# Supplication to the Garland of Karmapas

by Jamyang Khyentse Chokyi Lodro



Translated and edited by Adele Tomlin

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Cover Image: 8<sup>th</sup> Karmapa Mikyo Dorje from 18<sup>th</sup> Century Thangka

https://www.himalayanart.org/items/59367.

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#### Introduction

This first translation into English of *Supplication to the Garland of Karmapas* (dpal Idan karma pa'i skyes rabs phreng ba'i gsol 'debs) is not only a historical and poetic piece of writing about the Karmapas, but unique in that it was composed by the 20<sup>th</sup> century master, 2<sup>nd</sup> incarnation of the Jamyang Khyentse lineage, Chokyi Lodro ('jam dbyangs chos kyi blo gros). The Jamyang Khyentse lineage had a close connection with the Karmapas, as I have written about here.

The text, which is in the *Collected Works of Chokyi Lodro*<sup>1</sup> includes a verse of praise to each Karmapa from the 1<sup>st</sup> up until the 15<sup>th</sup>, although oddly the 13<sup>th</sup> Karmapa, Dudul Dorje is missing from the text. There is no praise to the 16<sup>th</sup> Karmapa, Rigpe Dorje, in the text either although, Chokyi Lodro wrote a separate one for him that can be found in his collected works. I have also translated two separate supplications that Chokyi Lodro wrote for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Karmapas, these will be published shortly.

In this translation, I have also included the Tibetan and phonetics, for those who wish to recite it in the original language. Also, links to the biographies of each Karmapa are included in the verses.

The cover image on this booklet is from an 18<sup>th</sup> century Thangka of the 8<sup>th</sup> Karmapa Mikyo Dorje, with previous Karmapas above him.

I dedicate the merit to all beings and in particular, offer it with respect and devotion to my root lama and heart, 17<sup>th</sup> Karmapa, Orgyen Trinley Dorje. May the Karmapas lineage and teachings prosper and flourish and may harmony, peace and truth prevail!

Adele Tomlin, June 2020.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 'jam dbyangs chos kyi blo gros . "dpal ldan karma pa'i skyes rabs phreng ba'i gsol 'debs/." In gsung 'bum/ 'jam dbyangs chos kyi blo gros/. TBRC W1KG12986. 3: 265 - 267. bir, h.p.: khyentse labrang, 2012.

#### 1) Karmapa, <u>Dusum Khyenpa</u> (1110-1193)



मेज.य.पीय.वी.ह्रीय.जय.ह्रीजा स्वाय.वार्थेत्र.वाङ्चा.यह्र्य.पाश्च.ता

gyelwa kün gyi trin lé pel/ rik sum chik dü karmapa

dü sum khyen pa mi yi jé/ jik ten dren pa sölwa dep

Expanding the activity of all Victors,

Single embodiment of all three families<sup>2</sup>, Karmapa,

Dusum Khyenpa, Lord of mortals,

To the guide of the world, I pray!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The 'three families' here are: 1) Sugata (de bzhin gshegs pa'i rigs), 2) Vajra (rdo rje'i rigs), 3) Lotus (pad ma'i rigs).

#### 2) Karmapa, <u>Karma Pakshi</u> (1204-1286)



chö kyi la mar sölwa dep

Planting the primordial awareness seal of appearance-existence,

Principal of the siddhas' union of great bliss,

Powerful yogi, Heruka,

neljor wang chuk hé ru ka

To Chokyi Lama<sup>3</sup>, I pray!

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The name used here is the name he was given at the age of eleven, when he took initiation. Chokyi Lama (chos kyi bla ma); some sources have his ordination name as Chodzin (chos 'dzin), while other sources have that as the name he was given at birth. See his *Treasury of Lives* bio.

#### 3) Karmapa, Rangjung Dorje (1284-1339)<sup>4</sup>



श्चित्र-रत्यायचिवात्य-द्यद्यः धेः याञ्चवात्या

chen ré zik wang mi yi zuk

ग्रयद्याः मुः अर्क्वेदेः अद्यः चर्गः अर्केग्॥

sangwa gyamtsho'i nga dak chok

यह्रव प्रति तिर्वर लेति अष्टिव रूपा ठवा।

ten pé khor lö khyen rap chen

रट.विट.मू.हर.वार्थज्ञ.य.पट्ट्या

rang jung dor jér sölwa dep

The one whose form is Lord Avalokiteśvara

Excellent scholar, Stiracakra [secret name of Mañjuśrī]<sup>5</sup>

Supreme sovereign of the ocean of secrets

To Rangjung Dorje, I pray!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Khyentse Chokyi Lodro also wrote a Guru Yoga to the Third Karmapa, for details about that text and a translation into English see <a href="https://www.shentongkalacakra.com/2020/06/26/new-translation-heart-essence-of-the-profound-meaning-guru-yoga-on-third-karmapa-by-jamyang-khyentse-wangpo/">https://www.shentongkalacakra.com/2020/06/26/new-translation-heart-essence-of-the-profound-meaning-guru-yoga-on-third-karmapa-by-jamyang-khyentse-wangpo/</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Stirachakra (brtan pa'i 'khor lo) is one of the names of Mañjuśrī, it literally means 'wheel of stability'. Stira Chakra has a colour like fresh saffron, one face, two hands, the right holding aloft a sword and the left holding to the heart the One Hundred Thousand [versed] book; with jewel ornaments and garments of silk. Seated with the feet in the vajrasana [posture]. In 1334, in the *History of the Karmapas* (Snow Lion, 2012), it states that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Karmapa established and inaugurated a temple at the famous pilgrimage site the *Five Peaked Mountain of Mañjuśrī* in China (Wutaishan). At that time, it is said he performed several rituals there and had a vision of the Bodhisattva, Mañjuśrī.

#### 4) Karmapa, Rolpe Dorje (1340-83)



मुल'श्रम'च्रट'ळेव'र्श्वेट्र'रा'लम्॥

gyel sé jang chen chö pa lé

पावव'ल'पव'पव'पते' ह'लग' सर्केग॥

zhen la phen pé tsa lak chok

ब्रिट क्रेंप्यथं में कि पहुंच रें प्रविधा।

nying top go cha ten po zhé
र्यथं प्रति हैं हो र म्यूर्विथं प्रति प्रविधा।

röl pé dor jér sölwa dep

With great bodhisattva conduct of the Victor's heirs,

Donning the firm armour of immense courage,

The supreme friend who benefits others,

To Rolpa Dorje, I pray!

### 5) Karmapa, <u>Dezhin Shegpa</u> (1384 – 1415)



भूर पठका श्रेन् विते गार्ड्या गी र्जे र॥

Ihar ché si zhi tsuk gi nor

गन्य र्ह्हेन्य पश्च रप र्षेन्य गी पन्य॥

gang jong ten pa yong kyi dak

चह्रद्र'ग्रॉथं'श्च्या'क्कु'ळेद्र'र्घर'ङ्घ्या।

ten yo chak gya chen por dom

दे'चित्रद्र्यानेग्राच्यर'ग्रॉब्य'च'वर्द्रच्या।

dé zhin shek par sölwa dep

Crown jewel of samsara-nirvana, including gods,

Mahāmudrā binding together animate and inanimate,

Master of perfect teachings of Land of the Snows [Tibet]

To Dezhin Shegpa, I pray!

#### 6) Karmapa, Thongwa Donden (1416-1453)



র্জুঝ'ব্রিঝঝ'ধ্রুদ্র'ম্ব'বাই দু'উদ্যা

tsül thrim phung po rap ji ching

ব্রীঝ'ম্ব'রব'র্রি'ব্রথথ'রেক্ডদ'বায়

shé rap zap moi pel changwa

निर्प्ताहें क्र स्वर्धिया 'याक्ष' स्वेप्ता त्या स्वर्धित 'याक्षित lé mi da zhing स्वर्धित 'याक्षित 'य

Shining aggregates of ethical discipline,
Never going beyond supreme samadhi,
Holding the glory of profound prajna,
To Thongwa Donden, I pray!

#### 7) Karmapa, Chodrag Gyatso (1454-1506)



र्कर पार्डिन हेश पहें तु अहु शुन रहेन।

tsar chö je dzin thu drup ching

अञ्जित तु रूप रहे प्रति पार्ने र केत प्रा

মানম'দ্দ'দার্ভ্র'দার 'ধ্রম'দ্'ম্মুম্য khé dang tsün pai phül du gyur রুষ'ল্যবাম'ক্র'মর্জম'দার্মম'দার দিন্দা chö drak gya tsor sölwa dep

Accomplished in the power of elimination and caring,

Most sublime of monastics and scholars,

Great treasure-holder of love and knowledge-power,

To Chodrag Gyatso, I pray!

#### 8) Karmapa, <u>Mikyo Dorje</u> (1507-1554)



भ्रे'तर्स्वा'रा'धे' श्चिष्याष्ठा अन्तर विन्। mi throk pa yi thuk nga zhing विस्रवा'याषुत्रा'र्केषा'ग्री'कुव'र्र्य'सर्केषा। kham sum chö kyi gyel po chok

Master of an unassailable heart,

Treasure of the ocean of instructions on deep meaning,

Supreme Dharma King of the three realms,

To Mikyo Dorje, I pray!

#### 9) Karmapa, Wangchug Dorje (1556-1603)



त्यवाषा केव 'षा था र रा 'राखुवाषा श्रीमा phag chen sa la rap zhuk shing तकर् स्रिंग स्रिंग था राष्ट्रीम् षा र्यथा रा॥ ché tsö tsom la nying drelwa

Abiding firmly on the noble Arya level,

Spreading scriptures and reasoning, like a river-bed of jewels,

Ageless explication, debate and composition,

To Wangchuk Dorje, I pray!

#### 10) Karmapa, <u>Choying Dorje</u> (1604-1674)



र्केषः पकुष्ण असः ह्याः जुः यश्चियाषा।

chö gyé gyu mar tak tu zik

क्ष्याः पतिः क्षः धोषाः हेषः खुः पञ्चाः ॥

Ihak pai Iha yi jé su zung

र्रे 'ब्रॅंबबर' प्रहुव विषय मुप्त प्रति विष्ठी ro nyom tül zhuk drup pai tso
र्के अप्ति चेत्र विषय हैं हिन विषय प्रति विषय chö ying dor jér sölwa dep

Seeing through the illusory eight worldly dharmas,

Chief of the yogic accomplishment 'one taste',

Lovingly cared for by supreme deities,

To Choying Dorje, I pray!

#### 11) Karmapa, <u>Yeshe Dorje</u> (1675-1702)



Having bound karmic winds in the *dhuti* [central channel], and Exhausted all conceptual thoughts,

Māhamudrā kāya, the unmoving union,

To Yeshe Dorje, I pray!

#### 12) Karmapa, <u>Jangchub Dorje</u> (1703-1732)



ষ্রদেম'র্কু বামার্মার দ্বর'র বাদি স্বা pang tok yön ten jé wai ter প্রমান্থের স্কু'বালিম'বাশীম'অর্ছিদ্'বা॥ kel den ku zhir trir dzé pa कर्न् भ्रम् वार्ष्य क्रिया क्रिया व्याप्त क्रिया क्रिया क्रिया व्याप्त क्रिया व्यापत क्रापत क्रिया व्यापत क्रिया व्य

Treasury of billion-fold qualities of abandonment and realisation,

Vast source of the dharma ways of sūtra and tantra,

Guiding fortunate ones to the four kāyas

To Changchub Dojre, I pray!

#### 14) Karmapa, <u>Thegchog Dorje</u> (1798-1868)



ह्म प्रस्थायक्ष ह्म ह्म प्रस्ति । प

Forever endeavouring to benefit beings,

Perfected listening, reflection and meditation,

Lord of the Dharma, spontaneously accomplishing the two goals<sup>6</sup>

To Thegchok Dorje, I pray!

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The two goals (don gnyis) are the goal for oneself (rang don) and the goal for others (gzhan don).

#### 15) Karmapa, Khakhyab Dorje (1870-1921)



त्रविरास्यार्क्ष्र्यादाः स्राधाः याञ्चवाषा

khor lo dom pa mi yi zuk

रेवा'क्रव्यव'गुव'तर्वा'रगीव'तिवर'वार्डी

rik nam kün dü kyil khor tso

**協立、セレター、美・美・愛のない。これで、新** 

khyap dak dor jé sem pai ku

अवितः विचः में हिर विश्वारा तरिवशा

kha khyap dor jér sölwa dep

The human form of Chakrasamvara,

All-pervasive kāya Vajrasattva,

Principal mandala, embodiment of all 'families',

To Khakyab Dorje, I pray!

श्चेत्रविःहेःश्चेत्रवात्रवाःग्रीःचर॥

si di ji si né kyi bar

स्यानुरादे अर्धरायानुवायरायीया।

phül jung ngo tsar tam mang gi

पत्तवाया.अकूवा.श्रैजा.टा.भ्रेथ.थ्रा.कटा।

phak chok trül pa gyün mi ché

ब्र्-राष्ट्र्याष्ट्रियाग्वराष्ट्रियाण्यः हिया

nor dzin khön kün khyap gyur chik

As long as I remain in this existence,

May I never be cut off from supreme, noble emanations, and

With numerous exquisite, amazing speeches

May all be completely pervaded by treasure-holders!

dak kyang deng né jang chup bar

मुल'च'रोद्गेते'ट'र्रे'न्ट्।

gyelwa seng géi nga ro dang

वर्षेत्र र्धेष प्रज्ञय व्येत् हेष प्रजुट वित्य

gön pö drel mé jé zung zhing

न्ह्रेर बेन् बर्देव पर हुन कुन विगा

yer mé ngön par jang chup shok

May I too, from now until awakening,

Be cared for, without separation, by protectors, and

Attain indivisibility from the Victors' lion's roar and

The highest awakening!

## Further reading

- The Kagyu Lineage and the Karmapas
- Ken Holmes, *Karmapa*, Altea Publishing 1995, <u>ISBN</u> <u>0-9524555-4-4</u>
- Lama Kunsang, Lama Pemo, Marie Aubèle (2012). *History of the Karmapas: The Odyssey of the Tibetan Masters with the Black Crown*. Snow Lion Publications, Ithaca, New York. <u>ISBN</u> 1-55939-390-4.
- Thinley, Karma (2008). The History of Sixteen Karmapas of Tibet. USA: Prajna Press. p. 150. <u>ISBN</u> 1-57062-644-8.