

I have explained in simple terms
The complete path that pleases the Conquerors.
By this merit, I pray that all beings never be
Separated from the pure and good path.
The venerable guru practiced in this way
You who seek liberation should do the same.

Colophon

This brief presentation on the practice of the Lamrim for the sake of memorization was composed by one who has heard many teachings, the renunciant Gelong named Losang Drakpa at Nampar Gyalwa Ling in the isolated place at the Great Mountain Geden.

Translator's Colophon

This text was translated from the Tibetan by David Gonzalez on February 4th, 2004 in preparation for the commentary to be given at Dechen Ling Buddhist Center by Gen Lobsang Choephel. Due to my ignorance and incompetence I am certain to have made mistakes and for that I apologize. It was revised in 2010.

Song of Spiritual Experience



**Composed by
Lama Tsongkhapa**

Instead you must engage in individual investigation into
the mode of existence
And then remaining extremely steady without wavering.
Therefore, generate the concentration of tranquil abiding
and superior seeing,
And make great effort at unifying these two.
The venerable guru practiced in this way,
You who seek liberation should do the same.

Through meditative stabilization on space-like emptiness
During subsequent attainment all things will arise as a
magical illusion.
By meditating on the unification of method and wisdom
Undertake the bodhisattvas' deed of the perfections.
With this realization one goes to the end of the path;
The fortunate ones are not satisfied by any other path.
The venerable guru practiced in this way,
You who seek liberation should do the same.

You need both supreme paths of the Mahayana
Namely the causal and resultant,
Therefore once you have generated the common path
Rely upon a protector as a skilled captain
And enter into the great ocean of tantra.
Having entered, rely upon the complete oral instructions
And make this life of leisure and endowment meaningful.
The venerable Guru practiced in this way,
You who seek liberation should do the same.

For the sake of familiarizing my mind
And to benefit other fortunate beings

You who seek liberation should do the same.

Wisdom is the eye that sees the profound thatness,
The path removing samara from its root,
A treasure whose qualities are praised in all the
scriptures,
And is the supreme lamp to dispel the darkness of
ignorance.
Knowing this, the wise who wish for liberation
Place all of their effort in progressing in this path.
The venerable Guru practiced in this way,
You who seek liberation should do the same.

Mere single-pointed concentration is not sufficient
To cut the root of samsara,
And no matter how much you analyze your delusions
If tranquil abiding is divorced from wisdom
You will not be able to overcome your delusions.
Yet wisdom searching for ultimate truth
Riding the horse of unwavering tranquil abiding
Wielding the sharp weapon of the Madhyamaka reasoning
Will completely destroy the view holding extremes.
With vast wisdom examining in this way
Expand your knowledge realizing suchness.
The venerable guru practiced in this way,
You who seek liberation should do the same.

By accomplishing the concentration of single-pointed
meditation,
That is something beyond description that will not do

**Herein Lies the Concise Presentation
of Practice for the Stages to
Enlightenment by the Omniscient
Tsongkhapa in the form a Song**

Otherwise Known as “A Song of Spiritual Experience”

Namo Guru Manjugosha Ya

Your body is produced from limitless perfect virtues,
Your speech fulfils the hopes of limitless migrators,
Your mind perfectly perceives all phenomena;
To the “Head of the Shakyas” I prostrate.

The supreme spiritual sons of the that incomparable
teacher
Having assumed the responsibility of all of the
Conquerors’ deeds
By manifesting your emanations in countless worlds;
To Maitreya and Manjushri I prostrate.

To the ornaments of the world who have explained
perfectly the intention
Of the Mother of the Conquerors so difficult to
understand,
I prostrate to the feet of Nagarjuna and Asanga
Renowned throughout the three worlds.

The excellent lineages arising from the two great
charioteers,
The path of the extensive deeds and profound view
Without error combining completely the essential points
I bow to Atisha upholding a treasure of oral precepts.

You are eyes that perceive all limitless discourses,
The supreme gate for the fortunate on the path to
liberation

That the holy protect as they would their eyes.
The venerable guru practiced in this way,
You who seek liberation should do the same.

Patience is the supreme ornament for the powerful,
The austerity to offer when overcoming the delusions,
The Garuda bird that destroys the enemy-snake of anger,
And the armor to protect oneself from the weapons of
harsh speech.
Knowing that patience is the supreme armor
Familiarize yourself with its various methods.
The venerable guru practiced in this way,
You who seek liberation should do the same.

If you wear the armor of steady and irreversible effort
Qualities and insights will increase like a waxing moon,
All ones actions will become meaningful,
And all works begun will reach completion.
Knowing this, the Conquerors’ children apply themselves
To the great waves of perseverance dispelling all laziness.
The venerable guru practiced in this way,
You who seek liberation should do the same.

Concentration is the king with power over the mind.
If set, it will not waver like a powerful mountain,
When focused, it enters into all virtuous objects,
And leads to the bliss of physical and mental pliancy.
Knowing this, the powerful yogis
Rely continuously upon concentration destroying the
enemy of mental wandering.
The venerable guru practiced in this way,

Bodhichitta is the central pillar of the path of the supreme vehicle,
It is the basis and support for a great wave of the [Bodhisattva's] deeds,
It is like an elixir transforming everything into the gold-like two accumulations and
It is a treasure of merit collecting an extensive collection of virtue.
By knowing this, the heroic sons of the Conquerors
Hold in their hearts this precious, supreme mind.
The venerable guru practiced in this way,
You who seek liberation should do the same.

Generosity is a wish fulfilling jewel protecting migrators.
It is the supreme armor to cut through the knots of miserliness,
The Bodhisattvas' practice giving birth to unfailing powers of the heart.
It is the basis of your fame spreading throughout the ten directions.
The wise, knowing this rely upon this profound path
Of giving away their bodies, enjoyments and virtues.
The venerable guru practiced in this way,
You who seek liberation should do the same.

Moral discipline is the water washing the stains of faulty actions,
Moonlight dispelling the heat of the delusions,
Radiant like Mount Meru towering amongst living beings,
With the power to humble those who cannot be subdued.
With this excellent knowledge adopt this discipline

Through your deeds of skilful means motivated by compassion;
Respectfully I prostrate to the illuminating virtuous friend.

From both Nagarjuna and Asanga—
The crown ornament of all the world's scholars—
The banner of renown for illuminating migrators,
The excellent lineage of Lamrim sequentially arose
Fulfilling all the hopes and wishes of living beings.
It is the king of the powerful, precious oral instructions,
A stream combining a thousand excellent texts,
And an ocean of glorious and supreme explanations.

[Through it] one realizes all the Buddha's teachings as non-contradictory,
All teachings arise as personal instructions,
One easily finds the intention of the Conqueror,
And you are protected from the abyss of the great mistake.

Therefore all the great beings of India and Tibet,
Those fortunate ones, rely upon this supreme instruction
As the stages of the path of the three beings;
What person with a superior mind would not be captivated [by this teaching]?

As a concise collection of all teachings,
One session of either teaching or listening to this system
Accumulates the same benefit as explaining or hearing all the holy Dharma,

It is definite that by contemplating its meaning a great wave of merit will be amassed.

The root connecting all the excellent interdependence
Which accumulates excellence for this life and the next
Is striving with thought and action to properly rely upon
the
Holy Virtuous Friend who teaches the path.
Seeing this, do not abandon him even at the cost of your
life,
And please him by offering your practice of the teachings.
I the yogi practiced in that way,
You who seek liberation should do the same.

This body of leisure surpasses even a wish-fulfilling jewel.
We will find a body like this only once.
Hard to find, and easily destroyed, like a bolt of
lightening in the sky.
Contemplating this, you will come to realize
That all worldly actions are like a husk of grain,
And that day and night you must take its essence.
The venerable guru practiced in this way,
You who seek liberation should do the same

After death, you have no assurance that you will not be
born in the lower realms,
And it is definite that the Three Jewels have the power to
protect you,
Therefore, rely sincerely on going for refuge,
And do not degenerate its precepts.

Furthermore, by understanding well the cause and effect
of white and black actions,
You will be able to understand what to adopt and what to
discard.
The venerable guru practiced in this way,
You who seek liberation should do the same.

For accomplishing the supreme path, the fully qualified
human form is best.
Until you find one you will not make progress.
Therefore learn how to cleanse your mental continuum
And rid your three doors of the stains of negative karma
and downfalls.
The supreme thing is to cleanse your mind of
obscurations
By relying continuously on the four opponent powers.
The venerable guru practiced in this way,
You who seek liberation should do the same.

You will not make an effort if you do not contemplate the
faults of the truth of suffering
And you will not strive for liberation.
If you do not contemplate the stages of entering samsara
and the true origins
You will not know how to cut samsara at the root.
Therefore rely upon aversion and renunciation of all
existence
And cherish the knowledge of what binds us to samsara.
The venerable guru practiced in this way,
You who seek liberation should do the same.