

Opening Prayers for Bodhicharyāvatāra Teachings

Homage:

I pay homage with my body, speech and mind filled with devotion,
To all buddhas without exception—
Those lion-like heroes of the past, present and future,
Who dwell in all worlds throughout the universe.

With the power of these aspirations for excellent conduct,
I bow before all victorious ones as they manifest to my mind,
Prostrating with as many bodies
As there are atoms in the universe.

I envision that there are countless buddhas
Abiding on every atom in the universe,
Each surrounded by hosts of bodhisattvas,
Completely pervading the basic space of phenomena.

With never-ending praises
Sung to an ocean of melodies,
I extol the perfect qualities of all victorious ones,
Who have arrived at a state of bliss.

Offering:

I offer to all these victorious ones
Sublime flowers, garlands, music and balms,
Beautiful parasols, brilliant lamps, the purest incense,
The finest clothes and loveliest fragrances.

Vessels filled with sweet-scented powders
Piled as high as the King of Mountains,
The finest, most exalted array of all excellent things—
I offer these as well to all the buddhas.

With the power of my faith in excellent conduct
And my devotion to the buddhas,
I pay homage and present them with
Vast, unsurpassable offerings.

Confessing:

I confess each and every negative action
Of my body, speech and mind
That I have committed under the influence
Of desire, anger or ignorance.

Rejoicing:

I rejoice in the meritorious deeds of buddhas
Throughout all directions,
As well as bodhisattvas, pratyekabuddhas, arhats beyond training,
Those still in training and all beings.

Requesting:

I request that those lamps of the world,
The protectors who, free of attachment,
Have attained the enlightened state of buddhahood,
Turn the wheel of the unsurpassable Dharma.

Supplicating:

I join my hands and beseech those
Who may wish to pass beyond all suffering,
To remain for as many eons as there are atoms in the universe,
In order to bring benefit and happiness to all beings.

Dedicating:

I dedicate whatever virtue I have accumulated,
Through prostrating, offering and confessing,
Through rejoicing, requesting and supplicating,
However slight this virtue may be, to the enlightenment of all.

Offering the Mandala of the Universe:

The earth is perfumed with scented water, strewed with flowers,
Adorned with Mount Meru, the four continents
And the sun and moon.
By my imagining and offering this as a buddha realm,
May all beings come to enjoy the pure realms.

IDAM GURU RATNA MANDALA KAM NIRYA TAYAMI

Requesting the Teachings:

To fulfill the needs of all beings at their various levels of understanding,
We request that you turn the wheel of Dharma,
Including the lesser and greater,
Common and extraordinary approaches.

Closing Prayers of Dedication and Aspiration

All the virtue of this practice,
And all that is gathered throughout the three times,
I dedicate to all beings, without exception,
So that they may attain buddhahood.

Following and emulating
The omniscient and courageous Manjushri,
And, likewise, Samantabhadra,
I completely dedicate all virtue.

Since dedicating merit is praised as supreme
By victorious ones of the three times,
I completely dedicate these roots of virtue
For the sake of practicing excellent conduct.

May the Teachings of Lord Buddha,
The only source of benefit and happiness,
Long remain in this world.
May the lives of those who uphold these Teachings
Be as stable as a victory banner.

Supreme bodhichitta is so very precious.
Where it has not yet arisen, may it arise.
Where it has arisen, may it not decline,
But evermore grow and flourish.