The kagyu Monlam Prayers

The King of Aspiration Prayers of Samantabhadra

One of the Five Sutras of the Kings – From the “Avatamsaka Sutra”:
The King of Aspiration Prayers of Samantabhadra

In Sanskrit :  Arya Bhadra Charya Pranidhana Raja

In Tibetan :  Phag Pa Zang Po Chod Pei Mon Lam Gyi Gyal Po

In English :  The King of Aspiration Prayers of Samantabhadra

Homage to the Noble Youth, Lord Manjushri!

In all the worlds of all ten directions

The supreme lions among humans who reside in the three times,

With purity of body, speech and mind

I pay homage to all of them without exception.

The wishing power of this Aspiration Prayer of Excellent Conduct,

Manifests in front of each and every Buddha.

Zhing Gi.Dul Nyed.Lue Rab.Tud Pa Yie.
With as many bodies as atoms in the universe,

I prostrate respectfully to all the Victorious Ones.
Within one particle there are as many Buddhhas as particles,

De Tar.Choe Kyi.Ying Nam.Ma Lue Par.
Thus Dharmadhatu, the entire sphere of all phenomena,

With boundless oceans of melodious tones,

Singing praises of the Sugatas (those Gone to Bliss) which continue endlessly for all future kalpas.

With the finest of flowers and sumptuous garlands,

With all these exquisite ornaments

With elegant apparel and supreme scents,

Piled up high like a mountain:

Who reside amidst an assembly of great Bodhisattvas.

Abounds with Buddhhas that I have envisioned.

That flow into inexhaustible speech of acclaim,

Precious parasols, fine cymbals and balms,

I offer them all to you, Victorious Ones.

The finest of fragrant powders and lamps,

I offer them all to you, Victorious Ones.
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Chod Pa. Gang Nam. La Me. Gya Che Wa.
These vast and superlative offerings, express my deep faith in all the Buddhas of the three times.

Through the power of conviction in Excellent Conduct, I offer them to all the Victorious Ones.

These are all outcomes of desire, anger and ignorance

I rejoice in each and everyone’s merits –

The Pratyekabuddhas, those training on the path, Those beyond training, and all sentient beings.

The lanterns that illuminate the world By way of progressive stages of awakening,

Achieved Buddhahood, the ultimate enlightenment, Protectors, I request you to turn the Supreme Wheel of Dharma.
Palms joined, I beseech those Victorious Ones,
who mean to manifest Nirvana, the state beyond suffering.

For as many kalpas as there are atoms in the universe

Whatever slight merit has been accumulated here

Rejoicing, requesting and beseeching,

I make offerings to all the Buddhas in the past

May those yet to come swiftly fulfill their aspirations,

May the realms of the ten directions, however many, be perfectly pure and vast.
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May these realms abound with Buddhas and Bodhisattvas,

May all sentient beings in the ten directions,

May I carry out the conduct of awakening,

May my moral conduct be pure and flawless,
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In the language of the gods, nagas, yakshas and kimbhandas

In however many languages of beings there may be, May I proclaim the Buddha Dharma to them all.

May I train myself diligently in the Paramitas,

May all harmful acts and obscurations be entirely purified, without exception

May I be liberated from all negative karma and worldly pursuits,

Like a lotus which does not cling to water,

Throughout each of the realms and directions,

May all beings settle in happiness,

And the language of all the humans and non-humans,

May all harmful acts and obscurations be entirely purified, without exception fully accomplished.

May I never lose sight of Bodhicitta, the awakened mind.

And may all virtuous activities be fully accomplished.

Disturbing emotions and the actions of maras.

And like the sun and moon, unhindered in space.

May the suffering of the lower states be pacified.

Dro Wa. Tham Ched. La Ni. Phen Par Ched.
May I be able to benefit all beings endlessly.

Throughout each of the realms and directions, May the suffering of the lower states be pacified.
May I perfect the practice of Enlightened Conduct,
In accord with various conditions of sentient beings,

May I fully exemplify the Excellent Conduct,
And continue to do so in all future kalpas.

Whose practice and conduct align with my own.

May our training of conduct and aspirations,
Of body, speech and mind be as one.

May I always encounter companions,
Who exemplify the Excellent Conduct,

Who have my well being at heart,
May I never displease or let them down.

May I always directly perceive the Victorious Ones,
The Bodhisattvas and their entourage of Protectors and spiritual heirs.

Throughout all future kalpas may I continue
To make vast offerings to them tirelessly.
May I uphold the genuine and profound Dharma.

And emulate the Enlightened Conduct.

May I train in the Excellent Conduct.

Throughout all future kalpas.

Throughout all my existences,
be they within samsara.

So Nam.Ye She.Dag Ni.Mi Zed Nyed.
May I develop vast and inexhaustible accumulation of merit and wisdom.

Thab Dang.She Rab.Ting Zin.Nam Thar Dang.
And become a never-ending treasury of qualities:

Methods, wisdom, Samadhi and liberation.

Within a single atom there are
as many realms as atoms;

In each realm reside infinite Buddhas,

Complete with their entourage of spiritual heirs

May I constantly see them and emulate their enlightened activity.

Likewise, in the vast extents of all ten directions,

Even on the tip of just one hair,

There are oceans of Buddhas of the three times
and their pure realms,

May I engage in the enlightened practice throughout endless oceans of kalpas.
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The sound of one instance of the Buddha’s speech, Is endowed with infinite oceans of pure qualities.

The melodious speech that accords with each being, May I be fully engaged with the oceans of Buddhas’ eloquent speech.

Turn the Wheel of Dharma skillfully May I fully understand their profound wisdom and expressions.

In a single instant may I engage in, All future kalpas which will be experienced.

May I take part and engage in, Each and every kalpa of the three times.

In a single moment may I behold the Three Times, And all the supreme lions among men.

May I continuously participate in their realms, Through the illusory power of spiritual liberation.
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May I establish within one single particle,

The vast array of the realms of the three times.

Likewise, to the extents of all ten directions

May I take part in the pure realms of all the Victorious Ones.

The Lanterns of the World who have yet to come,

Who will progress through the path of awakening and turn the Dharma Wheel,

While exemplifying Nirvana – the state beyond all suffering,

May I be in the presence of these Protectors.

By virtue of the power of miraculous swiftness,

Kun Ne.Go Yi.Theg Pai.Tob Dag Dang.
The power of multi-fold approach of Mahayana,

The power of practice endowed with virtues,

The power of all pervasive compassion,

The power of perfect virtues and merits,

The power of timeless wisdom Beyond attachments,

She Rab.Thab Dang.Ting Zin.Tob Dag Gie.
The power of knowledge, skilful means and Samadhi,

May I perfectly accomplish the power of awakening.
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The power of complete purification of karma,

The power of conquering all afflicted emotions,

The power of defeating all maras,

And perfecting the power of Excellent Conduct.

Zhing Nam.Gya Tso.Nam Par.Dag Jed Ching.  
May I totally purify oceans of realms,

Entirely liberate oceans of beings,

Clearly behold oceans of Dharma,

Fully realizing oceans of Wisdom,

Clarifying oceans of pure conduct,

Fulfilling oceans of vast aspirations,

Offering to oceans of Buddhas, and

practice tirelessly throughout oceans of kalpas.

All the Victorious Ones of the three times,

Who have attained enlightenment through Excellent Conduct,

May I perfect the various practices and aspirations,

That Lead to the same awakening through Excellent Conduct.
The eldest son of the Victorious Ones
Is Known as Samantabhadra, the All-Excellent.

I dedicate all accumulations of merits
In order to emulate his masterful wisdom and activity.

May I be comparable to Samantabhadra,
His perfectly pure realms and conduct,
So as to perfectly achieve Excellent Conduct,
I will act according to Manjushri’s great wishes.

Continuing tirelessly throughout future kalpas,
May I accomplish all these activities.

May my practice be free of limitations,
And my qualities beyond measure.

May I remain engaged in boundless activities
And may I realize all their manifestations.

Is Known as Samantabhadra, the All-Excellent.

In order to emulate his masterful wisdom and activity.

His perfectly pure realms and conduct,
I will act according to Manjushri’s great wishes.

May I accomplish all these activities.
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There are countless beings, as limitless, as the very confines of the endless space.

May my aspiration prayers be as endless as their karma and afflictions may be.

We may embellish the infinite realms with all kinds of precious jewels and offer them to the Victorious Ones;

We may offer the finest pleasures for as many kalpas as there are atoms in the universe.

The exceptional merit of someone who hears this King of Aspirations Prayer,

Who is truly determined to pursue enlightenment reigns supreme over all the rest.

Those who practice this Aspiration Prayer will be free from rebirth in the lower realms, of Excellent Conduct.

Sever all ties to unwholesome companions, and promptly behold Buddha Amitabha, the One of Infinite Light.
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They will have a well endowed life with happiness,

Before long they will accomplish

Tsam Me.Nga Po.Dag Gi.Dig Pa Nam.
Whatever has been committed out of ignorance,

If this King of Aspiration Prayers is recited,

Practitioners will possess wisdom, beauty

The many maras and heretics will be

They will soon go before the great Bodhi tree,

As enlightened beings they will turn the Dharma Wheel,
For those who practice by heart
this King of Aspiration Prayers,

The full accomplishments can only be
fathomed by Buddhas,

May I practice by emulating
the examples of Manjushri,
With his vast wisdom and great courage,

And Samantabhadra, whose qualities are identical,

I dedicate all my roots of virtues
Towards perfection of the Excellent Conduct.

When the time of death comes for me,
May all my obscurations vanish entirely,

May I directly behold Buddha Amitabha
And proceed swiftly with certainty
The One of Infinite Light,

And proceed swiftly with certainty
to the pure realm of Sukhavati.
Once there, may I actualize all these vast aspiration prayers without any exception.

May I fulfill each and every one perfectly, and benefit beings for as long as the universe exists.

In that perfectly pure realm of Victorious Ones, may I be reborn in a supremely beautiful lotus.

Nang Wa.Tha Ye.Gyal We.Ngon Sum Du.
May I perceive directly Buddha of Infinite Light and receive my revelation presently.

Der Ni.Dag Gie.Lung Ten.Rab Thob Ne.
Having received his prophetic revelation there, may I manifest countless forms.

For the benefit of beings in the ten directions through my wisdom and power of emanations.

Through whatever slight merit which I may have garnered by practicing this King of Aspiration Prayers, may the meritorious aspirations of all beings be accomplished in the space of an instant.
The monlam prayers

By the infinite and genuine merit gained by dedicating the King of Aspiration Prayers, may all beings engulfed in the great river of sufferings attain liberation in Buddha Amitabha’s pure land.

May this King of Aspiration Prayers bring about infinite benefits for all beings.

May this scripture adorned by Samantabhadra and may all the lower realms be forever liberated and empty.

This concludes the King of Aspiration Prayers of Samantabhadra.

Translated from Sanskrit, edited and finalized by the Indian scholars Dzina Mitra and Surendra Bodhi, with the Tibetan version translated by the great editor Lotsawa Bende Yeshe De, and others.