

## **THE KING OF PRAYERS**

*The Prayer of Ways High and Sublime*

I bow down to the youthful Arya Manjushri!

O lions amongst humans,  
Buddhas past, present, and future,  
To as many of you as exist in the ten directions  
I bow down with my body, speech, and mind.

On waves of strength of this king  
Of prayers for exalted sublime ways,  
With bodies as numerous as atoms of the world  
I bow to Buddhas pervading space.

On every atom is found a Buddha  
Sitting amongst countless Buddhas' spiritual children,  
I look with eyes of faith to the victorious ones  
Thus filling the entire sphere of phenomena.

Of these with endless oceans of excellence  
Endowed with an ocean of wondrous speech  
I sing praises of the greatness of all Buddhas,  
An eulogy to those gone to bliss.

Garlands of flowers I offer them,  
And beautiful sounds, supreme perfumes,  
Butter lamps and sacred incense,  
I offer to all the victorious ones.  
Excellent food, supreme fragrances,  
And a mound of medicinal substances as high as Mount  
Meru  
I arrange in a special formation  
And offer to those who have conquered themselves.

All peerless offerings I hold up  
In admiration of those gone to bliss;  
With strength of faith in sublime ways  
I prostrate and make offerings to the conquerors.

Long overpowered by attachment, aversion, and ignorance  
Countless evils I have committed  
With acts of body, speech, and mind.  
Each and every one of these, I now confess.

In the perfections of the Buddhas and bodhisattvas,  
The arhats, training and beyond,  
And in the latent goodness of every living being,  
I lift my heart and rejoice.

O lights into the ten directions,  
Buddhas who have found the passionless stage of  
enlightenment,  
To all of you I direct this request:  
Turn the incomparable wheel of Dharma.

O masters wishing to show parinirvana,  
Stay with us and teach, I pray,  
For as many eons as there are specks of dust,  
In order to bring goodness and joy to all beings.  
May any small merits that may have been amassed  
By thus prostrating, making offerings, confessing, rejoicing,  
And asking the Buddhas to remain and teach Dharma,  
Be dedicated now to supreme and perfect enlightenment.

May my offerings be received by all past Buddhas  
And by all those now abiding in the ten directions.  
May all the Buddhas who have not yet come

Quickly perfect their minds and reach Buddhahood, The  
state of supreme full awakening.

May all the Buddha realms of the ten directions  
Remain forever vast and completely pure,  
May the world be completely filled with Buddhas who have  
attained illumination under sacred trees,  
And may they all be surrounded by bodhisattvas.

May all living beings in the ten directions  
Always abide in health and joy.  
May they live in accord with the way of Dharma  
And may their every wish be fulfilled.

By my living in the ways of enlightenment  
May I remember my past lives in all my reincarnations,  
And in all cycles of death, migration, and rebirth  
May a sensitivity for truth be ever strong in me

By my following the footsteps of the Buddhas  
May I utterly perfect the sublime ways of the bodhisattvas,  
And may I practice the faultless, undegenerating, stainless,  
And pure ways of self-control.

May I master all languages that exist,  
Including those of the gods, yakshas, spirits, and varieties  
of humans,  
As well as all forms of communication of living beings,  
That I may be able to show the Dharma in every way.

Striving thus and in the transcending perfections  
May I never forget the bodhi mind,  
And may I totally cleanse from within my mindstream  
All negativities and mental veils.

May I gain freedom from karma, delusion, and karmic  
maras

To be able to live in the world unaffected by its stains  
Like an unstained lotus grows in the mud,  
And like the sun and moon shine without obstruction in the  
sky.

For as long as there are Buddha fields and directions  
May I strive to quell the misery of the lower realms,  
May I place all living beings only in happiness  
And bring them all only happiness and joy.

May I strive to complete the ways of enlightenment  
And I abide in ways harmonious with the world;  
May I expose to others the ways most sublime  
And myself abide in them throughout all future eons.

May my ways and the ways of a bodhisattva  
Always go together hand in hand.  
In body, speech, and mind  
May I attune to their sublime ways.

May I never be separated from the good friends  
Who reveal the path of the sublime ways  
And who wish only to benefit me;  
May I never disappoint them even for a moment.

May I constantly envision the perfect Buddhas,  
The protectors who are surrounded by the bodhisattvas,  
And in the future may I never weary  
Of devoting myself to them with all my strength.

May I forever uphold the holy Dharma of the Buddhas

And illumine the sublime way of enlightenment;  
May I practice throughout all future ages  
The ways and deeds of the sublime path.

Circling in the various realms of existence  
May I amass inexhaustible goodness and wisdom,  
And may I become an unending treasure of qualities  
Such as methods, wisdom, samadhi, and the experience of  
a bodhisattva.

In every atom are Buddha fields as numberless as atoms,  
Each field is filled with Buddhas beyond conception,  
And each Buddha is surrounded by a myriad of  
bodhisattvas,  
To all these dwellers in sublime ways I turn my attention.

Thus, all atoms within the ten directions  
Abide within the space of a single hair  
An ocean of Buddhas within an ocean of Buddha fields  
Performing enlightened activities for an ocean of eons.

Each Buddha, with perfect speech, releases  
An ocean of sounds with every word that is said  
To satisfy the infinite diverse tendencies of beings,  
Thus does the speech of a Buddha constantly flow.

All these conquerors past, present, and future  
Continually turn the methods of Dharma wheels;  
With all the powers of my mind I listen  
For the inexhaustible sound of their words.

All future eons that could possibly be,  
Manifest within me in a single instant;  
And I myself in a fraction of a moment

Enter into all these eons of the three times.

All past, present, and future lions amongst humans  
I envision with instantaneous wisdom  
And by the power of the bodhisattvas' examples  
I focus upon the objects of their experience.

I manifest Buddha fields past, present, and future  
Upon one single atom of existence,  
And then I transform every single atom  
Of existence into a Buddha field.

By this, when the future lights of the worlds  
Eventually gain bodhi, turn the Dharma wheels,  
And reveal the passing to nirvana's supreme peace,  
May I take rebirth in their very presence.

Then may I attain the ten powers:  
The power of instant magical emanation,  
The power which is a vehicle with every door,  
The power of excellent activity,  
The power of all pervading love,  
The power of constantly positive energy,  
The power of passionless wisdom,  
The powers of knowledge, method, and samadhi,  
And the power of enlightenment itself.

May I purify the power of karma,  
May I crush the power of delusion,  
May I render powerless the powerful negative forces,  
And may I perfect the powers of sublime ways.

May I purify an ocean of perfect deeds,  
May I liberate an ocean of sentient beings,

May I see an ocean of truths,  
And may I realize an ocean of wisdom.

May I perform an ocean of perfect deeds,  
May I perfect an ocean of prayers,  
May I revere an ocean of Buddhas,  
And may I practice untiringly for an ocean of eons.

Through my practice of the sublime bodhisattva ways  
May I gain the enlightenment of Buddhahood  
And then fulfill the enlightened and supreme aspirations  
Of the Buddhas past, present, and future.

In order to match the ways of the sage  
Called Samantabhadra, the always sublime one,  
Chief amongst the awakened ones' spiritual children,  
I now dedicate all virtues that I possess.

Just as the sublime sage Samantabhadra  
Dedicated all pure practices of body, speech, and mind  
To the attainment of a pure state and pure realms,  
So do I now dedicate the fruit of all my efforts.

In order to engage in all sublime virtues  
I offer the prayer of Manjushri;  
In the future may I never become faint  
In striving to perfect the exalted bodhisattvas' way.

May my deeds never reach a limit,  
May my qualities of excellence become boundless,  
And by abiding in immeasurable activity  
May I find Buddhahood, the state of limitless manifestation.

Limitless is the extent of space,

Limitless is the number of sentient beings,  
And limitless is the karma and delusions of beings  
Such are the limits of my aspirations  
One may offer supreme ornaments of the Buddha fields  
Of the ten directions to the conquerors,  
And also offer the highest joys of the humans and gods  
For eons as numerous as the atoms of the world.

But to read or hear the King of Prayers  
With eyes looking towards supreme illumination  
And faith shining in one's heart for even an instant  
Gives birth to a far more superior merit.

Should anyone recite this aspiration of sublime ways  
They will pass beyond all states of sorrow,  
Will rise above all inferior beings, and gain  
A vision of Amitabha, Buddha of Infinite Light.

Even in this very lifetime  
All sublime joys will be theirs;  
The experiences of all the sublime Samantabhadra,  
Without obstructions, will quickly be theirs.

Merely by giving voice to these aspirations  
Of the sublime ways of a bodhisattva,  
The effects can only be known by an omniscient Buddha.  
Therefore, doubt not that it leads to enlightenment.

In order to follow the excellent examples set  
By the wisdom of the bodhisattva Manjushri  
And the always sublime Samantabhadra,  
All virtues I dedicate to their peerless ideals.  
All conquerors passed into the three times  
Have praised as supreme this peerless dedication.

Therefore, I also surrender all roots of my activities  
To the sublime goals of a bodhisattva.

When the moment of my death arrives,  
May I remain free from the spiritual obscurations;  
May I perceive the face of Amitabha  
And transmigrate to Sukhavati, the pure land of joy.

Having arrived there, may I fulfill  
All aims of this prayer of aspirations  
And benefit the countless living beings  
Residing throughout the ten directions.

In the joyous mandala of Amitabha Buddha  
May I be reborn from a beautiful lotus,  
And may I there have the pleasure of gaining  
A pure prophecy from Amitabha himself.

Having won this word of prophecy,  
By the power of mind may I fill all directions  
With many millions of mystical emanations  
And bring limitless benefits to the world.

If by reciting this prayer of the sublime ways  
I have amassed a tiny fragment of goodness,  
May it work immediately to fulfill  
All Dharmic hopes of living beings.