



## Dedication Prayer

The dedication prayer plays an important role in Buddhist practices. All good deeds and events are dedicated towards the result of full enlightenment for everyone. This way the karma created from the good deed will manifest as enlightenment rather than a pleasant but a short burst of temporal happiness. The following dedication verse was composed by Arya Nagarjuna, a very important Buddhist teacher who clarified the so-called Buddhist Middle Way philosophy.

Translation by Geshe Michael Roach:

།བསྐྱེ་བ།

NGOWA

1: །དགེ་བ་འདི་ཡིས་སྐྱེ་བོ་ཀུན།

GE WA DI YI KYEWO KUN

2: །བསོད་ནམས་ཡེ་ཤེས་ཚོགས་རྫོགས་ཤིང་།

SÖ NAM YE SHE TSOK DZOK SHING

3: །བསོད་ནམས་ཡེ་ཤེས་ལས་བྱུང་བའི།

SÖ NAM YE SHE LEJUNG WAY

4: །དམ་བ་སྐྱེ་གཉིས་འཕྲོབ་བར་ཤོག །།

DAM PA KU NYI TOP PAR SHOK

### Dedication of the Goodness of a Deed

*By the goodness  
Of what I have just done  
May all beings  
Complete the collection  
Of merit and wisdom,  
And thus gain the two  
Ultimate bodies  
That merit and wisdom make.*

## First Line

དག་བ GE WA means *virtue*. འདི DI is a very common word, *this. that is* དེ DE.

ཡིས YI is actually an agent particle, usually the particle here would be an ending ས SA as the previous syllable ended with a vowel, but ཡིས is used in verses to make up syllable counts! An agent particle is a particle that indicates the means by which something occurs; a common way to initially translate this is by the word *by*.

སྐྱེ་བོ KYE WO means *sentient beings*. སྐྱེ KYE means *to be born*. ཀུན KUN is a very common qualifier, it means *all*.

**Exercise:** Do a rough translation of the first line.

## Second Line

བསོད་ནམས SÖ NAM is *merit* (Sanskrit *punya*). ཡེ་ཤེས YE SHE means *wisdom* (Sanskrit *jñana*). So here the focus is on the wisdom, these are the two collections you need to get the two bodies of an enlightened being. ཚོགས TSOK is *collection*. This word could cover many cases, such as *gathering, feast, accumulation, assembly*, really anything related to collecting together people, things, or various other objects and instances.

ཚྲོགས DZOK means *to complete*. ་ཤིང SHING is a good example where you need to be careful, if you look this up in a dictionary it might show up entries such as *wood* or *tree*, but in this case it's a binding particle, it binds together this sentence with the next one. It is similar to the other binding word དང DANG, but compared with དང, when ་ཤིང is used it indicates a strong binding between what was said before, and what is said after. ་ཤིང is used for example when talking about qualities of objects that are closely linked together, such as མེ་ཚ་ཞིང་སྲེག་པ། ME TSA SHING SEK PA, *earth, hot and burning*. Notice also that this binding word takes various forms based on the last syllable letter, such as ་ཅིང (after བ།, ད།, བ།), ་ཞིང (after ར།, ལ།, མ།, འ།, ར།, ལ། and vowels), and ་ཤིང (after ས།).

Notice also the writing rule of an ending ་ before the ། (SHE), it has a ' TSEK in front of the །. This is very handy, for example with weak wood prints you could see the difference between ་། and ་།.

**Exercise:** Do a rough translation of the second line.

### Third Line

བསོད་ནམས་ཡེ་ཤེས་ SÖ NAM YESHE is again *merit and wisdom*.

ལས་ LE could be translated as the particle that indicates *to what, what is happening*, however one needs to be careful. In this case it's connected with the following syllable to form the word ལས་བྱུང་ LE JUNG, *source*. བྱུང་ means *to receive, to get*, by the way.

But in addition, this word ends with ་བ་ so it forms the word ལས་བྱུང་བ་ LE JUNG WA, *resulting in*. Furthermore, it has a genitive (*of*) particle included at the end, as it ends as ལས་བྱུང་བའི་ LE JUNG WAY.

**Exercise:** Do a rough translation of the second line.

### Fourth Line

དམ་པ་ DAMPA means *holy, superior, ultimate*. ལྷ་ KU is *body*, in this case it's the honorific word for body, reserved for enlightened beings, high teachers, and so forth. The non-honorific word for *body* is ལུ་ LU.

གཉིས་ NYI is the word for the number *two*.

འཐོབ་པ་ TOP PA is *to attain*. However in this case it ends as འཐོབ་པར་ TOPPAR where the ་ར་ RA is a particle that indicates purpose of action, it's a very common particle, used to indicate action, modes, states, relationships between verbs, and so forth. So look for the next word, in this case a verb, and find the relationship.

ཤོག་ means *may!* It's a very common way to end prayers and dedications, to put forth the wish as a firm resolution so it will happen. Note the rule that if the sentence ends with a ་ག་ GA, there's no need for a ། SHA. However, as this ends the verse, it's good to indicate this by using །། at the end.

**Exercise:** Do a rough translation of the second line.

It is good to know the two ultimate bodies an enlightened being has: ཚོས་ལྷ་ CHÖ KU, the *wisdom body* (Sanskrit *dharmakaya*), this is the mind of a Buddha, and

གཟུགས་ལྷ་ SUK KU, the *form bodies* (Sanskrit *rupakaya*), the form bodies of a Buddha. These two are needed for having a full enlightened state.

This was the བསྐྱེད་བ་ NGO WA, *dedication prayer*.