

Devotion That Pierces My Heart

A Supplication for Calling the Guru from Afar

Namo Guruye!

Master, know me!

Root guru of great kindness, know me!

Essence of the buddhas past, present, and future,

Source of the genuine Dharma—scriptural and realized,

Lord of the Sangha, the fellowship most excellent

Root guru of great kindness, know me!

Great treasure trove of compassionate blessing,

Wellspring for the two accomplishments

Whose enlightened deeds bestow all wishes,

Root guru of great kindness, know me!

Master Amitabha, know me!

Behold us from the expanse of Dharmakaya free of fabrication.

Guide us who drift throughout samsara by force of negative karma

To your pure realm of great bliss!

Master Avalokiteshvara, know me!

Behold us from the expanse of clear light Sambhogakaya.

Pacify forever more the suffering of the six classes of beings,

Thus overthrowing the three realms of samsara!

Master Padmasambhava, know me!

Behold us from Lotus Light at Chamara.

In this degenerate time, the people of Tibet are forsaken.

Quickly, grant us protection out of your compassion!

Master Yeshe Tsogyal, know me!

Behold us from the dakini city of great bliss.

Convey us who are burdened with wrongdoing from the ocean of suffering

To the grand metropolis of liberation!

Masters of the lineages of word and of terma, know me!

Behold us from unity—the expanse of wisdom.

Grant that, penetrating the gloomy dungeon of misperceiving mind,

The sun of realization dawns for us!

Omniscient Drime Ozer, know me!
Behold us from the expanse of the five lights of spontaneous presence.
Grant that, having perfected the great potency of original purity,
We bring the four appearances to completion!

Peerless Atisha and your heart disciples, know me!
Behold us from the midst of the hundred deities of Tushita.
Grant that our mindstreams kindle the mind of awakening—
Emptiness whose essence is compassion!

Supreme siddhas—Marpa, Milarepa, Gampopa—know me!
Behold us from the expanse of indestructible great bliss.
Grant us the supreme Mahamudra siddhi of bliss-emptiness,
And awaken the Dharmakaya from our heart of hearts!

Karmapa, master over the universe, know me!
Behold us from the sphere of taming beings infinite as space.
Grant that, by realizing all phenomena as illusions, not real,
Appearances and mind arise as the three kayas!

Gurus of the four elder and eight younger Kagyu lineages, know me!
Behold us from the pure realm of reflexive experience.
Grant that, having purified the misperception of the four stages,
We bring experience and realization to consummate perfection!

Five lineage masters of the Sakya lineage, know me!
Behold us from the expanse of samsara-nirvana indivisible.
Grant that, having integrated the triad of stainless view, meditation and conduct,
We traverse the supreme esoteric path!

Unparalleled Shangpa Kagyu, know me!
Behold us from the pure realm of pristine buddhahood.
Grant that, having properly cultivated the practices of means and liberation,
We encounter unity, the path of nothing more to learn!

Great siddha, Thangthong Gyalpo, know me!
Behold us from the expanse of effortless compassion.
Grant that, having accomplished the yogic discipline of realizing lack of true existence,
We master prana-mind!

Pachig Dampa Sangye, know me!

Behold us from the expanse of Accomplishment of Highest Action.

Grant that, with the lineage blessings permeating our hearts,

Interdependent arising beyond extremes manifests!

Machig Labkyi Dronma, know me!

Behold us from the expanse of prajna paramita—transcendent knowing!

Grant that, having uprooted the arrogant demon of self-clinging,

We perceive the truth of no-self beyond construct!

All-knowing Dolpo Sangye, know me!

Behold us from the sphere replete with all supreme qualities.

Grant that, having stopped the subtle karmic energies in the central channel,

We attain the changeless vajra kaya!

Venerable Master Taranatha, know me!

Behold us from the sphere of the three mudras.

Grant that, having traveled the path of secret vajra without impediment,

We attain the rainbow body of the Space Enjoyment pure realm!

Jamyang Khyentse Wangpo, know me!

Behold us from the sphere of the wisdom of the two knowledges.

Grant that, having cleared away the darkness of unknowing mind,

We amplify the light of supreme knowledge!

Osel Trulpe Dorje, know me!

Behold us from the expanse of the five rainbow lights.

Grant that, having purified the stains of bindu, prana, and mind,

We attain the perfect and free youthful vase-kaya!

Pema Dongak Lingpa, know me!

Behold us from the expanse of everlasting bliss-emptiness.

Grant that we are able to completely fulfill

The whole spectrum of the buddhas' and bodhisattvas' intent!

Ngawang Yonten Gyatso, know me!

Behold us from the expanse of the unity of dharmadhatu wisdom.

Grant that, having destroyed utterly our clinging to appearances as real,

We are able to incorporate whatever occurs into our path!

Bodhisattva Lodrö Thaye, know me!
Behold us from the state of love and compassion.
Grant that, having recognized all beings as our kind parents,
We are able to sincerely benefit them!

Pema Gargyi Wangchug, know me!
Behold us from the sphere of the clear light of great bliss.
Grant that, having liberated the five poisons into the five wisdoms,
We eradicate the dualism of relinquishment and attainment!

Tennyi Yungdrung Lingpa, know me!
Behold us from the sphere of the equality of samsara and nirvana.
Grant that, having ignited authentic devotion in our mindstreams,
We attain the great simultaneity of realization and liberation!

Root guru of great kindness, know me!
Behold us from the chakra of great bliss at the crown of our heads.
Grant that, by coming face to face with reflexive awareness—Dharmakaya itself,
We obtain buddhahood in this very life!



Alas! Sentient beings such as I, wrongdoers with negative karma,
Wander continually throughout samsara since time without beginning.
Even now, mired in the experience of endless suffering,
Disillusion does not surface, even for a moment.
Master, know me! Look on me swiftly with your great compassion!
Bless me that renunciation arise from my inmost depths.

I squander this human existence I have obtained, with its freedoms and assets,
Forever diverted by the meaningless doings of this life.
Laziness keeps me from accomplishing the supreme aim of liberation.
I will return empty-handed from this land filled with jewels.
Master, know me! Look on me swiftly with compassion!
Bless me that I make this life meaningful.

Not one being on this earth will fail to die.
At this very moment, one after another are passing away.
Though I, too, soon must die,
Foolishly, I plan to live indefinitely.

Master, know me! Look on me swiftly with your great compassion!
Bless me that, with no time to waste, I focus on what matters.

I will be separated from all whom I love and all that pleases me.
The riches I have accumulated through miserliness, others will enjoy.
This body, too, so dearly cherished, will fall away.
My consciousness will roam at random through the bardo.
Master, know me! Look on me swiftly with your great compassion!
Bless me that I realize how futile this all is.

In front, the dark gloom of fear waits to engulf me,
From behind, the fierce whirlwind of karma urges me onwards,
While the lord of death's gruesome minions beat and strike at me.
I will have to endure the intolerable sufferings of the lower realms.
Master, know me! Look on me swiftly with your great compassion!
Bless me that I be free of the abyss of negative rebirth.

I bury my defects, though great as a mountain.
The flaws of others, mere sesame seeds, I denounce and publicize.
Devoid of even the slightest of fine qualities, I boast of my excellence.
Though I call myself a Dharma practitioner, my actions are anything but dharmic.
Master, know me! Look on me swiftly with your great compassion!
Bless me that I pacify my vanity and conceit.

Harboring self-clinging, that demon of sure ruin,
Every thought I have causes my kleshas to multiply.
Everything I do bears nonvirtuous fruits.
I am not yet even facing in the direction of the path of liberation.
Master, know me! Look on me swiftly with your great compassion!
Bless me that I uproot clinging to self.

A bit of praise delights me, a little blame brings me woe.
I let fall my armor of patience at the merest rebuke.
Even when I witness destitution, it sparks no compassion.
When I happen upon the needy, I am strait-jacketed by greed.
Master, know me! Look on me swiftly with your great compassion!
Bless me that my mind merges with Dharma.

Samsara has no substance, yet I invest it with meaning.
I forsake the ultimate aim for the sake of food and clothing.

Despite having all I could possibly need, I yearn for more and more,
Seducing myself with illusory things that lack true existence.
Master, know me! Look on me swiftly with your great compassion!
Bless me that I let go of undue concern for this life.

Though unable to withstand the faintest physical or mental discomfort,
I remain oblivious to plunging into negative rebirths.
I see clearly that the law of cause and effect is unerring, yet do not act on it.
Failing to accomplish virtue, instead my misdeeds multiply.
Master, know me! Look on me swiftly with your great compassion!
Bless me that I generate conviction in the law of karma.

Hostile towards my enemies, attached to my friends,
Benighted by delusion as to what to embrace and shun,
While practicing the Dharma, I am overcome by stupor, dullness, and sleep,
When engaged in non-dharmic activity, my senses are bright and clear.
Master, know me! Look on me swiftly with your great compassion!
Bless me that I subdue my foes, the kleshas.

In outward appearance an authentic Dharmic practitioner,
Inwardly, my mind has not merged with Dharma.
Kleshas lurk within—snakes in the grass.
When I encounter adversity, I am unmasked, my flaws laid bare.
Master, know me! Look on me swiftly with your great compassion!
Bless me that I tame my mind.

Not recognizing my own failings,
I impersonate a practitioner of Dharma, while carrying on in all manner
of non-dharmic ways.
Thoroughly habituated to kleshas and negative karma,
Even when, time and again, a virtuous intention strikes, again and again it is cut short.
Master, know me! Look on me swiftly with your great compassion!
Bless me that I see my own faults.

Every day that passes brings me closer and closer to death;
Each new dawn finds my mind all the more unyielding.
In serving my guru, my devotion dims over time,
And my pure view and affection for my sangha diminishes ever more.
Master, know me! Look on me swiftly with your great compassion!
Bless me that I discipline my unruly mind.

Although I take refuge, generate bodhicitta, and make supplications,
Devotion has not arisen from the depths of my heart.
Diluted to mere words, my dharmic activities and virtuous practices
Become nothing but rote acts, not taken to heart.
Master, know me! Look on me swiftly with your great compassion!
Bless me that all I do leads to Dharma.

It is taught that all suffering comes from wanting our own happiness,
That buddhahood is achieved through an altruistic mind.
Yet, even as I generate bodhicitta, I conceal selfish interests within.
Not only do I fail to benefit others, I actually cause them harm.
Master, know me! Look on me swiftly with your great compassion!
Bless me that I am able to exchange myself with others.

My guru, the actual embodiment of Buddha, I take for an ordinary human.
Quickly forgetting the kindness of teaching me the profound essential instructions,
When my wishes are not fulfilled, I despair,
Viewing my guru's actions through a veil of doubt and wrong view.
Master, know me! Look on me swiftly with your great compassion!
Bless me that my devotion increase without fading.

My mind is buddha, but I do not recognize it.
My thoughts are Dharmakaya, but I do not realize it.
Noncontrivance is the intrinsic state, yet I cannot sustain it.
Mind settled into itself is the abiding nature, yet I have no confidence in it.
Master, know me! Look on me swiftly with your great compassion!
Bless me that reflexive wisdom be freed on the spot.

Death is sure to come, but I am unable to take it to heart.
The sacred Dharma surely benefits, but I do not practice properly.
The law of karma is surely true, but I do not choose what to adopt and reject by it.
Mindfulness and vigilance are surely necessary, but, lacking stability in them,
distraction overcomes me.
Master, know me! Look on me swiftly with your great compassion!
Bless me that I may sustain mindfulness without distraction.

Due to my prior negative karma, I was born at the end of this degenerate age.
All my deeds become the cause of suffering.
Misguided friends cast the shadow of their offenses over me.
I am diverted from spiritual practice by meaningless chatter.

Master, know me! Look on me swiftly with your great compassion!
Bless me that I am able to persevere in the Dharma.

As a beginner, I thought of nothing but Dharma.
But now the fruits of my labors end up as causes for samsara and negative rebirth,
My crop of liberation ravaged by the frost of nonvirtue.
This is how I and madmen like me sabotage our ultimate aim.
Master, know me! Look on me swiftly with your great compassion!
Bless me that I bring the genuine Dharma to completion.

Bless me that disillusion arise from my innermost depths.
Bless me that, with no time to waste, I focus on what matters.
Bless me that I remain mindful of death from the bottom of my heart.
Bless me that I develop conviction in the law of karma.
Bless me that my path be free of obstacles.
Bless me that I persevere in spiritual practice.
Bless me that I take adverse circumstances as the path.
Bless me that antidotes succeed automatically.
Bless me that I ignite uncontrived devotion.
Bless me that I come face to face with the abiding nature.
Bless me that reflexive awareness awakens from the very core of my heart.
Bless me that I sever the base of deluded appearances at its root.
Bless me that I accomplish buddhahood in a single lifetime.

Precious guru I supplicate you—
Kind Lord of Dharma, I cry out to you with longing!
Unworthy as I am, you are my only hope.
Bless me that your mind and mine merge as one.