

Dedication
From Shantideva's "The Way of the Bodhisattva"

1. By all the virtue I have now amassed,
By composition of this book, which speaks
Of entry to the Bodhisattva way,
May every being tread the path to Buddhahood.
2. May beings everywhere who suffer
Torment in their minds and bodies
Have, by virtue of my merit,
Joy and happiness in boundless measure.
3. As long as they may linger in samsara,
May their present joy know no decline,
And may they taste of unsurpassed beatitude
In constant and unbroken continuity.
4. Throughout the spheres and reaches of the world,
In hellish states wherever they may be,
May beings fettered there, tormented,
Taste the bliss and peace of Sukhavati.
5. May those caught in the freezing ice be warmed.
And from the massing clouds of Bodhisattvas' prayers
May torrents rain in boundless streams
To cool those burning in infernal fires.
6. May forests where the leaves are blades and swords
Become sweet groves and pleasant woodland glades.
And may the trees of miracles appear,
Supplanting those upon the hill of Shalmali.
7. And may the very pits of hell be sweet
With fragrant pools all perfumed with the scent of lotuses,
Be lovely with the cries of swan and goose
And water fowl so pleasing to the ear.
8. May fiery coals turn into heaps of jewels,
The burning ground become a crystal floor,
The crushing hills celestial abodes,
Adorned with offerings, the dwelling place of Buddhas.

9. May the hail of lava, fiery stones and weapons
Henceforth become a rain of blossoms.
May those whose hell it is to fight and wound
Be turned to lovers offering their flowers.
10. And those engulfed in fiery Vaitarani,
Their flesh destroyed, their bones bleached white as kunda flowers,
May they, through all my merit's strength, have godlike forms,
And sport with goddesses in Mandakini's peaceful streams.
11. "What fear is it," they'll ask, "that grips the henchmen of the
Deadly Lord, the frightful vultures and the carrion crows?
What noble strength is it that brings us joy and drives away our
dreadful night?"
And looking skyward they will see the shining form of Vajrapani.
Then may their sins be quenched in joy, and may they go to him.
12. And when they see the seething lava-flood of hell
Extinguished in a rain of blossoms, drenched in scented water,
At once fulfilled in bliss, they'll ask, "How can this be?"
And thus the denizens of hell will see the One Who Holds the Lotus.
13. "Friends, throw away your fears and quickly gather here.
For who is it who comes to banish dread, this youth with bound up,
gleaming hair,
This loving Bodhisattva saving and protecting every being,
Whose power relieves all pain, increasing joy?"
14. "Do you see the splendor of his house that echoes praises of a
thousand goddesses,
The hundred gods who lay their diadems before his lotus feet,
The rain of flowers falling on his head, his eyes moist with
compassion?"
Thus may those in hell cry out on seeing Manjughosha.
15. And likewise when, through these my roots of virtue,
They see the joyful clouds let fall their cooling scented rain,
Their obscurations cleansed by Bodhisattvas like Samantabhadra,
May all those languishing in hell come now to perfect happiness.
16. And may the stooping animals be freed
From fear of being preyed upon, each other's food.
And may the famished spirits have such joy
As those who dwell within the northern continent.
17. And may they be replete and satisfied
By streams of milk that pour
From noble Lord Avalokita's hand,
And bathing in it, may they be refreshed and cooled.
18. And may the blind receive their sight,
And may the deaf begin to hear,
And women near their time bring forth
Like Mayadevi, free from any pain.
19. And may the naked now be clothed,
And all the hungry eat their fill.
And may those parched with thirst receive
Pure waters and delicious drink.
20. May the poor and destitute find wealth,
The haggard and the careworn, joy.
May confidence relieve those in despair
And bring them steadfastness and every excellence.
21. May every being ailing with disease
Be freed at once from every malady.
May all the sickness that afflicts the living
Be instantly and permanently healed.
22. May those who go in dread have no more fear.
May captives be unchained and now set free.
And may the weak receive their strength.
May living beings help each other in kindness.
23. May travelers upon the road
Find happiness no matter where they go,
And may they gain, without the need of toil,
The goals on which they set their hearts.
24. May those who put to sea in boat or ship
Attain the ports that they desire,
And may they safely come to shore
And sweet reunion with their kith and kin.
25. May those who lose their way and stray
In misery find fellow travelers,
And safe from the threat of thieves and savage beasts,
Be tireless, and their journey light.

26. May children and the old, the weak, protectorless,
 Bewildered in the wild and pathless wastes,
 And those whose minds are dulled, and all who are insane,
 Have pure celestial beings as their guardians.
27. May all attain the human state,
 And be possessed of wisdom, faith and love.
 With perfect livelihood and sustenance,
 May they have mindfulness throughout their lives.
28. May everyone have unrestricted wealth,
 Just like the treasury of space,
 Enjoying it according to their wish,
 Without a trace of harm or enmity.
29. May beings destitute of splendor
 Become magnificent and bright.
 And those worn down by toil and drudgery
 Acquire great beauty and perfection.
30. May all the women in this world
 Attain the strength of masculinity.
 And may the lowly come to excellence,
 The proud and haughty lose their arrogance.
31. And thus by all the merit I have gained,
 May every being, leaving none aside,
 Abandon all their evil ways,
 Embracing goodness now and ever more.
32. From bodhichitta may they never separate,
 And constantly engage in Bodhisattva deeds.
 And may they be accepted as disciples by the Buddhas,
 And turn aside from what is maras' work.
33. And may these beings, each and every one,
 Enjoy an unsurpassed longevity.
 Living always in contentment,
 May the very name of death be strange to them.
34. On every side, in all the ten directions,
 May groves of wish-fulfilling trees abound,
 Resounding with the sweetness of the Teachings
 Spoken by the Buddhas and their Bodhisattva children.
35. And may the earth be wholesome everywhere,
 Free from boulders, cliffs and chasms,
 Flat and even like a level palm
 And smooth like lapis lazuli.
36. And for many circles of disciples,
 May multitudes of Bodhisattvas
 Rise in every land,
 Adorning them with every excellence.
37. From bird song and the sighing of the trees,
 From shafts of light and from the sky itself,
 May living beings, each and every one,
 Perceive the constant sound of Dharma.
38. May they come into the presence of the Buddhas,
 And meet with Bodhisattvas, offspring of the same,
 With clouds of offerings unbounded,
 May the teachers of the world be worshiped.
39. May kindly spirits bring the rains on time
 For harvests to be rich and plentiful.
 May princes rule according to the Truth,
 And may the world be blessed with all prosperity.
40. May medicines be strong and full of virtue;
 May healing spells be chanted with success.
 May spirits of the air that feed on flesh
 Be kind, their minds imbued with pity.
41. And let no being ever suffer pain;
 Let them neither ail nor languish, never doing evil.
 May they have no fear, nor suffer insults,
 And may their minds be ever free from sorrow.
42. In monasteries, temples and the like,
 May reading and reciting widely flourish.
 May harmony prevail among the sangha,
 And may its purpose be all fulfilled.
43. May ordained monks intent upon the practice
 Find perfect places for retreat in solitude,
 Abandon every vagrant thought
 And meditate with trained and serviceable minds.

44. May nuns have all their wants supplied;
 May quarreling, vindictiveness be strange to them.
 Let all who have embraced monastic life
 Uphold a pure and unimpaired observance.
45. May they feel regret when discipline is broken,
 And always may they strive to cleanse away their faults.
 May they thus obtain a fortunate rebirth,
 Wherein to undertake unflinching discipline.
46. May the wise and learned be revered
 And always be sustained by offerings.
 With minds suffused with purity,
 May their renown spread far and wide.
47. May beings never languish in the lower realms;
 May pain and hardship be unknown to them.
 Enjoying more than godlike strength and beauty,
 May Buddhahood for them be swiftly gained.
48. Again and yet again may sentient beings
 Make offerings to all the Buddhas.
 And with Buddha's unimagined bliss,
 May they enjoy undimmed and constant happiness.
49. May all the Bodhisattvas now fulfill
 Their high intention for the sake of beings,
 And sentient beings likewise now receive
 The good the Buddhas have in store for them.
50. And may the Arhats and Pratyekabuddhas
 At length attain their perfect happiness.
51. And may I also, through Manjushri's kindness,
 Reach the ground of Perfect Joy,
 And throughout the stream of all my lives
 Embrace monastic ordination.
52. Thus may I abide, sustained
 By simple, ordinary fare.
 And in every life obtain
 A dwelling place in perfect solitude.
53. Whenever I desire to gaze on him
 Or put to him the slightest question,
 May I behold the unobstructed vision
 Of Manjughosha, my protector.
54. To satisfy the needs of beings
 Dwelling in the ten directions, to the margins of the sky,
 May I reflect in every deed
 The perfect exploits of Manjushri.
55. And now as long as space endures,
 As long as there are beings to be found,
 May I continue likewise to remain
 To drive away the sorrows of the world.
56. The pains and sorrows of all wandering beings—
 May they ripen wholly on myself.
 And may the virtuous company of Bodhisattvas
 Bring about the happiness of beings.
57. May the Doctrine, only remedy for suffering,
 The source of every bliss and happiness,
 Be nurtured and upheld with reverence,
 And throughout a vast continuance of time, endure!
58. And now to Manjughosha I prostrate,
 Whose kindness is the wellspring of my good intent.
 And to my virtuous friends I also bow,
 Whose inspiration gave me strength to grow.

