

A trace [of notes taken by] Kyabje Pabongkha Dechen Nyingpo

These inspiring notes offer precious lamrim meditations from the heart, namely: relying correctly on the Guru, recognizing our precious human rebirth, realizing impermanence, death, karma and how to generate love for all mother sentient beings.





७७। हि:स:र्वेट्टाव:यवेग्यःस्ट्रिट्यो:ब्रुट्ट्यःसः र्श्वेट्ट्यःयवायेत्रंत्र्यःयःस्ट्रिट्यो:ब्रुट्ट्यःसः वेथ:व्यायवेश्वेत्रःव्यायःस्ट्रिट्यं

The Heart Spoon of raw practice of the experience of the path

A trace [of notes taken by] Kyabje Pabongkha Dechen Nyingpo





र्केशस्ट केदार्च स्त्राधिशदी | शेश्रश्च प्रदेश्या चर्च्य स्तर चीट्र प्रेंग | चन्नुयाच ते स्वाच्य स्त्र चीट्र प्रेंग | केश्रश्चित सहेद केट चतुर्वाश सुर केवा |

chhö nga chhän po dra yi ni sem chän dug ngäl thar gyi shog käl pa je wa sam ye su chhö tön dzä ching shyug gyur chig

May the great sound (drum) of Dharma, Liberate sentient beings from suffering. May it transmit the Dharma and remain, For inconceivable eons to come. हे य र्वेट विषयि मुद्या स्टायम की ही ही हारा विषय की मुद्या की स्वाप्त की स्वाप्त की स्वाप्त की स्वाप्त की स्व

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#### Editor's note:

Any element that is inserted in square brackets does not appear in the original Tibetan but has been inserted by the translator or editor to make the sentence complete in English or to clarify the meaning. Any suggestion to improve the quality of translation will be welcomed and thanked.

Traditionally, the colophon of a Tibetan literary work is found at the end of the text but has been moved to the beginning to clarify the work's source for Western readers.

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#### Short biography of Venerable Pabogkha Dechen Nyinpo

H.H. Kyabje Pabongkha Rinpoche, Jampa Tenzin Trinley Gyatso Päl Sangpo (1878- 1941) was one of the great lamas of the twentieth century. His full name means 'Lord Protector, the one from Pabongkha, the venerable and glorious master whose name is Loving One, Keeper of the Buddha's Teachings, Ocean of the Mighty Deeds of the Buddha'. He is also popularly known as 'Dechen Nyingpo', which means 'Essence of Great Bliss' and refers to his mastery of the secret teachings of tantra.

He held all of the important lineages of sutra and tantra and passed them on to the most important Gelug lamas of the subsequent two generations. He was the root guru of the two tutors of H.H. the 14th Dalai Lama, Ling Rinpoche and Lama Gangchen's root guru, H.H. Kyabje Trijang Rinpoche.

Born in Yuthog near Lhasa in 1878, at the age of seven his mother requested an audience with Sharpa Chöje Lobsang Dhargä who divined that this was indeed an exceptional child and reincarnation. Under his guidance, Pabongkha Rinpoche was enrolled in Sera Me Monastery at the age of eight. There he studied the great texts and sat for his final debate exams and his geshe degree at age nineteen. Subsequently he enrolled at the Gyuto Tantric College for three years.

He later received teachings and transmissions from many great masters, including Dagpo Lama Jampäl Lhundrup and Dagri Dorje Chang, on all aspects of sutra and tantra. His collected works occupy twelve volumes covering all aspects of Buddhism, including Liberation in the Palm of Your Hand, edited by H.H. Kyabje Trijang Rinpoche.

#### Pabongkha Dechen Nyingpo and Lamrim

At the age of thirty, Pabongkha Rinpoche began to study the Lamrim with his root guru, Dagpo Lama Lobsang Jampäl Lhundrub Gyatso (1845–1919) from whom he later received numerous commentaries, oral transmissions and initiations. Pabongkha Rinpoche used to visit Dagpo Lama Rinpoche in his cave and was sent into a Lamrim retreat nearby. According to Ribur Rinpoche:

"Dagpo Lama Rinpoche would teach him a Lamrim topic and then Pabongkha Rinpoche would go away and meditate on it. Later he would return to explain what he had understood: if he had gained some realization, Dagpo Rinpoche would teach him some more and Pabongkha Rinpoche would go back and meditate on that".

This went on for a period of ten years.

In 1921, Pabongkha Rinpoche gave his most famous teaching on the Lamrim at the Chuzang Hermitage near Lhasa. According to Rato Khyongla Rinpoche who was present:

"During that summer session several traders and at least two high government officials found their lives transformed by his eloquence: they forsook their jobs to study religion and to give themselves to meditation".

Notes from this historic 24-day exposition on the Lamrim, along with notes from other discourses by Pabongkha Rinpoche over the years were edited and published by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Trijang Rinpoche Lobsang Yeshe Tenzin Gyatso, the Junior Tutor of the current Dalai Lama and root guru of Lama Gangchen Rinpoche, as *Liberation in the Palm of Your Hand*. This work continues to be

one of the most well-known and accessible presentations of Lamrim available and has been translated into many languages.

H.H. Trijang Rinpoche mentioned the extraordinary qualities of Pabongkha Rinpoche's teachings:

"Each part of the teaching was enriched by instructions taken from the confidential oral lineages. Each section was illustrated by analogies, conclusive formal logic, amazing stories and trustworthy quotations. The teaching could easily be understood by beginners and yet was tailored for all levels of intelligence. It was beneficial for the mind because it was so inspiring. Sometimes we were moved to laughter, becoming wide awake and alive. Sometimes we were reduced to tears and cried helplessly. At other times we became afraid or were moved to feel, 'I would gladly give up this life and devote myself solely to my practice'. This feeling of renunciation was overwhelming. These are some of the ways in which all of his discourses were so extraordinary".

#### [Colophon]

These [experiential notes of teaching] were written by the pervasive lord, the chief of mandala, incomparable in kindness, Pabongkha Vajradhara, whose [personal] name of Dechen Nyingpo is difficult for me to mention [without any particular reason], when he was young, while listening to the advisory instructions on the Graduated Path to Enlightenment, the essence of [Buddha's] teachings, in the presence of Dagpo Lama Rinpoche, the lamp of Kadampa teachings, in the form of a full vase filling another vase at the retreat place of Dagpo Phartshang by attending the earlier and later sessions.

When he was listening, it was not just [a show of] receiving and knowing the content of the teachings about the view [from the side of disciple]; it was an exact accomplishment of experiential commentary related to the practice of every point of instruction [from the side of master as well]. So while being taken care of with such kindness [by the master Dagpo Lama Rinpochel, Pabongkha Rinpoche wrote many notes about special experiences that were generated in his continuum regarding the instructions. But over time, some of the texts on old Chinese paper dispersed and in the remaining couple of bundles of those notes, it says "... one should decide to practise only the abovementioned Dharma".

[All the other preceding subjects] before this point, were written down on paper [later] at the hill of Gaden in the year when he [Pabongkha Rinpoche] gave teachings on the Great Length Lamrim as a mere [map of] the path. For the remainder [of the notes], although the originals are not complete, I, as his assistant monk named Dondub Jinpa from the monastery of Kham Bum Gang, living at the monastery of Chabdo Geden Jampa Ling, in an earlier time made an insistent request to him so that he would accept the task of complementing what was missing.

I, named the Assistant Sudhī [or Dondub Jinpa] who survived by the kindness of the venerable holy guru, later in the year known as 'ground preservation' of the wood-bird, having referred to whatever [old and] original notes of his that were available as mentioned above, wrote this text at the house [of the sponsor of Pabongkha Dechen Nyingpo], the palace of the delightful forest of nagas and gods, without any correction or modification.

Due to a peerless faith and samaya, the sponsoring family provided all the supplies. May they be taken care of by valid gurus with pleasure throughout their lives without any separation and may they quickly receive the empowerment of Vajradhara, the state of union.

May our help for others increase.

य। ड्रिय. २४ खे. या व्याया स्ट्री क्रिया या । व्याया स्ट्री क्रिया या । व्याया स्ट्री व्याया स्ट्री व्याया स्ट्री व्याया स्ट्री व्याया स्ट्री व्याया । व्याया स्ट्री व्याया । व्याया स्ट्री व्याया । व्याया स्ट्री व्याया । व्याया

प्रमास्त्र कर्नु नुस्य वित्र प्राप्त क्षेत्र क्षेत्र

स्थाः स्वान्य स्वान्त्र स्वान्य स्वान्त्र स्वान्त्र स्वान्त्र स्वान्त्र स्वान्त्र स्वान्त्र स्व

#### [Praise and request]

Dancing as a magical display that is of the same taste of the exalted wisdom of all victors,

You take an ordinary form following my fortune and Guide us on the unmistaken path out of your compassion. You, kind guru, please remain at my crown inseparable from me.

#### [Meditation]

It is extremely fortunate that we did not die during the night but have awakened this morning and have the chance to practise the Mahayana Dharma. We should think of taking this essence of great value now or in general before death, or even for just for today. Even if we cannot do other things, we should keep merely today [as meaningful].

Forget about developing the experience of the entire path in our continuum, merely depositing a firm imprint of it [in us] is taught to be much more superior than attaining clairvoyance, [the power of] miracles, seeing the face of one's tutelary deity, doing many hundreds of millions of recitations or attaining the concentration of calm-abiding and higher-seeing. Therefore, it is important to do at least a brief glance-meditation<sup>1</sup> in order to deposit a firm imprint with respect to the entirety of the path.

With regards to the glance-meditation, also if one recited only the order of words, it would be only a glance-recitation of words and, like the parrot's repetition, it would not help one's mental continuum. Therefore, think of the meaning again and again in a way that integrates it emphatically within one's mental continuum, without reciting the words intellectually.

<sup>1</sup> or panoramic meditation (Tib. ११२ र्श्क्रेंबर shar gom)

दश्चनशः भूरः क्री :क्रेन : र्देन : दर्श : नश्रशः नुशः धेरः वित्रः नःया क्षेत्रार्देवःग्रेनाःसःदेः अरान्त्र्युरः अरान्त्र्युरः नग्रमः नुगः षीद्राविषाः तुः स्री वर्षे निम् क्रुमार्षे द्राष्ट्र मुस् स्रीहर स्री स्राम्य श्चे.पधितारी.पञ्चा क्री वापरीयो.ये.योषरी.ये.श्चाराष्ट्र श्वारीयी.ये.योष्ट्रीयी.ये.योष्ट्रीयी.येष्ट्रीयी.येष्ट्री.येष्ट्रीयी.येष्ट्रीयी.येष्ट्रीयी.येष्ट्रीयी.येष्ट्रीयी.येष्ट्रीयी.येष्ट्री विद्येत्राची : वित्रायि हिन्या वा ने ने स्वर्थित : वित्रायि : यानी नदी नाह्य दें या न्या के ना दें ना ने ना निया में ना या या न नश्रमा मुन्न नश्रमा मुन्न नश्रमा हे के हे म्याया नु दर्मे न न न न कवार्यास्त्रासी देशाना त्याना स्त्रा क्षेत्र स्त्रा क्षेत्र स्त्र स्त्र स्त्र स्त्र स्त्र स्त्र स्त्र स्त्र स् दर्जे.य.र्हेर.र्ह्मचार्क्स्र्र्र.जी.क्ष्या.र्ट्र्य.योड्या.सं.ट्रं.लट.लट.यश्वश्व द्राचर्यसाम्चीद्रासेस्रसायायदानुत्वर्मी चालियायनुत्राचात्रमानुन्नु सेन्या लुव.धू । त्यर.श्रुट.रूव.धू.त.पहंच.धू.लुव। ट्रे.लट.धू.र्टर.पड्य.तर. ब्रेन्याधेत्र क्रेनानी इस्यायाधार ह्रीया ब्रुका ग्रामकेना न बुन्या स्थातु त्रश्रास्त्रीट्राचर्त्रावराक्ष्रश्राह्मेर्न्,विह्यास्त्रीत्र्वाह्मेर्यास्या लुरे.ज.पट्टेश.वयश.चेश.य.ध्रीर.य.ब्रुय.पुरः। यञ्जूषा.यपुः श्रीयश.ररः म् यर्भाता ट्रेय्याभिता ट्रेय्याक्ष्टा देवाम् ट्रेय्यायया स् न्म् अ.तर्भे .च.११४.शूरअ.त.चधुरी त्तरःभैचश.र्रर.कुर.श.चश्चूश. यरःक्तिःतुरःनुःदेशःवेशक्तेःवध्यश्चेःवादीःवध्यशायायहेदायाधिदायशा

In the beginning, when contemplating the meaning of a word concerning the object of meditation, the mind is touched. But [later] if the mind remains untouched because of knowing it by heart after reflecting on that single meaning of word again and again, then it is a sign that the contemplation did not reach the right point and the Dharma is taken for granted to be untamed.

An opposite case for instance, is when one hears the news of the death of one's parents: the suffering becomes more and more intense while thinking of the meaning of the words of the news. The aspect of the object of attachment also becomes more and more vivid if contemplated. Similarly, if the meaning of a single word regarding an object of meditation becomes more and more beneficial to one's mind while contemplating it, one has then approached the right point.

Furthermore, the essential meaning is to be kept in the mind, and it also has to be integrated with the mind. Even if you repeatedly contemplated the aspect of the words, it would be only like memorizing words. Moreover, the Dharma could be taken as a way [for one's mind] to stay uncontrolled; whereas, if the aspects of the meaning are contemplated repeatedly, one would gain some experience.

A first step of meditation is to have something abridged, then elaborated, then to have the points gathered. Then the meditation comes without thinking, like the arising of delusions. And sometimes one can suddenly have a great experiential insight of ascertainment without having done any specific meditation, but it is based upon feeling and therefore it is not reliable. In contrast, if it is [an experiential insight of ascertainment], which gradually gets better by the end of a continuous analysis using discriminating wisdom, then it is

श्चेत्रह्म श्चेत्र्यात्रित्वर्षः विष्यः स्वर्णे स्वर्

 $\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1$ 

a real experience and therefore reliable. When an effortless experience is gained, the aimed-for point [of meditation] will dawn to one's mind by simply remembering the key points of the meditative object without the need of contemplating the whole [set of] examples and meanings.

Also, for carrying out the actual [meditation] for the small level of beings<sup>2</sup>, such as [focusing on the human body of] leisure and endowments and impermanence, if one did the glance-meditation over the entire path, [the different series of meditations] would be included in one's survey of experience, and there would be a greater familiarity with them - as if knowing when the correct time to do [the session] is.

### [Relying properly on a guru]

Furthermore, to achieve liberation, it is important to first rely on a [virtuous] spiritual friend. This is because if one needs somebody to teach [them] even a mundane job which could be done by watching, then how could it be possible to progress toward liberation and the omniscient state without a guru? Moreover, it is not enough to just have anybody around who is available; one should instead rely upon somebody who is qualified.

Furthermore, the manner of relying [upon a virtuous spiritual friend] should also be followed properly. Because, as for the benefits, all the good things in this and future lives come from [proper] reliance on him or her. If one fails [in the] manner of relying [upon a virtuous spiritual friend], all one's present and future lives will be ruined. As it can cut off the root of the path, one should be emphatically careful with [the reliance on a spiritual friend].

<sup>2</sup> the small scope of wishing for a better rebirth

क्षेत्री वशःस्याद्धेशःस्याद्धेयःवश्चेत्रःस्य वश्चेत्रःस्य वश्चेत्रःस्य व्याद्धेतःस्य व्याद्य व्याद्धेतःस्य व्याद्य व्याद्य

As for the benefits of proper reliance, if a supreme [virtuous] spiritual friend who can guide us in the entirety of sutra and tantra is met, one could attain enlightenment within a short life of *kaliyuga*<sup>3</sup>, [as the following verse says:

O jewel-like Guru, vajra holder,] Out of whose kindness, the state of great bliss [Is attained within a single moment, At your lotus feet, I bow down].

Even if one relied with great [devotion] on a virtuous spiritual friend who guides us on the common path alone, we would be that much closer [to enlightenment], like [the bodhisattva] Sadāprarūdita who progressed from the path of accumulation to the path of seeing<sup>4</sup> within one lifetime.

Also when meeting a [virtuous] spiritual friend who explains to us an ounce of one single virtue or non-virtue, even if we simply [followed their words] about and adopting and forsaking – in other words, practising virtue, regretting having committed non-virtues in the past, taking pleasure in abandoning them from now on, resolving not to repeat them again and so forth - we would be that much closer [to enlightenment]. The mode of being closer and faster is that whatever we do, it takes us closer compared to those who come late.

If we never meet a spiritual friend who teaches us virtue, we will be further and further [from enlightenment]; we will be separated from even the small opportunity to be closer. Furthermore, it depends on the believing faith from our side.

<sup>3</sup> degenerated times

<sup>4</sup> the first three (including the path of preparation) of the five paths to enlightenment, the remaining two being the path of meditation and the path of no more learning

बःसवःसःविवाःवसःग्राटःग्रेवःक्वत्रसःकेरःहेःवःक्वरःस्टःहेःसंःवसःदेटः नश्रेषायेनश्रामाष्ट्रानु।

र्राची प्राथमा स्वारी के स्वारी के स्वारी के स्वारी त्रसालूर्यार्ड्च्याश्चिराताःश्चीत्रातायन्त्रेशायोष्ट्रेयार्त्राताः यीराव्यारा *ब्रे-क्रॅन्-सर्-सब्र-प्रॅन्श-क्रिन्स*-स्त्र-स्त् न्वीं भा व्यायस्वतः हेन न्या स्वायाः विवायः क्षेत्रायः न्या विवायः क्षेत्रायः न्या विवायः क्षेत्रायः विवायः विवायः क्षेत्रायः विवायः वि द्यापालेगानीशान्त्रेवार्स्यार्स्यापालेवानुवार्मात्राम्यान्याने केश भेतर हु शुर देश श्रुश रा में।

रट.ची बैची श्री चि.श.सू.ची श.श्रटश.ची श.टेटू श्री श्रटश.ची श. गुत्रक्तें भे अभी स्टाम्या बुवाय यदी स्ट्रान् स्टामीय दिस्य शुः सहया क्रु ल्र्याना विष्ट्रिस्याय विष्ट्रिस्याय विष्ट्रिस्याय विष्ट्रिस्याय बुन-नन्न हें हे पळट नन्न पदेन पदे हो र नु च अया क्षेत्र हमा पर हिन या यर्वा.वी.बॅर.ट्र्र.व.अष्य.वर्ट्र.केंट.री.बॅर.लर्टा ट्र्ये.रे.४८४१क्विश. गुर्तकुः भे ने राक्षे स्ट्रेट से महिन्य राष्ट्र स्वास्त नद्मानी स्ट्रीन स्ट्रेट न्यो न्त्रत्याय बुद्र क्षे हें हे क्षेया न्यें व नर मी क्षाया यस या उदा पदीया श्रुवा रे.में.पिर.रर.लेबा ले.रबा.गुब.में.रे.सं.लर.पिर.रर.हेर. If we had no faith, we simply would not receive blessings from the near ones even if the virtuous spiritual friend were an actual buddha, like [in the case of] Devadatta and Sādhutara. If there were faith and belief from our side, we would receive great blessings even from an ordinary being, like the old woman who saw the apparition of relics from the teeth of a dog.

As long as we have faith, it is certain that the blessings will come. However, in order to cultivate the entire path in one's continuum, the [virtuous] spiritual friend also cannot be [just] anybody who is available; he or she has to be someone competent who can lead us along the entire path. I think when a disciple with the vessel of faith and belief follows the correct way of relying on a qualified guru, it is certain that he or she will quickly [attain] buddhahood.

#### My guru [is] the lord of kindness, the embodiment of all buddhas

[He or she represents] the gurus, yidams<sup>5</sup> and so forth and the real buddhas. What a joy it is that we can actually see such an embodiment of the exalted wisdom of all the buddhas! The basis of emanation of the countless [deities of] peace and wrath -Losang [Dragpa], Mahāmuni [or Śākyamuni] and Vajradhara – who have come in the ordinary form of a human being, appears in such ordinariness from my point of view, but in reality, he or she displays the essence of the exalted wisdom of all the buddhas [by taking] a [physical] form.

All the gurus, starting from the teacher who taught me the alphabet up to the vajra-master, are emanated by him or her. The entirety [of all of them] is him or her. The entirety of all of the yidams is also him or her. Also the fact that I see the guru

<sup>5</sup> tutelary deities

धेव। त्रुः सः श्रायः पुः सर्वेदः धदः विष्यः स्रोतः स्रोतः सर्वेदः स्रोतः सर्वेदः सर्व

देशन् नन्यायी स्वास्ति प्रमान्ति स्वस्ति स्वस

as an ordinary being is like the manner in which Asanga saw Maitreya. [Therefore,] how can the way things appear to me, who mistakes in appearances, be true? That is fact: Tilopa, Marpa and so forth did not even show the manner of a guru on the external level although they live at the level of Vajradhara.

Therefore, even the present guru [that we have] is also a mere viewpoint according to our fortune. But in reality, it is definite that he is an actual buddha. What we see is only the external skin. He is the very embodiment of the exalted wisdom of all the buddhas, who has descended [among us] by wearing human skin.

The fact that he is clad in human skin is also only for our sake. If he did not wear human skin, how could we see him? [The real fact that]

"[His] exalted wisdom pervades as many phenomena as there are,

And those phenomena being pervaded by his [holy] body ..."

is not visible; therefore, we cannot see it. It is like the dancing master who wears a dancing costume.

First, one can establish one's own principal guru towards whom it is easy to generate faith in as a buddha. Later, it is easier to generate faith toward other gurus by thinking that they are emanations of him or her. Then there will be the feeling as if all the gurus are integrated into one. At that point, even if one developed some disrespect to other gurus, it would be easier to cease being disrespectful by worrying that it was as if one developed disrespect to the principal guru. Also, just as [Panchen Lobsang Chökyi Gyaltsen, in the prostration verses of the Guru Puja mentioned,

त्यश्र क्षेत्र व्यक्त स्थान्य स्थान्य

नन्नानी ह्वासादि है सिर्मा कुरान्दिमा स्टाधिव है। हैं हे दळट.चीश.श्रुवाश.सदे.र्श.श्रु.सदे.४सा.चर.चश्रुव.४श.र्श्चेर.चर. विषानी अपने विश्वास्य देशात्र निषानी मुः सदि । पदः इसामरानसूतः र्षेर्-धर-वार्रेद्राश्चा रेश्वादान्वाची हुः सदे व्यश्राधाः धर्मे हे वकर वी श्रुवा मदे सु साविवा पेरियम वार्रिय से श्रा हो रेश व निवा वी । ञ्च अदे नुष्य शुः धर हैं हे पकर विवा धें द सर वार्दे व से जा दें व दे *য়*ৣ৻ড়৾৾৾য়৽য়ৢয়৽য়ৢয়৽ড়৾৾ঢ়৽য়য়৽৾৾ঢ়য়৽য়ৢ৽ঢ়ৢয়৽য়ৢঢ়৽ঢ়৾৾৾৾৾য়য়ৢ৽ रमम्बर्गा म्वरास है स्रमायर मन्न क्रिन के बाद में नामन ने वे भी व भर मिर्देव की ज्ञानमा ने भावान न माम्याया के साम र नश्रृत्वात्रभः स्टःकृत् सेट्यार्थे केंया क्षेत्राचित्रप्ति निवाद्य स्त्रासा वर्ने हें हें दिकर हें न धेव यर वना कें न या धेव हैं। | नावव धरा र्राची मुः अदे च्राच अर्थे हैं है तकर वी श्रुवा स विवा र्ये र रेश ग्रुट रें श बे के द खूब वा देंब के केंद्र पादिब ग्राह के दाय में देवा वा देवी वा

"We prostrate to the jewel-like bodies of You, oh Guru, at the lotus of your vajra-feet, who] Through compassion, [bestows in an instant even The state of the three bodies], the sphere of great bliss".

How could he bestow the state of the three kāyas<sup>6</sup> faster than the other buddhas if the guru himself were not a buddha?

The guru that we have must be an actual buddha, because Vajradhara promised to descend by manifesting himself as a guru during the time of *kaliyuqa*. Therefore, there is no doubt that he has manifested himself also as my guru. Therefore, there is no doubt that there is also an emanation of Vajradhara in the row of my gurus. Therefore, there is no doubt that there is also Vajradhara in this line of my gurus.

If [the question] is asked, "Who is that?", [the answer is that] one cannot ascertain who that person is by using direct valid cognition. But through inference, regardless whatsoever of who he or she is to others, there is no doubt that it is the one who sets our mental continuum on the Dharma. Therefore, this kind guru who tames our rigid mental continuum by showing us a path without error, is definitely Vajradhara himself.

Furthermore, if one thought, "Even if it were certain that there is an emanation of Vajradhara in the row of one's gurus, one would not be able to recognize which one it is", this doubt of non-recognition of him or her should then also be applicable in all [circumstances].

For us, the enlightened deeds of all the buddhas reach us through the guru. Therefore, if this very means through which

<sup>6</sup> bodies

বর্বারেরেরের্ক্তর্মান্তর্ন্তর্ভারেরের্বারেরার্ক্তর্ভারে বমা বাদেরের বেরার বেরার বর্ষার বিশ্বর বিশ্বর বিশ্বর বিশ্বর বির্বাহর বিশ্বর বির্বাহর বিশ্বর বির্বাহর বিশ্বর বির বিশ্বর বিশ वर्ग्ये श्रुष्याया स्रोत्या नाराधीत्। स्रोत्या क्री प्राप्ती स्रोत्या क्री स्राप्ता स्राप्ता स्राप्ता स्राप्ता ठन्'ग्री'पद्मेषायमाञ्चामायानहेन्द्रम् न्यायानहेन्यमायह्ना वनमःस्रेन नेमन्यस्यामुयावस्याउन्गीत्रवेदायसादह्यापाञ्चासः ग्रीभारे विवस सेत्। ने प्रविद नुज्र सेसम प्राप्त प्रवास स्वर रे.शु.शुर्-राम्नायद्वेष्यायम् द्वाप्तिःश्च्रीमारमामुमार्ग्यास्य सहर्रेश रेशक्षत्वत्वानी सुः सप्दे ते सर्या मुश्न इस्रा ग्रीय प्रेसेत षश्चर्यश्चर्राक्ष्यश्चर्राक्ष्यश्चर्यात्रह्म् नास्त्रीयः स्त्रीयः संत्रे नास्त्रीयः स क्य श्र.र्नेया.स.पर्येल.द्वीर.श्र.र्नेया.स.लग्न.रमय.सप्र.विधि.र्यरा श्रूर. वर्षेटाड्न'वर्नुवार्ष्ट्रेट्र'द्वोर्क्केट्रंट्रचार्चान्द्रान् देवित्रकुवार्से वर्नुवा म्रीतः दे वित्र मुला में त्राराष्ट्र राष्ट्र राष्ट्र या वित्र प्राप्त मिला स्वर प्राप्त वित्र वित्र प्राप्त वित्र वित्र प्राप्त वित्र प्राप्त वित्र वि र्वेन्द्रियासीमासीद्रमासूयामामित्रियाम्यासीमासी ग्रीःश्रुवानाधीत्रान्यःदेशःश्री व्यवशास्त्रवाग्रीःस्टानाञ्चनाश श्रुवानवेः रराम्बन्या हेर्द्धन्याही रराम्बन्या दब्धारी स्वाया য়ৢ৽ড়৽য়ৢৢৢয়৽য়য়য়৽ঽঢ়৽য়ৢ৽য়ৣ৽৻ড়য়৽ড়৾য়৽য়ৄ৾ৢঀ

all the enlightened deeds pass through is not the emanation of all the buddhas, what is it then? The enlightened deeds of all the buddhas reach us in dependence on the guru just like the analogy of a magnifying glass. There is no other way without depending on him or her. Hence, in order for the deeds of all the buddhas to reach us, it is necessary to depend on the guru.

Furthermore, there is no way that all the buddhas can depend on an ordinary person [regarding their deeds to be performed]. Similarly, it would also be impossible that they rely on bodhisattvas, hearers, solitary-realizers and so forth. Therefore, it is certain that the means through which to pass on their deeds has to be an emanation manifested by them. Therefore, it is indubitable that our [present] guru has been emanated by the buddhas as a means for all their enlightened deeds to reach all sentient beings. It is like the [buddhas themselves] who - for the unruly ones – emanate a child younger than them to tame the difficult ones: [emanating] a common viksu for taming Aṅgulīmāla, [emanating a similar] Gandharvarāja to tame the Gandharvarāja and Avalokiteśvara who emanated as a monkey to tame the Tibetans. Hence, [the gurus] are definitely the emanations of all buddhas. They are thus the embodiment of methods, the embodiment of emanations, the embodiment of blessings and are like a representative. They are like hooks. They are the delegates of all the buddhas.

My guru is not limited only to being one buddha. He is the embodiment of all buddhas. Because, when the buddhas first generated the mind [toward enlightenment], they generated it for the purpose of all sentient beings. When they obtained the resultant dharmakaya at the end, they obtained it also only for the purpose of sentient beings.

नन्नानी ह्वासादने सम्साक्तुरा धेवामा उसानु। सम्सा मुश्राम्यश्रारुट् ग्री स्टान् बुन्यश्येद हो। श्रास्था मुश्राम्यश्रारुट् য়য়ৼ৻ঀয়য়৻য়ৢ৾ॱक़ॕॴॱॻॖऀॱॷॢॱॸऻढ़ॗ॓ॴॱय़ॱॴॸॱऒয়ॴॱঽয়ॱॺॕॎॱॺ॔ढ़॓ॱॸॕ॔ॺॱॸॖॱ नहेश नेशन्यस्यामुयायायेययाउदामी नेदावित्यययायह्नानु য়৾৴৻য়য়৻ৢ৾৴৻য়ৼ৻য়ৢ৾৻৴য়ৼয়৻ড়৻য়য়য়৻য়ৼ৻য়ৢয়৻য়য়য়৻ড়ড়৻য়ৢ৾৻ र्नेवासहित हे प्यम्स्रोस्रसाउदावस्य उत्ती हेवासहित हे वासेस्र वर् ने ने दे अर्थे विष् मा मुर्ग कर कर कर न ने स्थित स्था निर्मा योड्रया:री.जयट:श्रटश:श्रिश:वश्रश:वर्ट.ग्रीश:टेर्ग्रोटश:देर्गरश:वर्षेयोशी यटेयो. वर्षेत्रमदेः वर्षात्यः पूर्वे द्र्यात्यः प्रवेषः स्रोतः प्रमः वर्षाः वर्षेतः । यदः श्री र श्रुष्य प्रदे श्रुष्य प्रदेश विष्य प्रदेश विष्य श्रुष्य श्रुष्य श्रुष्य श्रुष्य विष्य र्भूबारानार्कानवे सुवाराना ग्री तर्हाकृत्य द्विना वारानार्का नास्वाराकृत बर्-स-द-र्म्-सम्बर्भ-इन्-सिव्य-स्तेन-स्तेन-स्त्रिन्-स्तिन्-स्त्रिन्-स्त्रिन्-स्त्रिन्-स्त्रिन्-स्त्रिन्-स्तिन्-स्त्रिन्-स्त्रिन्-स्त्रिन्-स्त्रिन्-स्त्रिन्-स्त्रिन्-स्त्रिन्-स्त्रिन्-नगरे हे मुःसायशाम्बदानु सेना नेशक मुःसादी सरसामु सामस उप्'ग्रेअ'नम्मा'यदेव'धेम'धूय'मदे'धूय'म| अम्सामुस'मस्

Hence the buddhas do not have anything to do other than work for the purpose of sentient beings. Therefore, today all the buddhas work for the purpose of sentient beings; moreover, for the purpose of all sentient beings. Therefore, the entirety of buddhas lies on the head of each sentient being. Therefore, even to me alone, they all are paying attention. [If the buddhas] thought about guiding me, there must be [also] an emanation to guide me – not just to think [about me].

If one thought, "Who could that be?", [the answer is:] this could be something like a [cup of] tea as an emanation sent to cure me of my thirst or some tsampa<sup>7</sup> to cure me of my hunger or as parents in terms of giving this body or some clothes to protect me from the cold or as a tea-server or as a water-bearer but not something opposite. It is an emanation to guide me to liberation and the omniscient state. Therefore, this cannot be other than the guru.

Hence the guru is an emanation from the emanations of all the buddhas to guide me; he is the general embodiment of all the buddhas. Since all the buddhas enact deeds for me, the way of enacting the deeds is also none other than the following means of guidance:

Buddhas cannot wash away our negative karma with water. They cannot remove the sufferings of migratory beings with their hands

Nor they can transfer their realizations to others.

They liberate us only by showing reality and truth.

Therefore, they teach Dharma. If the buddhas were to teach us

<sup>7</sup> flour made of roasted barley; a staple of the Tibetan diet

য়ৣ৾৾৽য়ৢৢ৽য়৻য়ৢঀ৽ড়ৢঀ৽ড়ৢয়৽য়ৢয়৽য়য়য়৽ড়ঀ৽য়ৣয়৽য়ঀয়৽ঢ়ৢ৾ঀ৽ सह्दात्रासह्दासुन्यायाम्। सुनाह्मस्यार्थेनामाकुःधेयासीकासेम्सि त्यू.यदु.र्वेय.यर्कत.विया.य्रीश.श्रु.श्रुत्वता १६८.ग्री.ध्रूयश.स.यावय.ता र्श्वे अव है। व्रिम है न न ने व न न मह्म न म में व न म सहन है से स स्ट्रम दर्ने न्यतः व्यवस्याविष्यः स्रोत् । स्रोतः स्रोतः । स्रोत नग्रे। देवे सळ्त् नावे ते त्रु स सेत् त नावत शु धेता

र्दे त्रः त्रः यः यः यः पुरुष्टा राज्ये धोतः युवाना हे ते वितातः यन्यः यास्रावसायदे स्टान् ज्ञाना है। दे प्यटार्क्स सुन्दी धे भेस है से दे विचः श्रीमः या । श्री स्त्रार्क्ष स्त्रार्क्ष स्त्रार्क्ष स्त्रार्क्ष स्त्रार्क्ष स्त्रार्क्ष स्त्रार्क्ष स्त्रारक्ष स्त्र स्त्रारक्ष स्त्रारक्ष स्त्रारक्ष स्त्रारक्ष स्त्रारक्ष स्त्रारक्ष स्त्र स्त्रारक्ष स्त्रारक्ष स्त्रारक्ष स्त्रारक्ष स्त्रारक्ष स्त्रारक्ष स्त्र स्त्रारक्ष स्त्र स्त्रारक्ष स्त्रारक्ष स्त्र स्त्र स्त्र स्त्रारक्ष स्त्र स्त स्तियः सः स्रेन् ग्राम्यन्या में स्वायाः स्वायाः स्वायः स्वायः स्वायः स्वायः स्वायः स्वायः स्वायः स्वायः स्वायः म्रि.य.तथायिटःशुत्रकारात्रायश्चित्रहुत्वाया श्चर नश्चर ग्राट नद्या यी श्वरापा सहस्य । ग्राट तस्य सामि दि दे हे हिंद स्पूय षीत्। वर्क्षेत्रा नी श्रुवा भूर नश्रूत ग्राम श्री खें व्यय न्त्रा प्यत कर ग्री श्री न तीयालु थारा प्राचीयाचीया सहता सुधी स्वाया सुधीया सुधारा ही. ब्रॅ-अर्बेट्-वाविद्या वद्यायमान्यद्यस्य वस्त्रव्यस्य विद्यो केमायमा रट.रट.सैज.भ्रथ.मु.ल.च.क्याय.श्.यम्बर.रम्ब्रा.न.वैट.। यटग. the Dharma themselves, we would not see them. For that reason, they send us an emanation whom we can see to teach us the Dharma. If the example of that were not the guru, who is it then?

If somebody thought, "Why are [the buddhas] appearing as ordinary gurus?", [the answer is] that he is an embodiment of very skillful means. Furthermore, just as [an unnamed text source says:

"His or her] exalted wisdom pervades as many phenomena as exist,

And those phenomena are pervaded by his [or her holy] bodies ...".

There is no place that is not pervaded by his exalted wisdom, yet how can I see him or her?

#### [The guru's appearance]

Only the buddhas themselves can see one another - not even the bodhisattvas of the tenth bhumi<sup>8</sup> can see them! Even if they showed themselves in the sambhogakāya9 form, how could I see them? A body of enjoyment is an object of perception only to the arya [or superior] bodhisattvas. Even if they showed themselves in the body of the supreme emanation, it could be seen only by ordinary beings with pure karma and those upward, whereby I cannot see.

Just like [the story of] Asanga seeing Maitreya as an old female dog, if they manifested as something inferior to me,

<sup>8</sup> the level of the path of realization

<sup>9</sup> enjoyment body

मुभावास्यायदे द्वयायर पश्चित्रायदेश प्राचन्या याविष्य मुभा श्रेष्यत् श्रेष्पेइस्यस्यस्यस्य स्वर्षायन्त्रम्यम् स्वर्षाः मुअप्रीत्। यद्यायीअप्ट्रिंशस्यास्यातुश्रासदेशस्यामुय। दर्नेदर सर्वानायाराञ्चवाना अर्थाक्त्रुशः ग्रीत्रः में प्रवासः स्वासः स्वासः स्वासः स्वासः स्वासः स्वासः स्वासः स्वासः स शुःश्चुताव्दरादे दरादेराविषानायश्चाक्षेत्रदानदे विराधरामाराधराक्षे सहया मः संप्राप्त ने निर्माति स्त्र मुर्गालेश संप्राप्त में स्त्र श्चु-दर्द्रशायदाः नरः नश्चवः यः व्यद्रान्त्रेत्। द्वान्यः यद्यः क्रुयः व्यवः व्यवः यायाह्य दि स्पूर्ण यस्त्रेया में वाक्षेत्र यहेता स्थान नमसःग्रीमःसे विनःसदे इसः वर्षः नमसः दर्गे मः मम। दे र्ह्वे वः से कुन्-मर्भाषीद्र-मन्-१८५म नेस्र-दान्यम्-१ न्यस्य मुक्ति स्वर्थः क्ष्यान्यस्थाने सर्वा क्ष्या भी साम्राज्या स्थान होता न स्थया यः भुः नर्देशः नृतः। भुः नर्देशः शुः श्वरः शेः तुशः ग्रुटः न्योः नवेः न लेशः यहितः ग्री:इस्राध्यायनुत्यानाइस्रयायान्यो नदीन्यनेयामहेत्रान्ता नेयाग्रहा वर्षाःभ्रेषाः भेरामस्ययायाः स्याप्तान्याः नर्ति चः मेर्ने न्यायाः स्यापा ग्री:माञ्जाबाखाः स्वाद्याः भ्रयासेन् ग्रहान्ने नदे न ने सामहेन ग्रीसादन्य भ्रयाधेन्य ने धेन I would not believe it. Therefore, they have to show themselves in human form. The fact that the buddhas have shown themselves in an ordinary aspect benefits me, not otherwise. This very manifestation of the human aspect is a buddha [for me, given] my present fortune. It is a buddha that I can actually see myself. I am fortunate to see this already.

Even if the buddhas emanated themselves as birds, antelopes and so forth, we would often mistake them for this and that animal, whereby we would not see them differently [from what is actually seen]. The guru is seen likewise. The so-called 'buddha' is mainly about inner qualities. What is there to be judged from only the external aspect? Even a devil can indeed show him or herself like a real buddha. What difference is there if somebody really were truly a buddha?

It is difficult to develop the proper way to rely upon a spiritual master. For this, it is necessary to contemplate [their] inconceivable biography. It is difficult because it goes beyond our mental capacity. By thinking of [countless] unimaginable means, they [appear] with their actual bodies to those who can be tamed through the appearance of an actual body of a buddha. Or they appear as virtuous spiritual friends to those who can be tamed by the aspect of a virtuous spiritual friend although they cannot explicitly appear in their body. For those who do not even have the fortune to be tamed through the aspect of virtuous spiritual friends, they show themselves in the form of Brahma, Indra, devils, birds, antelopes and so forth.

[In my case,] although I do not have the fortune to be tamed directly by [buddhas themselves], I have the fortune of being tamed by a virtuous spiritual friend. Therefore, they have shown the aspect of a virtuous spiritual friend to me. Furthermore, it

नगर्ने सूर्र न्वी नदे निर्वा महित ही हसा पर नसूता ने पर हुत रशाम्ब्रम्था ग्रेशार्वे दायतुषा श्रेराश्चे दादरा के शासुषा यहासुना र्श्रवायान्ता यहस्रान्त्रात्र्यात्रीयाहे नद्भात्रीयात्रात्रीयात्रात्रीयायात्रा श्रुषायानाविव ते नियान यहार मुर्या स्थान स्यान स्थान स मुर्रातुःसरःभ्रूषा रदःवीःवर्षाःभ्रूषःग्रीःसदसःमुसःग्रदःदी वदेवःसः लरारी जमार्सून ग्रारारी न्द्रीम्बारा गुल्यारी सूनिया जरारी सून यायदादी ह्यूयायायदादेग्वाहेवासुःखेदाद्या सदावीशाग्रदादे सदाया चिर्छ्नः सर्वेन :ग्री:नर्नु :हें :चेंडेना हुन् ने हेंन् देश हिंद् दे :ह्व :स ફ્રિંમ્સે ખે માર્કિમ્સે સાવવલ્લ્ક્રિંસ્સે માર્સે માર્કે ફ્રિંકિં સ્ટ્રેન્સે ક્રિંક્સે मुे.श्रदे.श्रवर.लट.बेयश्र हुदु.लेयश.यीश.यबेट.एहूरे.ला भिरेट.बुदु. दह्रवाशःश्चेतः नर्देशः ग्रुवः ग्रुवः श्चेत्यः वाह्रवः श्चे ग्रेयः सर्देदः वरः वार्डेदः वि.सर.चर्ष्चेर.ध्र्र.चर्ष्चेर.मु.रश्चेवश्चात्रात्तरत्तरात्वरात्वरात्वराष्ट्री हे. *ॱ*ढ़ॣॸॱॻॖॖॖॺॱढ़ॱॸॖ॓ॱॺॸॺॱक़ॗॖॺॱग़ॗढ़ॱक़ॖ॓ॱॸॸॱॻऻॖड़ॖॖॺॱक़ॺॱफ़ॗ॓ढ़ॱक़ॗॸॺॱ के:बेटा रटानी:भ्रम्यानराकेटा<u>न्</u>चें बायाधेवामयाचे बाक्सनयाः वेवानुः श्चर-य-लर-लुब-ब्री र्र-श्रुव-विवशःश्चर्याः श्चर्याः स्राप्तः रेर्-विवादाः वयः is like Avalokiteśvara who emanated as a monkey, the Dharmakings, panditas<sup>10</sup>, mahasiddhas<sup>11</sup> and so forth and Mañjuśrī who emanated as the great venerable Tsongkhapa and so forth to tame the Tibetans.

Hence, all the buddhas emanated as a guru in order to guide me. And, if [this guru] alone is also the buddha of my dose of fortune, also the conductor, also the guide, also the leader of the blind, also Lord [Śākyamuni] and also the emanation, then we should also keep holding on to him with a single-pointed mind until the attainment of enlightenment as [Panchen Lobsang Chökyi Gyaltsen suggested in his Guru Pūjā text]:

"You are the guru, the yidam, the dāka and dharmapāla. From now until enlightenment, we do not seek any refuge other than you. Therefore, hold us with your compassionate hook in this life, [in the] bardo and also in future lives. Free us from the fear of samsara and [solitary] peace, bestow all siddhis, help us eternally and guard us from interferences".

It would be of great benefit if we alternately visualized the guru as our yidam and our yidam as the guru, over and over again. If we did like that, it would be a great blessing since the guru is the embodiment of all the buddhas. Since the guru has descended specifically for us according to our fortune, we also receive their blessing very quickly.

On the contrary, if we depend on the guru for the time being out of necessity, thinking, "Ultimately, there are buddhas

<sup>10</sup> Skt; Tib. মানুষ্যান্য, khepa — a title in Indian Buddhism awarded to scholars who have mastered the five sciences in which a learned person was traditionally supposed to be well-versed.

<sup>11</sup> Skt; Tib. ज्ञून'ळेत्', drupchen — a yogi who has attained the supreme accomplishment, or siddhi.

स्वायाने त्या भ्रमायदे सम्याम्य सम्यान् स्वाया सम्याम् स्वाया सम्यान् स्वाया व्यासुनायाने पर्वेषायानाव्यानु प्राचीयान ने पानी वाक्षान्य प्राचीया चीयःचीरःलरःवर्ष्ट्रयःसरःरेगोर्ष् ।रेनुरःथ। लन्नःवर्षरःवर्द्धवानाःसःक्रः शःविवात्यः स्टःवीः विद्यात्रयः नशुः श्रेःविवाः केट् स्यम्वायः सन्दा हे त्यः यस.पसट.पश्चींत.यपु.मु.धूंश.चीट.ट्यूंश.मी स.यक्त्र.य.खेया.ता रे. द्वारक्ष्टाचाचिवार्चे। । देशावाश्वरशाक्तुशागुवाक्तीशाचन्यायदेवा यदे:ब्रे-र-तृञ्चयःयःने त्रुः याद्विन् क्षेन् ध्येतः यन्या ग्राम्बिन् क्षेन् विः यः रे'नशहिंद्ग्रीशहिंद्गीशहेंत्रमिंशहेंतशिव नदे'मिलेग्राम्यर'न'नश्रय ग्रीभःभ्रो। वियायदी श्रुप्य व्यवायात्वमः ग्रीभः दर्भगः द्यापः द्यादः द्याप्य प्रा र्राने अर्हेर हैं न हेन् नुवन्त न व्याप्त । विक्र प्रमे धेश न ह्येनश वर्भान् नर्भाव । कें र्यम् नावव न्तुः सः नावव विना नी माहे भार् दह्रवाकुः ध्रिनः सुर्वा सुर्वे। सुर्वे : स्वयः यः वे : वर्रः स्रेवः स्वयः विवा : विवा : वर्षे : वर्षे वा स्वयः विवा : वर्षे त्यश ट्र.च्र.शरशःश्चिशःवश्वशः १८८१ः हो.लु.स्वेशः हो.स्ट.याञ्चयाशः स्ट.ची. त्तुः अदे क्रयः सम् अन्यः न दि । यथः न विव । न विव । क्रेन विव । क्रेन विव । न विव । विव । विव । विव । विव । व यः हेदः वनका सेदः द्वी व्रास्था सम्बद्धाः वसका खदः श्रीः धोः वेका श्रीः रट.चें बैचेश शें. दुश सः क्रेंट.चे.चैं.श.धे.शटश क्रिंश वशश उटे. ग्री. टू.चूं. धेव। न्रीवाशनहे साम्नानुशनार्शियायनेवशा ग्रीके प्यमहे नेदार्शके

and yidams - something superior to see", and if we gave our ultimate hope in somebody other [than the guru], then it will be difficult to receive any blessing and siddhis [from him or her]. For example, when [a traveler is] on a narrow and very dangerous road and somebody is sent from his own house to receive him, [the traveler] should hope to be saved from the dangerous road by him; there would be very little help from somebody else who had not been entrusted.

If you are the very guru who is emanated by all the gurus to lead me, I also put my hope in only you; therefore bless me!

The inconceivable illusory emanations of the sugatas are difficult

For others to infer, and since we are very confused about it We apprehend what we see as being truly existent.

We have been deceived until now by this worst [mental] obscuration.

We can think that we will be taken care of by other gurus in other lives, i.e., that they can appear in various bodily forms. But in fact, how can we find something different from this embodiment that is the appearance of one's guru, which by nature is the exalted wisdom of all the buddhas? There is no way to find something other than this.

If one can ascertain that the guru is the exalted wisdom of all the buddhas, then the guru is the embodiment of all the buddhas. [At that point] even when making the mig tsé ma<sup>12</sup> request,

"[To Avalokiteśvara, great treasure of unobservable mercy, Mañjuśrī, the lord of stainless knowledge, Vajrapāni, the destroyer of the devil troops and

<sup>12</sup> mantra to Lama Tsongkhapa

क्षात्रा स्वार्थित्र स्वार्थित् स्वार्ये स्वार्थित् स्वार्ये स्वार्थित् स्वार्थित् स्वार्थित् स्वार्थित् स्वार्ये स्वार्थित् स्वार्थित् स्वार्थित् स्वार्थित् स्वार्थित् स्वार्थित् स्वार्ये स्वार्ये स्वार्थित् स्वार्ये स्वार्थित् स्वार्थित् स्वार्ये स

 Tsongkhapa Losang Dragpa, the crown jewel of scholars In the Land of Snow, I make request at your holy feet]"

- whatever request is made to Je Rinpoche [or Lama Tsongkhapa], is made to one's guru. And also any request that is made to one's guru by reciting such as his mantra-name, is made to all the buddhas.

Hence, reciting the mantra-name [of one's guru] is reciting the essence-mantra of all the buddhas. While the guru is alive, it is like the water and its waves. When the guru is no longer alive, it is like the waves disappearing into the ocean. If you have the sensation that the guru and all the buddhas have been integrated, you have gained realizations.

The great kindness of our guru: In the past, although buddhas and bodhisattvas such as our Lord [Śākyamuni] and holy panditas and mahasiddhas descended, they were unable to tame me and so I have been left here. If my guru now does not take me under his care, what will happen?

No matter how badly I behave, he still happily holds me under his care and he teaches such profound and extensive Dharma. He tames my rigid mental continuum. How can I repay this kindness, such great kindness? To repay that kindness, there is no way other than making [the offering of] practice as service.

# Identifying the leisures and endowments [of our perfect human body]

It is necessary to gain an experience of each [of the eight leisures] of not being born in hell and so forth, [i.e., in states of] non-leisure. If, in our present life, we had been born in hell we would be afflicted by the suffering of heat and cold, whereby

व्या नन्नान् सेन्यार्यायाः स्त्रीयारास्त्रम्यायाया नुनारक्रीरः श्चेश्वात्रात्त्रीत्वित्वित्वित्वित्वित्वात्र्याः विष्याः विष्याः विष्याः विष्याः विष्याः विष्याः विष्याः विष्याः ८.क्ट्र्-१२८वर्ग्-१अ.म.म्भूभामाम्भूनमायेनामार्यमामार्यमामाराम् श्चर। व्यायाधीत् नुःश्चेयात्रवरावश्चर हिन्ना वया श्चित्र वया हिन् क्रूश में राष्ट्र भी वर्षे राष्ट्र राष्ट्रे राष्ट्र में स्थान स्थान र्वेदःवीः खूरः क्रे अप्तः क्षेदः ये अदः यदे विश्वस्य विष्ठा विश्वस्य विश्वस्य योल्ट्याने क्ष्याश्चाल्टा श्रवानश्चलानु स्रोत् राश्चेताया या बेन् बेदे वट वर्ष ग्रन्थ वर दिन ग्री मुर्जे र ही भाव निष्या में इस.रे.चे...व्स.लर.सर.स्थ.क्ष्याचात्ताच्या भ्रीय.स.रटाःस्यायायरः भुभावदराक्र्याग्री:भैयायाचय। तीयान्चियाश्री:भीयाग्रदाहाना नरःश्लेशः ऍन्दःश्लनशादर्वे केंगान्द्रेगान्यान्त्रेन्यते श्लेषाना प्रदा चला बरासदुःचलानुःक्षुकाःग्रदासनानःनान्दा चन्नवासान्दा सना यशःग्रीशःदर्कें नः न्दा क्षे मार्थमा सू नुरः सु शावदर मावद मी दिया र्चर-स्ट्रि भ्रुन्यादर्भे रह्मा नुयाम्याद्या है दनुया रह्मा है न इत्यार्सात्यापान्सीत्वाचा नेत्रमाञ्चलं साहीति साहीति वार्षात्यायम् मदे भूयान पान मान हे निवेद नु विदानमा माने सार्मिता हिंदा मा चक्रवाचा भ्रान्स्वार्श्वायान्ता क्रयान्यान्त्रायाः

how could we practise Dharma? It is our good fortune that in our present life we have not been born in the hell realm. Similarly, if we had been born as hungry spirits we would be afflicted by hunger and thirst, whereby how could we practise Dharma? It is our good fortune that, in our present life, we have not been born in the realm of hungry spirits. If we had been born as animals, we would be stupid and ignorant, whereby we would not know even how to recite a mantra. It is our good fortune that, in our present life, we have not been born in the realm of animals and so forth; apply this phrase of good fortune for all [the other rebirths of non-leisure].

Likewise, if we had been born as an asura being, we would be suppressed by combat, argument and karmic obscuration, and we would not be able to practise Dharma. If we had been born as gods of the desire-realm or as gods of the higher realm, we would be distracted [respectively] by activities of desire or essenceless mental-stabilization for eons and we would not possess any Dharma.

Even if we had been born as human beings during the eon of darkness, there would not be the Dharma to practise. Even among human beings, if we had been born as those barbarians in remote places, we would not even know the difference between virtue and non-virtue, so how would we be able to practise Dharma? Also, if we had been born stupid or mute we would lack the fortune of Dharma. Even if we were born in the centre of the land [where the Dharma does exist] but born with wrong views such as religious extremism, then the opportunity to recite even one sentence of refuge would be missed.

Even if we were born in the vicinity of Buddhists but as a blacksmith, butcher or those with wrong livelihoods or a

शदः र्ह्यः र्ह्या क्याशः स्टायावर श्रीः श्रेः स्या १ स्वरायो द्या स्वरायो । म्या मूर्यः क्र्याना ह्र्यानाना अधिका ग्रीटानक्षयः मुकाना क्रूयः र्-विराम। मारकामार्थमान्द्रसायारे मार्थमाकामीकासी के सूँ राबर्-र् योर्ट्रिट न ने 'सूर सेव नरा कंट या सार्वेर न वेट खेट सार्हे न साम हो' श्वेरार्भे ह्रे प्रकानकार्भे वाक्की मानुमाकार करा हो प्रकृत्य स्त्रे प्रकृत यानग्रेशःभूयान्मा नुनावर्षेत्रेशे वियामास्रेतःभ्रान्यार्थेनाराग्रेशास्त्रेन् मःश्रूचाशःश्रुम्। ध्रुषःन्तुशःग्रीःश्रेःषमःवनावःविनाःनीःश्रेःविसामःवनाः त्यश्रा श्री श्रा होत् । दे त्यविद्य त्याय विचाय क्षिता ययाय:ब्रिया:क्ष्रिया। ययाय:ब्रिया:ब्रिय:ब्रिया:ब्रिय:ब्र-ब्रिय:ब्रिय ब्रेन के सह्वादासुरा ग्रे से विसाय विवाग्यर भरकु र्षेन दवादा विचानी से विसास के साम स्वेश समा होता वनाय विचा के साम होता व कें पर्ने क्लिंग्स कें रिकानका के किंग्स मही ने निवित्र नुपर्वे रामि केंगा व्याग्रम्ययास्री वर्ग्नेमलेयास्त्रेम्यवसम्यामयीस्तरेम्या यार है र त्या खुर्या वर्चे र त्या के स र त्या वर्चे त त्या स्वा र त्या र वर्गे . यदुःयन्त्र्यात्रेत्। यश्रवःय। यह्यःसर्ग्वःश्रवःयकुरःस्यायःसत्र्वः

servant, we would be a slave to others and we might recite just the words of refuge, but we would not recite even one hundred thousand mani<sup>13</sup> over our entire lifetime. Forget that! We would also be out of luck in reciting that mantra even for one day.

Similarly, the landlords, mayors, business people, lenders, chief administrators and so forth - [like the] wild monks in monasteries, discriminatory bosses at work, the old monks without a practice, the performers of rites in the village, the intellectual ones who are wise but do not know how to think well – may include themselves in the class of religious people, but even if they meditate by attempting to practise an authentic religion, they deviate from the path of light, not [practising] as [they had been] instructed. They thus end their life empty with the hope of merely accumulating a number of objects.

We, on the other hand, feel satisfied that we have been able to become at least the reflection [or the shadow] of those who have found the essence of the complete and unmistaken path and who think and meditate.

The experience of non-leisure in the hell realm is due to [unbearable] heat and cold. Having non-leisure in the hungryghost realm is due to [unbearable] hunger and thirst. Non-leisure in the animal realm is due to being stupid, mute and so forth; apply the respective [sufferings that create non-leisure to the others].

As for the people of the central land [in the human realm], non-leisure for some people is due to manual work. Likewise, some non-leisure is due to sport, some due to wandering, some due to commerce, some due to agriculture, some due to laziness and some due to being left behind [with regards to worldly

<sup>13</sup> Om mani padme hūm mantras, the mantra of Avalokiteśvara, the Buddha of Compassion

# मुेव गुव हे द है द दिस्य अप याया न अया

र-र्भावयान्वीभावस्थाउन्निर्वय। वृत्र-न्वीभावस्थाउन् ८८.केथ.यदुःश्चेयश्वदुर्याचयः२धूश्चा शुःध्याचमःव्याः यदुःस्वयःषुवायःयभ्यः सवाः दरः वर्ष्ट्रियः यदुः विदः ययः विद्यायः वर्षे यः वर्षे यः वर्षे यः वर्षे यः वर्षे यः यश्चिम। र्रूब.कर.र्. . क्यातिममानुर.सूचा पर्मेता यर्ने तारा हेता पर्मेता परमेता पर्मेता परमेता पर्मेता परमेता परम व्याम्यात्वया विष्याक्षत्रम्यात्राह्यस्यात्रीयस्यात्रम्यात्रम्यात्रम्यात्रम्यात्रम्यात्रम्यात्रम्यात्रम्यात्रम् र्धेट्र शेर्से हिट्ट में इ.च. हें च. दें त्या ही या तथा है रा तुःदतुष्रःश्चनाःरेवः नुःचरंत्यःवषःर्वे न्यरःश्चे नःग्चरः ह्वे नःश्चे न्यः यो विश्वासायते से में में सायके स्थानायों कर्षा नियम श्चर-स्वायाश्चेयाग्रदायाहेदायदेग्यह्यायवीत् स्रुवावश्चरायदेग्या क्रेट्रायशादळेट्यायाया क्रेट्रायाष्ट्रमात्रुयायाशुर्वेतायश्चर्येयाया नर्हेन्यदेक्षिंनक्षेन्यदेखेरकाराया नक्षेन्यस्मान्धन्यस्म <u> २८.५६ूच.श्</u>रूषा चिर.श्रूषाश्चाया चीर.ज्ञूषा.श्चराचीर.च.५५.५९ूट्या याया भ्रम्याचेरान्त्रमाश्चीत्रायानकुष्यमान्द्राच्यानयादहेदया नवर नगमा नर्गमा स्त्री विक्र में निष्या में नहीया ना से विसास नकुः अन् अरः से : व्यान् वित्रान्त्रे ना ने श्रायान्त्र ना अर्थान्त्र ना अर्थान्त्र ना अर्थान्त्र ना अर्थान्त्र दर्ने क्षेत्र हु तकेद्र अप्याया सूत्र पुरायस्य अस्य स्थित

affairs] during the closing stage of their lives. For some, nonleisure is due to not knowing Dharma. For some, the experience of non-leisure is created by not [being able to] give up this life in spite of knowing Dharma.

We also have to think of [our perfect human rebirth in terms of the second quality], endowment. Endowment [Tib. ৭র্ট্র ম'র' jorwa] means 'something found or acquired'. What have we found? We have to think that we have found and gathered all the favorable conditions: [a human] body, wealth, wisdom, effort, faith, a virtuous spiritual friend, teachings and the Ear-Whispered lineage of Lord Mañjuśrī. We have to be careful at this present moment when we are free of all things that we should be free of, and we have all that we should have!

I would suggest that you meditate on the combination of the hundreds of strokes of good fortune of being free from hundreds of non-leisures and the feature of the [different] endowments. We have obtained such a [precious] supportive [body], which we did not find irrespective of so much wandering and suffering in the past. Even the future uncertainty of whether we will wander and suffer that much or not also depends on this fundamental supportive [body]; therefore, we have to be careful.

We feel satisfied about having found such [a perfect human body of] leisure and disposition [for Dharma], which cannot be found even if we had the equivalent of hundreds of jewels to spend. We are satisfied to have found the Ear-Whispered lineage of Lord Mañjuśrī, which cannot even be found by Brahma, Īndra and Cakravartin [or universal king]. Just as we have found it, what satisfaction to have generated the mind of striving in the practice of thinking and meditating! And, just as that mind is generated, what satisfaction to at least have learned how के। यट र्श्वेग्र रहेग द्वेत कट् से विंस टेश से ट्र सुन्स खेग्र सुस प्रत्या हेर वहेत्र सामेर रहेश हे द्वार हुन स्थानेस सुस स्थानेस सुस प्रत्या हेर

न्यः वर्ज्जेरः र्ने वरके वे स्मूनमा नन्ना वः न्ने मः यदे रेन नाममः भूनशः ग्रे देव: द्रायम् सुवा वी देव: देव: विवा न भून: द्वेव राग्य सहेव: वर्ने त्यानहेत्र त्र्यानञ्जून तुः र्थेन । अरा सूत्र्या ना प्या प्यान हे । अरा से से । वर्षार्ट्रेव के ना हेव नाहे ना स्वर ही ना राज्य ना स्वर होता है ना स्वर व्यन्तवाक्तवार्यः वर्ह्नवान्यः स्वार्यः से त्रः से से से से सिन् से ना स्नुत्र होवाः स्नुत्र होवाः यदर:र्नेव:लेव:रु:क्वयशःळेव:पश्चूय:रु:र्षेन्:यर:पश्चश्यः न्द्यःश्रेष्यश्यः केः व्येन्। व्येन् निव्वेतः क्रीः वेन्तः निव्यः विव्यः ब्रिना: पॅन्: ग्रुन: क्रें: ब्री: सर्मन्य स्प्रिन: प्रसाय होत्य प्रमाय स्था स्था सर मन्दरम्बस्यान्तरम्बित्रमदेशे विषयरायायदेवामास्यावेषा सदिवासे विषे खुर्याहेत्राचनरार्दे उत्राप्पराञ्चेत्रा तुर्य ५.५८५ त्यान्त्रा मुत्राया नश्रुटःकुदेःर्देवःरु:दगादःषशःक्रेवःर्ये होर्-द्र्येश रे:वर्द्रदेर्वेरःतुःहो:वः विचा विचा सम् नविचा चार्रे वा ग्राम्य स्थान विचा सम् । शे.वर्या.योषान्य.तर्राष्ट्रभा रकावर्ष्ट्रम्.वर्राक्षेत्रव्यानम् र्श्वरःमी:श्रु:श्रु:प्यरःवर्देशःवगागाःबुश ळंदशःध वक्कःब्रेवा वर्षेत्रः स्थानश्चरम्भातास्य भारत्ये अस्ति अस् to do analytical meditation, stabilizing meditation, glancingmeditation and so forth!

Sometimes we indeed have to reflect as well on the satisfaction of being free from hundreds of non-leisures. If we look inside and think, "Although there are hundreds of nonleisure states such as the hells, none of them has entrapped me. How privileged I am!", [we realize that] it is a great miracle like an enhancing rite. As an enhancing rite, I would suggest you think over taking rebirth at random in the non-leisure states in the future. With the vivid fear of those states [or realms], think how lucky we are that we have not been born there.

# The great meaning of the leisures and endowments [of our perfect human body]

We should often recall that whatever interest of any type temporary or ultimate - that we have to achieve, can be achieved in dependence upon this supportive [body]. There is great meaning in it every single day. Even in one day, we can accumulate [merits and exalted wisdom] and purify negativities. Every day we can deposit imprints of the path and so forth. Upon thinking that we can achieve an enormous benefit from this [supportive human body] even instant by instant, what value is there in gold, silver and so forth?

Even if we had a trillion wish-fulfilling jewels, they would not even be able to pull us out of a lower realm in our next life. Forget about them leading us to the liberation omniscient state, they could not even deliver us a good supportive body of high status. On the contrary, they could only create enemies and thieves and we would struggle to protect them. Forget about trillions of jewels, wouldn't it be better not to have any at all

वुषा वर्षाते में प्रयम् प्रमान्य विष्या वर्षा म् तसर तर्र अ पश्चीय थे । श्रेया अ रेश क्रिया अ क्रिया अ रेश क्रिया अ रेश क्रिया अ रेश क्रिया अ रेश क्रिया अ र वह्नाः हें हे पळट पट पट देश नश्चन तुष प्रश्न भे पति न विद्या हें दे र तु हो न विनाविनात्वराक्ष्मायदेवें रातुः र्राया देशाने स्टास्टानी खुराहेन पदी याणेन वया विनः हुः श्रें सरा न्दः देशः सरा धेवः द्वी दिरः सुः स्वतः विना नहिना शः वयास्टास्यादे राज्यावर्षेया ग्राटाचेया वस्तावस्या वस्तावस्या वस्तावस्या दर्चेर.मुं.मुं.सुमायदेगावरायात्रमुनातुमा क्रेंर.मुं.मुं.मावनाविनार्मुमा गठेग हित्वन दय दर्जे र ग्री से अप दरे में ग्राम गठेग हि नवग है यारायन्त्रामुकान्यायन्त्रादेशामासुकायने धिनाने निमानमासुन्या यानविवाने। त्युायार्वेत्रानुदेशनदास्ट्रिन्द्रा। ग्रह्मानुस्थिन्नविवानीः र्वेर-तुःक्रुव-तुःवक्रुव-धर-छेत्। युष्य-धर्केर-धर्व-श्रेन-धर्थ-स्ट-धीः र्नित्यमुरुःश्चे वाष्ट्रभाग्यम् र्जूना साम्यान स्था यः इश्राःलरः वेतः धेर्म्यः योरः रेताः वर्धे रः वर्षः लूरः राश्रः के रे ताः बरः वह्नाव्युनःयाधेम् वदेःवद्वेर्मेरःसुःकुन्रेंशःसःर्सरःनरःग्वनः न्वें या नव र्येट र्वेवया वाहव के विरेशीन वह वाया वर पर न वस्य १८८ स्य हित्र सदे हित्र सदि स्थाप स्टर रेश मालेश मान्ध्र तु लेगा ह्यू रायर है उस द्याय कें र हो द हो त से द

#### than to have even one? Think well!

In dependence upon this [perfect human body of] leisure and endowments, we can also shut the door of rebirth in lower realms. With this [perfect human body of leisure and endowments] we can also obtain the noble body of high status such as that of Brahma, Indra and Cakravartin. Through this, we can also achieve the state of liberation. Through this, we can also achieve the omniscient state. Through this, also the unified state of Vajradhara can be achieved within even a short life of the *kaliyuga* era.

For this reason, isn't the supportive body of our own the real jewel that is worth more than trillions of wish-fulfilling jewels? If we think carefully, it is definitely [more worthy]. Even if we manage to pile up jewels equal to our body size, we cannot achieve liberation with them. Instead, with this [perfect human body of] leisure and endowments, we can achieve liberation.

After placing trillions of jewels on one side and putting this [perfect human body of] leisure and endowments on the other, if we are asked what to choose between these two, it is preferable to choose this human body. For instance, it is like the naga and human being: the nagas have treasures of jewels and they continuously have wish-fulfilling jewels adorning their heads but they do not have this [perfect human body of] leisure and endowments; therefore, they cannot even prevent their rebirth as animals.

On contrary, for us human beings, forget about jewels even tsampa is extremely rare for us! But we have this [perfect human body of] leisure and endowments, whereby we can accomplish the state of unification in this life. We must be careful not to waste such a jewel.

श्रेना'रा'के'र्रेनामा सूना'नसूल'के'र्रेनामा नगव'लम'के'र्रेनामा लम' गाः सदः र्रेषायायया द्वीः स्वायाययः क्रुः स्वेदः प्रदेश्चेदः तुः वार्वेदः स्वययः के। न्यादर्हे राष्ट्री माबिकागा पर्ने पा क्षेत्री मागान्त्र की पर्नु सादे के त्रसा ब्रेन कुः र्षेन प्राप्त ने त्या श्रीयशान्ता न दे ना हवा की प्रत्वा यदि श्री वया त्रेन्। वर्षिरःर्षेशःनङ्कुरःनवेःक्तृवःग्वेशःग्रेशःश्चेरःनवेःश्वेःत्रःत्रःत्रेहिः न्व्या न्द्रिः व्याप्त्राच्या स्वाप्त्रिया स्वाप्त्रिया स्वाप्ति स्वापति स्वाप्ति स्वापति स् न विना विना नी श्रास्त्रीन सदा देव के वे न श्रुन देने श्री सुन्तर दर् ळंट्यान्तरामीयानञ्चनायाञ्चनायवे देवाळे वाच्युनानमें या देवा विवारे निविवार् निश्चन कुर्येन प्रमायमा कुर्ये वार्ने मा स्टामी मार्छेन वुर्यात् हे या ना हे ना त्यदर हे त ना व्यतः श्री रा स्त्री ना सर से रान सून ना दा नदिः श्रेट में खेत र पेंचा हे र नगर ना दरे दर हैं व कर सहे रा है व कर है र र गया दरे रद जा या दहें समा कु न सुन र गया है जे वर्हें समान्याया निये श्रीन नियाया है मा समाने समाने हैं निया है नियाया है न या वहेंस्र अन्त्राव वहेंस्र अवहेंस्र अन्य वहें वह हैं हा बहा नु निहान यदश्यायाय। देदायवाचहराचेव। दाञ्चवास्यायवाचुःखेदायायदेःवाहेवः सक्त्रसेन्यम् स्रुट्यं सेत्रम्यायायाने स्रूट्से होन्यायने स्रूप्याया वा ररागेशररायासर्वे नर्सेरा हेन्स्र सक्तरस्र हेन हेरा हेरानर

What a joy that we can avoid the lower realms, that we can establish eternal happiness and well-being, that we can establish the root of liberation and the omniscient state! How much happiness we would feel even if we received something like an inheritance? [In fact,] that would be [only a way to create] enormous negative karma, enormous sufferings, enormous work - nothing more than so much work!

On top of not benefitting us in the future, it brings so much harm! [Instead,] with this inheritance of the [perfect human body of] leisure and endowments, we can cultivate the eternal aim; think about it! So, let us cultivate a future aim. We should cultivate something that cannot be excelled by the kingdom of Cakravartin. We now have to achieve great meaningfulness which goes beyond that of a jewel. We have to achieve great meaningfulness which cannot be accomplished by trillions of jewels. We have to achieve great meaningfulness which cannot be achieved by Nāgeśvararāja, Brahma or Īndra. Every day we can achieve [a little bit] of such [great meaning]; therefore, we should put it in practice. It is possible that we can obtain an essence which is difficult to be achieved by other rebirths in many lives, if we are able.

### The difficulty of obtaining [such a perfect human body of leisure and endowmentsl

We have not found such things in the past and it will be difficult to find them again in the future. How can these [conditions] be gathered [again]? It is difficult to provide the causes; it is difficult to gather its features; and [even finding] an existing example for this is difficult. We have thus obtained what is difficult to obtain, one time now. What is difficult to gather is gathered

नहरानायदे सरमाया ग्रमेराष्ट्री मुखाया कुषायर्थे निवेदाय हुण यन्द्राह्यन्यर् हे व्यन् रद्योग्यन्द्रम् वे वियन्दर् दर्जेर्रानायदीयदर्जनात्र्याकुर्जेयायायायादिरासेन् देवाकेवायदी वर्ष्ण्यात्रभार्त्रसेन्यात्रमात्राम् वित्तर्भन् हेन्द्रमायःवर्दे वर्ष्ण्यात्रम् ग्री: दर: वा:वा:क्रॅर: क्रॅर्न अर्-डिवा:रे:रे:ववर:सः पोरसः सदे:हेर: वश्चवः योर्नेट-नर्वोश श्रेट-र्से याट-व्यंब-डे-व्यंब-डे-ट्र-रवा बॅट-स्वश बॅट-वी कॅर्नपा होरास्त्रा क्षेरासे खेतर्नो राखेतर्नो राख्यात्र राक्षे के वर्षा वर्के न ने वर्ष के सम्म ने मेर मर वा विकास के निवास के नि म्.ह. तर्म ज्ञेष्य अधिकासका भ्रास्त्री चर्से यान्य भ्रास्त्रा भ्रास्त्रा स् श्चिरःचर्याः ग्रह्माः स्वत् इ.स्ट्रिरःचश्चित्रः याद्याः स्वतः चश्चित्रः याद्याः योश्यात्रमाय्यात्रम्भा द्यार्भ्रम् यो स्थाया स्थायी मार्थिता स्थायी मार्थिता स्थायी मार्थिता स्थायी मार्थिता स्थायी मार्थिता स्थायी मार्थिता स्थायी स्यायी स्थायी स भ्रे.सर्चा यसप्रस्त्रम् स्थानी सामित्र क्षेत्रम् स्था यावय मीसाने । नशः ग्रामः ना वा विष्यानः श्रिष्या वा वा वा विष्यान् विषयान् विष्यान् विष्य भूग रेस गहेस इसस या हीं दान गदा में दाया नहीं ना दाने हेत्र<sup>-</sup>रेहेत्-रेर-दे-द्वाप्यः ह्येंद्र-च-हे-हेत्र्यः चर-द्वार्यः द्वार्यः द्वार्यः नकतः इंसः लटः स्रेदः नरः विषाः भ्रेतः ह्वार्यः न्वार्यो ह्यः वर्ते रा नर्सेस्थान्यतःसह्याःस्र्रेटःसःदेशान्यः वोदान्यान्यः नद्यान्यः नद्या

[now]. What a pity it would be if we let it be squandered. What was squandered in the past is already done.

For the little time that remains, it is appropriate to take advantage of it day and night. What a pity if we do not. Cheating ourselves, spending day and night rendering our life empty, what a pity it is! What difference is there between us and the one who throws a sack full of gold dust in a river? We are cheating ourselves

Having obtained such [a perfect human body of] leisure and endowments, how can we waste it? Having obtained such [a rebirth of] great value, how can we waste it? Having found such things which are difficult things to find, how can we permit ourselves to just hang around? We must deeply shake ourselves up so that we do not have any distractions in every instant. It is time to take the essence of it by any means. It is the time to make the jewel perform the function of a jewel.

It should not be just a thought, thinking repeatedly, "We have to take the essence of it", while life runs out. We have to put it in practice this very day. [Question:] How should we take the essence of it? [Answer:] Being wise does not help. Meditating does not help. Also preserving the nature of mind does not help. Meditating on channels and winds does not help either. Recitation also does not help. Just avoiding a life in the lower realms also does not help that much. Accumulating [merits and exalted wisdom and] doing purification only also do not help that much. How can other acts be more helpful?

[Question:] If one thought, "What can we do?". [Answer:] We have to strive to gain any experience with regards to the three principal aspects of path, śamatha, vipaśyanā and the

दर्जेर-वर्भेष्रयाम्यार्वेर-तुःक्षेर-याःक्षःतुदेःन्वादःवःख्र्राख्र्रानुरावः द्यादर्हेर्द्रश्च वर्ह्याचा श्रीदाचा श्रीका प्रदेश ह्या वर्षि वा स्निद्र हेया है। रे.यध्ये.तत्त्रेय.त्यं भ्रम्याय.क्ष.यट.तत्त्रं.य.क्ष.मी.तटश्राम्याय वर्नेवरकेदेर्श्चेर्यं अभिभायदेरह्या अप्योत्। द्वेर्भेवरदेशया सूत्रा होद् यः त्रूरः दः हे र र नादे हीं र र से से अपने दे हमा अपने हो है र य। र्यादर्श्वेरश्चेर्द्वरतुःस्टायमार्धेर्नुसम्बन्धर्वेस। सेप्या र्ने.कैट.सूर.सूरकारा.कैर.विषा.क्षा.वुचा.चर्नेट.वंबा.टब्सू.रवी षब्सूय. म्.क्ट्रट्रम्भ्यादह्सम्भाषमाण्याम् स्ट्रान्ट्रा याव्रमायाः सःश्चर में रावे अर खेद र वे श देर तु से ख स से र वे र र वे र वे र र वे र नश्चनःनर्ग्या नयःवर्ग्नेरःवक्कःनयःयःनर्द्वयःम्हिःवर्द्ध्यःवर्द्धयः न्वीय। ने प्रमास्यास्य स्वान्य पर्से मार्थिय प्रमास्य स्वान्त्र प्रमास्य बेन्यर बे देन्यर पर्देर महिंग हु रेन्। किर हु रेन्। वके हु रेन् र्ने । ने : व्यापक : वर्ष : क्रिंशः अपित्रं पात्र विष्यान्य मित्रः विष्या हिन्

दक्षे.चर.दंश.सदु.क्युं.सक्ष्यं.चक्युंन्यक्ष्यं.त्यक्यं. सर्राद्रां.त्यातक्षे.क्येय्.चार.व्येश.क्यं.चक्यं.प्रेशं.त्यक्यं. दक्ष.चर.दंश.सदु.क्युं.सक्ष्यं.चक्यं.व्यक्ष्यं.त्यक्षं.

two stages<sup>14</sup>. Now we have to make the promise to gain any experience with regards to them, day by day. Also, it should not be only a promise, but we should ensure that we get something done [day after day].

The conclusion of meditating on the [perfect human body of] leisure and endowments is to promise saying, "I will definitely take the essence of it". When there is clear joy in oneself from meditating on the [perfect human body of] leisure and endowments – like that of finding a jewel – it is a sign that one has developed the experience of recognizing the leisure and endowments of [one's perfect human body]. And when there is a sense of loss in every instant, like that of throwing a bag of gold dust in a river, it is a sign that one has developed the experience regarding the great value or meaningfulness of the [perfect human body of] leisure and endowments. When one thinks, "The example and the meaning are assimilated", it is a sign that one has developed the experience regarding the difficulty of obtaining a [perfect human body of] leisure and endowments.

#### The experience of [meditation on] impermanence

While we have the jewel of the [perfect human body of] leisure and endowments, we have to be very careful with it. If we stayed just for a short while and left [this body], just like somebody who came to the human world for a show, it would be identical to friends who separate after their gathering at the market. We should reap its benefits before passing the loan into others' hands. We have to accomplish our wish before losing the jewels to others' hands. As the [perfect human body of] leisure and

<sup>14</sup> the generation and completion stage

यानेवाया न्यानर्ड्यायायक्के. योन्यन्तुन्देवे वे विवास मह्र्याया स्थया ग्रदःसबरःयाक्रीयाया भ्रायुःयायाः ग्रीःयुः भ्रुःख्रयः यद्यः युः भ्रूरः वर्द्धसः वयःग्रेनेयाय। जुःरेदेःसुःर्जेग्यायःसःवळःचःचख्रवःसःत्यायःसरःस्वारुः योज्याया तसवायाराः स्मूरः स्ट्राटः स्यः स्ट्रीः चलेया वया व्याचा

<u> ने निवेद नु निया ने के अप मिल्ला म</u> ग्रम् स्वर्ष्य स्वर्ष्य से विषय से प्रत्य स्वर्ष्य स्वर्ष्य स्वर्ष्य स्वर्ष्य स्वर्ष्य स्वर्ष्य स्वर्ष्य स्वर् क्षे.भूरी खु.य.त.क्र्.मू.र्यी.यभी.यथीयश्चारःश्वासय.र.क्षे.भूरी सहे.ये. इसरायवियानार्भातकर्द्ध्यः क्षेत्रायाश्वरायीनायक्षेत्रः यस्त्रायास्त्र न्भःमङ्गेन्याचेनाः स्त्री सुनः र्वेनः द्वायः स्वायः स्वायः र्वेनः उदायर-र्-नश्रुद्व-वेटा। यञ्चर-विवेश्य-स्ट-र्न्नर-वश्चुर-प्यदा। श्रे-ह्रम् राजाचीयः धेर्याश्वासम्बद्धारामः अवसः योजीयाश्रा क्रूशः क्याः स्थारा स्थारा बर.र्टर.र्यट.बर.य.ब्य.लट.ब.अर.ट्रे.क्रंर.ब्रेंर् अट्रेंट्र.ये.क्र्य.क्रंय ষ্ট্রবা বন্দর্শ বিদ্যানীন মীন্ত্রীন প্রান্ত্রীন ক্রমের বিদ্যান याने प्यान्यक्री नासी ह्मा यदी न्यान्तु स्वान्य प्राची वा नासूची प्राचीया मुर्च। ययरमायम्नि मिषमाचीयाम्भ्यमाष्ट्रप्रामुमा वर्गेरश्रासदी:क्रथ्याचेर्वा:ग्राम्थी:क्रिंग् रदावी:इवाधुवा:ग्री:क्र

endowments will die or cease, we have to put effort [in taking advantage of it] before it perishes. If we do not do like that, we without having any steady control over it – will have to give it up without delay; we will have to throw it away; we will have to die.

Furthermore, death is certain, the time of death is uncertain and when dying, nothing other than the Dharma will help. There are three reasons for each of these threel.

# [1] The three reasons for death being certain [1.1] The Lord of Death will certainly come and nothing can avert the conditions of death.

Even the Buddha who had obtained a vajra-like body passed away after living eighty human years. Also the arhats15 who attained the state of immortal nectar passed away in the end. [For example,] Maudgalyāyana had to pass away after his body was chopped up like reeds. Śāriputra, unable to bear the death of his friend, passed away before [him]. Āryavibhūdatta passed away by consuming a pap of ashes. Likewise, tens of of thousands of arhats passed away and in the end, only five hundred arhats remained. And now, not even one of them is alive.

Although Nāgarjuna lived for six hundred years, it did not help: he is not here now. Asanga also lived for 300 years, but it did not help; he is not here. Santaraksita lived for 900 years but it did not help; he is not here. Also when the panditas were living, they preserved the doctrine by explaining, debating and composing, but none of them is alive now. The mahasiddhas demonstrated many amazing signs of accomplishments. Although [these

<sup>15</sup> arhat (Skt.; Tib. ব্যুপ্রইম্বর্ণ, drachompa) — name given to the ultimate result of the shravaka yana and pratyekabuddha yana, which differ in terms of realisation and qualities. Alternative translation: foe destroyer.

यदःश्वः स्रा श्चेतः यन्त्र क्षेत्र स्राधः स

५:रवःश्रॅटावेशाधाः कराकरार्थे । श्रुंग्येटायेटा वटाये हें। ररायदरात्रासराद्दराकुःने सेन। ने प्रदाविषा हे क्रिसासेन प्रसराद्दरा वनाक्रिता देख्रान्याक्रिताचा क्रिताचा वर्क्किताचा वा वह्नामाया ग्रेन्यममात्रे सेन्द्री भ्रिव्यम् ग्रेन्यममासे दर्ग वर्ग्नेन्वदर्ग्नेन्वर्याक्षेत्र्य वहेग्रय्वदर्ग्नेन्वर्याक्षे वर्षा र्यवाश्वः वर्ष्णया स्टायक्षः स्वः सस्त्वे स्वेशा वार्वश्वः विदः सरमायदे भ्रेट में वामार्चे र स्वामाया वाहत माया है ने र स्वा ग्रे.च.च.च.च.च.चीन्। म्रेन.कन्यन्यस्योप्यस्यायः व्यक्ष्या । ८.कै.चोप्रट.चाकूर.चाकूर,चाकूर,चार्टिक.धेकु.चचा.चोट.चचा.का.बीचा.चीट.ची. वनमान्ने छे प्यम्सेन्। ने प्यन्ते नुमाने निमान माने माने माने प्रमान माने प्रम माने प्रमान क्रि.लूट.ट्री १५.५। अ.श्रु.चर.श्रूषश.क्षेच विष्ठु.च.चश्रूष.बचश. mahasiddhas] had control over the four elements, in the end they passed away without showing [any] signs of [power or] accomplishments regarding impermanence. The Dharma-kings [in Tibet] possessed power and influence quite securely, but they ultimately also came to the same end.

In brief, the fact that none of the kings, ministers, subjects, entourage, scholars, adepts or the gurus and disciples of the past is alive now is also due to their being under the control of ignorance. Even the kings, ministers, subjects, entourage, scholars and adepts, the great gurus and disciples of the present day who fill the entire [area we know], will not live forever - not even one of them. Our own root Guru, the object of our memory; our benefactors, friends, brothers and so forth, have become non-existent even while we have been alive. This is what will happen to all of us in the end. So this will definitely befall us as well one day. The news is shouted around: "Somebody died in the upper valley" and "Somebody died in the lower valley" [and so forth]; and that turn will come one day to us.

There will definitely be a day when we say, "He or she is now about to die", and the family around are in despair. They become sad, weep and become busy. This is also what will come to us in the end. This will definitely come to us without any doubt. When it happens, what can one do? What sadness, what regret, what fear – yet nothing can be done [at that point]; even if one is sad, there is nothing that can be done. There is nothing that can be done even if one is full of regret. There is nothing that can be done even if one is afraid.

The breath becomes shorter. The moribund also knows that he or she is about to die. It is the time to leave forever the heart-friends and material things that one cherishes and

हे सूर ग्रुक ग्रुट हीं टान के स्त्रु बिट के प्रहेगक तर्दिक हा सुक सुक र्यवाश्वास्त्रेयाश्वास्त्रार्ट्शःश्वास्त्राच्याः स्वा हु:सहेन्। न्ता श्रेनाचित्रा अत्रकः वित्तावा श्रेतः हे क्षश्रास्त्रवा अति। लूर्तानरायाकुष्रकार्यराष्ट्री कियाकार्त्र्यराज्याकार्यर्थे अथा केरा ही. व्ययः नहें व व रेयः यम में नाया में व वे । । न न न में नाया या में व व सी । दक्षे.य.ज.धे.यदु.कॅश.सब्स्र.ब्र्स्.रचीयोश.यङ्ग्योश.खीयोश धेश. चया.सीयोशा दक्षु.क्षेटश.सूर्याश.सुर्याश.सर.यक्षेश.धे.स्वा.धे.सूर्या. वर्भारायदराने व्हानु विवारेशायर देरारेशासूस्र नु नर्से सादारेशायर र्वेग्रथः व्याप्तेत्। स्राप्ति स्रापति स्रापति स्रापति स्रापति स्राप्ति स्राप्ति स्राप्ति स्राप्ति स्राप्ति स्राप्ति स्र श्चेरप्यः क्षें प्रद्रमान्दाने हिन् हेमा प्रवेत् प्रवेत् नुभानी मान्या प्रसार दिता सिर्जु.र्रे-प्रिट्रे-प्रिया रराय्ये स्रायाया स्वाया स्वया ला.कर.रचा.समामयर.चषु.र्भा.लेचा.रमान.षूर्ता रे.सूचमायकु. चतः इसामानञ्जस्यामाना चार्त्राम् न्याना विदाना वर्षेत्राभूनमा दर्नरः न्नुद्रभः हे : नर्झे अ: दर्गे अ: श्री । श्रे : ह्न ना : प्रदे : ह्म अ: श्रें द्रि स्व अ: श्रें : वरुन्त्रदेन्त्वत्राण्चेश्वत्र्रम् । इत्त्रम् स्वर्त्ते । श्चर हे.यममाना यादर केट्री जिमाना कर मान्य हा विस्मर्क किया ही. मिला क्रूटामहैयातर्थात्राचरीया भुटि। वृज्ञ्यासाञ्चया ल्या प्रेया प्राप्त

holds in esteem. One has regrets regarding past actions. One is terrorized by the fear of the lower realms in the future. In the present, one is oppressed by intense turmoil and is totally hopeless, yet there is nothing that can be done. Hey! There will be [a day] when such a moment will definitely befall us; think about that without becoming crazy.

In case one does not develop any experience [of meditation on death and impermanence] and is not afraid of it, regardless of how much one has tried to meditate on death [and impermanence], then one should [do the following visualization] practice as if one were actually in the process of dying: lying on one's back, the breath becoming shorter, [the voice] becoming hoarse, having stretched eyes, [experiencing] difficulty of speech, being surrounded by beloved ones, leaving testament, wailing and so forth. If one did this simulation as if it were real, it would definitely be beneficial.

If that still brings no progress, go to the pillow of a moribund and observe well how their breath becomes shorter, how they are miserable, the way they die and so forth. And if you go back to your room and meditate thinking, "Such a thing will definitely happen to me as well", there will definitely be some progress. There will definitely be a time when one's body will be called 'the corpse', or 'the holy corpse' and will have the name 'the deceased one'; a time when our body will be carried away to the cemetery, where one will look toward the lower realms; a time when the people left behind will be anguished due to deep depression.

There is a series of meditations on the aspects of death, such as those in the outline that one follows, but when it is the moment to develop the experience of it, one can recall them

य.जूर्य। श्रुर.र्थ.र्र्या.योषा ज्यामा.भषा.ध्रेमा.भषा स्र्वेत्य.र्थतः র্মুবা,বাপ্তা,পুরা,বাপা বলপা,এই,এইবা,বর্ষুপা,পুরা,বিশ্বারা ऍटा नग्रःविकासे ह्नायका नहिंद्या हे दुका सुका ग्रहा हे दुस्ते है र्ने । ने नुस्र त्यस र्से ना ने नुस्र त्यस दिन्न समा ने नुस्र त्यस नगद ना ने नुश्रायश्रासूना मार्वे मक्कु से नामाने नामिन मार्ने मार्ने मार्ने मार्ने सामान दूर्ट्र। वि.य.श्चेर्र्ज्य। अवयःत्यःवयशःर्याशःर्रः वयाःहरः ह्याः वयाः क्रिन्यायाने त्यायव्यायवे वयव्या विष्णा होन् क्रायम् यववा । इवाया वयाः लर.मुरी र्य.क्.सर.यवया.ट्रे.पर्य.बुवा.मु.स्ट्रट्य स्थ्रम्यत्रेत्र्यम्यः डंअ'पर से 'वळर 'न' परे मो न' से न' मार पे न के निकार में न श्चेन्यर्नेषाचेन्यायरे स्रोव्यान्यान्यः श्चेत्याये स्रवस्त्रवा धेवायये ह्याया रेरी ट्रे.र्थ.सर्थ.ययु. वयश्चिताराक्षेत्रस्थ व्याचेराक्के. यथा व्यापाक्षेत्रः इशनःश्वरः में पेता श्वरः में दे भीता में में र में र भीत में । पदी भन क्रेन्न्नारेशःसर्देरःनदेश्यन्वर्विद्याधेत्।

[already] at that moment and one should meditate on them. This is an explanation on the melodious versification of experience with regards to impermanence. Applying even such a spoonful of essential practice at this moment and thinking about it, is of great significance.

Everything we do – a job that we finish or not, a court-case that we win or lose, business that we close or not, deals where we make a profit or not, whether studying or not for knowledge, whether we are well or miserable, whether we do good or bad, whether we are in a high or low [position], whether we have power or not, whether we are promoted or not, whether collecting material things or not – is concluded by impermanence. [Everything] is put to an end by auspicious impermanence. At that time there is nothing that anybody can do. There is nothing that is more sad than that, nothing more dreadful than that, nothing more difficult than that, there is nothing that can be worse than that; such a thing will definitely befall us.

Knowing such conditions where these worst outcomes will definitely happen to us – forgetting about finding a solution to remedy the situation, not even thinking about it, forgetting to think about it, not even having the concern that such things might happen – [such behaviour] shows we must be [totally] foolish; what is it otherwise? If we were not crazy, what is it then? Who else can be more foolish or crazy than this?

The fact that we still show an appearance of being happy is a sign that we are the most foolish and crazy. Be mindful of doing something now, in the present, which will be helpful when that time comes. If one does what one is mindful of, then one is clever, smart and capable.

The explanation up to here pertains to the outline: the Lord of Death

द्र.य.पकु.च.ट्र.त्र्र.चर्ड्यचा.घचर्याक्षे.लूट्र.ड्राची चर्ड्यचा. मदे-दर्ग-वरुष-सर्दे-त्यराम्बुद्य-मधूर-वर्गम् दे-सुन्।मश्राम्या-मश श्चेत्रावेश्वराने नुश्चाये वेत्रावक्षेत्राने नेश्चायम् वेत्। नर्ह्सेना बयकाः ग्रीटाक्षेटाक्षा प्राचित्रक्किः वाटाल्याः क्षेत्रक्षाः व्यवस्थाः व्यवस्थाः व्यवस्थाः श्रुयान्। होन् कुः पेन्। पक्षे नाने स्थार्दिन नदे वन्य हा कुः सेन् स्थाने स रुषायहेनाषाञ्चनाः से निष्यायदे व्यवस्तिना हो नुसुर्धित्। ने नामाधितः व.रमासहःक्र्याचीरासालीया क्रुमामीलयःमानीयाचिमायः र्रमारमास यवा यव य प्रेचा परिवासी भी के राम स्वादकी प्राया हो दि हो दि से सकें न बास से पर्वे निवे नाम प्रमाणिया है पर्वा विवास निवास करें सर्वायरे यरे यरे सम्माने निष्क्र मान्त्र वित्या मान्य वित्या स्वया स्वया स्वया स्वया स्वया स्वया स्वया स्वया स नवित्र यना यो त या तमी या ना र श्वन हो न र में न हो न हैं र हो न हैं र हो न हैं र नमसानिव नमसानिव ने निक्स स्वाप्त स्वाप्त मिला निक्स वेद्रम्भ्रम्भः पारापदापदा यादाया यो वार्वेदा क्रुं के ही सान माही न विषा नुःदर्जे नःदर्भः सम्भूः नः से व्यन्त से स्वयः के रः दक्के नः से : इत्रायः व *ॱ*श्रृपाॱधेत'ः स्था दिने रहें दे । दिने श्रुप्त विषय । त्राप्त निष्य । त्रुप्त । त्रुप्त । त्रुप्त । त्रुप्त । will certainly come [and nothing can avert the Lord of Death].

[Question:] Is there a way to turn away the Lord of Death when he comes?

[Answer:] There is no method to turn him away as mentioned in Lamrim<sup>16</sup>. Think about the fact of there being no method to keep him away, as mentioned in the sutra using the metaphor of the four unstoppable mountains coming from the four directions. That is the moment [to recall the phrase]: "A hill that is falling down cannot be held up by a rope".

[A question in thought:] "Well then, death is sure to come but if there isn't any method to stop it, there [really] is nothing to do. What a burden! What can be done?".

[Answer:] There is something we can do. Although there is no method to keep death away, there is a solution for us not to be frightened at that time. If asked what that solution is, it is to practise the holy Dharma. If one has practised a true Dharma, this will definitely help at that time. This will be the only thing which will be beneficial.

It is like the proverb that says, "An excellent Dharma practitioner would escape death. An intermediate Dharma practitioner would not be annoyed and a lower-level Dharma practitioner would have no regrets". Therefore, make a decision thinking, "In this last part of my life, I will definitely practise it". Just as the mental decision that has been taken, one should be able to put it in practice in everyday life as much as one can.

<sup>16</sup> Lamrim (Tib. वाजा देखा), 'Graded path' — the step-by-step approach to the Buddha's teachings set out by the great Atisha in his most important work, Lamp for the Path of Awakening and subsequently adopted by all schools of Tibetan Buddhism, but especially the Kadampa and Gelupa schools, notably by Lama Tsongkhapa in his most famous work Lamrim Chenmo or 'The Great Exposition of the Stages of the Path'.

नेन र्वेतकन्स्र स्थाय स्था र्वेतकन्द्रिया द्वा द्वा स्वाप्त स्था वैर.य.ष्ट्रे.शुदु.षि.इंश.ल.क्षेयो.ल.क्येयोश्वातश्वात्वयःत्र.पुरी २.वु.परः ब्रुट-रट-वीश-ध्रुवाश-भुद-व्हुर-राज्ञेश-रत् दे-द्वर-राज्ञेद-तुर-तुर-राज्ञ-शः स्यान्त्रेत्रान्त्रेत्राक्षेत्रयान्त्रेत्र स्वायान्त्रेत्र स्वायान्त्रेत्र स्वायान्त्रेत्र स्वयान्त्रेत्र स्वय नु:चन्द्रःबेश्वःयःवदे:नुश्वःदर्गेश्वःश्री ।वदेःष्यवःक्कुःश्रळदःन्द्रःशेःन्दः। यर्ने व्यथः मुं अळव वाहे अया द्ये र व व्यव्या अवे व मुर या वे या र्सेनाराष्ट्रराचनाराण्चे कुरेरासेंराधें राज्या श्रुवानिवान द्वा निहेश तङ्ग बन्:सबदःयःब्रुगःसःसूनःहेःसःग्रेवगःसॅनःग्रेवःसॅनःग्रेवःस्टे य.ज.पेया.यीया.वृह्ता रेतुर.य.योगर.तर.यी.य.रेया श्रूयोशा.केर. याश्चर मुश्र मिश्र मार्च वा प्रदेश प्रदेश प्रदेश मार्श्वर श्र स्थे नश यासून। नदाने हैं सामाडिया सेंदायहि सासेंदा पके प्राची सामासेंदा श्चर् भ्रेनशः श्रेशः श्लेनः दूरः रू.। । मरः में रळ्टः श्वरक्रेः नद्गाः गा श्वेनः हेशः योश्रीत्रायाः व्याः केत्रायाः भाष्याः भीषाः भीषाः भीषाः भीषाः भीषाः विष्याः भीषाः भीषाः भीषाः भीषाः भीषाः भीषा यार्श्वरम् सेन्द्री ।यन्यास्यार्भः याङ्गः वाङ्कः यहुः चहुः यहुः स्वयाः वयाः हस्याः न्वायःन्वायःष्ट्रमःवाद्यशःग्रमःवार्थनःक्रुमःवस्यस्य दःवनेःवदेःवीः भ्रम्यश्रम् देनविवर्तुःस्टः प्यदः दृष्टे भ्रीदः सर्देन दयः सर्देन सर्केरः सर्नेन सेन् सर्नेन सुर सर्नेन हेना सर्नेन सुर सर्नेन निका If not, we just think, "I will practise, I will practise", and while thinking that, life passes us by without actually practising.

Although we remember again and again to practise the Dharma, there is nothing more sad than postponing the action of practice to the next life. The majority of people, for the majority of the time, do not recall impermanence. Therefore, if we were to follow the talk of these people, we would ruin ourselves forever.

Just observe the way we ruined ourselves in the past. In the past we were not mindful of the Dharma. And even if we were mindful, the practice did not take place and that is because we always followed the talk of those people; whereby we are still left here. So now is the time to twist ourselves like an iron wire. Guru and Deity, bless us to be able to practise like that! The [proverb] that says, "Let the uncatchable vajra of the ten innermost riches take place first", is required at this moment.

This preceding explanation is the first reason for death being certain.

# [1.2] From here on follows the second reason: [the remainder of our lifespan diminishes day by day without our having the possibility to add to it]

Just as [the quotation from a text-source says], "For example, the threading of weaving ...". Although the threads [on a loom of] weaving are long, [the weaver] entwines one thread, then a second one and [so on until he or she eventually] comes to the end of it. Similarly, we too end one day and a second day and so on until we end up at the day of our death.

[The same unspecified text source says,] "For example, those

वक्रे नन्ना नी या ना से ना स्कून कु मेन में ना सु न ने निर्मा न से निर्मा न से निर्मा न से निर्मा न से निर्मा न ररारे प्रक्रे निर्वा मिले हारे प्रवा कि से निर्वा से निर्वा प्रक्रि नन्ना नी । ति न तर्नु । न तु र अ न तु र अ न त अ के । न त अ । य ने न । र अ । यो न र्दे। विके निर्मानी मि निर्मान्य में निर्मान निर्मानी निर यदे हैं वि.स.स्ट.श्रव विश्व वि.श्रट सर विश्व विश्व श्रीत है है । र्रेटार्ड्रेगाः हुः ननशाय दुर्गाया दे । नाबेव : दुः दुः यर । दंश वर्श वेदः कुः धेव । श्रुवामित्रे प्रकेषाने प्यानित्र मित्र . इ.स्ट.र्या क्र.पट्र.<sup>क्रिय</sup>.स.क्ट.सस.पक्र.यर्या.मी.र्थर.रे.<sup>क्रिय</sup>यश.यश. यान्य्रित्रम् वेरावना द्यायया भिक्तर्य राज्य विद्रावी ने प्रविद्रात् रट.रु.लट.वोशूच.सू.वुर.विवा.क्ष.रुटी किल.अकूवी.वश्रेज.वबट.की. मक्रुमा भुमानमान्या विवासमानमानमानमानमानमानमान यर्वा.वाश्वेष.इंदु.वॅट.२ं.वट.इल.क्वेश.वक्वेबा.चन्ना वार्ष्य.सू.च्रूर. लट.एकु.चतु.लम.कुर्य.कम.पर्या विभावयाम्यूर.मर.पहिट. रादुःब्रूटःकुंवायदेःक्रुंग्व विशाद्या बुद्धःवगृवःक्रियाग्रीःहेःसश सेः ह्यातकः नार्विः शेः र्सून् रह्न् नार्देन्या विक्तः नवेः केः स्वाने हे व नविवः

to be slaughtered ..." Having already taken the first step, they take the second step and [so on until] they reach the place where they will be slaughtered. Similarly, we too end one day and then a second day and suddenly we reach the place where the Lord of Death will kill us. It is certain that we are all to be killed by Yama, [the Lord of Death,] exactly like sheep to be slaughtered who will be killed by a butcher. [If] the sheep to be slaughtered thought, "Although I eat grass on the hill, drink water and live joyfully, I will be killed in the end", it would have no time for happiness. Similarly, no matter how much we pretend to be happy, relaxed, elegant, capable, smart and splendid, one day we will enter the place where we will be killed by the Lord of Death. So, do we really have the time to be as happy as we pretend?

Just as the sheep destined to be slaughtered are caught in the hands of the butcher, so too are we always caught in the hands of the Lord of Death. We are the prey caught in the mouth of the Lord of Death; it is only a question of when he wants to bite us. So, being caught in his mouth, aren't we really crazy to appear as happy and relaxed [as we do]?

Just like a job we had previously planned to do gets done after some time, eventually also the death that we believe will come after some time will truly befall us one day. What can be done at that time? If, in this life, we run non-stop toward the presence of the Lord of Death, we will indeed encounter the Lord of Death one day. To say that the sheep to be slaughtered is alive is quite difficult; there is actually no difference from it being dead. Likewise, it is also quite difficult to say that we are alive.

Regarding this point, the Victor Kälzang Gyatso, [the 7th Dalai Lama,] said,

सम्सम्सम् स्रोत्राचा हित्र याहे या स्राच्या स्रोत्र स्रोत्य स्या यह स्राच्या स्रोत्य स्राच्या स्रोत्य स्राच्या स्रोत्य स्राच्या स्रोत्य स्राच्या स्रोत्य स्राच्या स्रोत्य स्रोत्य स्रोत्य स्राच्या स्रोत्य स्र दूर। विश्वाविष्टश्वातिष्ट्रम् हि.ज.चर्ड्स्याववश्वराचना इर बद्राचर्नियाववर्षाण्यदास्रोदाद्दी विवायवियादे तदार्वेदावरादेशावादे । र्शायम् प्रतिक्रिं मानियामानियामानिया है स्तर्भा है स्त यर व्रु.स.क्षेत्र. चुर्य. चुत्र. यथ्या व्रु.सक्य. यश्याया स्त्र मदिः पार के भाग्ना के ता से दान माने भागन महि । देशःसरःदक्केःनरःनशस्रशःदशःदेःनुशःसदःसदेःक्वेशःग्विदःसःवेगः लया. जुर्जात्र स्थान्य दर्न वदर न्यार्के अ हो न र्ने हो न र्ने दे रहा न स्था मधी न स्था की न स्था मधी न स्था की न स्था मधी न स्था की न श्ची स्थान्याक्रियां इस्याचे स्थान्या हरावन्य स्था बेना मिले सेन सम्बेन नसस्य नुस्य ग्राम्य सर्व से से महिना हेत श्रु. व्यूट्यान्या ट्रान्युटा वर् प्रही वर्ते वर्त्या श्री वाया स्थापिटा निःस्वानीयासीर्कं वत्। सून् र्वेत्र व्हें रावर् रेव्हेर्वे स्वान्य स्वर्थ सेरासेरा स्रुव-र्रो-रे-चन्नवायानयम् ज्ञेयानायसम् स्विन्तुः क्रेन्याने स्वीतान्यस्य क्षेर्-चिश्वानकु नदु हुव झू नर्ज मुश्वी सी नि निश्वादकूर क्षेर्य सी सीर.

"After being born, we run toward the Lord of Death Yama in a race without having the power to last even for an instant. Therefore, although we say, 'We are alive,' we are actually on the highway of death. How sad that we appear like a criminal who is being taken to the place of execution!".

And [also] Thukän Chökyi Nyima, [the 9th Panchen Lama,] said,

"Impermanence and death do not stay over there; rather, they come closer and closer. The remainder of the lifespan that we have gets further and further away. So a day will come when our body and mind will separate".

Just as they said, forget about a method to overcome death; there is not even a remedy to delay it. So, if it is definite that such a thing will come one day, we must practise a true Dharma as of right now. Guru and Deity, please bless us to be able to practise like that.

## [1.3] A sure death without having the time to practise Dharma even while being alive

Having thought that we will definitely die, if we do not ensure ourselves now the practice of a true Dharma that will help at that time, it will be sorrowful to spend our life simply saying, "I will practise. Yes, I will practise", without actually practising it due to a variety of distractions, even during the short time we are alive.

When we are small, we do not think of Dharma. When we are old we cannot practise it. When we are an adult, we would not practise it even if we remembered. Even if we thought of practising it sincerely, at night we sleep, during day we chatter,

ज.धे.सी. वर्षा विरायीरात्र मार्थिरायी वर्षा क्षेत्र क्षेत्र प्रमा बर्'सदे'क्य'बर्'लेवा वियानाश्चरमा इर'बर्'न्यर्यं स्रोत्रास्त्र दर्न प्यतर हो न केंद्र से न प्रायदे प्यश्र क्षेत्र में प्रायदे प्याय है । श्चे त्र ना सूर्या सूर्व हो न व्यवस्थित स्वान स् वे.च.य.कु.यवया.रट.केट.य.कुता वरी.वह.याड्या.कूर.रटायेड्रेश.कूर. न्नुशाद्यास्त्रीयः प्रदेश्विदः स्मृत्यायादः हेन् देवा प्रस्तिया नियो नियो वरःवारःक्रेता व्रम्भायोदायावारायदीयाचीतःत्वीया ह्यासीतःत्वा श्चेरिर्चित्रपालेगानु सत्य प्राणी । श्चु अळंत्र गश्यापायदे पळे नर नर-देश-पति:कुः सळ्तु-तुःतुः दुर्गेशःह। यस-देशः ळेतु सें यश्यकः नः इव्रायदे हिं हे हे तु विवा व ही दार दिया दिवा हो विवा व ही वाया हुना यार्ड्यास्रीत्रायम् प्रहेषा हेत्रस्त्री स्रोते र्देत् साप्त्युनायम् प्रकेषा स्राप्ता नश्चन-नर्ग्र अन्य-नशुम्यन्य न्या नेयान्यन्यश्चन नुः वहेना हेन् स्तुः यदेः र्देवःसःवज्ञुनःसरःदेशःसरःवळ्ळेःनःनङ्गुनःसरःज्ञुशःवश् देःषःङ्गुनः flatter ... and we exhaust our life only in distractions, such as being in commotion, walking, sitting and so forth.

On top of already constantly wasting life in that way, there are times when one is extremely busy without interruption due to having been given a good name [or title], whereby one does not even know how the day has gone by. With such a way of existing, the month finishes, the year finishes and one's whole life finishes. In that way, one does not notice it until the day when one dies. When dying, even if one has regrets, it is over. Milarepa said,

"Twenty [years of life] is over without thinking of practising. [Another] twenty [years] is gone with the idea 'I will practise'.

More than forty years is over with the remorse of saying 'I have not practised'.

This is thus the biography of an empty life".

Nothing is sadder than not having the time to practise even during the short time while we are alive. We are the ones responsible for not having the time to practise by thinking, "There is no time to practise [Dharma]". Now, leave extensive activities behind, postpone the small ones and find any moment to practise [Dharma] by separating oneself from one and another commotion here and there. Try to find any number of intervals to integrate oneself in the practice as much as one can.

It is the moment to take the maximum amount of time during the day and month [for the practice of Dharma]. There are many scholars who say that this third point does not really fit as a reason to prove that death is definite and it does seem to be so. However, we do not take these three points together simply to prove death as certain, but rather we take them as a reason for

त्रेन कुं अळव गशुया वहेगा हेव स्री अवे र्नेव सावगुन यम वया वळे देशः सेद् न्वस्तु न चुर् न्चु शन्त्र श्रदे । या क्रु सळ्द्र न्वा शुस्रः सेवाया नयस्य स लुया ट्रे.क्षेत्र.य.चाजूय.यहु.क्ष्.लट.क्ष्र्य.ची.क्ष्ट्र.ज्राट्य. त्र्य. त्रक्ष. बेशनवे कुं अळं त प्यट न श्रुव न्यु व हेवा हे त खें अवे रें त अ व ग्रुव न पर देशासमायके नदे श्रुमा हो मार्गि श्रामशा वक्री मार्गि संदेश हैं। हे प्राम् विगानभ्रीन्यावेशयदेश्वर्ष्ण्यात्रेत्राच्यावदेन्यान्त्रदेशः । व्यापके देश से नृःग्री मुर्ग सक्त न्दर्भे । विक्व निवास लट.वंश.ह्रट.क्षेत्राची ह्रट.चंदु.र्थ.क्षट.ह्यास.सूरी रट.ह्यासर. दशस्त्र-दश्यः त्रुशः ग्रामः में तुनः नमः त्या वर्षे दशे नमः विष्टेशः वर्षः वर्षः वर्षः वर्षः वर्षः वर्षः वर्षः र्ज्नाचेर नदे रेश राशे प्रज्ञा राश ररा रेश दश पर्जे कें ना कें ना छे ना छे न न्वीं वा वर्षीं वाका है। ने तदा स्टा को दिंदा खूबा वा ने प्यादा के वा विकास वःसर्ग्वेषयाः संस्ट्रियः ग्राम् संस्ट्रियः सम्स्रियः वाने स्वर्षः स्वर्षः स सेन् वें वें वें त्यें व्यवें त्या क्षेत्र त्या हो वें त्या हो व्यव्या वें व्यव्या वें व्यव्या वें व्यव्या वें बोन्। ज्ञुःनःवन्देःवःर्वेदकःग्रुदःनेःनेदःस्टाकेःर्वेदःश्रुव्यन्तःनेःवदःदेवःवः येदःयरःवस्रम् देःषरःदरःस्विद्वस्यःदेःदेरःवक्कःवेस्यःस्विःव्यःसः ग्रीमायम् ने ने निष्ट्रान्य स्थापित के निष्टे नियामा से निर्द्धायान समा a certain death if we do not practise Dharma.

In the great Lamrim when specifying what kind of awareness one should generate when thinking about death, it is said, "It is not just a question of being afraid of death, but rather one should make oneself afraid of dying without having achieved something [positive] for one's future life". Therefore, the probandum here is to prove that we definitely die without having done something for our future existence, and for that there are three reasons. In other words, having taken the uncertainty of the time of death without having done something [positive] for the future as the probandum, it is thought that there are three reasons and so forth.

That being the case, the reason: "A certain death without having the time to practise Dharma even while being alive", is easily understood as the proof of the probandum: "A certain death without having done something for one's future existence". Therefore, make sure that one does not give up the root of the probandum: what kind of awareness that recalls death should one generate?

## [2.] The three reasons for the time of death being uncertain] [2.1] The first reason for the time of death being uncertain

[A lifespan in the southern continent, Jambudvīpa<sup>17</sup>, is already uncertain in general and, specifically, a lifespan of the kaliyuga time is uncertainl.

<sup>17</sup> Following ancient Indian cosmology, the Buddhist Abhidharma literature explains that there are an infinite number of worlds. Each world has at its centre a Mount Meru surrounded by seven oceans and seven rings of golden mountains separating them. Outside are the four continents and eight subcontinents (two out at sea, left and right of each of the continents). We humans live on the southern continent called 'Jambudvipa'. This entire world is then surrounded by the outer iron mountains.

न्नेंग ने प्यर क्रेंब नु के नावब क्रें नु र क्रें न क्रेंब र केंब इससाइम्बिटानसम्। दे र्रा वी स्रेट र् रामान म्यानिया प्रवट दे वड विषार्भ्यातुरातुः अधिरानदेशे स्थाना स्थाना निष्णातुः सुन्तः के से सामित्रातुः ८.के.धू.वर.२.८वयम् यक्ष्या हूरकी विक्षम् व्यालर श्री. ब्रुन'यर'वळे'अव्यन्तुंदुंदादाठे'द्रम दाक्षुंदुं नेरा दाक्षुंतुर'वदेवया न्व्यामान्त्रीत्रामान्त्रीत्रम् हेर्या हेर्यस्थान्यस्थान्त्रीत्रम् स्थान्यस्थान् माख्यानु सा बन् प्रवृत्तान्य रहेश प्रकेषा है रिया से न प्रवृत्ता ने प्यता नःक्षःनःक्ष्रःक्ष्रःक्ष्यः त्रुरः वर्षुरः वः वदेः ययः वर्षे वयः वर्षे वयः वर्षे वयः वर्षे वयः र्श्वनासान्द्र। ददेःस्थानासादन्नेन्यसान्तेःस्त्री देःदर्देःदहेन्यसा क्रेवःक्रेवःसक्रवःतज्ञयःसेनःतज्ञयःवःस्प्राःस्प्राःम। श्रवःयःचन्यायः यन्त्राक्षात्रात्रदे त्याक्षेत्रकात्रात् वदे त्यास्त्रत्याके त्याके वा दास्त्रात्रात्र होन्दर्गेश्वरासीत्रत्या यहेग्रशक्तरनेयः दिन्दर्भः स्टासीर्वेद्रया मःसेन्द्वायानस्या विष्परादेशामःसेन्यम्दिता नेष्परार्क्केतुमःनु दॅरा द्धररेशसेर्-र्वेर्यस्यर्थेशयःवर्षेष्यश्चेत्रस्यस्य लर. देश. शेर. श्री. सर. श्रीया. पश्चीया. राष्ट्रीया वक्ष. या. श्रीयश र्वेदःवसःगदः बुनः डेगः नर्वेदः से खुनः नस् दर्वेश विः दसः वेदः गहनः यान्त्रः क्षे प्यतुवा दे है अ हो न प्वां वि प्रांत प्रांत

[Question:] If somebody thought, "When will the big fear, the so-called 'death' come?".

[Answer:] The time it will come is also not definite. Although we actively move up and down, we cannot be certain that it is not the time for us to leave this very night. Having not been given the appointment that tells us to come [on a particular day], we have to get ready to go ourselves.

[Question:] If we thought, "I suppose that it will not be that fast, will it?".

[Answer:] That is also not sure.

[Question:] If we thought, "Even if it comes quickly, will it come this very year?".

[Answer:] That is also not certain.

[Question:] If we thought, "Even if it comes this year, I suppose that it will not come this month, will it?".

[Answer:] That is also not definite.

[Question:] If we thought, "Even if it comes this month, I suppose that it will not come today, will it?".

[Answer:] Contemplate that it is also not definite.

Furthermore, right from the start, the thought, "I can die this very day", is unfathomable to our mind. Therefore, we have to think gradually about the way we are uncertain about not dying this year, this month, tomorrow, the day after tomorrow; finally coming to today or even right now. Moreover, let us recall the first time that we saw or heard about the abrupt death of another person, and reflect upon it. Let us imagine that situation and reflect that there is no certainty that such a thing will not happen to us.

Alas, what a pity, if – while enjoying ourselves – our breath became blocked, our body-heat withdrew and we died without

even being able to make will and testament! Alas, what a pity, if while enjoying ourselves – we were to be buried in a cemetery now! There is no guarantee that it will not happen. It is not only that there is no guarantee: it will definitely happen, although the time when death comes remains indefinite.

Furthermore, what is there to be more afraid of now than this unexpected death? Worse than this? More disastrous than this? Think about this great terror that is close to us day and night, inseparably behind us all the time! Shouldn't we do something beneficial right now? Think about the fact that we do not have any certainty that such a great terror might not come right now. This [great terror] will also come to us at an indefinite time. It can come suddenly.

Being suspicious of its indefinite arrival, we should also prepare a flexible strategy. We have to escape in whatever way we can before death arrives. When it is going to come is uncertain so we have to react accordingly. If it comes now, there is no certainty that we will not go to a lower realm. We should make sure that we do not have regrets and think, "Even if it comes now, it can indeed come. [I am ready]".

The time of its coming is indefinite because, from today on until a hundred years from now, we do not know when it will come. It is better [for us] if it comes after some time, but we cannot even foretell whether it won't come today or tomorrow. What would we do if it came? This indefinite [Lord of Death] in one way seems to be at a certain distance and in another way, it is very near to us. If it were near, we would not know [where]. It may come suddenly. It can come even right now. [However,] there will be an actual moment when we will go through different kinds of fears and mistaken appearances, sufferings of tormented

<u> चुशळ्र द्रशत्र द्रेवशचेत्र द्र</u>ा दे दे दे दे दे तुर स्पार वी यशक्त दग्रेयानविदादे ग्रेन स्प्रांत देवे:क्वॅद्रायानुस्यदेनसानुद्राद्र्योसानुस्यायासोससान्द्रा देयदाविषाः ररानी र्ह्मना मुन्दर से प्रतास के ती के निया प्रतास के ना *॔*ढ़ॱतुरःयरःरदःवीःमदःयशःधेव। ढ़्रांस्रेंतुःबुरःवशःब्रिरःद्वीशःसदः। ने त्य की वा पर में भी की पहुंच पहुंच र से के कि प्राप्त की वा की का ने ने देराचरावीशायमार्चेदादशायराद्गेदार्चे अपन्तु पूर्विशाचुरावायरा ने प्यतः विवास्तर वी विवाह प्राप्त के विद्या है। विद्या विवास विवा षरार्दे त्वार रहाया के विदान विदान है हार है अपना नाहा विदान है क्षे.ब्रेच.का.लम.चर्चन.व्या.सम.कारशाक्ची.साचीयायपु.मू.स.न्येम.वकु. न किं से दिर नदे गरेर हैं र है जिंदी बुद में व कु र र व के न द ग गहे थ शुःशः भेग ८ १ हा कवा शेर १ हा तुर सर द्वेत त्वा रहेर स दिर पदे पर नेरावक्के निर्मिक्षे वेरानि निर्मेत्र के स्मिन् निरम्भायर यह ग व्यार्ने वृत्र वृत्र कृषा हु सा हु सावदे में साया यक्षे ना वि से दिस्य दे माने सर्हेन डे.लूरी ट्रे.बेय.केत.के.र.तकु.य.वाधुश्र.श.र्म.श..नेश ट्रे.बेय.केत. क्रुं.र्टर.ष्ट्र.ही.स.चीहेश.श्रे.कं.सु.चेश ट्रे.चेय.सर.हेतायश.सर.ब्र्याय षरःषर्याक्तुः यात्तुरः नविः में रः देरः वळे नः मिं से वेरः नविः नदेरः हेरः body and mind, afflictions of unbearable and intense feelings.

Therefore, if we do not aspire right now for the future and liberation, it is not certain that we will be able to endeavour tomorrow. Even if we close the day saying, "I will do it tomorrow, tomorrow", it is not sure that we will live that very tomorrow. Whatever we can do now is of real benefit. When it comes suddenly, we will have to go naked. Therefore, we should concentrate our energy right now. It would not help if death comes first and Dharma practice comes later. Therefore, we must practise right now.

People within our own [living] memory: important people, lamas, friends and so forth have suddenly gone, leaving everything half-done. [For example,] let us imagine that we make hundreds of plans in the morning, we die at mid-day and the time comes for us to be buried in the cemetery; or we make hundreds of plans at mid-day and we may suddenly die tonight without having the time to realize them tomorrow, needing instead to be buried.

There is no guarantee that such a thing will not befall us. [For example,] we walk to the hall to do a puja<sup>18</sup> or go to a private home to do a puja, and there are many cases where people need to be carried as a corpse upon their return [trip]. So, there is [likewise] no guarantee that it cannot happen to us right now. There have been many cases where people put on clothes by themselves one day but others are needed to take off the clothes from their corpse the following day. There is [also] no guarantee that such a thing would not suddenly happen to us.

What guarantee and certainty do we have that this will not happen to us tonight? What assurance do [I myself] have that death will not suddenly come before I stand up from this session

<sup>18</sup> ceremony

इ.लूरी शर.<u>ष</u>्यात्रात्तरमा<sup>क्कि.</sup>रेटाउक्क.यायाध्रेत्राश्च.श्च.त्रा त्रार र्<u>व</u>्यायासार्यसञ्ज्ञासायाद्येयासार्वे स्थान्त्रास्था हिन्द्रास्था स्थान वर्षास्त्रसः मुख्यानदे नर्दे रावके नार्दे रात्म सर्मे वा वर्षा सर्मे वा वर्षा सर्मे वा वर्षा सर्मे वा वर्षा सर क्ष्मिश्रासदे नरानेरावके नार्देरायम नात्रस्था स्थान्या स्थाने स्वाप्ता क्षानित्रम् देरावक्षानार्देरातम् देर्नित्रम् मुक्षान्यस्यायदे नर-देर-दिर-दम् अर-अर-व्य-देर-देश-य-व्य-अर-भे-द्र्य रर-वर्षायासहस्राचेर्द्राद्यान् द्वाराक्षेत्राचार्येत्राचार्वे हेस् सक्त्रासेन्यम् प्रकेष्मन्याची। विष्यून्युनस्त्रासकेष्यासनेनायाः देशना हे भेर्पे । निः क्षानिः क्षानिः प्रके क्षुः मान्त्राविया स्पृत्र विदर्भन्य मे रक्षामानेया वक्षानरहेयासदेषस्य हींरक्षेत्रास्तिन्त्र वसानेगा सम्राज्यात्रावक्के मेशासूस्रायदे प्रमेशालुस्रास्त्री माने रहुमावस्त्रीत्रा है वर्दि वक्के निर्मि ने ने निरम्प के निष्म के निष्

वस्ति स्वार्थ निष्ठ हुन देश से स्वार्थ स्वार्

that I am starting now? We cannot know whether the end of the session or the Lord of Death will come first. [For instance,] I go to the toilet over there now – what assurance do I have that death will not come to me before I get back?

I got up this morning, [but again] what assurance do I have that death will not come to me before I sleep tonight? We cannot know whether the chance to sleep tonight or death will come first. We cannot know whether the chance to sleep tonight or the next life will come first. What assurance do we have that death will not come before we get up tomorrow morning, after our sleep tonight? We cannot know which of the two will come first: getting up tomorrow morning or death. We cannot know which of the two will come first: tomorrow morning or [our] next life.

Can death come between the session starting and finishing? Can it come between the session finishing and not yet restarting? Can it come after getting up this morning and before going to bed tonight? Similarly, can it come after sleeping and before getting up tomorrow morning? Is there any certainty that it will not come after getting up tomorrow?

If there is a vengeful enemy with a sharp knife following us wherever we go, what guarantee is there that he is not going to kill us? If we are in the mouth of the Lord of Death day and night, what certainty do we have about when he will close his mouth? Even if it were confirmed that we can die right at this very moment, how would we know about it?

If we have gained an experiential realization of the certainty of death, pulling closer the fear and dismay thinking, "I will definitely die after some time", we should think, "What would I do if death came this very day?".

If keeping to tell ourselves [that the time of death] is indefinite

न.र्स.ये.वृचा.वैट.र्यटट.र्झ्च.क्ट्चा.क्ट्च.स्वर.स.स्टर। क्वें.सक्ट्य.चाहेश. यायके नवे मुंदास्य विदान सेंदायवे मुंदा कुरानसाग्रदादसायके त्यादेश मःसेन्यन्त्री वक्के नदेः क्रेन् भेनः भेनः स्वरः विदः। गर्भेनः पदेः क्रेनः भेनः *ज़ॖॱॹॖॸ*ॱऻ ॴऒ॔*ॺॱक़ॖॆॺॱॹॖॸॱॿॸॱ*ॲ॔ॸॱय़ॱॸ॓ॱॸऺॴॱॻॸॱॺख़ॱक़॓ॸॱढ़क़॓ॱक़ॖॆॺॱॸॖॱ वर्म्या वर्क्कः मे वर्षः निष्णा स्त्रा में स्वर्धः स्वरं स्वर्धः स्वरं दक्षे नदे नदे दें दें के खें द्वा दसमा में नदः दुः सर्वे करे कर नदस मान्ध्रानुदेशन्तुमान्ध्रावन्नुसमान्द्रान्द्रान्द्रसमास्रोत्। दे यबुष्र-री.पकु.भुष्र-भूर-रभर-तक्ष्यमानाःक्षे.येषु-रयेभाशी.पश्चमानाः षार्चेष्रायाः द्वाप्यास्यो त्यान्याः व्याचेषाः यख्रेय.स्.स.सं.तक्षी लका.य.स्.च.त.स्.य.सं.य.सं.य.सं.य.सं.य. वर्षार्च्च तुर्र तुर्वे वीव पर्वा राषर प्रश्र दर्चे हे पर्व विवासुरा दशत्व्यात्र्वाच्यरास्त्री चार्यास्यात्र्यास्यात्र्यास्यात्र्याः यालुरश्चर्भर्त्र्र्त्रभ्रवश्च्युं चिर्द्र्याचिवा है हि दूर्श्चर्भराध्या । वस्र १ वर्ष १ वर १ वर्ष योर्ट्रे राष्ट्राचेर्यं विदासदे त्यसामा पर्टे त्या मसस्य स्थापट्टे प्या सह्याःसःदिवः नदेः वेदः नुः त्रुः तुरः नुः से दक्षे नदेः देशः सः से दन्याः नः does not really help, we then - like a rite of enhancement without saying that it is indefinite, should check by asking ourselves a question: "What if death did not come here?". And if the answer came out even something like: "At earliest, it can come today or tomorrow, at latest it can surely come within some years", in a way that it is indefinite, then it would be a very beneficial rite of enhancement.

#### [2.2] The second reason for the time of death being uncertain

The conditions for death are so many; the conditions for being alive are very few. And most of these few conditions that we possess also become conditions for death. If these conditions for death also came abruptly, what assurance do we have that we would not die even today. If we found ourselves in the middle of something like a war where there is a rain of falling weapons, there is no guarantee that we would not die right now. Similarly, if we found ourselves in the midst of deadly conditions such as in a continuous blazing-hot wind, what assurance do we have that we would not die right now?

Although it is the time for us to die right now at this moment, we make plans and perform actions to live for many years without the slightest suspicion – and yet we may die suddenly. There are people who die suddenly, leaving half of all [their] work, food and drink. In addition, we do not know what kind of work that we are about to leave half-done [when we] go. We are distracted by many activities around us. And while we are distracted, it [death] comes suddenly and we have to escape by leaving all work half[-done]. What assurance do we have that it will not happen right now? Thinking of what we are working on at present, there is no certainty that we will not die suddenly

तर्ज्ञाः वीत्राः स्वेताः स्वेत्रः वित्रः वित्

र्श्वेनार्क्वेनाः हा दासूरम्या अरविः से प्रकेश हो अरवि से से वक्षे वेश बेर छे व्या के व्या वाहा के व्या वर दे है या बेर दें निया श्रुवा र्वि:न:व्र: व्यन्:न:व्र: ब्रेना स्ट:प्यन:न:व्र: व्यन्:न:व्र: सेन्-सर-दर्भे ग्रेन्-इनश्यान-प्यन्सेन्-सर-दर्भेन्-नतित्न-नु-दर्भे न्वीं य देवायानिव न्यां क्रिंग्व क्रिंग देश'य'सेद्। नतृर'वर्झे'दे'देश'यरार्ह्रेग्रथ'ब्रुन'यवे'देश'य'सेद'यश ग्रम्प्रियातकः त्याने स्थाना स्थानि स मःसेन् मर्भाग्यमः द्रसादक्के त्याने स्थानाः सेन्। चन्ना तक्के नवे कें साम्रह्म <u>५८:५ू अः क्रें ५:५े वा ५: पें ५:६ अ: या के ५:५ अ: या ५ अ: या के १ या ६ अ: या ४ अ: या</u> बेना नःश्लाक्षेरधेवःन्नःधेवःनविवःयनःनःश्लःननःर्नेःक्षेर्नेनःयवेःनेकः यसेत् देषद्वस्य सम्भित्रस्य सम्भित्रस्य स्वत्रस्य सम्भित्रस्य सम्भित्रस्य सम्भित्रस्य सम्भित्रस्य सम्भित्रस्य रट.लट.ट्रे.चादु.क्रु.ट्रेट्रे । क्रु.अळ्व.चाश्रुंश.स.खेश.स्वेच.धेशश. कुरावर्गाग्रहात्रसादके यादेशामासे दामादी रहा में खुर्या कुदे थु। न even before finishing it.

[We do not know] what food we would leave half of and die, what drink we would leave half of and die; we just do not have the guarantee that we will not die without even having the time to drink this pot of tea later. As a rite of enhancement, try to see if we are able or not to say, "No, I will not die [right now]", to the hypothetical question: "[Are you sure that you will] die right now or not?". If we cannot [give that answer], think that you should then act accordingly. He or she [or anybody] is there now, but they can [also] become non-existent now. We are [also] here now, but we can become non-existent now. We will have to leave with regrets without having any solution — leaving with fear, with sadness, with longing.

The time of our death is also indefinite in terms of not having the certainty of finishing the food that we are eating. The time of our death is also indefinite in terms of not having the certainty of finishing the drink that we are drinking. The time of our death is also indefinite in terms of not having the certainty of finishing the work that we are in the middle of. The time of our death is also indefinite in terms of not knowing the date and the time we will die. Even while we are a living human being now, there is no certainty that we will not be a corpse. Think of many similar things like this that you have seen or heard. We also have the causes to be just like them.

# [2.3] The third reason for the time of death being uncertain is also due to the fact that our human body is very delicate

Since our body is as extremely fragile as a water bubble, without the need of great harm, even the prick of a thorn can be the cause of death. If our body were solid and hard, it would be a little

क्षरंभेत्र. १, १३ स. कुर न स मार्वे र पा के तर्भे से पर में स पर के र स जुन यःक्षःतुर्याग्राम्यक्रेतित्वेत्। सुर्यायने श्राबेम्यविष्यायाने वार्षिनः व.९८.२च.चेश.क्र्या.क्षे टे.क्षे.श्रट.तर.वी.च.श्रुद्र.चवीयात्रवी क्षरःक्रेत्रः स्ट्रेंबः यह वा यर स्था वायः हे सः समिवा स्वीवा स्वीवा स्वीवा स्वीवा स्वीवा स्वीवा स्वीवा स्वीवा गुर्भे स्व है। रे र्न स्वार्मे न्या गुर्भे सम् रहेन विश्व स्वार्भ स्व स्व मेर्परादर्शे व नर्गामे खुराक्षिक्ष स्रुवाहर स्राम् स्रुप्त स्र न्त्राप्तर्से प्रहेवा प्रते रेश प्रासे प्रत्वा प्रश्ना सुरा हु र न्तर है या सूत्रा नुःनम्मा दक्के कें कें सम्यामान्य मानः मीमा ग्राम्सी सम्यानस्यामा वाक्कुः अळव नाशुस्रायम। वे रावे र सा ही र छो भासी सव र मही हे प्र इते र श्रेन:र्याःवयःक्टःशःक्रेःयारःश्रेयाःयःर्टरःश्रृयाःवश्र्यःयःश्रेःवहेंससःयरः कुंविनानार्सेना डे मुन नार मुन। नश्य कुं प्यर दे। ग्रेन कुं प्यर दे ग्रेन यरःब्रूटःब्रे। देशःवे प्रके प्रदे न्नूप्रशास्त्रः स्टायः हेषः प्रवृः रह्यः प्यटः सेः यव। के.च.मिल.मुंदु.मिल.चांचुंश.ग्रीश.ग्राट.श्र.तव। केट.च.श्रीट.मुंदु. श्चरक्रुवा वी अ ग्यार से अव रागर स्था नक्ष्य नक्ष्य । श्वेषा संवा संवा स्था अ चर्यायायात्र्याः विवासो स्वाप्तायक्षाः स्रो स्वापायाते स्वाप्ताया ৾ঀ৾য়ৢয়৽ৢড়য়৽য়য়৽ড়য়৾৽ঢ়য়৾য়৸ৢয়ৣ৽ঀ৾৽য়য়৽ঢ়য়৾য়ড়ৢঀ৸য়৽য়ঀয়৽

bit more resistant; instead, it is extremely fragile like an ulcer that could be injured even by the slightest physical contact. [In fact,] even if it were solid and hard, it would not help because, since even the mountains perish in the end and not even their dust remains, there is no certainty that this extremely fragile body of ours - which is like a water bubble - would not perish even right now. Therefore, think that we will definitely die soon.

## [3.] There are three reasons to think that nothing other than the Dharma will help when dying

#### [3.1] Material wealth and resources will not help

When that death comes, nothing will help other than the Dharma. It seems that all lay people of all categories – both of higher and lower status – collect material things as much as they can without any abstention from negativities and sufferings, thinking only of that and also acting only for that. Material goods will not help us even in the slightest [- they are only as valuable as a grain of] sesame seed - when we die. At the highest level, even the kingdom of a monarch cannot help; and at the lowest, the stick of a poor person cannot help either.

With so many hardships, we have always strived to collect material things while accumulating negative karma, and in the end we have to take the negative karma and leave the material things at home, which then will be taken away very quickly. Material wealth is only for others. So why should one undergo that much suffering and create that much negative karma for other people's material things? In the end, we will have to leave even our bowl. It is only a question of whether we leave it today or tomorrow. [Once we have died,] it will become only an object for the people to express their pity and sympathy saying, "Ah,

**ग्रे**:कु:र्राये वावव:ग्रे:कुंदे:र्रेव:ल:र्रायेश:स्वा:वर्थ:र्रा भ्रेनामाने उत्राज्ञ अत्वर्भा के होत्। मानास्तरामाने सम्बद्धा । क्रि.लुरी ट्रे.स्टाय्ह्या.स्टायर.ध्रेय.यह्या.क्षे.ये.लुर्क्या.स् धीर्स्र-मारेट्र हे साम्री स्थान है तात्र साम्री है। दे प्रदेश हुस प्र विवार्दे तुन अर विवाय उसाय से वेंद्र नदे वादे र है। वेंद्र मादे से युवानुःसुरु। स्टानसर्देसःक्षेत्रश्च संसाने क्षेत्रयानुःसुरु। स्टा न्ह्यात्राचराञ्चेनमामवे नुमाने विवासी देतान विवास के विवास व सुर न ने र त्या क न अ न परे ते कु अ न द र प र हैं न द र न परे न न स कु र क्षरायक्षेर्र्यायविराकुःसेत्। यह्वाकुःर्वित्यायेत्रायदेश्व्याकुःहिता याचेत्रपादि हे भेता कु विषा चुरावर प्राप्त में अविषा पर्वे वा पर्वे वा प्राप्त में प्राप्त विषा पर्वे वा प्राप्त में प्राप्त के प्राप्त में प्राप्त के प्राप्त में प्र में प्राप्त में प्त रे नदे द्यान हेत्यक्त से दायर हो दा हे हिन ग्राम दके दुर्ग है। त्रया किलामु. र्यटा क्रीटामु. याष्ट्रेशायक्ष . र्यशासिटा समाय र्या स्था र्देरःश्चेनशःरुशःहिन्।यरःयरुगःगय। नःरुः। गनःयःननःर्धनः ने त्यः श्रेवा मः स्ति । विशावाश्चारमा स्वरः निवरः है उद्याक्षे ना उद्या ग्रीशः भ्रेना पाळे प्रशादन श्रें रामी मिहेरा हे से रामुना के के खेला र्से स-द्रगाय यथा शुर्था शुर्था स्वरे र्दे द्राया स्वर से स्वी गानि स्वास स्वर हिना नश्चनःत्रभः हे हो न् श्चः सळ्दः नाहे सः सः नाहे दः न ले सः ग्री सः ग्राटः से स्वरः this was his bowl".

What assurance do we have that such a bad moment will not happen tonight or tomorrow? What assurance do we have that we will not leave the bowl in the human realm while we arrive in the bardo<sup>19</sup>? What assurance do we have that there will not be a time when we leave the bowl in the human realm and reach the hell realm? This is like the story of a bhiksu<sup>20</sup> in the past who was attached to his begging bowl. We cannot take anything with us, like in the proverb of the one rubbing stones<sup>21</sup>.

Why should we put this much effort into something that we will absolutely leave? If we have wealth, we work hard [even harder] day and night in the hope of achieving some power and celebrity; but even if we obtain them, what will they benefit us when dying? Is there any difference between a king and a poor man when dying? Is there any difference when they reach the bardo?

On top of that, it is like the quotation of a text which says, "The one with power has [more] negative karma". The more power one has, the more negativities he or she has created, whereby the depth of the lower realm would be greater. Why should we increase the depth of the lower realm as a goal of hardship during our whole life?

#### [3.2] Even friends will not be helpful

When such death comes, our dearest friends - like our own heart, from which we cannot be separated even for a short time cannot help. Even if we wanted to take them with us, there is no

<sup>19</sup> the intermediate state

<sup>20</sup> fully ordained monk (Skt. bhikṣu; Tib. হুন ব্লুম্বে ghe long) — a male Buddhist practitioner who has taken the fullest of the seven types of pratimoksha vows.

<sup>21</sup> It was customary among Tibetans to rub and polish a stone for years. Here it refers to having to leave something cherished behind.

मन्त्री ने प्यन्ति पक्के मन्ते प्रेंसन्त्रा भीता मुन्य के अप्लेस ख्रेस न्या प्र इटाबन्याटायब्याक्षे सेन्यदे महेन्यने अपदे न्या महेना मेश्याटा ररः वीश्वादित्यर्देन् ग्राटः विश्वाग्राटः दिविन्शासेन्। वि र्रे के दिर्वे नियान विवासिक व दर्ययः दर्गेषा श्रेस्रशः दर्शेरः नति तुनः दर्गेषा भ्रेना सिनः सक्तः सः ञ्चन्यायान्त्रेत्र, त्रञ्चत्यान्त्रीया ने नुयाने स्टाइना स्टाने न प्रविद्यास्य र्भ्भे कर रे स्र र दर्भ र भेर स्रेर हे र दे से नाम माने मा सर यायद्वेशायायद्विरायदेगयदेग्रायुरायां विवाहेदेग्यशायाववायरार्धेशा सवतः नर्भू र दशररर माडेग सुदे र्वेग सुर स्वात् र तर्थ के किया के स्वात् मा स क्रूंट:ह्रेर:चवेद:दर्ग्र,ट्र्म्य:क्रुं:रेट्र्य्र्ट् हेर्ट्य:ह्रेर:द्र्य वश्यायः ख़ॖॴॻॖऀॴॻॖॸऄॎॱय़ढ़ॱग़ढ़ऻ॓ॎढ़क़ॆॱॸॱॸ॓ॱढ़ॕॸॴॹॣॸॴज़ढ़ढ़ॱढ़॓ॎॿॱ व.रीश्व.रट्रे.लट.रडिंग्र.रेयट.श्रेर.तर.रीशी योख.कु.र्ध्यायम.ट्रेंग्र. श्चेनअ-नुअ-खुअ-ग्राम् सेन्यम-र्जेअ-स-हेन्यसेन्यस-हेत्यस्त्रम्। नश्चुमः ह्या ग्रापेर हेर्नु व ग्यार मु: इत्र अंतर हेर्नु अंतर हेर्नु अंतर अंदर व र हुर् र्या. दे. कुट. हे। ब्रिट. यु विश्वा राष्ट्री हे. पर्ये ता गीय ग्री शाग्राट सर्वेट. य. १ व. मी अ. भी . बुर मी मी . बुर प्रायय अ. श्री मी स्थाप है . श्री स्थाप है . खेश। रट.चर.ट्रेर.क्षेचश। खेश.वट्टे.श्र.खेश-रट.व्हरा रट.

place to take them. Even if they wanted to come, there is no place even for one of them. We will have to leave them unwillingly. We will have to leave them with a feeling of sadness in our mind. We will have to leave them with tears in our eyes. What a pitiful thing at that time! At that point, we will be saddened, and there will not be even a single person dear to us from the past. A large number of terrifying servants of the Lord of Death, whom we have never seen nor been familiar with, will surround us [while we are] alone to attack, and we will indeed have to bear the rattling noise of a thousand dragons as they beat and kill [us and others]. What a pitiful thing it will be at that moment.

### [3.3] Neither will our [own] body be helpful

When that death comes, forget about other things. We will leave even the most basic of things – our body – without any freedom to take it. The worst thing is that when we reach the intermediate state, we will not even have our body and due to lacking the support of our consciousness, we will be vulnerable and volatile; we will not be able to avoid even a fleeting distraction [without following it]. Meanwhile, our [discarded] body will be on the bed with flies flying around, with the stink of decomposition, becoming an object of vomit even for all our relatives, just from seeing it. The body is left in the human realm while one's self arrives in the bardo. The body is left in the human realm while one's self arrives in the lower realm. The body is left in the human realm while one's self has to leave with the negative karma that one accumulated on its behalf.

Such things will definitely befall us. Moreover, there is no certainty whether this will happen today or tomorrow. After [understanding that] death is certain and after [understanding that the] time of death is uncertain, the application of [the

दक्के'नर-देश'स'स'क्षुर-भ्रुनश'द्रस'द्वेना'दर्ने'द्र-दर्न'दर्नस' देशःश्रुयानान्दा। वयावक्षे देशायेनायाञ्चरः भ्रान्यान्। दृश्चान्दाः वज्ञवारेशासूस्राचान्या ने नित्ने तुन्ति के निर्मारेशान्य निर्मा है। र्या नर्यः इतः गिहेशः हस्राह्यः द्वेशः तः न्युषः नरः देशः सरः श्चैत्रश्रदेशःशुः त्रवाः क्रिनः यः नृहाः व्रसः वक्षः देशः स्रोतः नृह्यः वृत्वाः वृत्वयः इव.स.चार्रु ४.४४४४.श्रु.ट.५इ४.व.ट.के.ट.के.रट.टे.टशक.चर.श्रुच४ देशःश्रुसामायवुदा देशामा वक्के नादे वेदानमादेशामशादे सार्वेदा र्वेदः दुः के शाही दः यस्य वार्य वहा दे द्वार वेदः सूत्रा दः देशः सेदः धेदः नशःक्रूशः नः से हो नः समः वा नक्षा वक्षः नः ने ह्यू मः क्रू शः सः वा है वा शः याववरक्की अन्त्र स्वरूपका क्रिका विषय हो न्या स्वरूप स्वरू यव सिर क्रिय से राज्य के निव के सिर के सिर के मिन awareness of these] three [things] - no material wealth, no friends and no body will help us at the moment of death impacts us differently according to each case; therefore, it is greatly meaningful.

The [awareness that is] applied in the case of [understanding] death being certain, thinks, "We will definitely be separated from such and such". The [awareness that is] applied in the case of [understanding] the time of the death's uncertainty, thinks, "We can definitely be separated [from such and such] right now".

Likewise, when [the understanding of] death being certain and the mindfulness of experiencing sufferings in lower realms are integrated, we will be sure that we will definitely arrive in a lower realm. And when the two: [the understanding of] the time of the death being uncertain and the mindfulness of experiencing sufferings are integrated, the [awareness] thinking, "We could arrive in hell right now", would surge in us.

Hence, by [understanding that] death will definitely come, we will decide that we will practise Dharma beforehand. When thinking, "When will it come?", [we realize that the time of its coming] is uncertain. We therefore take the decision to practise Dharma right now. When that death [actually] occurs, nothing other than the Dharma can help us, whereby we should make the decision to practise only the Dharma.

From here onward,  $I^{22}$  do not have the continuity of oral transmission.

When we die, our dearest and loveliest friends, our wealth and possessions will be left behind, whereas we will arrive in the fires of hell with a great sense of sadness. There, we nakedly

<sup>22</sup> comment by the scribe, assistant Dondub Jinpa, who compiled the written notes

सहयन्त्रेम कुर्ने र प्राप्त निया प्राप्त मा स्ट हिर ह्या किर देश-द्युत्य-वदेःसे-दद-दुःश्चेवश्च त्युशःश्चेत्र-स्थ्वार्थःश्चेत्वाःवीःशः योषुर्यत्त्रो र्क्ष्या होत्। यश्यायम् यहेवाश शु. तुराय इसश होश सबयः नर्भे र वर्षः र र वाडे वा सुदे चे वा मु के र से र शे पु र मु से र रे মর্ক্রব্র-জ-য়ৣ-র্ক্রবাঝ-গ্রীঝ-বত্র-বাদ্ববা মন-রি-মুবা-বর্ষ্রবার-র্র্রি म्चन्यास्त्रेन् स्वर्धास्त्र स्वर्धास्त्रेन् स्वर्धाः स्वरं स्व षदः। वसःविनाःनेःवदःविनाःनर्देशःशुःश्चिरःनर्गिशःशुःनेन। नेःनुशःहेः दर्भित् वयावियावयावियाग्रयात्र्यराय्द्रित्रः स्टेंद्रास्ट्रयावादे स्ट्रित्रः वयायक्रेटालूटाज्यरास्त्राटाक्क्र्टाक्रियायक्षाक्ष्रीटाखेयायाःस्रस्या ५८। ने वर् श्रिम् से पूर्व शास्त्रे वर्ष निवान स्थापन होन स्वादन्त्रा म् । श्रीतः बर् वार्श्वरः सदः क्षेः लारः वक्षः तुषः सवः सदः क्षेत्रः भीवा हो दः ग्रीतः भे होत्। हार्केट प्यट से दाय दिन होते हो से दानी हो स योड्या.सी.पट्टी.क्षा.लाट.किटी.च्या.शी.षा.यथेट.यटा.पकु.क्ष्र्या.प्रि.य.ता. दत्रदशः वाशुअः वर्हे दः द्वीं श रदः वी :कें : ददे : इसः वाये दः बदः दे : बेदः दे.र्याय.र्याय.श्चेर.श्चेर.क्च्या.वी.रर.क.ह्याश.स.चेश रय.शूर.र्यंश.

roll around on a blazing-hot ground of iron. The terrifying servants [of the Lord of Death] isolate us and we hear the rattling noises of their various weapons beating us, killing us, cutting and chopping [our bodies]. Finding ourselves in that condition, although our sufferings are unbearable, there is nothing we can do. We have no refuge; we cannot die [quickly due to our karma]. And these sufferings for now are only imaginary. Though we think that this is not real, we will eventually have to undergo such things in real life. What will we do at that time? Though we keep saying, "Eventually, this and that...", there is no assurance that we will not experience this by this time next year.

Although we are living happily in our rooms this year, let us think of [the possible] way of experiencing suffering at this time next year. It is really time that we do something right now so that we will not have to experience such things. Moreover, for the short time that we are alive, we do not even practise a Dharma which will help us when we die. It is pity that we do not even have the time to practise.

So now, let us not waste even a single moment of today and strive by means of all three doors<sup>23</sup> to practise only the Dharma that will help us at death. In some way, we have completed this life with distractions of miscellaneous enjoyments, and we have not really practised a Dharma that can ensure that we do not go to a lower realm.

As a minimum, without even cultivating a mind that is content to have faithfully tried the means to purify karmic obscuration which is the cause of [a rebirth in the] lower realms, we have already exhausted this life. While having such powerful karma in our continua that will project us to hell, the fact of still

<sup>23</sup> body, speech and mind

वर्गे.यदुःयोर्ट्ह्यःसदुःक्ष्यःश्वीयाःद्वे.श्राद्यीय। वःयःरयःश्वारःयोःक्रुः यशःश्चेतःषेत्रःयःयःदेःश्चेदःव्यशःश्चेःतदेःदेशःयःवेताःग्रदःसःतुशःयदेः दरायाकें पदी वहा प्राया परिवासी का के प्राया के प्र र्रम् वर्दे रहा वी या रहा त्या अर्वे । वर्षे रा रहा वी या रहा वश्चारा अव । या रा लुषी स्याशूरानेत्वियाचीराज्ञीत्वात्रास्याक्षेरासाम्बास्यासाम्बारमान्या *क्षेट-५-५-५-पार्थर-५-६व-४-पविव-*ळगः येट-यट-धें गर्येगः नविव-५ शे कें नश्चमा दे तर्विना ने प्रमाश्चीं तुर प्रके न विश्वेन पेरा दे र्भाष्ट्रीं भारत सेंदायभाषर्या यो यो या भारत सेंस्थार्ट्या वर्षे स ने र्राप्तेन न्युत्य वर्षेन् भीत्वाय रेन नुनः वर्षे रेन ही क्रीन वर स्रे<sup>.</sup>सदे.दर्से.स.ट्रे.योश्वस.योध्य.प्रटेश.स्ये.यो.स्. वित्यः.स्येस.स्येता ह्यास. मर्भाग्यम् ज्ञुन वि । दे नाशुक्ष ज्ञी वम् वर्भ ग्रम्म नुस्य नम् क्षेत्र व हि द्वानुन भ्रु.वर.लर.ह्या रह्या.वर.वर्षव.वेर.क्र.वयायाया षा अष्ठअभाषा विविद्या विवासी ना विवासी विवासी भाषा विवासी दर्नरायराम्बरार्नुहेरारे प्रविदानुषायशास्त्रराम्बर्मा नेस्या यायाद्यास्त्रास्त्री क्रिंदालया ग्राम्यास्त्रास्त्रास्त्रास्त्रास्त्रास्त्रास्त्रास्त्रास्त्रास्त्रास्त्रास्त न्यायी प्रवस्य सुर्से प्रसे प्रसे स्था से प्रसे स्था से प्रसे स्था से प्रस

pretending that we will not be born in hell is an act of cheating ourselves. What is it, if it is not an act of deceiving ourselves? On top of not purifying the old bad karma which projects us in lower realms, we end our life still accumulating more new bad karma every day without interruption.

At a certain point of such a life, death suddenly arrives. Think whether there are other destination options than the lower realms at that time. The only destination would be that. It would be [the realms of] hell, the hungry ghosts or of the animals. It is confirmed that those three realms are our destination in our next life. It is established by scriptural authority and also by reasoning. Of those three, if we were born in hell, what could we do? It is also definite that we will be born there.

In addition to the karma which we have already accumulated since beginningless samsara, which projects us into hell without weakening it - we also create [more] new karma every day in this life, whereby it accumulates. The karma to be born in hell alone would already be like the heap of Mount Meru. So how is it possible that we will not have to experience its result? Within one hundred years, this will definitely happen. What will we do at that time? How will we be able to handle such unbearable sufferings?

Imagine our miserable state [at that time]. In the oral teachings [of past gurus], it is said, "We do not know which will come first: next month or the hell of unceasing torment". Just as it is said, there is no certainty of not being born in the hell of unceasing torment before the beginning of next month. Imagine what we could see if we were already there! Even if we have not reached there yet, we will arrive there without delay.

विवार् देशस्य स्थित। दे तुर्यार है स्ट्रूर होता स्वापस्य से पर्वेत्र ने पर हे सूर वर्डे न रर हे न हमा सवी पर रे र स्थाने से समा वयासुरायमाञ्चानाहेरासान्दासद्यासेन्यहिमानाराष्ट्रासीनेमा यश्रिम् मा ह्वा ना हे या यह र में मा के या वह र विमान विकास है त सबर्भेन्नुश्चेनश्चे स्ट्रिंग्यं देशाया सेन् श्चेनश्चर्य प्रमुन्य देश इंग होता ने स्रम्य क्षेत्रय ग्राम में में स्रोत्य के स्रोत्य स ळं र व तर्वे र सुन्य अ से र ग्यू र हीं र व अ हें र र र य अ व व अ हे । यर से र क्रेन नेशन नेव्यस्यार्थनर्वेन्चनशाचेनक्रस्योव्यवानुर्धेन्यवे भूनर्यायदेनायनात्वराष्ट्रेनान्त्रीय। ने प्यान्त्रेया उत्पानान्त्राची स्थान दर्रेन,चर्ड्रल,च.र्चा,र्चा,चू.र्च,जन्न,क्रुंचन्न,क्र्यन्न,क्रुंचन्न,क्रुंचन्न,क्रुंचन्न,क्रुंचन्न,क्रुंचन्न,क्रुंचन्न,क्रुंचन्न,क्रुंचन् *न्*गॅ्रित्यळें नानाशुर्यात्याश्चेराचनायात्रशास्त्रुनशानरें वार्ते। स्थायान्गॅ्रित सक्र्यानाश्वराद्गां सिव्या स्थाना सक्रिया

त्यः भेदः तुः स्वेत्रा वे क्षेत्रः क्षायदम् प्रदेष्वा स्वाक्ष्यः विद्या स्वाक्ष्यः विद्या स्वाक्षः स्वाकषः स्वाक्षः स्वाक्षः स्वाकष्यः स्वाक्षः स्वाक्षः स्वाकष्यः स्वाकष्यः स्वाकष्यः स्वाकष्यः स्वाकष्यः स्वाकष्यः स्वाकष्यः स्वावक्षः स्वावक्षः

Once we get there, we will not find any solution other than staying there and experiencing sufferings, even though unbearable. Hence, while we have the method in our hands to avoid that destination before actually going there, we should put effort into avoiding [that journey]. Furthermore, just as a criminal who entrusts his protection in a mighty saviour and tries to find a defender who is more powerful than his enemies, we [too] from the depth of our hearts entrust our refuge in the Three Jewels thinking, "You, Guru and Three Jewels, think of us and be our refuge". [With regards] to the feeling of having already been born [in the hells] and the feeling that one will definitely be born [there], it has been taught to think of what touches us most, but one should contemplate both. Furthermore, contemplate the former and the latter [feelings] alternately.

#### [Meditations on the lower realms]

It is important to meditate on the aspect of lower realms in relation to oneself. [For instance,] with regards to the feeling of having an extremely huge body like Mount Meru in hell and being sawed in half is very frightening. If simply doubting this is frightening, how is it possible that one would not be as frightened when it is clear [that one will be born with such a body]?

For those who are not afraid regardless of their meditation on sufferings, it is important to eliminate the obstacles [to realizing impermanence and perform some] enhancing rite [technique]. The enhancing rite [is the following note to oneself]:

You have no guarantee that you will not go to hell because you

राज्यःक्षेत्रःत्रः सहेनायायायायाः स्त्रीत्। सूना नस्यान स्त्रीयया ग्राहः से दह्वारायायाचीवारारोयाद्वरार्ध्वचार्क्चवायायाके। ह्यार्क्चव हिंद् न्द्ययान्यस्थात्र्यानदेशम् । विन्योक्तान्यस्था नर्हेन् नास हैन नदे हुन्। नर्हेन् नास हैन नर हन सें न हैन नर भ्र.वेश.हे। ध्रेय.सूरमाराम्.सूरवराजमाम्.सूरवराजमाना हे वान्यस्थानम्याद्वान्यस्य स्थानम्यान्यस्थानम् नुनानिवा यरासर्वेदार्स्रास्यायम्बन्धानु स्त्रीमानविदा हवारायवीति लटार्श्रराश्चार्श्वरान्त्र्यान्त्रात्रान्त्र्यान्त्रात्र्यान्त्रात्र्यान्त्रात्र्यान्त्रात्र्यान्त्र वनानी नुषानु रामानु न निष्या न सूत्रा वर्षे स्वर्था ग्री है। इ.५ वर्षे र व.र्रेग्राज्ञ.विर.तर.शर.त्र्.र्र्ययश.क्र्याश.श्.री.य। क्.य.रेर.रय. क्देरम्थलः भेटालान क्रिंदारान्टा बदशा केरावर्कें दार्या सदरा भेर्णीः भेष्वज्ञानिकानभेषानभेषान् भेषाकानभष्य विष्या देवा द्रमः भ्रवः त्रमः व्याः क्रिन् ने प्यमः में भ्रवः प्रवः प्रवः स्वाः भ्रवः नष्ट्यानक्षेत्रस्य पदे सह्वा हु न रेस रद सेंद क्रिंवा प विवा रेस पर युःश्रुवाचनानवन्। धरारवार्वेरानञ्जूववाग्यरावेर्षान क्रिया वसावियायक्रीयार्म्स्य हेराईयाः हुःचया देःचविवः दुःवसावियाः नुश्रुवानमाञ्चेनमान्यान्यान्यम् मुर्गान्यम् विष्यान्यम् । स्टाकुन्

have not attained the tolerance level of the path of preparation<sup>24</sup>. Without attaining the tolerance [level of path of preparation], the [door to] the lower realms cannot be shut. This is because all of a sudden you do a [negative] action which, if nourished, [will mean that] you will immediately be born in a lower realm.

[One of the eight hot hells<sup>25</sup>, known as] 'the reviving hell', is like a place where enemies attack [and kill one another]; again, every karmic seed they have gives rise to its own result. This is thus the sign [or reason to call it the 'reviving hell']. The [particular mark of] suffering in the reviving hell is that of killing each other.

Likewise, the mark of suffering in the black-line hell is that of being cut into pieces; in the crushing hell, it is of mountains [closing in from all sides]; in the loud howling hell, it is of a mass of people wailing together in an iron house; in the heat hell and intense heat hell, it is of being impaled on trees and being boiled in huge cauldrons; and in the hell of unceasing torment, it is of being burned by eleven tracts of fire and so forth. [Strive to] acquire the feeling [of those marks].

Decide clearly that this is not merely to feel fear about it. Instead, it is [to realize] that it will definitely come true. After meditating on the sufferings in the lower realms, make a decision thinking, "This time I will definitely make sure to avoid the lower realms".

Another enhancing rite for those who are not afraid, despite

<sup>24</sup> The path of preparation is the second of the five paths leading to enlightenment, after the path of accumulation. The remaining three that follow are: the path of seeing, meditation and no more learning.

<sup>25</sup> The eight hot hells are the so-called reviving narak, the black line narak, the crushing narak, the howling narak, the loud howling narak, the heating narak, the intense heating narak and the Avici narak

हेत्यदीयार्श्वेराशेनुस्यायम् वर्षा यदीयासनुस्य वाल्वायारी र्श्वेट्र प्रति स्वाप्त स्वापत स्वाप्त स्वापत स्वापत स्वापत स्वाप्त स्वापत स्वापत स्वापत स्वापत स्वापत स्वापत स्वापत स <u> स्वा नस्य वि. व. श्री मान में तर्वे प्रमान मान व्याप्त विस्ता स्वाप्त</u> वनानवन् मङ्गेन्द्रम्यावर्त्ते स्यापदाद्वर्ष्या स्त्रीनार्धेद्रम्यः यशिरमानाम्मान्त्रम्भा हे.पर्यमा हे.ह्म्या.ट्यूमा पर्हायापरी.टी. ૹૅૼઽ੶૱ૹૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢઌૹઌૹૹૹઌ૱૱૱ૹૹ૽૽ૢૹૡ૽૽ૢૹૹ૱ૹૢૢૢૺૺૹૹ૽ૢૢ૽ૢૢૢૢૼૢ न.र्जं.यी येचा.वय.रि.रंचा.राषु.र्ट्स्य.ज.श्चेचश.र्थं.श.र्ष्ट्रे.रा.र्जं.यी श्चेश. नायम्यानम्बर्धिनानम् नायम् विस्थानाने मुन्ति नायम् स्रेट्ट्रा टव्स्ट्रिंग न्व्स्ट्रिंग न्यूंया न्यूंय स्त्रिंग स्तिंग स्त्रिंग स्तिंग स्तिंग स्त्रिंग स्तिंग स्त्रिंग स्तिंग स वी बेद्रभ्वः र्वेद्रस्यदेः श्रेवाशः द्राः दे नशः क्रुयः वः श्रेवाशः दवाः तुः प्यदः वर्देव डेट श्रुनश र्स्टें या

यम् रायदे रायदा क्षेत्रा या क्षेत्र या त्री क्षा वे स्वा या क्षेत्र या विक्र या विक्

meditating on the lower realms: sooner or later, the words will come to us, saying, "It is time to die". Likewise, there will be a time when one will be afraid by thinking, "It is time to go to hell". [At the same time,] it is decisively sure that we have serious karma in our continua which projects us to hell. Determine that one cannot eliminate it on this supporting [body of this life]. If we cannot eliminate it within this life, determine that we will not have the possibility to eliminate it in another life. For that reason, further decide that we will not be able to eliminate it when the time comes for us to experience only such sufferings of the hell realm. Think of the statement which says, "There are also panditas and yogis who are born with a bad fate".

How does it help [by only making those decisions and thinking] like that? We have to eliminate that bad fate [of ours]. When this [alternative enhancing rite] is effective, it is like finding an escort in a frightening place by merely visualizing the object of refuge; it is like a criminal who finds shelter under a loquacious boss; and like the vivid joy of a child who finds a relative in an isolated forest. At the end of meditating on the sufferings of the lower realms, recite aloud a prayer such as [the following passage from Śāntideva's Engaging in Bodhisattva Behaviour]:

Petrified, with wide [bulging eyes, I shall search for refuge in all directions. [2.45cd]

But, seeing no refuge anywhere, I shall become utterly dejected. If I cannot find refuge there, What shall I do at that time?

[2.46abcd]

Therefore, from today I go for refuge]

व्रिमानदेग्वाद्याः भूवमान्द्राच्याः संस्थितः द्वीमा स्थानः भूतमान्त्रीः श्ची नदे सूना नस्य प्रत देना ग्यू र न वे र र र वे र र वे र र वे र र वे र र वे नमृत्यात्वत् ग्राम्यान्या सेन् सु सम्बन्धेन पार्से साम्यान्यस्य व.व.री.रच र.के.जुरायी.यूरायूरायायी.यायी.या.क्यायी. लपट. स्ट. ग्रीश श्वट. ट्रेंस श्वर शु. श्वरा शु. श्वरा श्वे श श्वरा वर्षार्श्वेन्त्ययान्दान्वदार् होन्तुया केया हो मिन्ने द्वा द्वारेश्वा ञ्चर-द्रि-रश्र्यात्राश्चर-छ्रद-बर्-प्रेश-सन्दे-र्न्या-छ्रद-स्रासेर्-सन्। सुर्श ग्री:वर्ज्ञे:वर्ज्ञाः क्ष्रःर्वेज वर्डे:र्क्ट्रेजा:उस:यर:से:सेश-पर्ने:च:रेडे: वैरालरामराजयालयालयारायधेवातरीय रयायी योध्यायहूराक्षा वृच लासालाशाज्यम्यामामहून्स्रीन्थासम्रात्नामान्स्यामान्स्यामा श्र्यायाञ्चात्रम् त्राचे स्वाचित्रम् स्वाच थॅव न्व मध्य उद्देश महेत्। मुद्दे द्यो अर्वे नश्य द्वं व केंद्र ग्यू र *য়े.*ॳेश.सर.सेश.टचे.लूट.चोश्च.ची.ची.च.च.क्ट.श.चोषघ.त.र.ट्यूश. संबुचा चुराव के प्राचन प्राचन स्वापन स्व ब.लट.रेट.लट.रे.श्रीट.रेग्रेश र्या.प्रा.शु.सु.मी.य.च.न.रंग.यंटन ग्रन्थ्या नर्षाने द्वारा स्थान स्थान

to the victorious [buddhas who protect migrating beings who who seek to give refuge to all migrating beings, and who, with their great strength, eradicate all fear]. [2.47abcd]

With regard to the suffering of samsara, [through meditation] we should experience the sufferings to such an extent that one sighs saying, "Oh, I hope never to experience this". If we cannot bear even one single suffering, how can we bear the experience of infinite sufferings? Think about the way that we are afflicted by different types of sufferings without interruption. As long as we are not free from this samsara, we will have to take rebirth again and again therein. In such a case, we have to experience the suffering of birth together with experiencing the sufferings of childhood. If it is that difficult to bear the suffering of birth even once when we are born as a human being, how terrible it is even to think about experiencing the countless and infinite sufferings, unless we have some safety of liberation from our own practice of Dharma.

Right now, with our developed power of intelligence and talents [regarding general] objects of knowledge, we know a little bit about what to adopt and what to forsake in any kind of situation. Physically, we are [also] fully fledged, whereby we are able to walk, sit and do other actions on our own. We understand the meaning of Dharma [to some extent], and we know virtue and negativity a little bit - that they are to be adopted and forsaken [respectively] and so forth. Without all this - forget about the bodily actions of walking and sitting – we would be only crying, merely moving our arms and legs regardless of any unhappy thing that happens, without knowing even how to roll over. Forget about talking, we would not even know how

वा भ्रुःगरोपराविराभ्रयादरायाहेवाम्येहरानुम्या षायादे।परा रे'न्वशः त्वः नः न्दः रे र्नेदः क्षः तुः न् ज्ञैनश्रः नृदः वि र्नेवाः श्रेः श्रृवाः व। स्रशुः बेन्-न्नः वनः वेगार्वे नः यः ने नयः क्रेन् नर्वो यः यः चुन्न ने के न्या न् वे वे नञ्जूत्रायार्ड्यायाम्हिनायार्श्केटाचनयान्वत् दे । आयार्वि स्टाया यदः बेन देन रूर अया महिषाया महिना या मिना मानव दे सेन हैं त य.र्टा व्रिश्र.य.यश्रष्ठा चीव्य.चीच्यी वि.सैची.सूचीश.की.रेची. वे अर नश हे व अळव प्रथम उर पहें वा राष्ट्रेर रे केंद्र र दें वा भारत यरःष्यः अत्रत्वे त्रः वर्षे त्रः वर्षे द्वा क्ष्यं वर्षे वर रर.ग्रेरी लर.य.ल.स.रचा.लचा.धै.सूर.यंश.रर.चाक्रचा.सेर.जेश.य. इ.मुरी रे.परंतुःर्रेग्.यर्जार्शास्याङ्ग्रीरारम्था शाश्चीराव्यशः बेर-धेद-हे-स्ट-इम दे-चिद्वेद-तु-हो-हो-हो-होन्स-तु-द-हो-द्र-ધો·5ુનાઅ:ઍનાઅ·વઃનિ:ર્ટ્સેઅ·ફે·ચેનાઅ·વ×·નઅઅઅ·૱·વફિવઃ के·ન×· ब्रूट:र्ट्र।।

to express the words 'papa' and 'mama'; we would not have anything to do other than weep regardless of any sorrow that may take place such as being hot, cold, being too full or too hungry. [At such a moment,] we forget all our past education. How would it be if we had to depend on others to perform all our actions of body, speech and mind without having even the slightest idea of what to take and what to throw away?

Furthermore, it is not only that it will definitely happen: if we are not free from samsara, we will have to experience this again and again. Even if we always take a human rebirth – which is considered the best – there is no way not to experience those [sufferings]. In the case that we were born as another being, without being able to take rebirth as a human being - for instance, if one is born as a calf of an antelope - the place of birth could be a dry wood on bare ground. The mother herself would also be an antelope, like a deer or a rabbit, whose shape and colour are unpleasant. How would it be to be without any strength and to be dependent on just another master? As a means to survive, the calf can only suckle the udder, nothing more; also the mother does not have other means. There are no friends except oneself [the calf] and the mother.

At the same time, there are so many enemies, such as hunters, children without any consideration, [predators like] carnivorous animals, eagles and so forth, whereby they [i.e., animals] survive constantly with so much terror, day and night. In particular when your mother goes out to look for food, how would it be if the above-mentioned enemies encountered you? Alternatively, if your mother were caught by enemies and one were left alone, how would it be? We would definitely have to experience such sufferings without any solution, alas!

म्नुम्यामेया ने प्रविदासे पृत्राया प्रविदासिया मेर षानेशस्वायायम्। नयाञ्चे नयः भ्रेतः भ्रितः भ्रायाः नयः यो स्थाः उतः म्रीः म्यार्थः ग्रीभाग्रदासी पद्मदाना भूगतुरार्वे ।देशासेससा उदावसमा उदासाधीदा देशःश्रुम। देःवशःद्वेवःदवःश्चेःश्वरःहेश। केःवदेवेःसःदरःश्रेस्रशः उतः लर.मध्रम् वर्ते.याद्वेश्व.ता.चिर.तर.यार.स्रम्बार.स्र्म्या.यहर. र्मन्यायाचे वात्रे प्रत्यायाच्या प्राप्ता स्थेर स्वाया के नासूय प्राप्ता प्राप्त ह्या ने निवेत नु पर्ने प्रदानिक मार्के पर्दे दे स्था स्रोति । प्रदे प्रदा क्यान्त्रत्राये प्राथा । यह व्याप्त विष्या विष्या विष्या । विष्या विष्या विष्या विषया । विषया विषया विषया विषय ग्रटः ह्रियाशः क्रुं याह्रवः व्यशः स्रोता वस्यशः स्टरः ग्रीशः सः यवः सटः ग्रीशः सः षारेश्वास्त्रेराष्ट्रराके। षरार्रा वीश्वाशास्त्रीयशास्त्रेरासास्त्रेशाद्याना बेत्। क्रुभारात्मान्यस्याग्रीयात्रीर्स्हित्यया कुःन्रस्थुरस्थिते क्रुभार म्यास्यास्य म्या ने त्ये स्यादे स्मान्या म्या स्यादे स्यादि स्वित्या दर्ने स्वायाप्यस्य हे या दानि दा मुन्यत्यस्य दे निविदा नु स्वाय स्वाया र्शेवाशवह्त्राञ्चेता ञ्चेत्याव्यारेत्रो क्रित्याश्याञ्चायम्।यारे

Similarly, if we switched ourselves to another rebirth of an animal or hungry spirit such as birds, hatchlings, dogs and so forth and thought well [about how it would be], it seems to be more effective [an experience].

## [Our mother sentient beings]

In the context of recognizing [all sentient beings] as our mother, we have had countless rebirths. Following that logic, could we have been born as an antelope or a deer? Think that we have definitely experienced it. If we experienced that, how many times could we have been born as such? Once, twice? Based on that reflection, think that we have definitely been born as them countless times.

Likewise, this understanding could be applied to other antelopes, other birds, worms, insects and so forth. Therefore, the rebirths we have taken are extremely numerous. Understand that they are so numerous that even the number of sentient beings cannot be enough [for making a comparison]! With this [understanding], think that all sentient beings are [our] mother.

Then, after remembering their kindness in general, the mother of this life and all other sentient beings are also the same in having been our mother. The ways in which they took care of us with kindness are also the same. Whatever difference we think exists between these two is to be applied in equanimity and reflected upon. From this reflection, the thought of [their kindness and so forthl is induced and becomes more intense.

Again, reflect on one's mother in this life and think that this [she] is the mother of this life. Similarly, if you think that somebody like this was our mother in a past life with respect to this life, and counting that somebody like this was our mother in য়ৢয়৵৻ঽঀ৾৻৸য়ৼ৻ঀ৾৻য়ৼ৵৻য়য়৻৻য়ৢ৴৻য়৵৻য়ৢয়য়৻ঽঀ৻য়ৣ৸৻য়৻য়৻ঀ৾য়৻ यरःवाःवःवद्दा देःरेःरेशःग्रहःसःवदःसद्यःग्रुशःयरःवाःवःवद्दः श्रुयान्यया ने नित्रित से समा उत्तरि से निते त्यु मा सा सुर्या है। ना येन इत्यायायात्यायात्यायीयायाळेन् हेयायायायाया नःक्षःतुःत्रश्रान्तेःनेत्रात्वेत्रःक्षुःनःग्राद्याःसेन्द्वाद्याः देनेनेत्रः स.यर्.स्यायासाम्यास्यासेर.प्रूर्यायाष्ट्रीय.यश्चरायास्याया के। यदा सम्मद्रमासेदाग्रदासेसमाउदात्रसम्भाउदार्मदासाधिदा र्दे भ्रुमान् भ्रेम्पायायायायायाया हे प्रतिदार्ग्यायायायायायायायायाया मैं.सर्या सद्र.समय.सर्ये, विवासमय.विश्वस्तरर्ये, त्यः मैंर.य. दह्या.यट्रे.श्रुषा सदु.ल.सघद.विया.स.स्रेटी ट्रे.स्रेट.य.स.स.सघद. सेन्'नम्'स'स'नुस'मदे'सेसम'उद'ग्डिग्'ग्रून'से'ह्रेन्'नम्'सेसम' ঽঀ৾৾৾ঀয়য়য়৾৾৽ঽ৾৾ঀৣয়৾৽ঢ়য়৾৽য়ৼয়৽য়য়৾৽য়ৼয়ৼয়ৼয়ৼয়৾৽ श्रुवा दर्ने र्रास्ट्रें न र्योद्देश विषय सर्वेश भ्रवश से यो हे दाया छ। यानुयानदे न्त्रव्याभूतयानु द्यायान्य स्वायान्य द्यायान्य स्वायान्य स्व साधिदाळ्यासी नहायी स्टावी सादी द्याया नरा सुनिसा दःकें:वदेवे:सःदशुत्रःवरःर्सेटःचःचित्र। सेसर्भःउदःइसर्भःवे:दर्मेशः

the past life with respect to the preceding past life and so forth, there would be no way at all to finish counting how many times she has been our mother. Therefore, if we also count the times she will be a mother again and again from now on, there will be no end. [Such reflective meditation] has the great attribute of inducing the understanding that all [beings] have been [our] mothers so many times.

Also, in terms of place, we cannot say, "I have not taken rebirth here [in this place]". The rebirths we have taken are simply innumerable. Therefore, we have taken a human rebirth countless times in India, for example. During the time of taking those rebirths, there were the mothers of those lives. So if we counted the mothers of those rebirths and so forth backwards in time, they would be so many.

In the same way, [we have taken] countless rebirths as human beings in the world: China, Tibet and so forth and on each of the other continents and in each of the trichiliocosms<sup>26</sup>. If we count the mothers of the rebirths of each of those times and so forth, the number is endless. Therefore, think that it is out of the question that all sentient beings have not been a mother to us [and think], "How could each and every one of them not have been a mother to us so many times?".

In the same way, we cannot say that all sentient beings have not taken such a body. Just as it is said above, "The rebirths we have taken are simply innumerable ...", if we think of the way that we have taken the rebirth of every single antelope (such as deer) countless times and [the fact that we] had countless mothers, [as explained,] "the mother of that [life] and so forth

<sup>26</sup> trichiliocosm (Skt. trisāhasra mahāssāhasralokadhātu Tib. র্মুন্ন্ব্যাধ্য tong sum) a universe of a billion worlds

श्रुमत्। वहूंनाना वासेन हो वहूंना श्रुमाता वहूंना कुंदे सेमरा उत् दर्न इसस ग्राम्य निष्य निष्य देव उदारे सिष्य निष्य विषय विषय वर्षिकामायदीत्वकास्रेदायावाचन्यात्वाद्वीत्वदीत्वस्यात्रभुद्वाया। यद्याः र-रेश-हेत्र-विहित्स्वर्गाद्धर-वर्-हेर्-स्वर्गादिर-प्यर-से-सेस्यान वे. वेद. पृत्रः च कर द्री विद्या प्रवित्रः द्रुयः चया प्रवे ः भूत्रयः चया पर्वे ः भूत्रयः चया पर्वे । यरे.य.सर्यं श्रींट.क्.रंश्रेस्या.हर्या ही श्रिस्या.हर्या ही र्योजा व्यायाधेवायाचिनाः व्याचेवाः व्याच्याः व्यायाः व्यायः व बर् अपूर्व विर्यात्विर यर विश्व अ. हे . हेश वया सद अपन्य तर्हर और देवॱळेॱनहपायादा यायेययाउवादने द्वययाग्रीयाप्तवयाभ्रानयाग्रीः सर्वे तर्रेव रायदेवे । दारेश देव गर्वे द्रारा व रायदा मान क्रेन्भ्रनसः यन्देनः सः नहनासः तः वितः हः चः कनः द्वा । सरः विसः भ्रनसः श्रेस्रशाह्य में त्रिया प्रतिवाद्य में स्वर्ग निवादित होता है वर्ष है स्वर्ग स्वर्थ स्वर्य स्वर्थ स्वर्य स्वर्थ स्वर्थ स्वर्थ स्वर्य स्वर्थ स्वर्य स्वर्थ स्वर्य स् नु नर्ज्ञेषा नन्ना त्या हेन नेन हि के ना ने त्यूर प्यारा वि रूट के शहर वनसःगहत्रत्रात्रीः हो न्त्र न्त्रा न्त्र ग्वीसः हाः स्रुवाराः षा सः ह्या निवि मुंचारा ग्रेट्य प्रेची स्वाप्य राष्ट्र स्वाप्य राष्ट्र स्वाप्य स्वाप्य स्वाप्य स्वाप्य स्वाप्य स्वाप्य स्वाप्य मद्रे वि.स.स्ट.चेड्चा सु.ल.क्षे स्त्रा क्षेत्र स्त्रा क्षेत्र स्त्र स्त्र स्त्र स्त्र स्त्र स्त्र स्त्र स्त्र धेर-र्रे-ध्रुयन्। रट-वाययाद्विन्त्रीयान<u>सु</u>ट्यायदे-देव-वव-रटान्वेनाः for each of those [rebirths]", it will be very effective [for our mind to realize itl.

Yet, if a thought arose, "although we had countless mothers, all sentient beings could not have been our mother", there is no point from which our rebirths commenced. Similarly, there is no point that we can trace back to find the starting point [of a first mother]. Therefore, there is no starting point regarding mother. I think it is easier to understand the [concept of beginningless life] if we associate it with a [hypothetical starting point]. The starting point of mother cannot be traced [lit. touched]. If this cannot be touched, the mother is infinite, whereby we cannot find even one sentient being who has not been [our] mother. Therefore, I think that [this way of reflecting] definitely leads us to the certainty that all sentient beings have definitely been [our] mother so many times. This definitely is the sharpest technique.

Also, [there is another question] in regard to seeing [all sentient beings as our] mother. If one thought, "We visualize the aspects of mother [only] while she has a human form; we do not think of the way hell beings have been our mother. Our mother can be born in hell, like [someone's] mother in this life who [has died and] has gone to hell; [so since we forget even these related beings,] what sentient beings do we need?". [Answer:] How can one dare to leave them [separate without helping them]? How?

Even with regard to sentient beings that we posit [as separate], think, "these, my kind mother sentient beings ..." and so forth.

There is nothing that they need more than this [very help from us]; while we have found so few occasions this time to repay their kindness to us, not to think of doing anything for them is extremely vile. While we are miserable in samsara, the

री.ज.धिर.पष्टि.क्वा.यममी रट.ग्री कु.पर्टुतुःभषुःधिर.रटाजापष्टिः न'नबेदा शेसश'नश्चेर'ग्रे-र्ब्स्य'म'त्त्रर्भ'न'र्स्क्र्र् विश्वास्त्रास्यार्श्वे द्वारा विष्ठे स्त्रुश्वास्त्र विश्वास्यात्रे स्त्रास्य वि.क्रे.श्रुम्भः वस्यान्य सुन्नेन् त्याः वहुन न सुन् न सुन् न से न स्थान य.क्षेत्र। रट.मी.क.ट्या.सदु.स्ट्राप्त्रका.क्षेट्या क्षेत्रःश्चेत्रा नश-नेते स्थाना ना ना नेता ने स्थाने स्थाने स्थान स यदुःराने चार्याया स्रोत्ताय स्थाप्त म्याप्ते ने स्थाप्त म्याप्त स्थापत स्यापत स्थापत स्यापत स्थापत स શે.૮ શું દ્રષ્યા શ્રા. અદ્દ્રષ્યા શુષ્યા ગું તુ : મેં. ગું કે ગાં કે ગાં વ્યાપ્ય અદ્દ્રશ્યા શુષ્યા ગું તુ : શું चविव धिव स्रुवा र मुखा मा बुर चर मुद्दा | देवा सा स्रूर हिन वा महरू वर्गाना वर्षास्त्र स्वरामा देश हर हिर हिर पहें तह वर्षा ही खेता र्ने चे अत्यदे क्वें प्रेने के प्राचार प्रवेश स्थान क्षे भूर प्राचेरी क्षि यदुःभैयम। सिर्ज्यामःक्रीःभ्रेटःरेट्टाब्रेमःयध्यमःसदुःरःरेटायःरिश्च भ्रे. मुंदार्श्य वाषा ग्रे. में दाव का मूदा चिदा द्या दा हुता सुदा भूयोशः सरः हुनः येशः सम्जैरः यः ताः सन्ति । योश्याः सन्ति । योशः विश्वा क्षे.यदुःश्रूर्यत्रभाष्ट्रभभाश्चिरायो यश्चरात्रेया विया सक्रमा बैटाक्षान्टाबेदाक्षा स्वामानी नेपात सामानिकारी little contaminated happiness that we experience is due only to the kindness of sentient beings. If somebody asked us to point out somebody among sentient beings who has not been our mother, is there anybody to show? So if there is nobody to show, it means that everyone is our mother.

While we wander in samsara and while we are miserable for such occasion, if we check who is the kindest to us, it is the mother sentient beings who are showing us how to survive in this ephemeral life. While we have found the chance to repay their kindness and to help them now, if we do not do so, it would be extremely vile [of us].

In the case of knowing [all sentient beings as] one's mother, cultivate the recognition of *mother* and the repayment of [her] kindness in combination by observing each sentient being. Although they are extremely kind to me, if they do not strive in any way at all to be free [from samsara] on their own, I have [the duty] to help them now, just like [somebody who] helps a crazy mother.

If [someone] thought, "The obstacle of the case of extraordinary thought<sup>27</sup>, the burden of pulling sentient beings out of samsara, does not fall only on my shoulders because there are the buddhas", [suggestion:] think about the fact that oneself alone has the duty to repay the kindness of the mother who has taken care of you.

<sup>27</sup> Tib. প্লুবা মাজ্য lhag sem, refers to reaching enlightenment for the benefit of all beings

इम्स्रुमान्द्रन्ते नसूय। देवायायसायसार्वयास्यास्यास्यास्या वरःवाशुरुषःप्रथाहे प्दे हिन्ग्री सुवा बेद वेर तुवे क्रें राष्ट्र प्ववे वस्रेषः चिर्च्यश्रुप्तत्व्ययायार्यम्यायाय्यात्वेत्रपुर्यात्वेत्राच्या वै। हिनः नर्गा दिन् रेजेंदे अर्गे व रेंग्नगद हेव अवअ से र हें हे दकर य वेंद्र जा या अळं त प्रहेंद्र यर द्रावाय पर परे के तर श्रे द वें प्रवास प्रवास म्रा श्रीय वाष्ट्र देशकी स्थान कर्ति र देश मान्य कर्ति होता स्थान कर होता है र देश कर होता है र देश होता है र देश होता है र देश होता है र देश है र देश होता है र देश नु। नगवःगन्यसःनसूर्वःपदेःर्स्त्रेत्योःनुग्रसःर्वःसःनेत्रःसे केदेःस्रुदः र्य-प्रमुत्र-पर्व-भ्रीद-भ्र-चिद-क्रुन-प्या-ची-देश-पर्व-पर्व-स्व-प्रमुश-नुस-सम्। सर्-म्यानी यात्र सम्रम्पन्या कुस्र रायेत हीं मिन् ही में स्राप्त है है यर.यग्रदःट्रेय.यश्चेरमाञ्चेयम। वियामाञ्चेर.ता.धेममाञ्चेर.तार. ॱॼॺॱॳॿॖऀॸॺॱॺऄॱॺॺॱॸॻऻॱॿॆॺॱॶॱॻऻॺॸॱॸॱॾॆॱॺॢ॓ॸॱॹॻॱॲॎॸॱढ़ॸॖॻऻॱॻॸॱ। वरःभ्रवशःशुःकुःर्लेषाःषोःदेवःद्येःअर्षे । क्वंदःह्वेदःयःदर्षेदःविषाः हुःश्रेदः च्रथ-रे.चाहेशव्राव्याव्यात्रक्षा च्रीटाची क्रिशांत्र यही ट्रायर व्यापार्हेट्र बिन्सु, वायवे वे में ने माया अंका की मायने नाम माया है वे प्रस्त की माया है वे प्रस्ति व इस्रमासान्त्रे काळ्टाना विवासान विवासाम्याना सृत्राक्रना सर्ने निवो

## [Meditating on the view]

If [someone] thought, "Just as we who have responsibility for our mother in this life, if I take the vows of mind generation<sup>28</sup> and promise to train myself now in the conduct [of a bodhisattva], what [conduct] would be most powerful?". [Answer:] Enter in the [practice of] self-generation by thinking that it is powerful to train oneself in the two stages of the path. [Meditate on divine] pride and purify one's own impure aggregates and constituents as it comes in the generation stage. Having arisen as the body of the deity, and viewing the 'I' that is designated upon the aggregates (such as the consciousness and so forth that exist in the collection [of impure aggregates] as an ordinary being) is a fact.

Furthermore, think that it is the deity in the nature of whom one will be enlightened, a deity that is yet to come. This being the case, all the buddhas are of one taste in the dharmadhātu, the sphere of phenomena. Therefore, hold divine pride thinking, "I am the nature of all buddhas".

Having generated the ascertainment in emptiness, your apprehended aspects appear as a deity. [This,] in the perspective of ascertainment [means that] whatever is apprehended by that very awareness which takes emptiness as an object of the mode of apprehension, appears as the body of a deity.

In case one is meditating on the view [of emptiness], do not analyze the so-called 'I' that is designated upon aggregates and so forth. Analyze [only] the 'I' that appears from the aggregates and so forth. It is said that one should analyze the aggregates and so forth which appear as an 'I' from their own side.

<sup>28</sup> Tib. ঐমশ্বর্য়ার sem kye, refers to bodhicitta, the mind of great enlightenment

There are still some very important teachings of experience about the view like this. Look at the example of what others say regarding the difficult points of the mode of appearance, the mode of grasping and so forth. It is said that it is difficult to know [such things] with only a hazy path of reasoning. Therefore, it would be necessary to know thoroughly about it from the bundle of notes and so forth, which the Venerable [Pabongkha Rinpoche] himself took from here and there about the view



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