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**The Teaching by the Child Inconceivable
Radiance**

Acintyaprabhāsanirdeśa

འཕགས་པ་བྱེད་སྐྱོད་བ་བསམ་གྱིས་མི་བྱབ་པས་བསྟན་པ་ཞེས་བྱ་བའི་ཚོས་གྱི་རྣམ་གྲངས།

'phags pa khye'u snang ba bsam gyis mi khyab pas bstan pa zhes bya ba'i chos kyi rnam grangs

The Noble Account of Dharma “The Teaching by the Child Inconceivable Radiance”

Āryācintyaprabhāsanirdeśanāmadharmaparyāya

· Toh 103 ·

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co.

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SUMMARY

- s.1 This sūtra is a story in which the spiritual realization of the child Inconceivable Radiance is revealed through a dialogue with the Buddha Śākyamuni. The Buddha furthermore recounts events from the child's past lives to illustrate how actions committed in one life will determine one's future circumstances. The teaching concludes with the Buddha prophesying how the child Inconceivable Radiance will eventually fully awaken in the future.

ac.

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ac.1 This sūtra was translated by members of the Blazing Wisdom Translation group, Tulku Sherdor and Virginia Blum, under the guidance of Khenpo Sonam Tobgyal and with help from Meghan Howard regarding Sanskrit terms.

The translation was completed under the patronage and supervision of 84000: Translating the Words of the Buddha.

i.

INTRODUCTION

i.1

The Teaching by the Child Inconceivable Radiance presents the remarkable account of an abandoned child who is discovered calmly sitting alone in a derelict dwelling in the town of Śrāvastī, licked and nuzzled by wild animals while the townsfolk gawk. The Buddha Śākyamuni, who is in residence nearby, sends Ānanda to investigate, although he knows that the child is an incarnation of a great bodhisattva whose remaining karmic obscurations are now on the verge of exhaustion. The Buddha's action triggers a chain of events that completes this purification and launches the bodhisattva to the next great stage of his spiritual path. This is therefore a story of the bodhisattva's spiritual journey that spans countless eons.

i.2

This sūtra also serves as a framework for various types of Dharma instruction. When he first meets the child, the Buddha's blessings, coupled with the child's own merit and wisdom gathered in previous lifetimes, spur a polemical dialogue in metered verse in which the child challenges the Buddha to reconcile his realization of emptiness with his compassionate teaching activity. The child adopts a nihilistic viewpoint as a rhetorical strategy for eliciting an explanation from the Buddha of the relation between ultimate and relative truth. The Buddha responds that it is the buddhas' realization of how things truly are, which produces spontaneous and nonconceptual compassionate activity for others because the buddhas respond to the suffering of sentient beings' confused misapprehension of how things truly are. A buddha knows that appearances are not real, while sentient beings do not. A sentient being's perception of appearances is compared to clouds in the sky and characterized as imaginary imputation, since the luminous, profound stillness that is mind's true nature is not realized. This exchange is therefore a pithy elucidation of the core principles of the Mahāyāna Buddhist teachings: the view of emptiness suffused with compassion that inspires one to produce boundless teaching activity that in turn instills that same view in others.

- i.3 Shortly after this exchange Śakra appears, drawn by lights that radiate from the child's body throughout the universe, and offers the child a set of divine clothes to cover his naked body. A sermon from the child follows, in which he explains to Śakra all the fine qualities that adorn bodhisattvas such that no further superficial covering of their physical forms is required. With this show of miracles and moving sermon, the child is proclaimed by all present to be an advanced bodhisattva who is inconceivably radiant, and he is so named with great rejoicing.
- i.4 The next episode in this account takes place in the home of the child's mother, where the Buddha has escorted him. At first the child's mother is ashamed to face the Buddha, but the child respectfully urges his mother to make offerings to the Buddha and generate the resolve for awakening before him, and she proceeds to do so. This act on both their parts completely purifies the residual negative karma they shared.
- i.5 King Prasenajit of the state of Kośala, one of the Buddha's principal sponsors, then comes to visit him at his monastic compound outside of town, having heard of the child's miraculous feats. Upon first seeing the child, the king wonders what kinds of deeds he must have performed in the past to have such a perfect physical form. Inconceivable Radiance, through the power of the Buddha and his own past roots of virtue, knows clairvoyantly what King Prasenajit has realized about him, which prompts him to teach the king about how pure actions result in a pure physical form. The king then asks the Buddha to explain how the child, with obvious great virtues and merit, could end up in the unfortunate situation of being abandoned by his unwed mother. The Buddha responds by telling the story of a previous life, long ago, when this bodhisattva (then named Earth) insulted and cursed his mentor in retaliation for being chastised for weakness in his practice, and how the very words of this curse continued to ripen for Earth in lifetime after lifetime, until this very life. Throughout his many lifetimes of being orphaned, abandoned, and eaten by wild predators, the bodhisattva Earth nonetheless never renounced the awakening mind, until finally his positive merit led him to the auspicious circumstances that unfold, with the Buddha's guidance, in this account.
- i.6 In response, the king demonstrates his understanding to the Buddha by offering his own homily about how one should serve a spiritual master and lead a virtuous life, and the benefits that will ensue. The Buddha confirms that the king has spoken truthfully, meaning that the king has spoken Dharma with his blessing.
- i.7 Finally, prompted by the child Inconceivable Radiance, the Buddha presents his own teaching on five sets of four *dharma*s (here meaning spiritual qualities, practices, or realizations) that bodhisattvas must possess

in order to awaken to buddhahood by virtue of gaining acceptance of even the most profound Dharmas. In other words, bodhisattvas should practice the ability to face the profound truth of emptiness without fear, the third and most difficult component of the transcendent virtue of acceptance within the schema of six or ten transcendent virtues.

i.8 At the conclusion of this teaching, Ānanda kneels down, joins his palms together, and, singing a hymn of praise to the Buddha, requests an explanation of this auspicious encounter with the child Inconceivable Radiance. The Buddha then prophesies the child's eventual full awakening as the buddha bhagavān Inconceivable Radiance at the end of a future dark age in which no other buddha has ever appeared. The Buddha's final counsel is that no higher virtue exists than retaining, applying, realizing, and sharing with others this noble account of Dharma of the child Inconceivable Radiance.

i.9 The Tibetan canonical version of the sūtra, translated by the Indian paṇḍita Surendrabodhi and the Tibetan translator Yeshé Dé (*ye shes sde*), has come down to us in two generally homologous recensions, one titled *'phags pa khye'u snang ba bsam gyis mi khyab pas bstan pa zhes bya ba'i chos kyī rnam grangs*, and the other *'phags pa snang ba bsam gyi mi khyab pa bstan pa zhes bya ba'i chos kyī rnam grangs*.¹ Though this translation is not listed in the imperial period Tibetan catalogs, Surendrabodhi and Yeshé Dé were frequent collaborators on translations recorded therein, so we can reasonably date their translation to the early ninth century.² The English translation presented here is based on a comparison of several versions of the canonical Tibetan translation representing both the Tshalpa (*tshal pa*) and Thempangma (*them spangs ma*) recension groups, with the Degé version taken as the primary witness. Substantial variation between the versions was minimal, and such instances have been noted below.

i.10 There is also a unique version of the sūtra preserved among the cache of manuscripts discovered at Dunhuang. Bearing the title *The Scripture of Inconceivable Radiance* (*snang ba bsam du med pa zhes bya'i chos kyī gzhung*), the manuscript contains a different translation than is found in the Kangyur, one that appears to be based on a different recension of the sūtra. Unfortunately, the final folios of the manuscript are missing and with them the colophon that would provide more precise information on the manuscript's textual and translation history. We can, with some confidence, date the manuscript, if not the translation it contains, to a period between the mid-eighth and mid-ninth centuries, the time when Dunhuang was under Tibetan control.³ The translation was certainly completed prior to the eleventh century, when the

manuscript depositories at Dunhuang were sealed.⁴ Because it is an entirely different translation from the canonical version taken as the basis here, only the most significant variations have been noted.

i.11 There is no extant version of this text available in Sanskrit, but the sūtra was translated into Chinese by Kumārajīva in the early decades of the fifth century.⁵ The Chinese translation was consulted to clarify difficult points in this translation. There are no known Indian or Tibetan commentaries on this sūtra, and the text seems not to have been frequently cited by either Indian or Tibetan masters, so little is known about the circulation and popularity of the text in South Asia and Tibet. Western scholarship has similarly taken little notice of this sūtra, and there are no previous English translations available.

The Noble Account of Dharma
The Teaching by the Child Inconceivable Radiance

1.

The Translation

[F.275.a]

1.1 Homage to all buddhas and bodhisattvas!

1.2 Thus did I hear at one time. The Bhagavān was residing in Śrāvastī, in Jeta's Grove, Anāthapiṇḍada's Park, together with a great saṅgha of one thousand two hundred and fifty bhikṣus and a full five hundred additional bodhisattvas.

1.3 While the Bhagavān was residing in the town of Śrāvastī, its king and his senior ministers, the brahmins, householders, and people from the greater township, along with their families, paid respect, offered reverence and veneration, and presented offerings to the Bhagavān so that he received much fine food, drink, and other items to be eaten and sipped.

1.4 He was a blessed, thus-gone, worthy, perfect buddha, one with perfect knowledge and conduct, a well-gone one, a knower of the world, a charioteer who tamed beings, an unexcelled being, and a teacher of gods and humans. The Blessed Buddha was renowned for his outstanding caste, outstanding clan, outstanding patrilineage, outstanding discipline, outstanding absorption, outstanding insight, outstanding liberation, and outstanding wisdom vision of liberation.⁶ The Bhagavān's fame and renown was thus widespread throughout the world.

1.5 The Well-Gone One, the knower of the world, the charioteer who tames beings, the unexcelled being, the teacher of gods and humans, the blessed Buddha, was also teaching the Dharma. That is, he was genuinely and fully teaching the sanctified conduct: what is virtuous at first, in the interim, and in the end, what has excellent meaning and excellent words, and what is unadulterated, perfect, [F.275.b] pure, and cleansed.

1.6 He was also in possession of the five eyes, namely the eye of flesh, the divine eye, the eye of Dharma, the eye of insight, and the eye of a buddha. The Bhagavān had soundly defeated non-Buddhist schools such as the

carakas, the parivrājakas, and the followers of the Nirgrantha Jñātiputra. Gods and humans wholly adopted the Bhagavān's teachings and so they spread everywhere.

1.7 Early one morning, the Bhagavān dressed in his Dharma robes and skirt and took up his alms bowl. The assembly of bhikṣus, the saṅgha of bhikṣus, along with the bodhisattva mahāsattvas, surrounded him and accompanied him. He was beautiful to behold from the front, the right, and the left; his strides were beautiful. Wearing the Dharma robes—the outer robe, the upper robe, and the inner robe—and the strainer and the alms bowl, he was beautiful. His complexion was golden, and he radiated an aura of light a full arm span around him. It was like a mass of fire amidst the darkness of night, like the full moon on the fifteenth lunar day, and like the shining of the sun. He possessed the thirty-two signs of a superior being.

1.8 They went to receive alms in the town of Śrāvastī, and at the very moment that the Bhagavān set his foot down at the threshold of the gate, reaching the town, some magnificent, amazing, miraculous feats took place. I shall recount the incredible, great miracles that occurred when the holy being, the Guide, arrived, so listen with a most faithful heart.

1.9 Those who were blind were able to see. Those who were deaf were able to hear. The naked found clothing. Those with mental illness regained their faculties. All the townsfolk joined their palms in reverence, offering homage to the Well-Gone One. The pleasant sounds of great gongs, earthen drums, and steel drums were audible, although none were struck. Ducks, geese, herons, peacocks, parrots, and cuckoos voiced their [F.276.a] delightful songs. Those who had lost their fortunes recovered them. Vessels made of gold and silver rang out, although none were struck.

1.10 The earth itself rumbled and shook six times, and no beings were left without refuge, as their minds were filled with sincere trust. Wherever strode the feet of the most eloquent and holy Buddha, there appeared immaculate lotuses in elegant arrangements.

1.11 Those beings born in the animal realm who saw him found happiness and would be reborn in the higher realms. Those women who were pregnant gave birth, without the slightest discomfort, to fine-featured, attractive babies. No beings harmed one another out of attachment, aversion, or indifference. They spoke to one another in the most non-aggressive manner, the way a father or mother would speak to an only child.

1.12 The sides of the road became beautifully decorated. All the gods dwelling in the heavens above copiously tossed flower petals. There were no beings left who underwent suffering. Beings who had been ill became free from illness and so felt happy.

1.13 As the Well-Gone One passed by,⁷ each person wondered, “Is the Tathāgata looking at me alone?” They each thought, “I shall make my own offering of alms and so reap the exact result of offering alms to the guide of humans.” It was not at all easy to fathom what occurred just from him passing by.⁸

1.14 Then, the Bhagavān went out to receive alms, making his rounds through the town of Śrāvastī. The Bhagavān reached a place near the center of town where a fine-figured, lovely, and attractive child had been left all alone inside a deserted dwelling. The child was sitting there sucking on his right thumb. A number of dogs, or jackals, had gathered inside the empty house [F.276.b] and were approaching the child and licking him. However, due to his past virtues, these animals caused no harm to the young child. Some of the townsfolk were also going in and out of the deserted building.

1.15 Seeing the townsfolk coming and going, the Bhagavān knowingly directed Venerable Ānanda, “Ānanda, go and see what is inside that deserted house, the one all those townsfolk are entering and leaving.” As he had been commanded by the Bhagavān, Venerable Ānanda went to the deserted house, and upon arriving saw a fine-figured child, beautiful and lovely to behold, sitting there sucking on his right thumb and staring openly at the crowd of people around him.

1.16 After seeing this, Venerable Ānanda returned to the Bhagavān and reported, “Bhagavān, inside that deserted house is an abandoned child whose body is well formed, beautiful, and attractive, like a precious jewel. He sits there gazing with wide eyes at all the people gathered around him.”

1.17 The Bhagavān thought, “Aha! This child, through his outstanding training in previous lives, has the ability to understand the meaning of my teachings, and so is most fortunate!”⁹ Out of affection for that child, and in order to lead the common folk to virtue,¹⁰ he went to the deserted dwelling.

1.18 When the Bhagavān reached the dwelling, he entered and took a seat to the side of the child and then addressed the following verse to him:

“Frequented by snakes and yakṣas,
This charnel ground is most frightening.
How could a child not be frightened here?
And yet, here you are now, all alone!”¹¹

1.19 Through the power of the Buddha and as a result of his own prior roots of virtue, the child then responded to the Bhagavān with these verses:

“Mighty Sage, who should feel fear
Toward phenomena¹² that have no self-identity?
Omniscient One, supreme speaker, [F.277.a]

Whatever the action through which I came to be here,

1.20 “There is no self nor something done by a self.
For the self does not belong to anything at all;
I see no self belonging to someone,
Nor do I see someone belonging to a self.”

1.21 The Bhagavān replied:

“Evil actions performed in the past
Have ripened in this way.
Abandoned in this deserted house,
Surely you are experiencing feelings of suffering.”

1.22 The child asked:¹³

“Gautama, do you still perceive
That there is a deserted house?
Didn’t you fully understand perception
While on the seat of awakening?”

1.23 The Bhagavān answered:

“I fully understand perception,
And I myself have no perceptions.
Rather, it is out of love for you
That I have come to this deserted house.”

1.24 The child asked:

“When, no matter how hard you look,
Sentient beings are never to be found,
Where does compassion arise?
Toward whom is your love directed?”

1.25 The Bhagavān answered:

“These beings do not know emptiness,
The peace of no self-identity;
And so, out of love for those very beings,
I engage in meritorious action.”¹⁴

1.26 The child asked:

“Although he has fathomed the empty and tranquil,¹⁵
And realized tranquil emptiness,

Could it be that the Tathāgata
Still has not rid himself of error?"

1.27 The Bhagavān answered:

"Having realized the peace of emptiness,
The Guide delivers this Dharma teaching
In order to mature beings.
That is the compassion of the buddhas."

1.28 The child asked:

"Tathāgata, yet again,
You have not rejected your error.
If there is no perception of beings,
Where could compassion possibly arise?"

1.29 The Bhagavān answered:

"Having embraced well the awakening mind,
Superior people don their armor
And naturally bestow blessings
Upon nonexistent beings."

1.30 The child said:

"Since nowhere is an entity observed,
All armor, in fact, is unreal. [F.277.b]
For phenomena that have no substance,
There is no armor to be found."

1.31 The Bhagavān answered:

"Although phenomena have no substance,
This Dharma taught to living creatures
Is the vibrant display of compassion
Of the lord protectors of the world."

1.32 The child asked:

"As for Dharma, if words do not exist,
Where else could instructions be?
Might you be misleading worldly beings?
Or are you teaching Dharma that is not Dharma?"¹⁶

1.33 The Bhagavān answered:¹⁷

"I do not deceive the world.
Nor do I profess what is not Dharma.
What I do is remove the mental disturbances
Of mistaken beings."

1.34 The child asked:

"As a root of mental disturbances does not exist,
They have no location,
Neither inside nor outside.
So how can mental disturbances be purified?"

1.35 The Bhagavān answered:

"Things that arise from error
Are born entirely of imputation;
And so, to rid them of all concepts,
I teach the Dharma to living beings."

1.36 The child said:

"No matter how many imputations you seek,
Mind is by nature luminosity
In which mental disturbance does not occur
And which never becomes disturbed."

1.37 The Bhagavān answered:

"It is just as you say—
Mind is ever luminous, and yet
Provisional, proximal disturbances
Disturb the minds of ordinary beings."

1.38 The child asked:

"If mental disturbances are not there to see
And are not present from their own side,
How can they be provisional?
That is the question; please explain this to me."

1.39 The Bhagavān answered:

"Consider how clouds appear in the sky,
But are not as they appear.
The arising of mental disturbances is like that;
They too appear, yet are not that way."

- 1.40 The child said:
“Any phenomenon unmistaken in nature
Simply remains that way; that is how it is.
No mistaken nature can be seen
In a phenomenon whose nature is unmistaken.”
- 1.41 The Bhagavān answered:
“It is those with childish perception [F.278.a]
Who falsely conceive such things to be,
And tathāgatas who appear in order
To bring their minds to realization.”
- 1.42 The child asked:
“Considering they are not born,
Which perfect buddhas could appear?
The appearance of a buddha makes no sense
Where phenomena themselves have no birth.”
- 1.43 The Bhagavān answered:
“The appearance of a buddha
Is explained as birthless birth,
A conventional designation
That ultimately does not exist.”
- 1.44 The child said:
“You still have two perceptions,
One conventional and one ultimate,
Which contradicts the path of one vehicle
That you profess, Gautama.”
- 1.45 The Bhagavān answered:
“I do not transgress the path;
I remain without contradiction and, moreover,
Bring discordant beings into harmony.
That is how you should understand it, child.”
- 1.46 The child asked:
“If those beings are not perceived,
Then to whom, Gautama, are you bringing harmony?”

When you look at the past of phenomena—
To whom has affliction arisen?”

1.47 The Bhagavān answered:

“Having comprehended the past, the future,
And likewise what transpires right now,
Having realized sacred awakening,
I teach the Dharma to living creatures.”

1.48 The child said:

“You proclaim yourself the perfect Buddha,
And proclaim your own understanding;
Promoting yourself in this manner,
Your pride must be truly exceptional!”

1.49 The Bhagavān answered:

“I do not laud myself,
Nor do I belittle others.
I clearly reveal how things truly are,
And so am called the Tathāgata.”

1.50 The child said:

“If how things truly are is inexpressible
And without a true nature,
Then don’t speak contrary to your own understanding,
Using terminology for what has no words, no language.”

1.51 The Bhagavān answered:

“Although all those phenomena are contrary,
They still arise from the natural state of things.
Because I have realized how things truly are,
I possess neither faults nor qualities.”¹⁸

1.52 The child said: [F.278.b]

“Through the power¹⁹ of the Tathāgata,
My confidence has grown,
And so I ask forgiveness of the perfect Buddha
For all these answers I have requested.”

- 1.53 Then, the Bhagavān drew his right hand, golden in color, from his Dharma robe and reached out toward the child, who took hold of the finger of the Bhagavān's hand and stood up. The Bhagavān carried the child out of the empty house and set him down on the road.
- 1.54 The people gathered there thought, "This child was disturbed in just this way, and yet he was able to engage in such a debate regarding the qualities of the great being. The blessed buddhas truly are remarkable!" And as it was indeed remarkable, they offered sincere homage to the Bhagavān.
- 1.55 The Bhagavān then spoke the following words to the child: "Child, since your obscuration of karma has been exhausted, remember your previous roots of virtue and make them known to this great crowd of people. Show them a great miraculous feat!"
- 1.56 The child then floated up from the ground to the height of about seven persons, and from his body streamed light, which spread until it illuminated all of Śrāvastī, and the world of Jambudvīpa in its entirety.
- 1.57 The light drew the rapt attention of Śakra, Brahmā, the guardians of the world, and many hundreds of thousands of other gods, all of whom in that second, in that very moment, in that instant, went to where the Bhagavān was and bowed their heads to his feet in homage.
- 1.58 They tossed divine flowers to the Bhagavān and proclaimed: "O Bhagavān! This bodhisattva is inconceivably radiant such that he illuminates this buddhafield with light, and so he serves the welfare of innumerable beings!"
- 1.59 That is how that child came to be named Inconceivable Radiance. The Bhagavān also said, [F.279.a] "Let this child be called Inconceivable Radiance," and so he rejoiced in that name for the child.
- 1.60 The child Inconceivable Radiance then descended from the sky and came to rest on the ground. Through the power of the Buddha and his own prior roots of virtue, what transpired next happened like this: by the time he took a seat, the child's body had grown to that of an eight-year-old child.
- 1.61 Then, the lord of gods Śakra presented the child with a bolt of heavenly fabric, saying, "Dear child, out of loving concern for me, wear this length of fabric. Don't remain naked!"
- 1.62 The child Inconceivable Radiance then spoke these words to Śakra, the lord of gods: "Kauśika, it is not by wearing lovely clothes that bodhisattvas are made beautiful, but rather their beauty comes from bearing the ornaments of Dharma. Kauśika, it may be obvious, but nonetheless, let me tell you what the ornamental clothing of the bodhisattva mahāsattvas is.²⁰
- 1.63 "The ornamental clothing of bodhisattvas is the awakening mind, for it adorns the seat of awakening. The ornaments of modesty and propriety are the ornamental clothing of bodhisattvas, for they support all beings.

- 1.64 “Observing their commitments is the ornamental clothing of bodhisattvas, for it perfects their insight. Their intent is the ornamental clothing of bodhisattvas, for it eliminates deceit and guile.
- 1.65 “Application is the ornamental clothing of bodhisattvas, for it perfects all virtuous qualities. Superior intention is the ornamental clothing of bodhisattvas, for it sets them apart from all others.
- 1.66 “Absence of pride is the ornamental clothing of bodhisattvas, for it perfects their wisdom. Their pursuit of Dharma and longing for Dharma are the ornamental clothing of bodhisattvas, for these perfect their insight. [F.279.b]
- 1.67 “Their lack of parsimony as preceptors is the ornamental clothing of bodhisattvas, for it perfects their dispassionate wisdom. Their utter disregard for all wealth is the ornamental clothing of bodhisattvas, for it perfects their excellent marks and signs.
- 1.68 “Pure discipline is the ornamental clothing of bodhisattvas, for it brings their aspirations to completion. Acceptance and gentleness²¹ are the ornamental clothing of bodhisattvas, for they become words that resound and roar like the voice of Brahmā.
- 1.69 “Stable resolve and fortitude²² are the ornamental clothing of bodhisattvas, for these fulfill all their goals. Their attainment of concentrations, liberations, absorptions, and equilibria are the ornamental clothing of bodhisattvas, for these perfect the wisdom of highly advanced cognition.²³
- 1.70 “The insight of knowing how to parse words carefully²⁴ is the ornamental clothing of the bodhisattvas, for it eliminates latent tendencies, beliefs, and manifest afflictions. Great compassion is the ornamental clothing of bodhisattvas, for they never become discouraged in saṃsāra.
- 1.71 “Bearing no animosity toward any being is the ornamental clothing of bodhisattvas, for they never lose interest in the welfare of self and other. Teaching Dharma without material interest²⁵ is the ornamental clothing of bodhisattvas, because insight liberates both self and other.
- 1.72 “Accomplishment of Dharma²⁶ is the ornamental clothing of bodhisattvas, since it removes all mental disturbances. Kauśika, in this way you must see how bodhisattvas who possess ornaments of Dharma like these are never naked.”
- 1.73 The lord of gods Śakra was greatly pleased with the child and trusted in him,²⁷ and so, addressing the Bhagavān, he asked, “Out of loving consideration for me, would the Bhagavān please tell him to accept this length of fabric?”
- 1.74 The Bhagavān then spoke [F.280.a] to the child Inconceivable Radiance, saying, “Child, take this length of fabric and put it on.”

- 1.75 The child Inconceivable Radiance then went over to the Bhagavān, knelt with his right knee on the ground, pressed his palms together in salutation toward him, and then, in his presence, accepted the length of fabric and put it on.
- 1.76 The Bhagavān then went to receive alms in the town of Śrāvastī. The men and women, boys and girls, merchants and brahmins, householders, and the king and his major officials were amazed and assembled there to look upon the child Inconceivable Radiance, to look upon the Bhagavān, and to show them honor and homage. The Bhagavān accepted the offering of alms from each in turn and then went to the home of the mother of the child Inconceivable Radiance. When he arrived there, however, he said nothing and simply remained off to one side. Embarrassed, the mother of the child Inconceivable Radiance did not come out to the entrance to greet the Bhagavān.
- 1.77 The child Inconceivable Radiance went inside his home and then spoke the following verses to his mother:
- “It was due to my own past misdeeds
That I entered your womb,
Not because of any fault of yours, mother;
That being so, don’t feel ashamed!
- 1.78 “Since you created me with love,
I am the one indebted to you.
Don’t be embarrassed or shy away.
Come before the Tathāgata!
- 1.79 “My entry into your womb
Was an endowment you received well.
Come share with the Great Guide as well
The virtuous deeds of your body!”
- 1.80 The child Inconceivable Radiance then spoke to the lord of gods Śakra, saying, “Kauśika, give me some heavenly mandāra flowers, divine incense, and godly raiment. I shall give them to this mother who gave birth to me. [F.280.b] By presenting them as a gift to the Bhagavān, she will generate the mind set on unsurpassed and perfect awakening.”
- 1.81 And so the lord of gods Śakra gave the child heavenly mandāra flowers, divine incense, and godly raiment. The child Inconceivable Radiance then spoke the following verses to his mother:
- 1.82 “Mother, take these heavenly mandāra flowers,
So lovely to behold and enjoyable,

- Along with this incense and clothing,
And offer them to this great man, the Buddha.
- 1.83 “Gifts made in this world to one’s parents, such as food and drink,
Money and clothes, are not offerings at all
Compared with what connects them to Dharma;
Therefore, make an offering of these items!
- 1.84 “Make an offering to this holiest of humans,
And firmly aspire to supreme awakening.
Time and again, I have been at your side;
For so very long have I encouraged you!
- 1.85 “Without feeling unworthy or ashamed,
But with a renewed sense of joy and delight,
Proceed to where the genuine Victor awaits,
And offer homage at the feet of this supreme being!
- 1.86 “Handing flowers over to the Lord,
Along with incense and clothing,
Generate the roots of virtue from that Victor,
And generate too the resolve for supreme awakening!
- 1.87 “Having set your resolve for supreme awakening,
Then, as is said, ‘the Lord of the World assures full maturation
To those who, with faith, pay respect to a Victor.’
Go petition this genuine Victor!”²⁸
- 1.88 The woman then went over to the Bhagavān and offered homage by
prostrating to his feet, made offerings to him, and put her request to him
fully and respectfully, just as she had been instructed.
- 1.89 After she had made this request, the Bhagavān told her, “Through this
accomplishment of roots of virtue you shall not go to the lower realms or an
unfortunate state. Having pleased millions upon millions of buddhas, you
shall yourself become a buddha, the holiest of persons.” [F.281.a]
- 1.90 When he had finished receiving alms in the town of Śrāvastī, the
Bhagavān, accompanied by the child Inconceivable Radiance and other lay
people, left the town and returned to Jeta’s Grove, Anāthapiṇḍada’s Park.
The Bhagavān then took his meal, arose from his inner absorption, and
readied himself to make the Dharma heard.
- 1.91 The king of the state of Kośala, Prasenajit, accompanied by his four military
regiments, came to see the Bhagavān in Anāthapiṇḍada’s park. As he and
his men arrived, they offered homage by prostrating to the Bhagavān’s feet

and then sat off to one side.

1.92 Once they were seated at his side, the king of the state of Kośala, Prasenajit, said to the Bhagavān, “Bhagavān, where is the child Inconceivable Radiance, who possesses such wondrous and amazing qualities?”

1.93 The Bhagavān then pointed out the child Inconceivable Radiance, and King Prasenajit could see at first sight that the child’s physical body was fully developed, with a complexion superior to that of the gods, and that he was graced with fearlessness, disciplined conduct, absorption, and insight. The king therefore thought to himself, “Imagine what kinds of deeds he must have performed and accumulated in the past to have a pure body like that!”

1.94 The child Inconceivable Radiance, due to the power of the Buddha and because of his own past roots of virtue, knew in his mind what King Prasenajit had thought. So he said:

1.95 “Those who consistently possess a loving and pure mind,
Are not fractious, but gentle and thoughtful,
As well as well-mannered, honest, and chaste—
It is they who become pure in body.

1.96 “Those who abandon and abstain from wrong actions,
Who never devalue but increase virtue,
Who entirely reject malice and hostility— [F.281.b]
It is they who become pure in body.

1.97 “Those who continually and respectfully make offerings
To the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Saṅgha²⁹
And don’t feel aggression toward or threaten others—
It is they who become pure in body.

1.98 “Those who are not jealous,
Miserly, or otherwise prideful toward others
And say nothing when others’ faults arise—
It is they who become pure in body.

1.99 “Those who never look to blame,
Reproach, or rebuke others
Or look for a chance to exploit them—
It is they who become pure in body.”

1.100 King Prasenajit then said to the Bhagavān, “Bhagavān, since this child Inconceivable Radiance clearly possesses such great qualities, what sort of obscuration of karma caused him to be born from the womb of a woman

- without a husband and later abandoned in that empty dwelling?”
- 1.101 The Bhagavān answered him, “Great king, once, in the distant past, ninety-one eons ago, the thus-gone, worthy, perfect buddha, the one with perfect knowledge and conduct, the well-Gone One, the knower of the world, the charioteer who tames beings, the unexcelled, the teacher of gods and humans, the blessed buddha known as Vipāśyin appeared in the world.
- 1.102 “Great king, in those days, at that time, there were two bodhisattvas, Divine Excellence and Earth, who attended the sublime discourses of the blessed buddha Vipāśyin. In particular, the bodhisattva known as Divine Excellence was one who would no longer regress; he had few pursuits and few activities, enjoyed solitude, and was filled with loving kindness due to his powers of concentration and advanced cognition.
- 1.103 “As for the bodhisattva known as Earth, he was not very well versed in the Dharma [F.282.a] and so served as the attendant of Divine Excellence. He frequently went into neighboring villages, towns, townships, and palaces and there would busy himself with many tasks and activities. Thus, the bodhisattva Divine Excellence would reprimand him, saying, ‘Why are you busying yourself with so many tasks and activities instead of putting your effort into practice and renunciation?’
- 1.104 “Over and over again Divine Excellence exhorted him, making Earth irritated and agitated, turning him unpleasant and then abusive, until he became both physically and mentally malicious. He voiced his vile thoughts in the coarsest language, saying, ‘You bastard, you son of a whore, your father was a cuckold. Since you don’t even have a proper father and mother, it is ridiculous to think that you could have insight or disciplined conduct.’
- 1.105 “With the worst intentions he spoke these crude words, and without confession, contrition, or rejection, he held his grudge, continuing to harbor ill will toward the bodhisattva Divine Excellence, and he had not the slightest affection for him.
- 1.106 “The bodhisattva Divine Excellence, moreover, thought that Earth was no longer a fitting vessel and withdrew from him,³⁰ spurring Earth to think even worse of the bodhisattva Divine Excellence and to speak to him in the most uncomplimentary, caustic, unvenerable, and unmeasured terms.
- 1.107 “Because of the karma Earth accumulated and gathered in this way, his body was ruined, and in the wake of his death, he was reborn to a woman who gave birth to him out of wedlock. Because he had maintained the awakening mind, however, his actions did not cause him to take rebirth as a being in hell.
- 1.108 “As soon as he was born, the woman abandoned him along a major thoroughfare, where he was eaten by dogs, jackals, and wolves. Great king, in a similar fashion, over the course of ninety eons, he suffered like this, in

the same miserable way; he died and was reborn and once reborn was abandoned. The common folk would say, ‘That bastard, that child of a whore—let the dogs, jackals, and wolves eat him!’

1.109 “Great king, if you are uncertain, if you entertain doubt as to whether the one known as the bodhisattva Earth in those days, at that time, may have been someone else, [F.282.b] you need not wonder any longer. If you ask, ‘Why is that?’ Well, it is because this child Inconceivable Radiance was the one known in those days, at that time, as the bodhisattva Earth.

1.110 “Great king, his obscuration of karma has now been exhausted. His impure mind has been purified. He has pleased the Tathāgata. Cutting off rebirth in all the lower realms, this child Inconceivable Radiance has pleased sixty-four million buddhas, has honored them, venerated them, and revered them, and has conducted himself with sanctity before them. He has been diligent in the dedicated pursuit of Dharma as well.

1.111 “Great king, through his past roots of virtue, he has achieved this illustrious state. Great king, in this way, black deeds and white deeds are never squandered. Great king, since that is the case, the wise are circumspect about their physical, verbal, and mental acts, abstaining from evil even at the cost of their lives.”

1.112 The king of the state of Kośala, Prasenajit, then asked the Bhagavān, “Bhagavān, the bodhisattva who was called Divine Excellence—did he ever attain unsurpassed and perfect awakening? Or is he still, even now, engaging in the conduct of a bodhisattva?”

1.113 The Bhagavān answered him, “Great king, the bodhisattva mahāsattva Divine Excellence conducts himself with sanctity in the buddha realm of the tathāgata Akṣobhya, where he is known as the bodhisattva mahāsattva Śrīsambhava.”

1.114 The king of Kośala, Prasenajit, then said to the Bhagavān: “Bhagavān, a noble son or daughter is supposed to act respectfully, to serve spiritual masters, to attend them, and to venerate them. One may ask, ‘What is the value of doing so?’

1.115 “Bhagavān, if one attends, serves, and venerates a spiritual master, one acquires virtuous qualities. [F.283.a] Through acquiring virtuous qualities, one’s frame of mind becomes virtuous. When one’s frame of mind is virtuous, one trains in virtue.³¹

1.116 “Through training in virtue, one performs virtuous deeds. Through virtuous deeds, one will have a virtuous existence. Due to a virtuous existence, one enjoys virtuous companions. In virtuous company, sinful acts are not performed. One will not engage in sinful acts.³²

- 1.117 “By abstaining from sinful acts and engaging in virtue, one will not be tormented, and others will not be tormented. Through affording protection to oneself and others, the path to awakening will be completed.
- 1.118 “By staying on the path to awakening, one will have the ability and opportunity to effectively serve the welfare of beings who have embarked on inferior paths.”
- 1.119 The Bhagavān remarked, “Great king, well said! Well said! You have spoken well! Great king, by serving one’s spiritual master, one will perfect all the qualities that characterize a bodhisattva mahāsattva.”
- 1.120 The child Inconceivable Radiance then said to the Bhagavān, “Bhagavān, what are the various qualities a bodhisattva should possess in order to swiftly awaken to unsurpassed and perfect buddhahood and to gain acceptance of even the most profound Dharmas?”
- 1.121 The Bhagavān responded, “Child, a bodhisattva who possesses four qualities will swiftly awaken to unsurpassed and perfect buddhahood and gain acceptance of even the most profound Dharmas. What are these four?
- 1.122 “They are comprehension of interdependence; rejection of eternalism and nihilism; the understanding that there are no beings, no living creatures,³³ and no persons; and an interest in and experience of emptiness.
- 1.123 “A bodhisattva who possesses these four qualities will swiftly awaken to unsurpassed and perfect buddhahood [F.283.b] and gain acceptance of even the most profound Dharmas.
- 1.124 “Child, in addition, a bodhisattva who possesses four other qualities will swiftly awaken to unsurpassed and perfect buddhahood. What are these four?
- 1.125 “Leaving the past behind, not projecting into the future, knowing how to extinguish what arises right now, and knowing the sameness of the three times—those are the four.
- 1.126 “There is yet another set of four. What are the four? Physical isolation, mental isolation, isolation from phenomena, and isolation from action—those are the four.
- 1.127 “There are another four. What are they? Seeing the Buddha as reality itself and not as a form; seeing the Dharma as detachment from desire and not as terms and definitions; seeing the saṅgha as noncomposite and not as an assemblage; and purification of the eyes of insight—those are the four.³⁴
- 1.128 “There are four more. What are they? They are perfecting the six transcendent virtues by not relinquishing the modes of attraction; expertise in insight and skillful means; precise discernment that there are no beings; and great compassion.

- 1.129 “Child, a bodhisattva who possesses these four qualities will swiftly awaken to unsurpassed and perfect buddhahood and gain acceptance of even the most profound Dharmas.”
- 1.130 As the Bhagavān gave this teaching presenting the fourfold attainments, the child Inconceivable Radiance gained acceptance of the fact that phenomena do not arise and was so joyous, so overjoyed, that he himself actually floated up into the sky to the height of seven palm trees. At that point, the Bhagavān smiled.
- 1.131 As is the nature of things when blessed buddhas smile, lights of various colors radiated from the mouth of the Bhagavān. The lights appeared in many different colors, such as blue, yellow, red, white, violet, and silver. Those multicolored lights illuminated the [F.284.a] infinite and boundless worlds of the universe, manifesting even as far as Brahmā’s domain and making the very sun and moon seem lackluster. The lights then reversed course and vanished into the crown of the Bhagavān’s head.
- 1.132 Venerable Ānanda then rose from his seat, draped his shawl over one shoulder, and knelt on his right knee. Joining his palms, he bowed toward the Bhagavān. In the rhythm of verse, he requested an explanation of the meaning of this from the Bhagavān:
- 1.133 “Your figure is lovely and worthy to behold,
Gracefully adorned with marks and signs most fine,
And shining beautifully within a circle of lights.³⁵
Please explain your smile to me!
- 1.134 “You are engaged in exemplary conduct with superior discipline,
And with the light of wisdom gathered from absorption and insight,³⁶
And the strength of the essence of liberation, you see perfectly.
Please explain your smile to me!
- 1.135 “With the strength of the power of acceptance³⁷
And diligence eminently superior and unwavering,
You are pleasing to the eye and behold the four truths.
Please explain your smile to me!
- 1.136 “You have a vajra body, hard, stable, and indestructible,
As mighty as Nārāyaṇa—even greater than Nārāyaṇa.³⁸
Your voice is gentle, the sweet voice of Brahmā.
Please explain your smile to me!
- 1.137 “Brahmā and likewise the other gods who have gathered
Behold you with reverence, yet even though the Tathāgata is seated
They cannot see the summit of your crown.

Please explain your smile to me!

- 1.138 “You turn the sacred wheel of Dharma.
The message of impermanence deeply moves
Gods, asuras, nāgas, and yakṣas alike.
Please explain your smile to me!³⁹”
- 1.139 “You have discovered⁴⁰ radiance and removed all darkness,
You abide in equanimity with eyes that take in all,
Possess superior qualities, and display essential qualities.⁴¹
Please explain your smile to me!” [F.284.b]
- 1.140 With those words he made his request. The Bhagavān then answered the venerable Ānanda, “Ānanda, do you see the child Inconceivable Radiance hovering in the space above, at the height of seven palm trees?”
Ānanda replied, “Yes, Bhagavān, I do see him.”
- 1.141 The Bhagavān said, “Ānanda, this bodhisattva mahāsattva Inconceivable Radiance, after one hundred incalculable eons, in the eon called Universal Illumination, in the realm known as Fully Cleansed,^{42 43} will make his appearance in the world as the thus-gone, worthy, perfect buddha, the one with knowledge and good conduct, the well-Gone One, the knower of the world, the charioteer who tames beings, the unexcelled, the teacher of gods and humans known precisely as the blessed buddha Inconceivable Radiance.
- 1.142 “Ānanda, that realm Fully Cleansed will become utterly pure in the following way: as a comparison, it will be like what is enjoyed and experienced by the Paranirmitavaśavartin gods. That tathāgata will remain there for twenty intermediate eons. He will have a saṅgha of eighty thousand listeners. There will be a bodhisattva saṅgha of thirty-two thousand.
- 1.143 “Ānanda, you may wonder why that realm will be called Fully Cleansed and the eon Universal Illumination. Ānanda, over the course of hundreds and thousands of prior intermediate eons, no tathāgata ever appears in that buddhfield. It is there that Inconceivable Radiance, the Tathāgata, will appear; it is there where the Śuddhāvāsa gods say, ‘This eon lacks universal illumination. It lacks universal illumination, so may a tathāgata appear!’ His appearance is due to their giving voice to this purposeful interjection.”
- 1.144 When this statement of prophecy about the bodhisattva Inconceivable Radiance was spoken, [F.285.a] and this account of Dharma was taught, thirty-two thousand beings, gods and humans alike, generated the mind set on unsurpassed and perfect awakening. Sixty bodhisattvas developed acceptance of the fact that phenomena do not arise. Five hundred listeners completely freed their minds from defilement, without any further grasping.

- 1.145 The Bhagavān then said to venerable Ānanda: “Ānanda, you must retain my sacred Dharma. For the benefit of present bodhisattvas, and for those yet to come, you must retain this account of Dharma.”
- 1.146 Ānanda replied, “Bhagavān, when I retain this account of Dharma, what is the name of this account of Dharma? How shall it be remembered?”
- The Bhagavān said, “Retain it as *The Cleansing of the Obscurations of Karma* and *The Buddha’s Pageantry* and *The Teaching by Inconceivable Radiance*.
- 1.147 “Ānanda, some people may spend their entire lives respecting, revering, venerating, and worshiping all the tathāgatas, offering them ground floral incense strewn as high as Mount Meru, as well as fragrances, powders, balms, robes, parasols, victory banners, and pennants, and also many other varieties of divine and human offerings. Compared to them, a noble son or daughter who retains and reads this account of Dharma taught by Inconceivable Radiance, who fully comprehends it and makes it widely and perfectly known to others, and who likewise assiduously applies it—such a person generates a vastly greater collection of merit.
- 1.148 “Ānanda, since that is the case, those who wish to honor the Tathāgata with the offering of Dharma and those who wish to create the great radiance of insight should retain this account of Dharma, read it, accomplish it with diligence, and make it widely and perfectly known to others.”
- 1.149 When the Bhagavān had spoken these words, the venerable Ānanda, the bodhisattva mahāsattva Inconceivable Radiance, the king of Kośala, Prasenajit, along with his entourage, the lord of gods Śakra, the master of the Sahā world system Brahmā, and the four guardians of the world, along with everyone else in attendance as well as the gods, humans, asuras, and gandharvas of this world, rejoiced and greatly extolled what the Bhagavān had said.
- 1.150 *This completes the noble account of Dharma, [F.285.b] “The Teaching by the Child Inconceivable Radiance.”*

c.

Colophon

c.1 The Indian preceptor Surendrabodhi and the chief translator-editor Bandé Yeshé Dé translated, corrected, and finalized this text.⁴⁴

n.

NOTES

- n.1 The difference between these two titles is the presence or absence of the word “child” (*khye’u*). The first title, *’phags pa khye’u snang ba bsam gyis mi khyab pas bstan pa zhes bya ba’i chos kyi rnam grangs*, is preserved in the Tshalpa (*tshal pa*) group Kangyur recensions, while the alternate title is generally found among the Thempangma (*them spangs ma*) recensions of the Kangyur. Mixed recensions show even distribution of the two titles between them.
- n.2 Halkias (2006), 60–63.
- n.3 Van Schaik and Dalton (2006), 63.
- n.4 Mayer and Cantwell (2008), 1.
- n.5 Lewis Lancaster, “K 381,” *The Korean Buddhist Canon: A Descriptive Catalog*, http://www.acmuller.net/descriptive_catalogue/files/k0381.html#note-k0381-1 (http://www.acmuller.net/descriptive_catalogue/files/k0381.html#note-k0381-1).
- n.6 The Dunhuang MS (folio 1.b) reads “clear vision” (*rnam par gzigs pa*) instead of “wisdom vision of liberation” (*rnam par grol ba’i ye shes gzigs pa*).
- n.7 “As the Well-Gone One passed by” is omitted in the Dunhuang MS.
- n.8 In the Dunhuang MS (folios 3.b–4.a) this passage reads, “Everyone thought, ‘The Tathāgata is looking at me.’ Each of them thought, ‘I will offer alms and then will meet with the true result of giving alms.’ In short, nothing could compare in the slightest with the protector of human beings” (*sems de re re yang / de bzhin gshegs pa ni bdag la gzigs so zhes sems/ so so nas bdag gi bsod snyoms phul te/ bsod snyoms kyi ’bras bu dang yang dag nyid phrad par bya’o snyam du sems te/ mdor na myi’i mgon po dang phyogs tsam du bsgrun du rung ba myed do*).

- n.9 The Dunhuang MS (folio 5.a) reads, “This child, who has reached the culmination of all activity, is able to understand the meaning of my teachings” (*khye’u de yang bya ba thams cad rdzogs pa legs par smra ba’i don shes par nus pa zhig ste*).
- n.10 The Dunhuang MS (folio 5.a) reads, “and in order to delight beings.” (*gro ba mang po’i dga’ bskyed pa’i phyir*).
- n.11 The Dunhuang MS (folio 5.a) omits this verse and the following two verses of the child’s response. The first verse the Buddha speaks is the one beginning “Evil actions performed in the past” below.
- n.12 This reading follows the variant *chos* as attested in the Choné, Lhasa, Lithang, Kangxi, Narthang, and Yongle versions of the Tibetan translation, instead of *tshogs* as attested in the Degé version.
- n.13 In the Dunhuang MS (folio 5.b), the child’s first response begins here with the line “Through the power of the Buddha,” here given at 1.19.
- n.14 The Dunhuang MS (folio 5.b) reads, “I engage in alms rounds” (*bsod snyoms spyad pa spyod pa yin*).
- n.15 The Dunhuang MS (folio 5.b) reads, “Although he has fathomed the peace of cessation” (*gogs par zhi ba rab mkhyen te*).
- n.16 In the Dunhuang MS (folio 6.a), the last two lines of this verse read, “One who teaches Dharma that is not Dharma / Is called a fool; are you a fraud?” (*chos myin chos su bka’ stsal pa/ byis ba zhes te bslu lags sam*).
- n.17 In what appears to be a case of scribal error, the Dunhuang MS (folios 6.a–6.b) repeats the preceding two verses before continuing with the sequence below.
- n.18 In the Dunhuang MS (folio 8.b) this verse reads, “All contrary actions / Arise from the natural state of things; / One who understands the way things are / Has neither faults nor qualities” (*log pa’i las rnam thams cad ni/ de bzhin nyid las ’byung ba yin/ de bzhin nyid de rtog pa ni/ yon tan myed cing nyes pa myed*).
- n.19 This reading follows the variant *mthus yis* as attested in the Choné, Lhasa, Lithang, Kangxi, and Narthang versions of the Tibetan translation, instead of *mthu yin* as attested in the Degé version.
- n.20 The Dunhuang MS (folio 10.a) reads, “Kauśika, you must also wear the ornamental clothes that bodhisattva mahāsattvas wear” (*ke’u shi ka yang*

byang chub sems dpa' sems dpa' chen po rnams kyi gos rgyan gang yin pa de dag gyon cig).

- n.21 The Dunhuang MS (folio 11.a) reads, “delighting in acceptance” (*bzod pa (em. bsod pa) la dga' ba*).
- n.22 The Dunhuang MS (folio 11.a) reads, “being firm in their commitments” (*dam tshig la brtan pa*).
- n.23 The Dunhuang MS (folio 11.a) reads, “for these bring highly-advanced cognition and concentration to perfection” (*mngon par shes pa chen po (em. shen po) dang bsam gtan yongs su rdzogs pas bya ba'i phyir*).
- n.24 The Dunhuang MS (folios 11.a–11.b) reads, “insight, the wisdom of liberation” (*shes rab rnam par thar pa'i ye shes*).
- n.25 “Without material interest” is absent in the Dunhuang MS (folio 11.b).
- n.26 The Dunhuang MS (folio 11.b) reads, “earnest engagement in the Dharma” (*chos kyi nan tan*).
- n.27 The Dunhuang MS (folio 11.b) reads, “was greatly pleased with the child and felt affection for him” (*khye'u de la shin tu dga' zhing sdug pa skyes nas*).
- n.28 The Choné, Kangxi, Lithang, Narthang, and Yongle versions include an additional line here: “chapter and verse” (*le'u dang tshigs su bcad pa*). This makes little contextual sense, and so appears to be the remnant of an incomplete scribal emendation.
- n.29 In the Dunhuang MS (folio 15.a), this line of verse reads “In the supreme Saṅgha and the Buddha” (*mang po'i mchog dang sangs rgyas la*).
- n.30 Folio 17 of the Dunhuang MS appears to have been lost, thus the Tibetan text from this point to “The king of the state of Kośala” below is missing in that translation.
- n.31 The Dunhuang MS (folio 18.b) reads “hear” (*thos*) in place of “acquire” (*thob*) as attested in the other versions consulted. Thus this passage reads, “Bhagavān, if one attends and serves a spiritual master, one hears the virtuous Dharma. Through hearing the virtuous Dharma, one’s contemplations become virtuous. Once one’s contemplations are virtuous, one trains in virtue” (*bcom ldan 'das dge ba'i bshes gnyen dang bsten bsdebs te bsnyen bkur bgyis na/ dge ba'i chos thos so/ dge ba'i chos thos pas bsam pa dge bar 'gyur ro/ bsam pa dge bar gyur pas dge bar sbyor bar 'gyur ro*).

- n.32 The preceding two lines are absent in the Dunhuang MS (folio 18.b).
- n.33 The Dunhuang MS (folio 19.a) reads, “no companions” (*grogs myed pa*).
- n.34 The Dunhuang MS (folios 19.b–20.a) reads, “To see the Buddha not as a form, but as the Dharma; to see the Dharma not as one’s own, but as the freedom from desire; to see the Saṅgha not as a multitude, but as noncomposite; and purification of the eyes of insight” (*gzugs las ni ma yin chos la sangs rgyas su blta ba dang / bdag las ni ma yin gyi/’dod chags dang bral ba chos su blta ba dang / mang ba las ni ma yin gyi/’dus ma byas pa las dge ’dun du blta ba dang / shes rab kyi spyan shin tu rnam par dag pa dang ’di yin no*).
- n.35 The Choné, Lhasa, Lithang, Kangxi, Narthang, and Yongle versions of the Tibetan translation read the honorific verb “to do/make” (*mdzad pa*), instead of “beautiful” (*mdzes pa*) found in the Degé version. The Dunhuang MS (folio 20.b) adds that the circle of light extends “an arm span” (*’dom gang*) around the Buddha.
- n.36 The Dunhuang MS (folio 21.a) reads, “The light of wisdom gathered by your intellect, your insight” (*shes rab blo’i bsags pa’i ye shes ’od*).
- n.37 The Dunhuang MS (folio 21.a) reads, “Possessing the power of acceptance as well as the ten powers” (*bzad (em. m zad) pa’i stobs dang stobs bcu pa can mnga’ ba*).
- n.38 The Dunhuang MS (folio 21.a) reads, “Your power is greater than the power of the best of humans” (*myi mchog mthu bo che’i mthu mnga’ ba*).
- n.39 In the Dunhuang MS (folio 21.b), this verse reads, “You turned the wheel of Dharma, performed miracles, / And spread the message of impermanence / To gods, humans, nāgas, and yakṣas. / Please explain your smile to me!” (*chos kyi ’khor los btsud cing rdzu ’phrul dang / myi rtag sgra’i lha dang mi rnam dang / de bzhin klu dang gnod sbyin sgrags mdzad pa/’dzum pa mdzad pa de ni bdag la gsungs*).
- n.40 This reading follows the Lhasa version of the translation in reading *brnyes* (“to discover”), instead *mnyes* (“to be pleased”) as preserved in the Degé and other consulted versions.
- n.41 The Dunhuang MS (folio 21.b) reads, “And you are supremely heroic and endowed with the best qualities” (*dpa’ bo mnga’ mchog yon tan rab mnga’ ba*).
- n.42 This reading follows the Choné, Dunhuang, Lhasa, Lithang, Kangxi, Narthang, and Yongle versions of the Tibetan translation in reading *rnam par*

sbyong ba in place of *rnam par spyod pa*. This variant is repeated in all instances of “Fully Cleansed” that follow in this passage.

- n.43 Because the final folios of the Dunhuang MS are lost, its record of the text ends here.
- n.44 In the Thempangma recensions of the Tibetan translation, the name of the Indian paṇḍita is omitted. The colophon reads *zhu chen gyi lo tsa+tsha ba ban de ye she sde la sogs pas bsgyur zhing zhus te gtan la phab pa'o* (“The chief translator-editor Bandé Yeshé Dé and others translated, corrected, and finalized this text”).

b.

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GLOSSARY

· Types of attestation for names and terms of the corresponding ·
source language

AS	<i>Attested in source text</i> This term is attested in a manuscript used as a source for this translation.
AO	<i>Attested in other text</i> This term is attested in other manuscripts with a parallel or similar context.
AD	<i>Attested in dictionary</i> This term is attested in dictionaries matching Tibetan to the corresponding language.
AA	<i>Approximate attestation</i> The attestation of this name is approximate. It is based on other names where the relationship between the Tibetan and source language is attested in dictionaries or other manuscripts.
RP	<i>Reconstruction from Tibetan phonetic rendering</i> This term is a reconstruction based on the Tibetan phonetic rendering of the term.
RS	<i>Reconstruction from Tibetan semantic rendering</i> This term is a reconstruction based on the semantics of the Tibetan translation.
SU	<i>Source unspecified</i> This term has been supplied from an unspecified source, which most often is a widely trusted dictionary.

g.1 absorption

ting nge 'dzin

ཉིང་ལྷོ་འཇོན།

samādhi

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

In a general sense, *samādhi* can describe a number of different meditative states. In the Mahāyāna literature, in particular in the Prajñāpāramitā sūtras, we find extensive lists of different samādhis, numbering over one hundred.

In a more restricted sense, and when understood as a mental state, *samādhi* is defined as the one-pointedness of the mind (*cittaikāgratā*), the ability to remain on the same object over long periods of time. The *Draḥor Bamponyipa* (*sgra sbyor bam po gnyis pa*) commentary on the *Mahāvīyūtpatti* explains the term *samādhi* as referring to the instrument through which mind and mental states “get collected,” i.e., it is by the force of samādhi that the continuum of mind and mental states becomes collected on a single point of reference without getting distracted.

g.2 acceptance

bzod pa

བཟོད་པ།

kṣānti

The third of the six transcendent perfections. As such it can be classified into three modes: the capacity to tolerate abuse from sentient beings, to tolerate the hardships of the path to buddhahood, and to tolerate the profound nature of reality.

g.3 account of Dharma

chos kyi rnam grangs

ཚོས་ཀྱི་རྣམ་གྲངས།

dharmaparyāya

A religious discourse.

g.4 Akṣobhya

mi 'khrugs pa

མི་འཁྲུགས་པ།

akṣobhya

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

Lit. “Not Disturbed” or “Immovable One.” The buddha in the eastern realm of Abhirati. A well-known buddha in Mahāyāna, regarded in the higher tantras as the head of one of the five buddha families, the vajra family in the east.

g.5 alms bowl

lung bzed

ལྷ་བཟེད།

pātra

g.6 Ānanda

kun dga' bo

ཀུན་དགའ་བོ།

ānanda

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

A major śrāvaka disciple and personal attendant of the Buddha Śākyamuni during the last twenty-five years of his life. He was a cousin of the Buddha (according to the *Mahāvastu*, he was a son of Śuklodana, one of the brothers of King Śuddhodana, which means he was a brother of Devadatta; other sources say he was a son of Amṛtodana, another brother of King Śuddhodana, which means he would have been a brother of Aniruddha).

Ānanda, having always been in the Buddha's presence, is said to have memorized all the teachings he heard and is celebrated for having recited all the Buddha's teachings by memory at the first council of the Buddhist saṅgha, thus preserving the teachings after the Buddha's parinirvāṇa. The phrase "Thus did I hear at one time," found at the beginning of the sūtras, usually stands for his recitation of the teachings. He became a patriarch after the passing of Mahākāśyapa.

g.7 Anāthapiṇḍada's Park

mgon med zas sbyin gyi kun dga' ra ba

མགོན་མེད་ཟས་སྦྱིན་གྱི་ཀུན་དགའ་ར་བ།

anāthapiṇḍadārāma

The park on the outskirts of Śrāvastī that was purchased by the great patron of the Buddha, Anāthapiṇḍada, for the saṅgha's use during the rainy season. See also "Jeta's Grove, Anāthapiṇḍada's Park."

g.8 armor

go cha

གོ་ཇ།

kavaca

g.9 asura

lha min

ལྷ་མིན།

asura

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

A type of nonhuman being whose precise status is subject to different views, but is included as one of the six classes of beings in the sixfold classification of realms of rebirth. In the Buddhist context, asuras are powerful beings said to be dominated by envy, ambition, and hostility. They are also known in the pre-Buddhist and pre-Vedic mythologies of India and Iran, and feature prominently in Vedic and post-Vedic Brahmanical mythology, as well as in the Buddhist tradition. In these traditions, asuras are often described as being engaged in interminable conflict with the devas (gods).

g.10 belief

lta bar smra ba

ལྷ་བར་སྣེ་བ།

drṣṭi

The second stage in the development and expression of afflictions (Skt. *kleśa*, Tib. *nyon mongs*), preceded by “latent tendency” (Skt. *anuśaya*, Tib. *bag la nyal ba*) and followed by “manifest affliction” (Skt. *paryutthāna*, Tib. *kun nas ldang ba*).

g.11 bhagavān

bcom ldan 'das

བཅོམ་ལྷན་འདས།

bhagavān

An epithet that is often used to refer to a buddha. The literal translation from the Tibetan is “endowed (*ldan*) conqueror (*bcom*) who has gone beyond (*'das*).”

g.12 bhikṣu

dge slong

དགེ་སློང་།

bhikṣu

A fully-ordained monk.

g.13 Brahmā

tshangs pa

ཚེངས་པ།

brahmā

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

A high-ranking deity presiding over a divine world; he is also considered to be the lord of the Sahā world (our universe). Though not considered a creator god in Buddhism, Brahmā occupies an important place as one of two gods (the other being Indra/Śakra) said to have first exhorted the Buddha Śākyamuni to teach the Dharma. The particular heavens found in the form realm over which Brahmā rules are often some of the most sought-after realms of higher rebirth in Buddhist literature. Since there are many universes or world systems, there are also multiple Brahmās presiding over them. His most frequent epithets are “Lord of the Sahā World” (*Sahāṃpati*) and Great Brahmā (*Mahābrahmā*).

g.14 brahmin

bram ze

བླ་མ་ཟེ།

brāhmaṇa

A person belonging to the highest caste among the four social castes of India.

g.15 caraka

spyod pa ba

སྤྱོད་པ་བ།

caraka

In Buddhist usage, a general term for non-Buddhist religious mendicants, paired with *parivrājaka* in stock lists of followers of heretical movements..

g.16 charnel ground

dur khrod

དུར་ཁྲོད།

śmaśāna

A cremation ground, or place for discarded corpses.

g.17 Divine Excellence

lha bzang

ལྷ་བཟང་།

—

A bodhisattva who appears in *The Teaching by the Child Inconceivable Radiance*.

g.18 Earth

sa

ས།

—

A bodhisattva who appears in *The Teaching by the Child Inconceivable Radiance*.

g.19 five eyes

spyan lnga

ལྗན་ལྔ།

pañcacakṣus

The five kinds of eyes possessed by a tathāgata. Namely, the eye of flesh, the divine eye, the eye of Dharma, the eye of insight, and the eye of a buddha.

g.20 followers of the Nirgrantha Jñātiputra

gcer bu pa gnyen gyi bu

གཅེར་བུ་པ་གཉེན་གྱི་བུ།

nirgrantha jñātiputra

A group of ascetics common in the Buddha's time, widely believed to refer to the early Jain community.

g.21 Fully Cleansed

rnam par sbyong ba

རྣམ་པར་སྦྱང་བ།

—

A realm that will appear in the eon Universal Illumination, one hundred incalculable eons from now.

g.22 gandharva

dri za

དྷི་ཟ།

gandharva

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

A class of generally benevolent nonhuman beings who inhabit the skies, sometimes said to inhabit fantastic cities in the clouds, and more specifically to dwell on the eastern slopes of Mount Meru, where they are under the jurisdiction of the Great King Dhṛtarāṣṭra. They are most renowned as celestial musicians who serve the gods. In the Abhidharma, the term is also used to refer to the mental body assumed by sentient beings during the

intermediate state between death and rebirth. Gandharvas are said to live on fragrances (*gandha*) in the desire realm, hence the Tibetan translation *dri za*, meaning “scent eater.”

g.23 Gautama

go ta ma

གོ་ཏ་མ།

gautama

The Buddha’s given name, Gautama Siddhartha.

g.24 genuine

rang byung

རང་བྱུང་།

svayambhū

An epithet frequently applied to buddhas to denote their quality of being self-manifest, i.e., not born through causes and conditions.

g.25 guardians of the world

’jig rten skyong ba

འཇིག་རྟེན་སྐྱོང་བ།

lokapāla

Also known as the four great kings (*mahārāja*), Vaiśravaṇa, Dhṛtarāṣṭra, Virūḍhaka, and Virūpākṣa are pledged to protect practitioners of the Dharma.

g.26 how things truly are

de bzhin nyid

དེ་བཞིན་ཉིད།

tathāta

g.27 imputation

yongs su brtags pa

ཡོངས་སུ་བརྟགས་པ།

parikalpita · parīkṣā

The function by which mind generates an image and then falsely conceives of it as being a separate and real object.

g.28 Inconceivable Radiance

snang ba bsam gyis mi khyab pa

སྐྱང་བ་བསམ་གྱིས་མི་ཁྱེད་པ།

acintyaprabhāsa

A bodhisattva in, and principle protagonist of, *The Teaching by the Child Inconceivable Radiance*. This is also the name he will have as a buddha in the future, as prophesied by the Buddha.

g.29 inner absorption

nang du yang dag 'jog pa

ནང་དུ་ཡང་དག་འཛོག་པ།

pratisaṃlayana

This term can mean both physical seclusion and a meditative state of withdrawal.

g.30 inner robe

na bza'

ན་བཟའ།

antarvāsa

The undergarment covering the lower body. One of the three Dharma robes (*tricīvara, chos gos gsum*).

g.31 insight

shes rab

ཤེས་རབ།

prajñā

g.32 interdependence

rten cing 'brel bar 'byung ba

རྟེན་ཅིང་འབྲེལ་བར་འབྱུང་བ།

pratītyasamutpāda

The principle that relative phenomena arise as a result of causes and conditions.

g.33 Jambudvīpa

'dzam bu'i gling

འཛམ་གུའི་གླིང་།

jambudvīpa

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

The name of the southern continent in Buddhist cosmology, which can signify either the known human world, or more specifically the Indian subcontinent, literally “the *jambu* island/continent.” *Jambu* is the name used for a range of plum-like fruits from trees belonging to the genus *Szygium*, particularly *Szygium jambos* and *Szygium cumini*, and it has commonly been rendered “rose apple,” although “black plum” may be a less misleading term. Among various explanations given for the continent being so named, one (in the *Abhidharmakośa*) is that a *jambu* tree grows in its northern mountains beside Lake Anavatapta, mythically considered the source of the four great rivers of India, and that the continent is therefore named from the tree or the fruit. *Jambudvīpa* has the *Vajrāsana* at its center and is the only continent upon which buddhas attain awakening.

g.34 Jeta’s Grove, Anāthapiṇḍada’s Park

rgyal bu rgyal byed kyi tshal mgon med zas sbyin gyi kun dga’ ra ba

ཀུལ་བུ་ཀུལ་བྱེད་ཀྱི་ཚལ་མགོན་མེད་ཟས་སྦྱིན་གྱི་ཀུན་དགའ་རབ།

jetavanam anāthapiṇḍadasyārāmaḥ^{AO}

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

One of the first Buddhist monasteries, located in a park outside Śrāvastī, the capital of the ancient kingdom of Kośala in northern India. This park was originally owned by Prince Jeta, hence the name *Jetavana*, meaning Jeta’s grove. The wealthy merchant Anāthapiṇḍada, wishing to offer it to the Buddha, sought to buy it from him, but the prince, not wishing to sell, said he would only do so if Anāthapiṇḍada covered the entire property with gold coins. Anāthapiṇḍada agreed, and managed to cover all of the park except the entrance, hence the name *Anāthapiṇḍadasyārāma*, meaning Anāthapiṇḍada’s park. The place is usually referred to in the sūtras as “*Jetavana, Anāthapiṇḍada’s park*,” and according to the *Saṅghabhedavastu* the Buddha used Prince Jeta’s name in first place because that was Prince Jeta’s own unspoken wish while Anāthapiṇḍada was offering the park. Inspired by the occasion and the Buddha’s use of his name, Prince Jeta then offered the rest of the property and had an entrance gate built. The Buddha specifically instructed those who recite the sūtras to use Prince Jeta’s name in first place to commemorate the mutual effort of both benefactors.

Anāthapiṇḍada built residences for the monks, to house them during the monsoon season, thus creating the first Buddhist monastery. It was one of the Buddha’s main residences, where he spent around nineteen rainy season retreats, and it was therefore the setting for many of the Buddha’s discourses

and events. According to the travel accounts of Chinese monks, it was still in use as a Buddhist monastery in the early fifth century CE, but by the sixth century it had been reduced to ruins.

g.35 Kauśika

kau shi ka

ཀོ་ཤི་ཀ

kauśika

An epithet of Indra.

g.36 Kośala

ko sa la

ཀོ་ས་ལ།

kośala

An ancient Indian kingdom located somewhere in present day Uttar Pradesh.

g.37 lack of parsimony as preceptors

slob dpon gyi dpe mkhyud med pa

སློབ་དཔོན་གྱི་དཔེ་མཚུངས་མེད་པ།

anācāryamuṣṭi

Literally “not being a tight-fisted teacher,” this term denotes a teacher who freely gives appropriate teachings to their disciples.

g.38 latent tendency

bag la nyal ba

བག་ལ་ཉལ་བ།

anuśaya

The first stage in the development and expression of afflictions (Skt. *kleśa*, Tib. *nyon mongs*), followed by “belief” (Skt. *dṛṣṭi*, Tib. *lta ba smra ba*) and “manifest affliction” (Skt. *paryutthāna*, Tib. *kun nas ldang ba*).

g.39 listener

nyan thos

ཉན་ཐོས།

śrāvaka

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

The Sanskrit term *śrāvaka*, and the Tibetan *nyan thos*, both derived from the verb “to hear,” are usually defined as “those who *hear* the teaching from the Buddha and *make it heard* to others.” Primarily this refers to those disciples of the Buddha who aspire to attain the state of an arhat seeking their own liberation and nirvāṇa. They are the practitioners of the first turning of the wheel of the Dharma on the four noble truths, who realize the suffering inherent in saṃsāra and focus on understanding that there is no independent self. By conquering afflicted mental states (*kleśa*), they liberate themselves, attaining first the stage of stream enterers at the path of seeing, followed by the stage of once-returners who will be reborn only one more time, and then the stage of non-returners who will no longer be reborn into the desire realm. The final goal is to become an arhat. These four stages are also known as the “four results of spiritual practice.”

g.40 luminosity

'od gsal

འོད་གསལ།

prabhāsvara

g.41 mahāsattva

sems dpa' chen po

སེམས་དཔའ་ཚེན་པོ།

mahāsattva

“Great being”; a frequent epithet of bodhisattvas.

g.42 mandārava flowers

me tog man dA ra ba

མེ་ཏོག་མན་རྒྱ་རབ།

mandārava

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

One of the five trees of Indra’s paradise, its heavenly flowers often rain down in salutation of the buddhas and bodhisattvas and are said to be very bright and aromatic, gladdening the hearts of those who see them. In our world, it is a tree native to India, *Erythrina indica* or *Erythrina variegata*, commonly known as the Indian coral tree, mandarava tree, flame tree, and tiger’s claw. In the early spring, before its leaves grow, the tree is fully covered in large flowers, which are rich in nectar and attract many birds. Although the most widespread coral tree has red crimson flowers, the color

of the blossoms is not usually mentioned in the sūtras themselves, and it may refer to some other kinds, like the rarer *Erythrina indica alba*, which boasts white flowers.

g.43 manifest affliction

kun nas ldang ba

ཀུན་ནས་ལྡང་བ།

paryutthāna

The third stage in the development and expression of afflictions (Skt. *kleśa*, Tib. *nyon mongs*), preceded by “latent tendency” (Skt. *anuśaya*, Tib. *bag la nyal ba*) and “belief” (Skt. *drṣṭi*, Tib. *lta ba smra ba*).

g.44 mental disturbance

nyon mongs

ཉོན་མོངས།

kleśa

Afflictive emotions. There are the 84,000 variations of mental disturbances for which the 84,000 categories of the Buddha’s teachings serve as the antidote. These mental disturbances can be subsumed into the three or five poisons of attachment, aversion, and ignorance plus arrogance and jealousy.

g.45 merit

bsod nams

བསོད་ནམས།

punya

An accumulation of positive karma that ripens into a positive result.

g.46 Mighty Sage

thub pa'i dbang phyug

ཐུབ་པའི་དབང་ཕྱུག

munīśvara

An epithet of the Buddha.

g.47 modes of attraction

bsdu ba'i dngos po

བསྐྱུ་བའི་དངོས་པོ།

saṃgrahaṣṭu

The four modes for attracting people to the Dharma: giving (*dāna*); pleasant speech (*priyavaditā*); accomplishment of the aims (of others) by teaching Dharma (*arthacaryā*); and consistency of behavior with the teaching (*samānārthatā*).

g.48 Mount Meru

ri rab

རི་རབ།

meru

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

According to ancient Buddhist cosmology, this is the great mountain forming the axis of the universe. At its summit is Sudarśana, home of Śakra and his thirty-two gods, and on its flanks live the asuras. The mount has four sides facing the cardinal directions, each of which is made of a different precious stone. Surrounding it are several mountain ranges and the great ocean where the four principal island continents lie: in the south, Jambudvīpa (our world); in the west, Godānīya; in the north, Uttarakuru; and in the east, Pūrvavideha. Above it are the abodes of the desire realm gods. It is variously referred to as Meru, Mount Meru, Sumeru, and Mount Sumeru.

g.49 nāga

klu

ལྷ།

nāga

A class of semidivine beings that inhabit bodies of water and act as guardians of treasure.

g.50 Nārāyaṇa

sred med bu

སྲེད་མེད་བུ།

nārāyaṇa

Epithet of Viṣṇu.

g.51 nihilism

chad lta

ཅད་ལྷ།

ucchedadṛṣṭi

The belief that nothing exists. One of two extremes of incorrect views.

g.52 non-Buddhist schools

mu stegs can

མུ་སྟེགས་ཅན།

tīrthika

The non-Buddhist spiritual traditions of ancient India, which according to the Buddhist view are generally said to fall into one of two categories of erroneous views: the view of eternalism or the view of nihilism.

g.53 obscuration of karma

las kyi sgrib pa

ལས་ཀྱི་སློབ་པ།

karmāvaraṇa

An obscuration consisting of negative actions committed in the past that prevents progress on the path to awakening in the present.

g.54 Omniscient One

thams cad mkhyen pa

ཐམས་ཅད་མཁྱེན་པ།

sarvajña

An epithet of the Buddha.

g.55 one who would no longer regress

phyir mi ldog pa

ཕྱིར་མི་ལྷོག་པ།

avaivartika

The stage on a bodhisattva's path when there is no longer any chance of regressing to a preceding stage or state.

g.56 outer robe

snam sbyar

སྐྱམ་སྦྱར།

saṅghāṭī

The outer robe put over the other garments. One of the three Dharma robes (*chos gos gsum, tricīvara*).

g.57 Paranirmitavaśavartin gods

gzhan 'phrul dbang byed kyi lha

གཞན་འཕྲུལ་དབང་བྱེད་ཀྱི་ལྷ།

paranirmitavaśavartin

Gods of the sixth and highest-level god realm within the desire realm.

g.58 parivrājaka

kun tu rgyu

ཀུན་ཏུ་རྒྱ།

parivrājaka

An umbrella term for the class of wandering religious ascetics of diverse religious persuasions that were common at the time of the Buddha.

g.59 perception

'du shes

འདུ་ཤེས།

sañjñā

The third of the five aggregates that comprise a living being (form, feeling, perception, formation, and consciousness).

g.60 Prasenajit

gsal rgyal

གསལ་རྒྱལ།

prasenajit

The king of Kośala.

g.61 receive alms

bsod snyoms

བསོད་སྟོན་མཁུ།

piṇḍapāta

To receive food that is offered in a bowl to mendicants in order to accumulate merit. The Tibetan term can be literally understood as “merit equalizing.”

g.62 Sahā

mi mjed

མི་མཛེད།

sahā

This universe of ours, or the trichiliocosm (but sometimes referring to just this world system of four continents). It means “endurance,” as beings there have to endure suffering.

g.63 Śakra

brgya byin

བརྒྱ་བྱིན།

śakra

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

The lord of the gods in the Heaven of the Thirty-Three (*trāyastriṃśā*). Alternatively known as Indra, the deity that is called “lord of the gods” dwells on the summit of Mount Sumeru and wields the thunderbolt. The Tibetan translation *brgya byin* (meaning “one hundred sacrifices”) is based on an etymology that *śakra* is an abbreviation of *śata-kratu*, one who has performed a hundred sacrifices. Each world with a central Sumeru has a Śakra. Also known by other names such as Kauśika, Devendra, and Śacipati.

g.64 sanctified conduct

tshangs par spyod pa

ཚངས་པར་སྟོན་པ།

brahmacarya

In Buddhism, a term denoting a religious life grounded in renunciation and chastity. In the brahmanical traditions, this refers specifically to the stage in one’s youth dedicated to focused study of religious scripture and practice.

g.65 saṅgha

dge ’dun

དགེ་འདུན།

saṅgha

Though often specifically reserved for the monastic community, this term can be applied to any of the four Buddhist communities—monks, nuns, laymen, and lay women—as well as the community of bodhisattvas.

g.66 seat of awakening

byang chub kyi snying po

བྱང་ཚུབ་ཀྱི་སྡིང་པོ།

bodhimaṇḍa

The place where the Buddha Śākyamuni achieved awakening and where countless other buddhas are said to have achieved awakening. This is understood to be located under the Bodhi tree in present-day Bodhgaya, India.

g.67 six transcendent virtues

phar phyin drug

ཕར་ཕྱིན་བློག་

ṣaṭpāramitā

The six qualities that are to be perfected on the Mahāyāna path: generosity, discipline, patience, diligence, concentration, and insight.

g.68 Śrāvastī

mnyan yod

མཉམ་ཡོད།

śrāvastī

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

During the life of the Buddha, Śrāvastī was the capital city of the powerful kingdom of Kośala, ruled by King Prasenajit, who became a follower and patron of the Buddha. It was also the hometown of Anāthapiṇḍada, the wealthy patron who first invited the Buddha there, and then offered him a park known as Jetavana, Prince Jeta's Grove, which became one of the first Buddhist monasteries. The Buddha is said to have spent about twenty-five rainy seasons with his disciples in Śrāvastī, thus it is named as the setting of numerous events and teachings. It is located in present-day Uttar Pradesh in northern India.

g.69 Śrīsambhava

dpal 'byung

དཔལ་'བྱུང་།

śrīsambhava

A bodhisattva, formerly the bodhisattva Divine Excellence, who is mentioned in *The Teaching by the Child Inconceivable Radiance*.

g.70 strainer

tshags

ཚགས།

parisrāvāṇa

Part of the tradition monastic attire. Bamboo strainers were always carried in order to avoid killing insects when taking water.

g.71 Śuddhāvāsa gods

gnas gtsang ma'i ris kyi lha

གནས་གཙང་མའི་རིས་ཀྱི་ལྷ།

śuddhāvāsakāyika

The gods who live in Śuddhāvāsa heavens, the five “pure abodes” that form the highest realms that constitute the realm of subtle form (*rūpadhātu*) and which comprise the fourth of the meditative concentrations (*dhyāna*).

g.72 tathāgata

de bzhin gshegs pa

དེ་བཞིན་གཤེགས་པ།

tathāgata

Epithet of a buddha, meaning “one who has arrived at, or understood, how things truly are.”

g.73 thirty-two signs of a superior being

mtshan sum cu rtsa gnyis

མཚན་སུམ་རུཚ་གཉིས།

dvātriṅśamahāpuruṣalakṣaṇa

The thirty-two major signs of a buddha that manifest as specific physical attributes to indicate the perfection of the awakened state of buddhahood.

g.74 Universal Illumination

kun tu snang byed

ཀུན་ཏུ་སྣང་བྱེད།

—

The name of a future eon, one hundred incalculable eons from now.

g.75 upper robe

bsil zan

བསིལ་བཟ།

uttarāsaṅga

The garment covering the upper body. One of the three Dharma robes (*chos gos gsum*, *tricīvara*).

g.76 vibrant display

rol pa

རོལ་པ།

līlā

g.77 Vipāśyin

*rnam par gzig*s

རྣམ་པར་གཟིགས།

vipāśyin

One of the seven buddhas preceding the Buddha Śākyamuni.

g.78 well-gone one

bde bar gshegs pa

བདེ་བར་གཤེགས་པ།

sugata

Epithet of a buddha, meaning “one who has reached bliss.”

g.79 wisdom

ye shes

ཡེ་ཤེས།

jñāna

g.80 worthy

dgra bcom pa

དགའ་བཅོམ་པ།

arhat

One who has attained liberation from the suffering of saṃsāra and abides within the final peace of nirvāṇa. The final attainment according to the śrāvaka path of liberation. Also used as an epithet of the Buddha.

g.81 yakṣa

gnod sbyin

གནོད་སྦྱིན།

yakṣa

A class of semidivine beings who inhabit forests and other natural spaces, or serve as guardians to villages and towns, and may be propitiated for health, wealth, protection, and other boons.

