The Melodious Song of Permanent Immortality:

Supplication for the Long Life of the Supreme Emanation of the Great Refuge Protector, Gyalwang Karmapa

by Jamyang Khyentse Wangpo



Translated and edited by Adele Tomlin

Introduction

This supplication by Jamyang Khyentse Wangpo for the long-life of the 15th Karmapa, Khakyab Dorje (1870-1921) is called 'The Melodious Song of Permanent Immortality: Supplication for the Long Life of the Supreme Emanation of the Great Refuge Protector, Gyalwang Karmapa'. The source text is the Gangtok edition of the Collected Works of Jamyang Khyentse Wangpoⁱ. In terms of the close relationship between Khyentse Wangpo and the Karmapas, the 17th Karmapa, Orgyen Trinley Dorje recently explained thatⁱⁱ:

"Khyentse Wangpo received numerous reading transmissions and empowerments from the 14th Karmapa and also met in his dreams the 3rd Karmapa Rangjung Dorje and the siddha Orgyenpa. Traveling to the Karmapa's seat at Tsurphu, Khyentse Wangpo received many profound teachings from him and made the Karmapa one of the main caretakers of his terma.

When the 15th Karmapa was born, Khyentse Wangpo was fifty-two years old. When the Karmapa was fourteen years old, Khyentse Wangpo invited him to his monastery and offered the young Karmapa empowerments. Jamgon Kongtrul advised the Karmapa to receive the 'Collection of All the Tantras' from Jamyang Khyentse, and so at the age of 16, the Karmapa went to Dzongsar Monastery and, welcomed with great honor by Sakya Trizin as well, the Karmapa received all these empowerments and reading transmissions. At this time, Khyentse Wangpo said to the Karmapa that since he was a knower of the three times, he should write a history of his previous incarnations, which the Karmapa did in one night during the time it took a butter lamp to burn [if anyone knows the Tibetan title and source of this text, please let me know!]. Later, the 16th Karmapa would create a Tibetan opera based on this history [name of this in Tibetan is not known]."

In the verses, Khyentse Wangpo praises the 15th Karmapa as being the essence of Avolakiteshvara, White Tara, Namgyalma, Vajradhara and Guru Rinpoche and prays that the Karmapa's lineage of teachings flourish and remain stable and long-lasting.

May this new translation be of benefit to the long-life and flourishing of the activities and lineage of the Karmapas!

Translated and edited by Adele Tomlin, May 2020.

र्ययःस्व यर्षः मुषःगुव र्द्षः गृकः य

यत्याक्रीयाग्वे त्ययाक्ष्यात्यत्र श्विषयाहेते याने ना

. विवाय. इ.पु. र्यट. द्विवा. प्रस्वाया. ता. श्रेष . रथा. ज्ञावाया

पश्चमान्यक्षंत्र पर्क्ष विषयार्थन

Embodiment of all the glorious Buddhas, Karmapa,

Treasury of compassion that surpasses all the Buddhas.

Powerful compassionate one, noble Avalokiteśvara

For oceans of eons, please live and prosper!

अर्ट्र सुअःहेबः ८चवाः देवा पतिः श्रूटः चः धेवा।

चया'पठवा'चया'सेट्'श्रेष'चु'हे'प्वेत्र'याचेयावा।

ट्य.पर्विट.क्र्य.पर्यंत्र.वर्यं.यर्थं.क्रं.पर्ववय.वर्षिटः॥

धेट्र प्रवित्र प्रवित्र स्वित स्वित स्वित प्रवित्र प्रवित्य प्रवित्र प्रवित्य प्रवित्र प्रवित्र प्रवित्र प्रवित्र प्रवित्य प्रवित्य प्रवित्य प्रवित्य प्रवित्य प्रवित

Through illuminating awareness, inferred and directly perceived,

Seeing defiled and undefiled objects of reality as they are;

Whose speech is a nectar-rain of dharma of renunciation that tames

Essence of the 'wish-fulfilling wheel' [White Tāra], please live and prosper!

गार्चेन्'व्याःकूॅन्'न्न'क्व'त्र्युन्'क्षे'धेन्'पती

चट्व'मव्वेष'चुट'यह्व|'ट्चु'अद्ये'र्द्ध्य'र्र्य|'राषा|

अवर'तहें**द**'धेन्'शुनव'र्क्षवव'गृद'पठा'अहंन्'स्वावा

इस्राप्तरमुवास्रिते द्रित्वर्क्षः विद्यापार्वेत्या

From the outset, inseparable dependent-arising and emptiness,

By the middle-way reasoning, a union of two truths

Whose mind defeats all hordes of 'demons' holding to extremes

Essence of Namgyalma, please live and prosper!

यातुवा'अदे'खुब'बेअष'ट्रॅब'चॅदे'वाद्रव'खुवाष'वाह्रीवाषा।

घटाया.ब्राज्यालया.जया.पर्चया.ची.भ्री.टापु.रूथा।

वि:र्श्वेर:पर्व :स्व :र्षेव :फ्व :क्रकेंव :पक्केंव :पक्केंव :प

ग्रव 'मृ 'दळट' प्रते 'टॅ' चॅर' दर्क 'ग्रवेश ग्रवेश |

Seeing the abiding reality of the ultimate objects of body and mind,

Generating the stages of cause and effect on the path, the liberating method,

Discoverer of the supreme qualities endowed with the seven unionsⁱⁱⁱ

Essence of Vajradhara, please live and prosper!

वाषु क्रिंट सेवा तपु क्रूब मुं अस्व र मुं

लवाक्चिट.मुबार्ज, वाचर.ज्ञेब.मुवा.ता.पहूर्या

त्यक्ष कृत भु न्दा धेरा देव । व्यव विकास

अर्कें भ्रेयाञ्च अर्थः में प्रत्ये प्रत्ये प्रत्ये प्रत्ये प्रात्ये प्रत्ये प्

The ground continuum, manifested Dharmakāya,

The path continuum, the vidyadhara who has completed the five stages,

The result continuum^v, treasury of activity and primordial awareness,

Essence of the 'Lake-Born' [Guru Rinpoche], please live and prosper!

ने सुर ग्रॉब्य पानन प्रति चित्र क्रुप्य ग्रीया

हे पर्व्व न्नु अदे विषय पर् पन्निय पक्ति ।

च्याकुषाळेषात्रिंसाहुषायागुवाहुग्वर्भूम्॥

यभर ब्रिय-र्याय क्रिंब तस्त्रा यम ब्रिब ब्रीस क्रेंयशा

By the blessing of supplicating like that,

Venerable guru, please remain for hundreds of eons,

Turn the profound and vast, 'all-aspects', wheel of Dharma, and

Bless us that the joyful revelation of theory and practice increase!

वियः यञ्चेष ःश्चे : प्राप्तः प्राप्तः स्व

इट.जियोब.ब्रियोब.टेंब.भीच.मे.मेंब.टा.

तर्या.स्याय.५र्म्.भीय.धे.शका.ह्य.तर्टिर.थेवा

र्देव 'गविषा स्वर ग्रीषा ग्राचा प्रति 'चगा 'विषा हुँगा।

May the Karmapa's glorious lineage of Buddha's teachings

Continually expand, across all space and time!

Dakini Publications, 2020

May I and all wanderers be cared for by the guru, and

Be awarded the auspicious, simultaneous accomplishment of the two purposes vi!

i (mkhyen brtse'i dbang po. "skyabs mgon rgyal ba'i dbang po dpal kar+ma pa chen po'i mchog gi sprul ba'i sku'i zhabs brtan gsol 'debs 'chi med rtag pa dan pa'i dbyangs snyan." In gsung 'bum/_mkhyen brtse'i dbang po/. TBRC W21807. 1: 323 – 324. gangtok: gonpo tseten, 1977-1980.)

ii https://kagyuoffice.org/deep-connections-between-the-karmapa-and-khyentse-lineages-the-gyalwang-karmapa-awards-khenpo-certificates-at-dzongsar-khyentse-chokyi-lodro-institute/

These are the seven aspects of union (*kha sbyor bdun ldan*) and define the aspects of Sambhogakaya Buddhas. They are the aspect of 1) being without self-nature, 2) union, 3) great bliss, 4) complete enjoyment, 5) freedom from interruption, 6) filled with great compassion, 7) continuity.

^{iv} The system of practical application of the Father Tantras especially taught by Nagārjuna and his two spiritual sons, Aryadeva and Chandrakirti.

Y Here the term (*brgyud*) is a natural continuum or unbroken stream flowing from fundamental ignorance to enlightenment. As such, it refers to the continua of ground, path and result (*gzhi lam 'bras bu*), which together form the dynamic process through which all fruitional aspects of buddhahood are fully manifested. Through the continuum of the path (*lam gyi rgyud*), the timelessly present continuum of the ground (*gzhi'i rgyud*) is actualised as the continuum of the result (*'bras bu'i rgyud*).