibility
And joyfully display their passing into peace.

3. Those perfect in samadhi may sustain great spans of life,
But all to no avail, they must endure mortality.
Brahma, Shiva, Ishvara, and all the Chakravartins
Find no way to flee the demon Lord of Death.

4. For those who flock so carefree in the wholesome vales of higher realms,
The hunter lies in wait, his weapon in his hand,
Conspiring how to rob them of their lives.
He thinks and thinks of it and has no other thoughts.

5. Tormented by the summer's heat, beings sigh with pleasure
In the clear light of the autumn moon.
They do not think, and it does not alarm them
That a hundred of their days has passed away.

6. A powerful bowman's shaft is swift indeed,
But not as swift as pretas moving on the earth.
The pretas in the air are swifter still,
And swifter yet the gods of sun and moon.
But swiftest of them all is human life.
7. The prime of youth is ravaged and brought low by age,
Disease disturbs health's equilibrium
And perfect situations are all ruined by decay.
So soon does death lay siege to life!
8. Defeated in their struggle with the Lord of Death,
Beings plunge protectorless and friendless down in the abyss.
The glow of life is dimmed; the senses fail;
And doctors with their cures all turn away.
9. Then comes the feeble twitching of exhausted limbs,
The failing breath that rattles in the throat,
The family and friends who stand around and grieve
And pray their useless prayers that death might be delayed.
10. The movement of the breath, now fine as horse's hair,
Is severed by the sharp ax of the Deadly Lord.
All beauty now departs; the grin of death appears;
And karma brings the bardo's deep, black night.

The Law of Karma

1. Those who travel thus to future lives
Attain them, high or low, as though bound by a rope,
Drawn only by their virtuous deeds or ingrained evil ways—
The relative, the all-concealing, truth is inescapable.
2. The different virtues of a farmer's seeds
Are manifested in his crops.
And different destinies are likewise made by many deeds
Ingrained and grown accustomed to in former lives.
3. The bird that soars in flight above the earth
Seems, for the moment, shadowless.
But from its form the shadow does not part:
When time and circumstances meet, it manifests.
4. Wrongful deeds, the mare that vomits fire,
Can desiccate the outer ocean's waves, the happy realms.
The *Hundred Deeds*, the *Vast Display* reveal
How evil actions wreck the vessel of omniscience.
5. The overwhelming torments of the lower states
Have not yet pitched their camps of war within
The heroes' land, the stronghold of ten virtues.
And yet those who break their virtuous pledges fall beneath their sway.
6. Some lose their discipline and some their lives or length of days,
Some their austere practices, some their learning and possessions,
Some their moral conscience, some their sense of shame—
So many have forsaken them for evil's sake.

7. For the sake of their religion, society, or kin,
To guard their country, they unleash
The mighty elephant of sin.
And yet they do not share the consequences of their deeds.
8. They thirst for gain; they long for joy alone.
They love celebrity and swell with pride when praised,
And by their contraries they are undone:
These children are deceived by such mundane concerns.
9. Pedigree and beauty, influence and fortune flaunt themselves,
While sloth conceals itself in crawling disability.
Pernicious thoughts of naked pride become
The demons that assail the glorious practice.
10. When selfish greed is firm and dominant,
Others are outwitted in the tendrils of duplicity
Whereby one serves oneself.
Yet this is a great harm that sinks into one's heart.
11. Samsara is contrived through deeds,
Both black and white, and their results.
And seeds, though tiny, generate great fruits.
It is as when great Mandhata acquired
The lordship of the world with seven peas.
12. Though grown from seeds the size of mustard grains,
Ashota trees, in time of fruit, have branches that extend
A league in length. Yet even this example does not serve
To illustrate the increment in sin and virtue's fruit.

13. Phenomena are not God's handiwork,
Nor do they appear all by themselves.
The mind's intention, colored black or white,
Imparts great strength to actions and their fruits,
Though this is lessened if they lack the factors that precede and
follow.

14. A healing root will yield a healing plant—
What need is there to say what poisoned roots produce?
Intention, good or ill, dictates the act's effects
And not the size of the apparent right or wrong.

15. Thus constancy, determination, no opposing force,
Relation with the fields of supreme qualities and benefits:
By these five factors it is taught
That sin and virtue's weight is to be gauged.

16. The indeterminate alaya is the ground of all.
From this the consciousnesses—one of mind and five of
sense—arise.
The demon ignorance pervades them all and wields the three
defilements,
Whence samsara's realms, both high and low, derive.

17. It is as with a fiery conflagration:
But for water, there's no other remedy.
Accordingly there is no sin to match
Deception and rejection of the Triple Gem.

18. And then, although the intellect cannot identify
Each action of the mind and mental factors
Interwoven in the dualistic thoughts of beings,
Ten actions and their consequences are to be rejected.
They are based upon the body, speech, and mind.

19. Three there are of body: killing, theft, and sexual misdeeds.
Of these, the first occurs when willingly
One takes the life of one correctly understood to be alive
(And, linked with this, are harmful acts like beating and the rest).
20. To steal is knowingly to take another's property
(And, linked with this, is taking through deceit and fraud).
Sexual misconduct means to join with persons pledged elsewhere,
(And, linked with this, are all improper acts of intercourse).
21. The four misdeeds of speech are: lying, whereby others are deceived
(And, linked with this, all guile, which misleads others' minds);
Divisive speech, which sows hostility midst friends or people neutrally disposed
(And, linked with this, the repetition of another's censure, fostering resentment);
22. Worthless chatter, which is futile talk that causes wanting or rejection
(And, linked with this, all useless talk of wars and banditry);
And harsh words whereby others' hearts are torn
(And, linked with this, all talk that brings unhappiness to others).
23. Of three nonvirtuous acts of mind
The first is covetousness: hankering to make one's own Another's wealth and fame (and, linked with this, All wanting to acquire what others have).
24. Then there is malevolence: hating others, wishing harm to them
(And linked with this, resenting their good fortune, wanting it to end).
Then wrong view is denial of karma, belief in permanence or else annihilation
(And, linked with this, declaring what is false, denying what is true).

25. In four ways all these actions fructify.
Their fruits are “fully ripened,”
“Resembling their cause,”
“Proliferating,” and “conditioning.”
26. Regarding, then, the fully ripened fruit,
Whether all five factors have occurred or not,
Through motivation of three kinds, are beings thrown
At best, into the realm of beasts,
Or worse, into the realm of pretas, or worst of all, into the realms
of hell.
27. Effects resembling their cause are of two kinds.
First actively: there is the inclination to repeat the act.
Then passively: although a high rebirth be gained,
Two experiences that reflect their cause
To each one of the ten nonvirtues are successively assigned.
28. One’s life is short and filled with many ills;
One’s goods are few and shared with enemies;
One’s spouse is unattractive and takes sides with one’s opponents.
29. Assailed by slander, one is frequently deceived by others
And has bad attendants who are hard to reconcile.
One’s words are disregarded and dismissed as unreliable;
Many insults does one hear, one is immersed in strife.
30. One never has enough and is tormented by desire.
Adversity draws close and all help disappears.
One has false views and is inclined to cheat.

31. Conditioning effects are linked with outer habitat.
The burden of the evil deed of killing
Leads to cramped environments
Where healing trees and flowers are few,
Where crops and food and drink lack virtue and are indigestible,
To places that are hazardous for life.

32. Theft brings birth in places where the crops are easily destroyed.
Where plants, though edible, give meager fruit
Or are assailed by frost and flattened by the hail,
Where suffering of famine overwhelms the mind.

33. Sexual misdeeds engender irresistibly the creeping vine
Of birth in filthy swamps of excrement and urine,
Where breath is stifled by the unclean stench,
In dirty, loathsome places narrowly confined.

34. Through lies one has unstable wealth in unpropitious lands.
Betrayed by others, one will live in dread, beset by fears.
Slander and divisive speech bring regions full of gorges and
ravines,
Steep defiles and chasms hard to cross.

35. Harsh words give rise to places filled with stones and thorns,
Tree stumps evil-fruited, harsh and bad to taste,
Brackish waters, wastelands filled with dust and slag:
Mournful places, lands for sorrowing.
Through pointless chatter, all one's toiling in the fields
Is fruitless. All is unpredictable, for in due season nothing comes.

36. Through covetousness, husk and grain are in their measure all reversed;
One's time and place are bad and ill portends.
Through wishing evil, one is born in lands oppressed by evil kings,
Preyed upon by robbers, savages, wild beasts, and deadly snakes.
The fruits and harvests have a bitter, burning taste
In regions prone to natural calamities.
37. Through wrong views, one is born in lands devoid of wealth,
Where healing trees and plants are scarce,
Where flowers and their fruits have little strength,
In places destitute of friends and kin, defenseless, unprotected.
38. The proliferating consequence of acts performed
Produces, through great increment, unbounded sorrow.
Thus this prison of unbearable samsara
Is darker than the very dark itself.
Through blades of pain upon the aggregates one has assumed,
Sensations hard to bear are all the recompense of sin.
39. And so in this condition of impure perception,
The path of tenfold virtue leads to higher realms.
Embrace therefore ten virtuous acts
And from the ten nonvirtues turn away.
40. Of these the ten that lead to happiness
Cast beings into realms of bliss;
Ten evil actions throw them down into the states of loss.
To undertake or spurn such deeds, thus known as white or black,
Defines the path of lesser beings.

41. Ten virtues, the samadhis and the formless concentrations,
The six perfections, giving and the rest—all this
Is virtue that to liberation tends. It is the cause of sublime purity.
All are gathered in five paths: accumulation, joining,
Seeing, meditation, no more learning.
42. When realization of the nonexistence of the twofold self is won,
All virtue wherein skillful means and wisdom are conjoined
Is like a gold-producing alchemy that strikes upon the leaden state
Wherein existence and nirvana contradict.
Buddhahood, the primal wisdom that abides in no extreme, is thus
achieved.
Virtue such as this transcends the world.
43. While on the path, by means of concepts, merit is laid in
And wisdom free of all such concepts also is amassed.
When these two are conjoined,
The two veils are removed and the two kayas manifest:
Such is the inter-working of profound and pure causation.

The Sufferings of Samsara

1. We who board the supreme ship of higher realms
Escape, for now, the dreadful monster's tongue, the evil destinies.
But since we have not reached the dry land of our Freedom,
In a captain we should place our trust: the four truths of the
Noble Ones.
2. We should understand the truth of suffering:
In all the six realms of samsara, high or low,
No place is there but is entrapped in misery
Of pain, of change, of all-pervading suffering in the making.
3. The origin of pain, the demon of desire that rears its head to
strike,
Entwined with poisoned objects of desire,
Contrives a prison whence there's no escape:
The breeding ground of weariness and woe.
4. We yearn for happiness and strive for it.
But overmastered by the power of ignorance
And caught upon the sharpened point of sorrow and its cause,
We are ourselves the place wherein our pain is all prepared.
5. Like moths attracted to the bright form of a flame,
Like deer, like bees, like fish, like elephants,
By sound, by smell, by taste, by touch are we betrayed,
Bound up with the five objects of desire.
6. Beings in samsara are continuously assailed
By pains more swift to strike than raging fire,
Than wild and dangerous beasts,
Than savage men, than punishments of kings.

7. There's no way to conceive of those who were our friends or foes,
Who held us near or far. For every living being
Has loved and hated us and has been unconcerned:
The help and harm received from them surpasses all imagining.
8. For sake of our desires, each one of us has undergone
The cutting off of head and limbs.
These members all piled up would make a mountain greater than
Sumeru,
Though our life-supporting bodies were no bigger than a speck of
dust.
9. In hell, we swallowed boiling molten copper.
When we were pretas, we consumed both pus and blood and every
kind of filth.
The tears we shed from all these woes would many times exceed
The rivers that flow down into the outer seas.
10. The pains of hell are measureless.
In Reviving, there is mutual slaughter,
And in Black Lines, beings are sawed apart and then rejoined
without reprieve.
In Crushing, they are ground by hammers and by head-shaped
hills.
In Screaming, they are pierced and boiled in molten metal,
In Great Screaming, they are burned in houses made of
incandescent steel.
11. In the Hell of Heat, they are impaled on burning stakes
And in Great Heat, their bodies are run through by tridents.
Wrapped in sheets of blazing steel, they boil in vats of molten
bronze,
And in the blazing iron tenements of Torment Unsurpassed,
The beings are not distinguished from the fire consuming them.

12. When they think that they might be released from pain,
The doors stand open leading to the Neighboring Hells.
But there they find a trench of glowing coals, a viscous swamp of
rotting dead,
A razor grove, a fordless stream—each one more horrible than
Yama's jaws.
13. Remembering their lovers' troth, they hurry to their sides,
Their bodies cruelly wounded on sharp thorns.
But then their lovers change, becoming monsters made of burning
steel,
Who take them in their arms, while crows and vultures tear and
gouge their eyes.
14. Freezing snowstorms bind them with a rope of shivering cold;
They cannot move although they are alive.
The wind sinks knives of ice into the marrow of their bones,
They're crushed between the teeth of icy torment.
15. The hells of cold are Blisters, Bursting Blisters,
Lamentation, Groaning, Chattering Teeth,
The hell where flesh splits open sixfold like utpala flowers,
The Lotus Hell and the Great Lotus Hell
With wounds of eight, or sixteen, or of countless fissures,
Where worms with pointed beaks devour and eat into the flesh.
16. Because of different karmas, beings see themselves
As doors, or pillars, ropes or hearths;
They're felled in stumps of trees, enclosed in doorless cavities.
Their bitter ordeal knows no end.
17. If this noisy tumult, all these waves of pain,
In this teeming flood of life is not brought to an end,
The rampart of this human life superior to the gods will burst
And we will wander in samsara's desolation.

18. Once the karma that created indeterminate absorption
In the formless realm is worn away,
A subsequent existence is compounded.
With exhaustion of the former actions
That produced samadhi in the realm of form,
There comes the misery of falling into lower states.

19. Brahma and Devindra and the Universal Kings
Enjoy the ripening effect of virtuous acts,
Like sunlight peeping through the clouds.
But when this is used up, they wane—
Just like the lamp oil that the flame consumes.

20. And even though the lotuses beneath his feet,
On pavements soft and yielding to the tread,
Blush crimson in the light projected from the crowns
Of gods and nagas and kinnara lords,
Indra too, at length, will languish on a burning iron spike.

21. All lost will be the soft caress of goddesses
Who lulled them on their youthful breasts in lovely groves
And in exquisite palaces adorned with tapestries of pearls!
The gods will fall precipitated into pits of fiery ash!

22. Their robes, their thrones, their garlands old and sear—
No goddesses stand by to wipe their sweating brows!
They gaze in tears upon those close to them:
An agony of death unknown to humankind.

23. The mighty luminaries of the sun and moon
Are tenants of vast parasols of light
That overstretch the ring of Yugandhara mountains.
But utter blindness waits for them in times to come,
Imprisoned in a state of deep obscurity.

24. The asuras' minds are torn asunder
By the battle-ax of envious rage against the glory of the gods;
And further, in the fray against the latter's furious host,
They are tormented by the cutting off of head and limbs.
25. Our human life is fleeting, fitful like a bubble,
Conflicts and unhappiness and all the rest
Torment us in succession, one by one—
They are like wounds inflicted on a leper's sores.
26. And in the garden of the higher realms replete with all delight,
We long to taste the objects of desire.
And eating of this poisoned food, our bodies are brought down
to torment:
All that we have gained is changing, miragelike.
27. The story of the king who could not bear to walk on his two feet,
But mounted wearily his elephant that, lusting for its mate,
Was driven wild and threw him down into a steep abyss
Describes pervasive suffering in the making.
28. In the wilderness of threefold sorrow
Prowl the ills of birth, age, sickness, death;
We meet with enemies and things we do not want;
While those we love depart and do not stay;
29. The things we wish for are so shy to come,
While hardships throng upon our aggregates—
Eight kinds of fierce suffering
At all times plague this vine of human life.
30. The womb is like a doorless house of iron,
Fetid and unclean with humid slime,
A place of utter darkness, all-confined—
Here deluded consciousness alights on mingled sperm and blood.

31. Spherical then stringlike, oblong, ovoid, round,
Then like a fish, then turtle-shaped:
'Tis thus the embryo takes shape in seven weeks
And in the twenty-six that follow goes through many
transformations.
In this ugly thing, the organs of the senses, limbs, and hair take
shape.
32. Then in the thirty-seventh week, the fetus, grown in size,
Now quickens in the womb, has feelings of discomfort,
Suffering greatly from the actions of its mother,
Her hunger, thirst, her heat and cold.
33. Then at the time of birth,
The body of the child must pass between
What seems the crushing cliffs of hell unbearable.
And in such dreadful pain the mother or her child,
Or even both, may lose their lives—
Such are the agonies of being born!
34. Emerging from the womb enwrapped in evil-smelling slime,
The infant cannot bear the pain, as though its flesh were but a
single wound.
The memories of former states are dimmed
And searing pain is felt at every touch.
35. Defeated by the punishment of age,
Youth must bear the burden of decline and grief.
Power of movement wanes; a stick is used for leaning on
And joints are wrenched in going back and forth.
36. As faculties decay, the savoring of what was once desired
Is muted like the heat and light of the enclouded sun.
Enfeeble, one must lie upon a bed,
One's mind, bewildered, rambling far and wide.

37. When the pool of balanced health is troubled
And sensations of disease occur,
The weary one who holds to the five aggregates
Is terrified with fear of death.
38. Nothing in this world is dearer than life.
When we are smitten with the suffering of death,
Dear friends and family, all that we possess, are left behind,
As we go forth we know not where.
39. People are undone when meeting with adversities,
Tormented by these harbingers of pain.
It is as when the resting place on which one takes one's ease
Collapses: there is no relief but only more affliction.
40. The sorrow felt by lovers newly parted—
How vast it would be if it had a form!
Enchanted by an elf maid, Norzang fared
Through peril and through woe.
For karma such as this must long endure.
41. The poor who have not what they want must suffer;
They must waste their body and their speech
In grip of hope and fear for food and drink not found—
They are like pretas moving on the earth.
42. Feeling knows the nature of the Form on which it's based.
Perception is conducive, usually, to action;
Conditioning Factors multiply the seeds of future pain;
While Consciousness appropriates the sense of sorrow.

43. These five aggregates are thus the source,
The basis and receptacle of every ill, both cause and fruit,
The owner and experiencer of pain.
Wherefore I pray you, cast away your sorrows' wellspring:
Karma and defilements.
44. The path of those rejecting them, the beings of middle scope,
Consists in driving in the chariot of the four truths.
They actualize Cessation, reaching supreme freedom,
The state that lies beyond all suffering.
45. The root of all dependent things is Ignorance—
Whence come Conditioning Factors, Consciousness, and Name-and-Form.
From these the six Sense Powers are born,
Whence Contact and, from Contact, Feeling.
46. Thence comes Craving and, from Craving, Grasping;
Thence Becoming; from Becoming, Birth.
With Birth comes deprivation of one's wants,
Affliction, sickness, Age-and-Death:
A vast accumulation of pain is thus produced.
When Birth is halted, all these too are stopped.
47. This teaching so profound, dependence of effects on causes,
Is the very treasure of the truth the Conqueror has taught.
Yet true and supreme peace transcends
The deeds that bring forth high or low existence
(White and black phenomena in causal sequence).
And when the unborn nature of phenomena is realized, it will
manifest.

The Four Wheels

1. To live in favorable, conducive places,
To follow holy beings and imbibe their qualities,
To have good aspiration, and desire to be protected by one's merit:
Such are the four great wheels, as Nagarjuna taught.

2. Dwelling in the midst of crowds
Is like consuming poisoned food.
From such wild and agitating circumstances turn away
And all alone in solitude aspire to Peace.

3. Unattached to gain, like wind or bird,
In lonely places like the creatures of the wild,
You will not be disturbed by rash and shallow conduct.
Staying in one place will lead to keeping in with others;
Your strength to bear with jealousy will wear away.

4. Cats are hard and cruel in mind
And yet so sweetly and so peacefully they move and sit.
Bad friends are just the same, and with their easy company,
They'll quickly turn you from the Dharma.

5. Constantly in motion, sun and moon are dear to all,
While long-familiar company breeds spite and irritation.
Places newly visited are free from trouble,
Where everyone will see you as a friend.

6. But those who, though they speak like common folk,
Have minds that do not follow after good or evil speech,
Regarding it as no more than an echo,
Have no restrictions for their dwelling place.

7. Those whose training in pure discipline
And whose single-pointed concentration are as yet unstable
Will reap attainments, great or small,
According to their dwelling and the company they keep.
8. Since our Teacher has permitted it and since
It brings forth merit in the other's mind
And leads to no impairment of the discipline,
The beggar's way is like a wish-fulfilling jewel;
To live from alms alone is consonant [with Dharma].
9. Theft by devious means, and making gain by giving gifts,
To wheedle with cajoling flattery,
To show a false facade, to flaunt one's rank—these five
Are impure ways of livelihood: a shame for those engaged upon
the path.
10. And so a perfect dwelling and good livelihood,
Good company and application—all arouse one's strength of
mind.
In order to acquire the qualities of threefold training,
Have recourse to holy beings.
11. Like a log of common timber
Lying in Malaya's forest groves
Absorbs the fragrance of the moistened sandal leaves—
You will take after those whom you frequent.
12. A master who has all the qualities of sacred Dharma,
In this age of dregs, is hard to find:
One whose mind is like a soil well-tilled
Through the injunctions and restraints of the three vows
And watered with both learning and with great compassion.

13. Rely on such a one, a master of the myriad practices
Of both the Tripitaka and the Secret Mantra,
A master rich in fruits of pure primordial wisdom,
Both of realization and elimination,
Who with sumptuous flowers of four attractive qualities,
Gathers to himself the lucky bees, his fortunate disciples.

14. Especially, a master who expounds essential teachings
Must have been empowered, must rest serene in pure samaya,
Absorbing all the meanings of the tantra of ground, path, and
fruit.
The marks both of approach and of accomplishment he must have
complete,
His mind set free through realization.

15. His compassion must be boundless; others' good must be his only
care.
Earnestly caught up in Dharma, he should have but few activities.
Toward samsara he must feel great weariness, inspiring this in
others.
He must be skilled in means and have the blessings of the lineage.
Rely on such a master and attainments will be swift.

16. But there are teachers of the path who are like wooden millstones.
They care about their lineage no different from a Brahmin priest,
Or else are fearful lest their home and seat decline.
And as for the results of learning and reflection,
It's as though they bathe themselves in a polluted pond!

17. Others are no different from the common run of beings,
But with the faith of fools they preen themselves.
Because of wealth and honor shown to them, they swell with
pride.
Indeed like well-frogs are such "virtuous friends."

18. Some have little learning and are lax in vows and pledges.
Though base in mind, they act as though they soared above the earth.
They cut the drawstrings of compassion and of love.
Through such mad guides does sinfulness increase.

19. To follow such blind mentors on the strength of their renown—
Whose qualities do not exceed one's own,
Who have no bodhichitta—is a serious mistake,
For by such a false discipleship one wanders in the dark.

20. By failing to subject such teachers, therefore, to a stringent test,
Those who place their faith in them will waste their stock of merit.
The finding of this time of freedom will be just as when, mistakenly,
One takes a dangerous serpent for the shadow of a tree.

21. But teachers who are rich with every perfect quality,
Who from the sphere of all the Buddhas' primal wisdom and compassion
Come in human form to worlds where there are beings to be trained—
Such teachers are the supreme root of all accomplishments.

22. For sake of guiding on the path, they seem in harmony with all,
And yet with worldly ways they are in fact at variance.
Owing to their wise intent, they are superior to all;
They're skillful in dispelling doubts and bear with spite and weariness.

23. They are great ships of rescue from the ocean of existence,
True mentors, undeceiving on the supreme path.
They are a nectar-rain to quench the fiery mass of karma and defilements,
And, like sun and moon, dispel the dark of ignorance.

24. They are strong and all-supporting like the earth itself,
A source of benefit and bliss, like wish-fulfilling trees,
Like perfect vessels filled with treasures of Dharma.
Greater even than the wishing jewel, they are the source of all.
25. They are the parents of all living beings, loving them with equal
love,
And like a running river is their great and swift compassion.
In joy they are unchanging like Sumeru, king of mountains;
With untroubled equanimity, they are like clouds of rain.
26. Such teachers are the peers of all the Buddhas.
Even their assailants are connected to the path of bliss.
On those who follow them with true devotion,
Qualities of high rebirth and freedom shower down like rain.
27. Like sick men on their doctors and like travelers on their guides,
Like merchants on their helmsmen and the fearful on their braves,
Like seamen on their pilots, all those who dread their foes
(Defilements, birth, and death)
Should take support of teachers such as these.
28. If those who take their teachings are improper vessels,
No profit do they get from such a nectar.
They're satisfied with trifles, and their faith
Is changeful like the seasons, shallow and contrived.
29. At first, like wild yaks, some refuse to enter on the Dharma path,
And then they hate to study or reflect; their only interest is this
present life.
At last they go with evil friends
And, like the wild men of the forests, take to evil ways.

30. Some, even when the master's present, wish to be away.
And yet wherever they may go, they're caught by sinful ways.
When told to stay in solitude, their Dharma practice falls apart.
They are like tips of kusha waving in the wind.

31. Some with evil natures, with deceiving, twisted tongues
Approach their teacher like a musk-deer.
Once they take his musk, the holy Dharma,
Gleeful with the prize, they throw away their pledges.

32. Those whose plans exceed their own capacity
Receive essential teachings but then lay them on one side.
They ferret through a stack of texts and tire themselves;
Before discovering something new, they lose what they had known
before.

33. Some have faith that joins them to the perfect teachings;
Some appear to have it but are interested in worldly goals;
And some are neither of these two, their Dharma's just a lie.
The nature of these three it is important to discern.

34. But those well armed, whose minds are very firm,
Who serve their teachers at the cost of life and limb,
Who implement the teacher's word without concern for self,
Such beings will find freedom simply through devotion.

35. Disciples should have faith and wisdom.
They should be possessed of learning and of great compassion.
They must respect their vows and their samaya,
Be disciplined in body, speech, and mind.
They should be generous, broad-minded,
With pure perception and a sense of shame.

36. They should be skilled in knowing how to please their teachers.
Like the supreme horse not jibbing at reproof,
They should abandon weariness like boats that come and go.
Like bridges they should bear all things, both good and ill.
37. Like anvils they should stand both heat and cold;
Like servants, they should heed instructions.
They should rid themselves of pride, like those who sweep the
streets,
And give up arrogance, like bulls with broken horns.
The teacher should be followed thus, for so the texts declare.
38. Riches, if you have them,
Offer to your teacher, the fourth jewel,
Who should be served and reverenced in word and deed.
Never will such actions go to waste,
And of the three ways to delight a teacher, practice is the best.
39. Never look askance at what the teacher does,
For most of the great siddhas of the Noble Land
Were menials or outcasts, evildoers,
And, even by the worst of standards, dissolute.
40. If those who have not mastered their own minds
Ascribe faults to their teacher, then their sin is measureless.
Although he knew by heart the twelve parts of the scripture,
Bhikshu Sunakshatra, overmastered by the power of sin,
Perceived as false the actions of the Buddha.
Reflecting well thereon, reform yourself.
41. If the teacher seems enraged, then understand
That he has seen your faults:
The time for taming through reproof has come.
Confess, resolving to reform yourself.
For those with understanding do not stray into the demons'
power.

42. Do not stay sitting when the teacher stands;
And when he sits, make offerings, inquiring for his ease.
When he walks, attend him
Not in front and not behind nor to his right.
Disparaging his seat or steed will bring decline of merit.
43. Slamming doors and affectation, angry scowls;
To lie, to play the fool, to laugh or banter mindlessly;
Indifference to the teacher's presence,
Want of awe and reverence: these should all be shunned.
In thoughts and words and deeds, attend your teacher quietly.
44. Those who hate and scorn your teacher you should not befriend.
Put a stop to their behavior if you can.
For if you keep on easy terms with them,
The great strength of their sin will taint your own samaya.
45. Adjust yourself to your companions like a belt.
Like salt, be easy to absorb.
Like posts, be strong in your endurance.
Befriend the teacher's retinue and all the vajra kin.
46. Like swans that swim in perfect pools,
Like bees that taste the nectar in the flowers,
Be tireless in your constant and impeccable attendance.
And having pleased the teacher,
Taste, through faith, his perfect qualities.
47. Engaging truly in the actions of enlightenment,
Holy beings make supreme accumulation
Of both merit and of wisdom.
To serve and help them in their work,
To carry messages and sweep the floor—
Even tasks like these bear fruit
And of accumulation are the supreme path.

48. Why so? Because the practice based upon the teacher
Holds within it refuge in a field of merit,
The outer and the inner yogas that accomplish the guru
And the practices of generation and perfection.
For the teacher is the Buddha, as the sutras and the tantras all
declare.
49. Most foolish people meditate on images they have contrived;
They do not serve the teacher while he's present.
They claim to meditate upon the natural state
But do not know the teacher's mind.
Alas, their actions and their aims are contraries!
And strange to say, although without devotion,
They hope to meet him in the bardo!
50. At first, be skillful in examining a teacher.
Then be skilled in knowing how to follow him.
At last, be skilled in training in his view and action.
Acting thus you'll tread a perfect path.
51. It's then that, in their hate of peace, the evil spirits come,
Assuming human guise, deceitful in their dark and wicked ways.
In hatred of bright virtue, they despise the holy beings.
As much as you consort with them, the storm of sin will rage.
How stupid then to keep such evil friends,
Who trample down the harvest of your virtue.
For by these demon hordes you are brought low!
52. Frequenting, therefore, virtuous teachers and good friends,
You will gain perfect fortune in this very life.
The Buddhas and the Bodhisattvas will at all times think of you;
You will be rich in all the excellence of high birth and
enlightenment.

53. Accumulations all complete and obscurations purified,
You will attain the two accomplishments,
Progressing from the high to higher qualities of grounds and
paths.
The practice of the guru yoga brings about the gathering of merit,
And mingling your mindstream with the guru's mind
Gives rise to primal wisdom.
54. Because the two accumulations are quintessence of the fruit,
The Conqueror has said that—more than all the agelong worship
Of the Buddhas and their Bodhisattva heirs,
More than a hundred meditations on the generation stage—
The recollection of the teacher for a single instant is supreme.
55. The perfect aim to bring into your mind
The treasury of boundless streams of nectar of the sacred teaching
Hangs upon the exposition of a perfect teacher
By whose perfect skillful means the pith instructions will not err.
The perfect resolution to gain freedom
Is a strong enchantment cast upon the demon of contentment
with samsara.
With these four perfections is your aspiration excellent.
56. To enter Dharma's door but then grow weary;
To study, contemplate, and meditate with poisoned motivation;
To have no true commitment to the Dharma,
Holding vows as though they were a burden;
To wander from the practice of the Mahayana,
Cursed by eight mundane concerns:
All these are grievous faults whereby
Persistence in the excellent aspiration is destroyed.

57. Directly then for all the five great poisons of defilement
The powerful treatment is to ride upon the chariots of three kinds
of beings.
Throughout the four times freed from weariness,
You will see all things as Dharma and your very teacher.
These will be the causes of omniscience
Whereby the excellent aspiration is fulfilled.
58. The joy of seven qualities enjoyed in higher realms,
High status graced with freedom, and an absence of disease,
Concentration and a wise discernment:
These five are certain signs of merit gathered in the past.
59. But without training, knowledge will be brought to ruin;
Through swelling pride, the glory of the trainings will be brought
to ruin;
Through hatred, every virtue will be brought to ruin;
And by desire, your perfect high position will be brought to ruin.
60. Thus to have a mind that's undisturbed
By karma and defilement and misdeeds;
To be, through strength of wisdom and good fortune, well-
disposed:
All these are signs that merit has been gathered, as the *Ornament*
explains.
61. With firm defense of their commitment to the Dharma,
Those who put forth strong determination
(Cure for any doubt that they might bend strong Indra's bow—
The practice of the ocean of the Dharma deep and vast)
Will walk unerring on the paramita path.

62. All acts of cleansing and all gatherings of merit

Like offering of the Seven Branches, water tormas, and the rest,
Are in harmony with such a path.

Adversity will not bring low the ones who practice in this way;
They tread the path relying on their merit.

This then is the mainstay of the path of beings of the greatest
scope.

Refuge

1. In the troubled ocean of three fears,
The worthy and unfailing refuge for the faithful
Is the Triple Gem renowned as a white parasol.
On entering the Teaching, we must first have trust in it.

2. Undeceiving refuge is itself the pledge to be
The basis of the path that leads to freedom and the vessel for its
qualities.
Before embarking on it, therefore, we must understand
The qualities of both the Teacher and his Teaching.

3. The root of every good is faith itself,
And this is unpredictable in beings' minds.
On meeting with a Teacher or on reading in the texts,
It floods the mind, the hairs upon one's flesh stand up.

4. This first is "vivid faith."
It's followed then by faith that's "yearning," "confident," and
"irreversible."
Of these four kinds, when taking refuge,
Faith is needed that, at cost of life and limb, is irreversible.

5. Four causes are there for the birth of faith.
Frequenting holy beings, keeping company with wholesome
friends,
Remembering the Triple Gem,
And thinking of the miseries of meaningless samsara:
Thence it is that faith comes into being.

6. Boundless are the qualities of buddhahood
When two eliminations are victorious
Over veils emotional and cognitive.
The eyes of vision, knowledge preternatural,
Ten powers, four dharanis, and ten strengths,
Four fearlessnesses, perfect knowledge,
Eighteen distinctive qualities:
Buddhahood is all of these complete.
Buddha is the Dharmakaya
Endowed with supreme qualities,
Revealed as the Sambhogakaya
To a retinue of tenth-ground Bodhisattvas.
7. The Dharma is nirvana, path, and virtue: these are what it teaches.
It is both fruit and all the acts whereby the fruit is gained.
It therefore has two natures, called two truths: Cessation and the Path.
In terms of exposition and of that which is expounded,
There is Dharma of transmission and of realization.
8. The sacred writings in twelve branches are the Dharma of transmission,
Which, arranged as antidotes, become the Three Collections,
And also the Collection of Vidyadharas, endowed with greater means.
And since the scriptures all consist of syllables,
The latter are the basis of our pledges.

9. The Dharma, then, of realization
Holds within it, step by step, the qualities contained in the five paths
Beginning with the four close mindfullnesses.
It is the primal wisdom of elimination and realization
Possessed by Noble Beings; it is the buddha nature.
It is the generation and perfection stages,
The dharanis and unbounded ayatanas:
All the contents of four paths of learning
And the path of no more learning.
This Dharma therefore is the primal wisdom
Present in the minds of those abiding
On the ten grounds of the causal vehicle,
And all the boundless grades of realization of the Vajrayana:
The thirteen levels of fruition and the rest.
10. The Sangha is, in essence, those
Who are both wise and free.
They are the Shravakas and Pratyekabuddhas
According as they enter and abide—
Four pairs, eight kinds in all.
With these are all the Bodhisattvas, Buddha's heirs,
Who dwell with qualities ineffable
Upon the grounds of realization.
11. Our path and our protection is the sacred Dharma—
The Dharma that from Buddha has arisen.
The Sangha is composed of those who dwell within the trainings
Or assist us in achieving them,
Wherefore this Triple Gem is object of our refuge.

12. Of the vows of refuge, causal and resultant,
The first is aspiration for attainment at some later time.
Resultant refuge is the mind itself already now accomplished.
This refuge is the special feature of the Vajrayana.
The object of the causal refuge is the Triple Gem,
Which, in the Mantrayana, is embodied in the lama.

13. Three motivations: narrow, great, and unsurpassed
Define three kinds of beings.
Those of little scope are frightened of the lower realms;
They can progress as far as higher realms.

14. Those of middle scope seek freedom, fearful of samsara.
They take refuge for their life's duration
And ultimately till they gain the goal pursued
By both the Shravakas and the Pratyekabuddhas.

15. Great beings fear the blissful peace that overlooks the good of
others.
That they might free them from samsara in the state of great relief,
Until enlightenment is gained, they take resultant refuge in the
mind itself,
Wherein there are no false phenomena either to be spurned or
gained.

16. The compassion of the Buddhas is at all times opportune
For those who wander on the paths.
All discourse on the qualities of just a single of a Buddha's pores
Can never have an end. One would be like a bird
That fails to reach the limits of the sky and comes to earth again.

17. Ishvara, the Chakravartins, and the rest,
With hidden stores of faults (the evil actions that they have
amassed),
Turn constantly upon samsara's wheel.
Perceiving them to be deceptive refuges,
We should, with fear and faith and with compassion,
And with the attitude of greatest scope—concern for others'
good—
Be mindful of the Triple Gem and thus take refuge.
18. Just as the extent of space cannot be sounded,
Likewise fruits of actions white or black,
Related to the Triple Gem, are measureless.
If taking refuge could assume a form,
The whole of space could not encompass it.
19. Refuge is the entrance to the Buddhist fold and is the basis of all
vows.
It will put an end to sins and obscurations, driving perils far away.
It will guard us from the chasms of the lower realms
And keep us in the presence of the Triple Gem;
In life we'll taste of every excellence.
Our stores of merit will be filled,
Whereby the twofold Rupakaya is attained.
20. Resultant refuge, undeceiving, is the threefold door to liberation.
It is the ultimate expanse transcending all expectancy:
The nature [of the mind], the uncompounded vajra.
It is the perfect gathering of wisdom
And attainment of the twofold purity.

21. There are precepts for both causal and resultant refuge.
According to the first, the Triple Gem is not to be abandoned
Even at the cost of life or limb—
No need to speak of doing so for sake of power or gain.
The lama is himself the essence of the Triple Gem
And having taken refuge in him,
We should spurn pretense and all improper talk.
22. When refuge has been taken in the Buddha, Dharma, Sangha,
Respectively, no honor should be paid to gods
Who, like us, circle in samsara;
We should do no hurt to others, nor befriend those hostile to the
Dharma;
With faith we should show reverence to the symbols of the
Triple Gem,
And night and day, without forgetting, we should go to them for
refuge.
23. Regarding precepts of resultant refuge,
Since Buddha is the Dharmakaya,
And buddhahood occurs in the expanse
Where there is no rejecting or adopting,
There is no protector, no protected.
Resultant refuge thus surpasses
Refuge understood conventionally.
To say that it can be abandoned is just empty words.
24. Causal refuge is abandoned when,
Through holding to wrong views,
The true, authentic refuge is forsaken.
The spoiling of the training leads to lower states.
We should keep the precepts therefore as we guard our wounds.

25. Some people are like foxes, filled with evil instincts.
Unworthy vessels, of two minds, their acts belie their words.
They show a weak conviction in the refuge that is undeceiving;
They have recourse to spirits; in this life they come to ruin.
26. The earth and sky and Sumeru,
Above, below, might change their place;
The sun and moon might fall down to the ground.
But never could the Triple Gem deceive and fail.
To be convinced of this is of the highest moment.
27. For then we will behold the Three Jewels even in our dreams;
And rich in perfect qualities through mindfulness and vigilance,
We will recall our former lives and cross the bardo easily.
We will be guardians and friends of all embodied beings.

The Four Boundless Attitudes

1. In the pool of Hinayana
 (The minds of Shravakas and of Pratyekabuddhas),
 The element of bodhichitta lies unstirred.
 It is aroused by those who teach them voidness and compassion.
 And setting sail upon the ocean of the Mahayana,
 They voyage to the island of omniscience.
2. Giving, discipline and patience, diligence and concentration
 In themselves are not regarded as the first five paramitas.
 But if a lowly thing is touched by alchemy of means and wisdom,
 It is, like iron, transmuted into something of great worth.
3. Wherefore true bodhichitta is the fusion
 Of compassionate means and wisdom that cognizes emptiness.
 The four unbounded attitudes prepare and lead to it;
 It comes from cultivating bodhichitta both in aspiration and in
 action,
 And from training in the precepts.
4. Love means wishing for the happiness of others.
 Like a loving mother cherishing her child,
 One's body, wealth and virtue all amassed one gives for others'
 benefit,
 While training to endure the harms that they inflict.
5. Compassion is a powerful state of mind—
 An inability to tolerate the fact that others suffer.
 Beings in the six realms are entrapped by sorrow and its cause,
 And seeing this brings tears to one's eyes.

6. Joy is to delight in other's pleasure and success;
It is to cultivate the wish that all have happiness.
It is a joy one feels when they achieve it for themselves
And is the wish that they should never be deprived of it.
7. Impartiality is freedom from attachment and hostility,
When sides and factions are all seen as equal,
When enemy and friend and neither—
All are treated with an evenhanded kindness.
We should practice these four attitudes remembering
That all is without true existence.
8. But love that is desire, compassion that is greed,
Proud inflated joy and ignorant indifference—
These are not the path to freedom but resemble Brahma's four
abidings.
Stained with partiality and clinging, they should be abandoned.
9. But when they are connected with the path that leads to Peace,
These practices encompass everything that lives,
Who, though without intrinsic being, nonetheless appear.
These trainings, when they gain in strength,
Become the cause of the two bodhichittas.
Therefore they are called
The four extraordinary and boundless attitudes.
10. They may be meditated on in sequence or in any order,
Focused on the things with which they're generated easily.
Yet if meditation upon love inflames desire,
Attention should be given to impartiality,
Where beings are not seen as close or distant.

11. And if the mind becomes indifferent and dull,
This is stopped by switching to compassion and the cause and
fruit of pain.
If then compassion sinks toward discouragement,
By focusing on joy, depression is dispelled.
But if through joy the mind is wild and scattered,
We should meditate on love and so forth, mixing thus the order.
12. By meditating in this way we will, as ripened fruit,
Gain high rebirth among desire realm gods or humankind—
And then enlightenment itself.
According to effects resembling their causes,
We will actively continue in the practice
And experience happiness untroubled by adversity.
13. Through the conditioning effect,
We will be happy in a pleasant dwelling place,
And through the increasing fruit,
The strength of these four attitudes will prosper;
And, related to the twofold goal,
Will every virtuous quality be gained.
14. When love is mastered, we will care for beings
As though they were our children.
Being free of angry hate, we will be prized by others.
Love, by nature empty, free of an intrinsic being,
Will lead to the accomplishment of mirrorlike wisdom and
Sambhogakaya.
15. When of compassion we have then the mastery,
Others' sorrow we will shoulder as our burden,
Our minds released from enmity and craving.
Compassion joined with emptiness will lead
To realization of the all-discerning wisdom and the Dharmakaya.

16. When joy is mastered, envy's root is severed.
Firm will be our wealth of wholesome qualities.
Our calm serenity of mind will be unbroken.
Our joyful concentration will be free from every concept;
We will gain the wisdom all-accomplishing and the supreme
Nirmanakaya.

17. When impartiality is mastered,
Self and other, friend and foe are equal.
Pride will have no place and realization deep and peaceful will
arise.
And, freed from all confusion, we will truly gain
The primal wisdom of the dharmadhatu and the Svabhavikakaya.

18. And so the qualities of the four boundless attitudes,
In cause and fruit, are infinite, infallible.
The teachings of false paths are causes of samsara;
They contradict the teachings of compassion joined with
emptiness.
Let us not attend to them, I beg, but let us now pursue
The sacred path of Bodhisattvas leading to unsullied liberation.
Let us train ourselves in virtue that destroys impurity.

The Vow of Bodhichitta

1. For buddhahood, the goal to be achieved,
The supreme instrument is bodhichitta,
Gained through four unbounded attitudes.
And as this wondrous chariot makes its way
In aspiration and in action,
It causes the inferior view, the wish for one's own peace, to wane.
2. When beings engender bodhichitta in their minds,
Though still imprisoned in samsara, bound by sin and pain,
They gain a crown, the name of Children of the Conqueror,
And are revered by all the world, both gods and humankind.
3. Amid the thick, dark clouds of karma and defilement,
Virtue flares like lightning sharp and swift.
Such virtue practiced fitfully gives rise to mere merit;
Like the plantain tree, it fructifies and then its root is spent.
4. But just as in a field of rich and fertile soil,
A perfect harvest springs abundantly,
So too does bodhichitta, like a wondrous tree, yield in this world
Rich fruits that grow and increase till enlightenment is gained.
5. Receptacle of karma and defilement, all-pervasive pain,
Samsara is an ocean buffeted by waves of thought.
But beings still cling to it as though it were their home.
Bodhichitta is the great and brave resolve to rescue them.
6. To have no thought for one's own benefit,
To strive to gain omniscience for others' sake alone,
Like hungering and thirsting for one's food and drink—
All this is known as bodhichitta.

7. The pledge to reach this object is aspiring bodhichitta,
Which consists in threefold training:
First equaling, then interchanging, self and other,
Then loving others more than one's own self.
These, briefly, are the trainings. Their essence lies in love
And all the other of the four unbounded attitudes.

8. To pledge oneself to that which causes such a goal
Is active bodhichitta.
Its trainings are the six transcendent virtues
And reliance on behavior that is pure and perfect.

9. With regard to noble and to common beings,
Bodhichitta is divided twofold.
When related to the threefold training,
It's divided into three.

10. It is distinguished fourfold in the following way:
First, upon the pathways of accumulation and of joining,
It's embraced through aspiration;
Second, from the first ground till the seventh,
There arises bodhichitta of sublime and pure attitude;
Third, upon the three pure grounds it comes to perfect ripeness;
And fourth, upon the ground of buddhahood,
It's free from every obscuration.

- ii. Connected with five paths, five bodhichittas are enumerated.
Associated with the six transcendent virtues,
There are bodhichittas in an equal quantity.
When the grounds of realization are distinguished,
There are two and twenty bodhichittas.
In the aspirational and active bodhichittas all these are included.

12. Those who seek their own good
Always keep an open door;
They do nothing to distress the minds of those who come
a-begging.
As openhanded patrons are they known
And are indeed deserving of all praise.
13. But when the wish to benefit unnumbered beings
Takes rise for just a single instant,
The gateway to the lower realms is closed
And in the realms of gods and humankind
Unending qualities of bliss are then enjoyed.
14. Even greater are the boundless qualities of active bodhichitta.
For when with ritual support, the mind, with irreversible intent,
Is pledged to actual deeds, and henceforth
With great firmness promises to free all beings,
From that moment onward, even during sleep and inattention,
Merit will be always present in the mind—
As it has been declared with reasons in the *Bodhisattva's Way*.
15. Over many ages are great stores of merit gathered.
By chariots drawn by ox or elephant, by courses of the sun and
moon—
By such examples are the many speeds of progress on the path
described.
And yet, through great determination, endeavor, wisdom, skill,
The requisite of three unmeasured aeons is suspended.
16. As with the planting of a seed, the generation of the supreme
mind
Is less important than its actual birth.
From three strengths is bodhichitta born:
Great compassion, stores of merit, taking refuge,
Respectively explained as strengths of attitude, of training, and of
cause.

17. Two kinds of being, it is taught, are able to engender bodhichitta:
Those with one of seven pratimoksha ordinations,
Or anyone with aspiration, as *The Precious Palm* declares.
The Middle Way, which follows this, is thus more vast in its approach.
The method for the full engendering of bodhichitta
Is the gathering of merit.

18. Its cause is buddha nature found within the minds of all;
Its condition is attendance on a virtuous friend:
The perfect teacher who is like a wishing-gem,
Whose mind and heart are filled with bodhichitta.

19. He or she sets forth the Dharma,
Perfect at its outset, middle, and its end,
And, as the *Alankara* and the *Gandavyuha* both describe,
Explains the boundless, perfect qualities of bodhichitta.

20. The place in which you take the bodhichitta vow
Should be well cleaned and beautiful,
Asperged with scent and saffron water.
Wash your face and, thinking only of the Triple Gem,
With joy arrange and lay out every kind of offering.

21. Set up sacred images, supports for your samaya,
Then invite the Wisdom Beings, praying them to rest therein.
More swift than lovers mindful of their trysts,
The Buddhas will not tarry nor be drawn to other fields.

22. Then pray to the supreme Protectors, friends of all without exception,
Destroyers of the hosts of evil demons,
Enlightened ones who see things in their nature and their multiplicity.
Ask them to be present in that place.
23. They come into a chamber not contrived by human work,
A sweetly scented bathing room
With floor and pillars made of jewels and crystal,
Corals, pearls, and turquoises arranged in hanging canopies.
24. The Tathagatas with their sublime bodhisattva children,
With perfumed water poured from jeweled flasks,
Are bathed by fair-browed goddesses
Who vie with one another in their music, dance, and song.
25. Soft-eyed maidens skilled in gentle massage
Dry their forms, anointing them with reverent touch.
The vesture of the gods they offer of no common weave,
Nor of one color only but of many rainbow hues:
26. Panjali provided by the wishing-tree,
Raiment light and weightless, sheer and soft,
Imbued with fragrant scent.
And bracelets, armlets, earrings, and crowns—
They offer jewels so rich that one would blush to tell their price.

27. Then pray that, though the mighty Sages
Have forsaken objects of desire,
They may accept the gifts of those who thirst for merit.
Make oblations to the mighty Buddhas and to their close sons,
And to the Guide of Beings in the Lower Realms
And all the others of the sixteen Bodhisattvas of this Happy Age.
Make offerings also to the ones who take the guise of
householders:
Dharmodgata, Saraprarudita, and the Licchavi Vimalakirti.
28. With sandalwood, whose fragrant scent goes wafting on the wind
And instantly pervades the universe three-thousandfold,
Anoint their forms, which overwhelm
The lustrous gleam of fine and burnished gold
And are adorned with all the great and lesser marks of
buddhahood,
A source of merit inexhaustible.
29. Upon the vast and spacious crystal pavement of impartiality,
Upon the pistil of a thousand-petaled lotus flower of love,
Upon compassion's brilliant, shining disks of sun and moon,
Implore the Buddhas and their retinues (great sympathetic joy)
To come and take their seats.
30. Abandoning all loose and careless conduct then bow down,
And show your state of mind by clasping to your heart
Your hands as though they cupped a flower bud,
Holding them together like a relic case.
31. All the qualities of Those Who Go in Bliss—
Their wisdom and compassion and the rest—are as if concealed.
But when to the grove of the devoted mind they come,
In faith, not grief, the hair upon one's flesh stands up!

32. Like the lovely peacock's daughter dancing,
Mirrored in a pool in which the full moon bathes herself,
With youthful emanated forms in an amazing multitude,
As many as the grains of dust, prostrate.
33. In order to complete the branch of generosity,
Offer actual wealth and unexampled gifts imagined by the mind—
Clouds of offerings excelled by none,
That rival even great Samantabhadra's gifts.
34. The impudence of speech, all evil tendencies and deeds,
Alarmed by virtue, flee away,
Their forms hid by the thick and gloomy darkness of samsara.
In the sunlight of the four strengths, they're confessed and
cleansed.
35. To gather others' virtue for oneself
By just a single thought, untroubled by fatigue—
The only way is to rejoice in it.
One gains it for oneself as though one were a thief!
36. Samsara knows no end where beings' actions are untamed,
Intractable, and hard. The only way to train them is to fix them
To the rim of Dharma's sharp-spoked wheel;
And therefore we should pray that it be turned.
37. Forsaken by the Buddhas and their Bodhisattva heirs,
Beings would be bound in their predicament of misery.
Offer all you have, therefore, beseeching the enlightened beings
Not to pass into nirvana but to stay upon their thrones.

38. Precarious are the virtuous deeds performed within the view of self:
High status in samsara is attained, but weeping follows after.
To dedicate such acts to buddhahood
Effects a gold-producing alchemy—
A method other teachers have not taught.
39. Well may those not sated by the nectar of contentment
Offer clouds of things unclaimed—
They wander in the realm of empty words.
In fear of this, it is a crucial point to offer one's own body
To the Buddhas as their footstools.
40. Those who pledge themselves to service of the Triple Gem
Resemble lovely springtime flowers sheltered in cool shade.
Before them even dreadful Yama smoothes his frowns:
The value of such service is unlimited.
41. Through this, the sinful mind
Weighed down by merit-clouding ignorance
Is purified, like crystal wiped to shining brilliance;
And through the bodhichitta ritual,
The image of the vow will shine within its limpid depths.
42. Those grievously afflicted by the plague of suffering,
Who fall into the chasms of unnumbered faults,
Are not relieved by common healers.
To the Buddhas, the supreme physicians, let them go for refuge.
43. Wherever there is true devotion, there the Buddhas come,
The supreme teachers who embrace the world of beings in their minds.
And there they stay resplendent, beautiful,
Amid the hosts of Bodhisattvas of the Mahayana.

44. By three times taking refuge, we create the basis.
Then we stir the Buddhas and their heirs with threefold
invocation.
We take the vow of bodhichitta, promising to undertake the
training,
Just as all the Buddhas and the Bodhisattvas did before.
45. The Shravakas, Pratyekabuddhas, Arhats—
Though the torment of defilement's veil is halted—
Still retain a taste for objects, veil of their cognitions:
From this unfreedom we will set them free.
46. And every being, Brahma and the rest,
Enmeshed by both these veils—
Everyone, from common beings till the ones who dwell
On noble grounds upon the path of learning—
All of them, as yet unfree, we promise to set free.
And all who groan in sharp and dreadful pain,
Who in three lower realms have no reprieve,
We pledge to bring them to the state of great relief.
47. In short, we take the pledge to bring all those who stray
Upon samsara's wheel of twelvefold coproduction
And bring them to the city of nirvana, nonabiding primal wisdom.
48. The way in which the vow is ritually taken
Is based on the tradition of the masters who have gone before.
And constantly, three times by day, three times by night,
The twofold bodhichitta should be earnestly engendered.
49. All depends on concentrated yearning.
At the prayer's first recitation, aspiration bodhichitta is received;
With the second recitation, active bodhichitta is received;
With the third, the two are taken firmly both together—
Thus Sagaramegha's unsurpassed instruction.

50. Till now—no need to speak of others' good—
Not even for our own sake did such thoughts come, even in our
dreams.
This precious, sublime state of mind is new to us,
From which our lives derive their priceless worth.
51. Just as a prince who wanders from his royal state
Assumes the noble place accruing from his father's line,
So too the one who now becomes the Buddha's child
Receives the crowning emblem of the Bodhisattva's name.
52. Those who take the lordship of the triple world
Rejoice in lofty but mistaken names.
But we today assume the rank of Bodhisattvas.
Let the gods themselves approach and share these flowers of
our joy!
53. Bodhisattvas are unfailing wellsprings of immortal nectar,
Whereby the Lord of Death is utterly destroyed.
They are the gems that cancel penury, the balm that soothes all
ills,
The resting place for those who tread samsara's weary paths.
From this day forward we will be the sustenance of wanderers!

The Bodhisattva Precepts

1. People who give up their former pledges
Rashly taken, ill-considered,
Will only be reputed unreliable.
But if we now reject the precepts
That the Buddhas and their Bodhisattva heirs
Have in their wisdom's power
Most perfectly examined,
We will have deceived all living beings
And therefore we will wander endlessly in realms of sorrow.
2. Therefore we will do no deed that mars
A single being's joy and thus brings ruin on ourselves.
If those who circle in samsara, mixing downfalls
With the strength of bodhichitta,
Are hindered long from bodhisattva grounds,
Those who throw away the precepts are insane indeed!
3. Since those with proud determination fueled by anger,
Felt at even slight discomforts and the acts that cause them,
Will endure the wounds of weapons, dart or lance,
And will not turn away until their aims are won,
4. We too should wage a war against our utter enemies,
The mighty hosts of our defilements.
Resenting them, we should not let our discipline relax.
For who indeed would cast away their keeping of the precepts?
5. If we are unaware of the extent to which
We are ourselves bound tightly in the prison of defilement,
How can our resolve to save unnumbered beings,
Bringing them to freedom, not diminish?

6. Within the fields of carefulness and introspection,
The shoots of bodhichitta may be cultivated easily.
I beg that we uphold it steadily, removing faults,
And strive by every means to strengthen it.
7. In this connection, twenty downfalls are to be repudiated.
The five of kings begin with taking of the wealth
That has been dedicated to the Triple Gem;
The five of ministers begin with laying towns and regions waste;
The eight of ordinary beings begin
With teaching emptiness to those with untrained minds.
And then to these is added the abandonment
Of bodhichitta both in aspiration and in action.
8. Briefly, even sinful deeds perceived in dreams
Should be confessed at once
With recitation of the Sutra in Three Sections.
9. If of the three transgressions
(Forsaking aspiration bodhichitta, basis of the path;
Downfalls; and the giving back of vows)
A downfall is left unconfessed beyond the stipulated time,
We should with strong remorse,
Before the break of day, invoke Akashagarbha,
And with the prayer in seven branches mend the vow.
10. Perfectly to give our happiness to others,
Taking on ourselves the burden of their pain,
Contriving thus the wondrous bravery of taking and receiving,
That beings, till they gain enlightenment,
Should never be unhappy:
This indeed should be our constant aspiration.

11. Of aspiration bodhichitta
The precepts are the four unbounded attitudes.
Gratitude for kindnesses received gives birth to love.
From love derives compassion and from this is bodhichitta
born—
All this is well established in trustworthy texts.
12. As soon as she gives birth, a mother takes her babe, an ugly imp,
Upon her lap contrived now as a washing place,
And with soft hands she cleans away its filth.
With her own milk she nurses it and wraps it in her body's
warmth.
13. She'd rather die than that her little one fall ill
And for her child she's able to endure sin, pain, and cruel words.
To disregard one's mother's kindness and her loving care—
Is anything more evil, more degenerate?
14. The earth with all its mountains would be slight to bear—
Far greater is the weight of failing to repay her kindness!
To do so is to be like one who swallows poisoned food.
15. We should now recall that all beings without end,
When they became our mothers,
Helped and showed us perfect kindness.
If we remember this,
Our love, compassion, joy, and equanimity will grow.
All those who know that beings have been kind,
Who feel great gratitude to them,
Will be endowed with sublime riches.
16. Aspiration bodhichitta is resplendent like the autumn moon,
But perils worse than Rahu's face endanger it:
Four evils to be driven far away.

17. These evils are to mislead people worthy of respect,
To bring regret and doubt to those who practice virtue,
To slander holy beings, speaking ill of them,
To trick and swindle others, leading them astray.
18. To harbor any of these four
Will lead to loss of aspiration bodhichitta.
For if we fail to feel remorse and to apply the antidotes,
And if the time of reparation is allowed to pass,
Then indeed is bodhichitta lost.
19. To this the four white forces are the best of remedies:
Never, at the cost of life or limb to lie (intending to deceive);
Always to respect and praise the Bodhisattvas
As though they were the very Buddha;
To care for every living being without guile or underhandedness;
And then to lead all on the pathways of enlightenment.
20. Four perceptions fortify and guard the enlightened attitude:
To look upon one's teacher as the Buddha
And take his teachings as the path;
To take as friends all those who practice them
And look upon all beings as one's very children.
These are the perfect precepts linked with aspiration bodhichitta.
21. Active bodhichitta's precepts are the six transcendent virtues.
The first five bring about the gathering of sublime merit.
The final one produces a great gathering of wisdom.
Without relying on these two accumulations, there's no buddhahood.
Skillful means and strength, then aspiration and primordial wisdom—
One speaks of ten perfections when these four are added.

22. The children of the Conqueror accomplishing this path,
According to their strength of mind, are classified as three.
Those who wish to free themselves and then to liberate all beings
Have bodhichitta of great aspiration in the manner of a king.
23. Those who wish to free themselves and beings all at once
Have bodhichitta of most sacred wisdom in the manner of a
ferryman.
Those who wish for peace once beings have been saved
Have unexampled bodhichitta in the manner of a shepherd.
24. Bodhisattvas who are dull in their capacity
Need thirty-three unmeasured kalpas
For the finding of their freedom.
Those of moderate capacity need seven,
While those of sharpest faculties need three.
25. “Giving” is, essentially, to be without attachment.
It is distinguished threefold: giving of the Dharma,
Giving of possessions, and the gift of fearlessness.
The giving of possessions is again divided threefold:
Common, great, and extreme giving.
26. Common giving means providing others with supplies
Of food and clothes, of chariot, oxen, land.
Great giving is the yielding of one’s daughter, son, or spouse.
And extreme giving—hardest yet—is giving of one’s head and
limbs.
27. Those hidebound by their avarice,
Who start to train themselves,
Must pass from hand to hand repeatedly
Small foodstuffs and the like
And think that they are truly giving them.
Thus they grow in strength and overcome their craving and desire.

28. The gift of fearlessness means guarding others' lives,
Releasing them from danger, bringing them to places of relief.
Injudicious giving, when one lacks capacity,
Is something to be scorned.
And so the *Shikshasamucchaya* has proscribed
The giving up of body and of life
By those in whom compassion is as yet impure.
29. The giving that abets nonvirtue also is not good
But rather something that should be despised.
To give up one's attachment to possessions
Is held to be the measure of true giving.
30. The gift of Dharma is in three degrees,
Of which the actual gift is teaching in accordance with one's
hearers.
Such a thing is hard for those still on the path of aspiration;
They should instead remove their own defilements.
31. With love and with compassion
And through reading of the scriptures,
They should liberate the minds of those who tend to virtue;
They should pray for them. And once their own minds have been
freed,
Their main task is to bring about the benefit of others
According to their karmic destiny and character.
32. Discipline in essence is to keep oneself from what is inappropriate
And this, divided threefold, means
To keep from evil acts, to gather virtue,
And to bring about the benefit of beings.
To keep from evil means abstaining from nonvirtue,
In one's thoughts and words and deeds.
To gather virtue means the practice of the six perfections.
Benefiting beings means to work for others' sake.

33. The discipline of Bodhisattvas is more eminent than Pratimoksha,
And this is thanks to four distinctive elements.
Through Pratimoksha one refrains from harming others
And the wish to do so. The Bodhisattvas do likewise
But add to this the help they give to others.
34. The things to be abandoned in the Pratimoksha
Are summarized as seven negativities
(The stress being laid on body and on speech),
While Bodhisattvas emphasize and shun all ten.
35. Other differences distinguish them.
For according to the Pratimoksha,
Rules should not be broken even for the sake of others.
But if the seven evil deeds of speech and body
Are for others' good, the Bodhisattvas are permitted them,
Provided that, on threefold scrutiny, they know
Their actions are, or will be, for the benefit of beings,
And will further, and not lessen, their own store of merit.
36. This we find depicted in the tale of Goodheart and Black
Spearman,
And of Tararamana, the Brahmin's son:
Although they seemed like sins, their acts were virtuous.
But since the strength of action and result derives from the
intention,
The three nonvirtues of the mind can never be allowed.
37. It has been taught that, though this be the case—
For those who, though they hold the bodhisattva vows,
Pursue their own advantage and their happiness
(Avoiding all the actions hard to do
And failing to achieve the benefit of others),
The dispensation just described is but the cause of downfall.

38. Bodhisattvas who are starting on their path
Should mainly bring an increase to their qualities of mind.
At the outset, while the first of the three disciplines—
To keep themselves from evil—is as yet impure,
To take the other two as principal will entail many obstacles.

39. Best are Bodhisattvas who go forth to homelessness,
As the *Sutra Ornament* declares.
And yet it is not clearly said that such a discipline,
Belonging to the bodhisattva level,
Should always be embraced through an authentic pratimoksha
ritual.
For as with Indrabodhi, the intention is supreme
For those with previous training and great strength of mind.

40. As well as vows of upavasa and upasaka,
The Bodhisattvas who are householders
Maintain the twofold bodhichitta constantly
In aspiration and in deed.
Those who have embraced monastic life,
As well as vows of bhikshu, shramanera, and shiksamana,
Uphold the bodhichitta both in aspiration and in deed.
Both maintain the discipline according to their state.

41. Upasakas are differentiated in two kinds.
There are those who keep a single precept, such as not to kill.
If then they give up stealing, they maintain the vows in part.
If then they promise not to lie, they hold a major part of them.
If then they turn from sexual misdeeds and keep from alcohol,
They are considered upasakas of a complete observance.

42. Then, those who have renounced the four roots
And abstain from alcohol,
Renouncing thus all five,
Are honored as upasakas of pure conduct.

43. Deriving from the tenfold precepts of the shramaneras,
But granted the employ of gold and silver
For the maintenance of wives and children,
And with dancing and the use of ornaments
Regarded as a single minor flaw,
Those who keep this “eightfold discipline,”
At all times and without a limitation,
Are upasakas according to the way of Chandragomin.

44. Shramaneras keep ten major precepts:
They vow not to kill and not to take the property of others;
They renounce unchastity and lying and the taking of strong
drink,
Dancing, ornaments and so forth,
Lofty beds and seats and eating after noon,
Together with the use of gold and silver.

45. Women who prepare themselves to take full ordination
Must renounce twelve extra things, like touching men.
And since they’re prey to their emotions,
They must pass two years’ probation, testing thus their aptitude
for vows.

46. Bhikshus must forswear four radical defeats,
Thirteen residual faults, and thirty downfalls that require
rejection,
Ninety “mere downfalls” and four faults that must be pointedly
confessed,
Together with one hundred and twelve wrong actions—
Numbering thus two hundred and fifty-three wrong deeds.

47. For bhikshunis, three hundred and sixty-four acts must be shunned:
Eight radical defeats (four specific ones are added to the four already mentioned).
To these are added wrongful acts
And different species of related misdemeanors such as “incomplete infractions.”
48. Through the defeats, the ordination is completely lost.
The intention to conceal the fault, or not,
Determines the criterion whereby
The vows may later be repaired.
49. It is indeed amazing that some claim to keep the vows
And yet are ignorant of what they should be keeping.
Through just a knowledge of the downfalls
It is easy to restore and purify the vows.
Indeed, of the four doors that lead to downfalls,
Ignorance is foremost, as Asanga has explained.
50. The precepts to be implemented are
The rituals of the three foundations
And those of seventeen precepts that remain.
This is the discipline of things to be adopted.
51. Excepting seventeen transgressions
(Four defeats and faults that are residual)
When something untoward must needs be done,
It must be blessed.
And so, if food be taken at improper times,
One thinks that one is dwelling in the northern continent.

52. So too, when bathing, one must think that one is sick,
And when constrained to wear additional or improper clothing
(White in color, made of skin or fur),
One keeps in mind that without such materials
One would be at great loss,
Wherefore such things are sanctioned as a means to save one's
life.
53. If one is forced to handle precious substances,
One thinks that this has been allowed for making offerings
To the Three Jewels or to succor living beings.
And as for what is neither banned nor yet permitted,
An estimate is made according to the precepts.
54. The rules of all the four monastic schools—
Sarvastivada and Mahasanghika,
Sthavira and Sammitiya—
Cannot but be covered by the precepts of the Buddha;
Each is therefore able to uphold the entire training.
55. The higher discipline is dedicated
To the state beyond all suffering.
The bodhisattva vow effects the benefit of others.
Receiving true empowerment, one takes the mantra vow.
The precepts of these three, when perfectly observed,
Give rise to all the many perfect qualities.
56. One in nature but of separate aspect,
The three vows all subsist
Within the mindstream of a single individual.
When they seem in contradiction, higher vows take precedence,
For so the teaching of the accomplished masters of the past
proclaims.

57. For even if there seems to be a conflict with the lower vows,
There is agreement with their purpose:
Harm must be avoided, benefit secured.
True contradiction, if there were one, could not be permitted.
If there is permission, there can be no contradiction.
58. And so it is that alcohol, a downfall for the Shravakas
And considered likewise as a fault for Bodhisattvas,
Is in the Mantrayana savored as a substance of samaya
By those for whom the host of thoughts arise as deities;
Both alcohol and attitude are thus transformed.
59. They are not “monks” nor are they “Bodhisattvas.”
They are not those who, without means to harness it, repudiate
desire,
Nor yet are they defeated by defilement.
To those for whom all things appear as deities and mandalas
And as amrita—substance of samaya to be taken and enjoyed—
To those with changed perceptions thus, such things have been
allowed.
60. Compared with gifts made to the Sangha
(Monks who hold the pratimoksha or the bodhisattva vows),
Offerings proffered to the yidam are of greater merit.
To other aspects of the precepts the same should be applied.
61. But the respective aspects of the vows are not alloyed or mixed.
As antidote and in their purpose, they are all the same.
The vows are gradually transmuted and their qualities enhanced.
They thus remain without essential contradiction;
Their observance should be fitted to the situation.

62. Of those who now consider
How the three vows are combined within a single mind,
Some say that they are one, for they transform;
Some say that in one vow,
The aspects of the lower vows remain distinct;
Some say they are three substances in conflict
But increasing in their quality.
63. Others differentiate the vows according to the time and
circumstance
Wherein they are relinquished and received.
Some say the vows remain distinct,
Like copper coins stacked one upon the other,
Some that they are of a different strength—
They're like the sun and moon and stars
Whose light is not diminished when they are eclipsed.
64. Though these and further statements may be made about the
vows,
Their aspects are distinct as at the moment of their taking.
When observed, they're all the same
As antidote and in their purpose.
And they are all transformed through power of primal wisdom.
These are general considerations, different from specific points.
65. For those who claim the aspects are transformed,
No redress is possible.
For when a downfall has occurred in terms of Pratimoksha,
Repairing it accordingly can have no sense
Because [they say] the vow has been transformed.
And there's no need, and it is out of place,
To mend the fault according to a higher vow,
In terms of which no downfall has occurred.

66. Those who understand the vows as forms
That come to birth from body and from speech,
Or else as the continuum of the refraining mind
(Together with the seeds thereof),
Regard the vows as truly real.
And those who are without the skillful means
Whereby defilements are transformed and brought upon the
path—
Though they embrace the Mahayana
And even have received empowerment—
Are not Vajradharas, beings for whom the vows have been
transformed.
67. Vows are rendered pure by attitude of mind
And attitude is purified by yoga of the deity.
When this in turn is cleansed through mastery of primal wisdom,
Precept-marring downfalls
(Entities endowed with their own features,
Subject to both birth and to cessation),
Are no longer apprehended.
Then there is no gain and there's no loss.
68. At their outset, in their middle, and their ending,
The vows are not in conflict with each other.
They're relative phenomena whereby one's attitude is changed.
If those who apprehend their bodies and their minds as real,
And hold the three vows, practicing with aspiration,
Remain therein and keep their different aspects,
They must observe the vows combined.

69. If thus they keep the vows, the lower precepts are enhanced.
If downfalls are repaired, this must be done
According to the level of the vow infringed.
Since actions that give rise to faults have been proscribed
And what produces qualities and merit is allowed,
Allowance or proscription hinges not upon the letter of the law
But must be gauged according to the agent's attitude.
70. To generate the qualities not yet possessed
Of all the six perfections and the two accumulations,
And bringing increase to the ones already gained,
All this is called the discipline of gathering virtue.
It is included in the training of the mind.
71. Virtue that is filled with loving-kindness and compassion
Is generosity when practiced for the sake of beings.
It is discipline when free from self-concern
And patience when untiring for the sake of others.
72. It is diligence when done with vibrant joy
And concentration when enacted with one-pointed mindfulness.
It is wisdom when there is no clinging to reality of things.
From virtue such as this the six perfections never separate.
73. Mindful, self-aware in all the four activities,
Bodhisattvas gather perfect virtue in their every deed.
Even as they walk and raise and place their feet,
They effortlessly tread the path of six perfections,
Completing with great speed the two accumulations.

74. Skilled in means direct and indirect,
They labor for the benefit of every being.
They open wide the doors of generous giving,
Of pleasing speech and inspiration to the practice,
Of conduct that accords with teachings given,
And discipline that gathers virtue.
75. Regarding altruistic action,
Though the teachings speak of six considerations,
In short this means the judgment of the strength of one's own
practice.
Let those who never wander from the Dharma's path
Secure the good of others.
Common people, who have not yet gained their own good,
Should investigate their own deluded thoughts.
76. When one can achieve the great good of another,
It's then that lower precepts may be left aside.
A village may be sacrificed to save a town;
One's home may be relinquished to preserve one's life;
And for the sake of Dharma, one may sacrifice oneself.
77. Upon the ground of unafraid endurance
The perfumed scent of Dharma is diffused,
Protected by three kinds of patience:
Putting up with hardship, making light of any injury,
And braving the profundity of doctrine.
78. The evil state of anger with its dark and creeping tendrils
Makes the mind and heart extremely hard.
Those afraid of hell whence there is no escape
Will give no chance for anger to develop.

79. Harmful circumstances are like forest thorns:
There is no overcoming them; they constantly increase.
But if we tame the single source of anger and resentment,
The hard austerity of patience will become our friend.
80. Through contact with the dart of harsh and hostile words,
Our hearts are stricken through—and yet does anything occur?
Because we take such words as harmful in themselves,
We're pained and agitated in the interplay of harm and harmed.
81. For in this world our hurts in cause and fruit,
Like shouts and answering echoes, all arise from us.
If "I" does not arise, there's no one they can injure.
See how they derive from factors earlier contrived.
82. When examined, they are not great harms but great advantages.
For thanks to them we board the ship of patience
Thus to gain the jewel of bodhichitta.
Let us honor all such hurts as holy teaching!
83. When the nature of these injuries is closely scrutinized,
They lack enduring features, they're like figures traced on water.
In the instant that the strident thought of wrath subsides,
A state of spacelike emptiness occurs
Devoid of taking or rejecting.
84. When the three austerities of patience fail,
To undertake the other five perfections, giving and the rest,
Is, in the end, like walking on a road beset with enemies.
It's hard to reach the wished-for goal, so let us be stouthearted.
85. With punctual and timely diligence,
Like swans that hasten to their groves,
We should devote ourselves to all the practices of virtue,
Not leaving them forgotten in the pit of laziness.

86. People are engrossed in wrongful actions;
They are tangled in the strings of their distracting pastimes.
Discouragement oppresses them
And even what they can do they neglect.
Putting themselves down, they wallow in faintheartedness.
They are like people who set sail in leaking ships.
87. Diligence that's armorlike beats the four demons down;
Diligence in action brings us progress on the ten grounds and the
paths;
Diligence undaunted, irreversible, insatiable—
Those who have all these will gain the goals that they desire.
88. Our life is like the closing of the day:
Quickly, quickly does the dark of death draw near.
And when it comes, our worldly works give no relief,
Though they be many, more than all the stars.
89. The mighty stream of diligence, which clears away
The turbid ooze of laziness and never deviates,
Flows on with swift and tireless strength
Until it pours into the ocean of omniscience.
90. A wholesome land, a forest, flower-strewn,
The haunt and habitat of peaceful waterbirds,
Beautiful to see, with walls and terraces of rock,
And lovely with the young of hart and hind,
91. The joy-bestowing woodland
Is a goddess with her waist entwined
With fresh and swaying traceries of moss.
It's here that cuckoos, unafraid of harm,
Announce their tidings: sadness with the world.

92. Go to such a place all you who wish to concentrate your minds.
Wealth and pleasures are like fleeting canopies of cloud;
And life, a flash of lightning, shakes and trembles
Midst a gang of thieves: the sufferings of pain,
Of change and sorrow in the making.
93. Craving to acquire, to keep, and to increase—
Beings are tumbled in this ruin-bearing torrent.
Gripped by pride, by avarice and stinginess,
They wander after death in shoreless seas of lower realms.
94. Precious things acquired deceitfully
Are like the clouds abundant with their rain.
They are the cause of suffering.
But those with little property are safe from enemies and thieves.
And those content with what they have
Have reached the highest peak of wealth.
95. Ordinary people are by nature childish,
Their childish minds are clogged with clouds of faults.
They praise themselves, disparage others;
They have rough defiled emotions like a serpent's tongue.
96. They think the wavering glories of this life will last forever.
For what is done for them they show no thanks
But only its reverse, and look with sullen frowns.
They blow the fires of hatred with the winds of calumny.
Like apes they are the source of every kind of mischief.
97. The belly of their sins is vast like some leviathan.
Like vicious snakes they harm all those they meet.
Keep far away from childish folk who, like a fire,
Will scorch and burn the healing trees of virtue.

98. Worse than poison are the objects of the senses,
For their fruit, when fully ripened, brings great harm,
Not only in this life but all the lives to come—
Though in the moment of their tasting, they are sweet indeed—
And this no supreme mantra and no physic can relieve.
99. For those who have not tamed the elephant of mind,
Nothing is more false or more deceptive
Than the objects of the senses.
Till this compounded aggregate is borne away upon the bier,
Let peaceful forest glades be home for you!
100. “Wildernesses” and “secluded places”: both are good,
Inspiring us with sorrow at samsara.
No trade is there, no farming, no bad company,
No tiresome threats of impositions, duties, need for livelihood;
The birds and beasts say nothing untoward.
101. All things needful, fruits and limpid water, there abound,
And spacious caves and shelters made of leaves.
To live within the cool shade of the trees is bliss indeed;
Would that we might take it for our dwelling place!
102. The fashion of the forest is transformed
To greet its guests as the four seasons pass.
Nothing there provokes defilement.
See! The teachings we may trust have said
That boundless merit comes from even seven steps to such a place.
103. Resting there in perfect concentration
Defines the higher training of the mind.
Because they’re interlinked, the body placed in Vairochana’s
Sevenfold posture acts as vital axis of the mind.

104. Strive in stable meditation.
Place the mind upon one thing, not straying to another.
Checking that the target's held, whatever it may be.
The mind is thereby fastened to its virtuous object;
All appearances contrived by thought will sink into the dharmata.
105. Things appear uninterrupted.
But not considering such things as truly real,
The mind remains without discursiveness upon its object.
This is meditative equipoise or shamatha.
Vipashyana, which shares its nature, is post-meditation.
106. Three kinds of concentration are distinguished:
Concentration that's enjoyed by childish beings,
Concentration that discerns with clarity,
And the perfect concentration of the Tathagatas.
There are four samadhis following four criteria:
The absence or the presence of discursiveness,
Both gross and subtle, and the rest.
Likewise there exist four formless concentrations.
107. The samadhis and the formless concentrations constitute
The concentration that's enjoyed by childish beings:
Those who have not entered any of the paths.
The concentration of the ones who have embraced
Accumulation and the path of joining
Makes the path of freedom manifest.
Their concentration thus is clearly discerning.
108. From the first ground onward
Is the concentration of the Noble Ones:
The immaculate and perfect concentration of the Tathagatas.
The essence of all concentration is the holding of the mind within,
The cause of which is steady mindfulness and diligence.

109. When attention wanders, it is once again repaired.
By acting thus is bliss engendered, wondrous siddhi gained.
Such practice has as its result
Clairvoyance and the other powers.
110. Discursiveness is present, gross and subtle,
In the stage of preparation for the first samadhi.
But as the first samadhi supervenes,
The gross departs and just the subtle stays.
The other three samadhis are devoid
Of all discursiveness both gross and subtle;
And each of them makes ready for the one that follows.
All are said to be the basis for the noble path.
111. The concentration that engenders every perfect quality
Is pervaded by compassion and by primal wisdom.
Through having many concentrations,
One achieves the qualities of all the grounds and paths.
Meditation and post-meditation, which share a single mental
substance,
Eliminate duality of perceiver and perceived.
Until the seventh ground is reached,
Practitioners arising from such meditative equipoise
Are dissipated in the period of post-meditation.
112. Wisdom's higher training is now clearly ascertained.
It arises from the preparation for samadhi.
Through this and through the wisdom that is born
From both the actual samadhi and post-meditative state
(Or through the wisdoms that derive
From hearing, from reflection, and from meditation),
Vipashyana is perfectly accomplished.

113. Through this, the host of the afflictions is destroyed.
Phenomena and their nature, all is understood.
The city of existence is traversed,
The state of no more sorrow is attained.
The ascending structure of the six perfections
Is founded on transcendent wisdom.
114. If therefore those who are still ordinary beings
Fail to take support of wisdom that derives from listening to
teachings,
Their reflection and their meditation both will wander into error.
The teachings thus declare that wisdom that derives from hearing
Is the cause of all the others.
115. This wisdom will survey the Dharma to be understood,
Distinguishing expedient and definitive,
And different kinds of teaching; four implied, four indirect.
Suchness is the nature of all things
Abiding in three doors of perfect liberation.
The meaning of this teaching is definitive.
116. That beings might be led upon the path,
All objects that appear are analyzed with reasoning
And overstated as to their existence. This is the expedient path.
To know on which of these two teachings
(Expedient or definitive) one should rely
Is indeed a key that opens up the scriptures.
117. When the nature of these two is clarified,
Implied and indirect instructions are explained
As means to grasp the expedient's real intention.
The first of these are only slightly overstated
And open to interpretation. Their aim
Is not to lead beings in one situation only.

118. Four kinds of implied teachings have been taught
And all of them achieve the aim intended.
Teachings that imply the equality of all phenomena
Reveal that even opposites are one.
Some teachings, which imply another sense,
Reveal that if things are examined they are found to be unreal.
Teachings that imply fulfillment at another time
Declare the effortless achievement of enlightenment.
Teachings given for certain individuals
Are intended to humiliate their arrogance.
119. Teachings that are indirect
Are those that express artfully, in pleasing and engaging words,
What does not fit the minds of some and leads them into doubt.
That the perfect path might be embraced,
The words are on the level of their hearers,
Though their meaning is not so.
These teachings are distinguished in four types:
Those for introducing to the path, those upon the nature of
phenomena,
Those that are remedial, and those expressed in metaphors.
120. Teachings given indirectly for the sake of introduction
Are aimed at Shravakas who, alarmed by emptiness,
Reject the Mahayana. Hearing “there is form,”
They take it for existent and embark upon the path,
Yet Buddha’s meaning was that everything appears to us like
dreams.
121. The indirect instructions on the threefold nature of phenomena—
The imputed, the dependent, and the actual—
Were given that beings might grasp the absence of intrinsic being.
The first reveals that things have no intrinsic nature,
The second that production too has no intrinsic nature.
The third shows likewise that the ultimate has no intrinsic nature.
Phenomena are thus described with deep and perfect words.

122. The teachings given indirectly as remedial methods
Correct the false ideas that people have.
Declaring that his life, his lineage and stature were both
measureless,
The Buddha's meaning was that all the Buddhas' forms
Are equal in the Dharmakaya,
And equal likewise in accumulation and activities.
123. The teaching given indirectly in the form of metaphors—
Where it is said that one should slay one's parents
(Who should not be slain),
Destroy the ones who should not be destroyed
(The Sovereign and the two of pure life)—
These indicate such things as Craving, Grasping, and the alaya.
To understand them in their literal sense would be a great mistake.
124. Here, in brief, is what distinguishes
The teachings that are indirect from those that are implied.
That which is implied relates to what the Buddha had in mind:
Such words do not depend upon the wits of the recipient.
But teachings given indirectly
Do depend upon the hearers' understanding.
This distinction likewise is a key that opens up the scriptures.
125. Regarding what is to be understood,
The essence of the four and eighty thousand sections
Of the Dharma of the Conqueror consists in the two truths:
The all-concealing relative of worldly beings and the absolute.
Aside from these there is no third.
126. Two ways there are in which the all-concealing relative appears:
Those things occurring to deluded mind
That function in accordance with the way that they appear
Are known as "unmistaken relative."
And those that do not function though they do appear
Are known as the "mistaken relative."

127. The absolute truth is the fundamental way of being.
The phenomena of samsara and nirvana
Are not by nature of two different kinds,
But are beyond both thought and word primordially.
This truth is not set forth in terms of realized and unrealized
minds.
128. The two truths blend: appearance and emptiness unite.
Phenomena are like the moon reflected in a pool.
Their aspect of appearance is the all-concealing truth;
Their lack of real existence is the absolute.
129. To the five sense consciousnesses
Forms and other things appear distinct like colors in a painting.
Desirable, they're grasped as things to be enjoyed.
They are considered real and are rejected or accepted.
These delusory perceptions of discursive mind
Should be examined in the light of eight examples of illusion.
130. The ultimate that can withstand analysis
Is not the absolute, for intellect itself is relative.
What is neither one nor many
Can never be the object of the intellect.
131. Here now is the outline of the tenet systems.
The ultimate constituent of consciousness through mental
scrutiny;
The ultimate constituent of matter through destruction with a
hammer—
Arriving thereby at the partless particle:
Such is the system of the Shravakas.

132. What performs a function is here declared the absolute;
The rest is all-concealing relative.
These two have been described respectively
As the specifically and generally characterized.
This is the view of the Sautrantika in harmony with reasoning.
133. The subject and the object appearing as two separate things—
Perceiver and perceived—is the all-concealing truth.
By contrast, nondual mind is absolute:
This is the tenet of the Chittamatra school.
134. All appearing things exist upon the level of the relative
And are illusion-like by nature—
Though ultimately none is real but is like space—
To make this affirmation is the way of the Svacittantriaka
Madhyamikas.
135. To say “the relative is just appearance”
And that “emptiness is absolute,” is simply to verbalize.
Phenomena transcend all ontological extremes.
From the very moment they appear,
They have no birth and no cessation, no going and no coming.
136. To hold back from asserting the position
That on the level of the relative, dependent things exist—
Such is the special teaching of Nagarjuna and of Chandrakirti,
The founders of the great way of Prasangika.
137. Able to examine and contest the views of all the lower schools,
This is the supreme way and free from all mistake.
Knowing thus the character of different tenets,
Deriving as these do from varying beliefs,
The wisdom that can well discern the true position
(And that which is in harmony, and that which disagrees)
Depends upon one’s hearing of the teaching.

138. It expels defilement

And on the undefiled the demons have no hold.

What here is comprehended is the fundamental nature of
phenomena:

Unspeakable, unthinkable,

The final truth that cannot be expressed.

139. All things that appear and are imagined by the mind

As what can be expressed and spoken of and thought

Are posited as relative, the all-concealing truth.

The union of the two truths

Is beyond both realizer and realized;

No one can experience it in such a way.

140. Indeed it cannot be observed.

There's no attaining and no nonattaining it!

But when a state of mind occurs attuned to emptiness,

To this the label "realization" is affixed.

141. All arises in dependence:

This, of all the Dharma, is the treasure.

To understand and penetrate this well,

Through wisdom based upon reflection,

Is the key to all the teachings—all without exception.

142. Everything that might appear,

All things of both samsara and the state beyond all sorrow,

Come from nowhere; nowhere do they go or stay,

Arising in dependence based upon their fundamental nature.

143. Things seem to arise and then to cease,

And yet they're empty in the very instant of appearing.

To rest in no conceptual extreme

Is set forth as the Middle Way itself.

144. “Clean” and “unclean”—both are adventitious.
They don’t exist in fact and yet appear, though they are nonexistent.
They’re seized upon through mental imputation.
Analysis reveals these four extremes:
Existence, nonexistence, permanence, annihilation.
145. Even those “abiding in the middle” are not wise!
For just like silkworms cased within their silk,
They’re tangled in their tenets and assertions!
146. Phenomena—the things imputed by our minds—
Do not arise, nor do they cease or stay;
They do not come, they do not go;
They are not different, they are not the same;
They are not permanent and they are not annihilated.
All conceptual theories regarding them subside.
To know this as their very nature
Is the essence of the wisdom that arises from reflection.
147. All appearing objects: earth and water, fire and wind and space;
Mountains, forest groves and towns;
All such compounded things arise from their respective causes.
Samsara thus arises in dependence.
148. Because there’s ignorance, conditioning factors manifest,
And likewise every link is based on the preceding one.
They all unfold till “age and death” is reached.
Such is dependent arising in the inner sense.
149. Nirvana, which arises in dependence,
Rests in both the paths and their result.
To speak then of these paths: When ignorance,
The root of the twelve links arranged in forward order
Leading to samsara,

150. Is vanquished through wisdom of awareness,
Conditioning factors and the other links
Are, in their order, also overturned,
Thus severing the root of all existence.
151. Those who understand the nature
Of “arising in dependence,”
Knowing Suffering, reject its Origin;
They effect Cessation and behold the supreme Path.
152. And so, upon the basis of reflection,
One comes to the conviction that phenomena are unoriginate.
To recognize their nature and to rest in it
Is known as wisdom that results from meditation.
153. The ultimate expanse—immaculate, pure space—
Is of a single taste with meditation’s object.
Here there is no place for form or other aggregates,
And also of eight consciousnesses there’s indeed no trace.
154. To say “There’s nothing there,” thus mentally refuting them,
Is utterly at variance with wisdom in itself.
The ultimate expanse is not mere nothingness;
It is a treasure of all wisdoms and enlightened bodies.
155. Perfectly one watches perfect purity,
Which is the spotless nature in itself.
But “to watch” is just a metaphor.
Not to wander from this is the best of meditations.

156. For in the presence of such primal wisdom
There's no place for intellect and mental fabrication.
When wisdom such as this is well and truly known,
It is by skillful means that liberation comes.
But if there is no wisdom, skillful means
Will bring to us no freedom from our fetters.
157. Those who cultivate within their minds
Emptiness and great compassion
Pursue the great path of accumulation.
Until the supreme mundane level on the path of joining,
Emptiness occurs in meditation, and compassion afterward.
158. But when the path of seeing is attained,
Emptiness, compassion—both unite inseparably.
And on the first ground, that of Perfect Joy,
The truth of suchness is perceived directly.
159. Later, on the noble path of meditation
At the tenth ground's final point,
Concentration diamondlike destroys the veils of thought:
Enlightenment stands manifest.
160. And then there is no moment when
The mind is not at rest in even meditation.
Eighteen distinctive qualities of the Victorious Ones,
The ten strengths and four fearless states—
All of them are actualized, and one is Buddha.
161. It's thus that all the six perfections
Are the broad highway of all the Conquerors.
Unmistaken in their view and in their deeds most pure,
To Akanishta unexcelled they make their way.