

༄༅། །འགྲོ་བ་ཡོངས་སུ་སྐྱོབ་པར་བྱེད་པའི་ཡོངས་སུ་བསྲོ་བ།

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**The Dedication “Protecting All Beings”**

འཕགས་པ་འགྲོ་བ་ཐམས་ཅད་ཡོངས་སུ་སྐྱོབ་པར་བྱེད་པ་ཞེས་བྱ་བའི་ཡོངས་སུ་བསྟོན་བ།

*'phags pa 'gro ba thams cad yongs su skyob par byed pa zhes bya ba'i yongs su bsngo ba*

The Noble Dedication “Protecting All Beings”

· Toh 286 ·

Degé Kangyur, vol. 68 (mdo sde, ya), folios 79.b–81.b



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co.

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## SUMMARY

s.

- s.1 This text is a prayer of dedication that strongly resonates with the later Tibetan literature of mind training (*blo sbyong*). In addition to the classic element of dedication of merit to all beings, a substantial part of the text comprises a passage that enumerates the many faults, shortcomings, and afflictions that burden sentient beings, as well as the many possible attainments that they consequently may not have realized, and culminates in the wish that everything negative that would otherwise ripen for sentient beings may ripen instead for the reciter, so that all sentient beings may thus be liberated and purified.

ac.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ac.1 This text was translated from the Tibetan, introduced, and edited by the translator Zsuzsa Majer in collaboration with Karma Dorje (Rabjampa), a native Tibetan speaker and Tibetan language expert; Beáta Kakas, the Sanskrit expert for checking Sanskrit terms; and Nathaniel Rich, the English-language editor, in the framework of the Alexander Csoma de Kőrös Translation Group.

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

i.

## INTRODUCTION

i.1

This short text and *The Dedication “Fulfilling All Aspirations”* (Toh 285) that precedes it appear to constitute a pair, and this for several reasons. First, the two texts, both of which lack Sanskrit titles, appear side by side both in the Denkarma (*ldan dkar ma*) imperial catalog and in the extant Kangyurs of the Tshalpa and Thempangma lines. In the Tshalpa Kangyurs, the two are placed at the very end of the Mahāyāna division of the General Sūtra (*mdo sde*) section, and in the Thempangma Kangyurs toward the end of the entire General Sūtra section. Their function as dedications therefore seems to be reflected in that placement, and—in the Tshalpa Kangyurs at least—the two appear to be dedications meant specifically to seal the sections of Mahāyāna sūtras.

i.2

Furthermore, since the two texts are dedications, it is perhaps not surprising that they are neither called sūtras, nor show features typical of sūtras, such as the opening “Thus did I hear” or an introductory passage describing the setting and audience of the discourse. What *is* somewhat surprising is that both are nonetheless included in the sūtra section of the Kangyur, indicating that they are to be considered discourses of the Buddha.<sup>1</sup> Along those lines, the lack of features that typically distinguish sūtras led the fifteenth-century scholar Pekar Sangpo (*pad dkar bzang po*), in his analytical survey of all the sūtras found in the Kangyur, to conclude that the two texts are extracts from another, longer sūtra—though he does not say which,<sup>2</sup> and our own search for matches (at least in the Tibetan corpus) has not yet identified any such text, sūtra or otherwise. What can be said with a reasonable degree of confidence is that, regardless of their exact provenance, the two texts were translated from Sanskrit or another Indic language in the late eighth or early ninth century. The short colophon to the present text<sup>3</sup> attests to that, providing the names of the two translators, the Indian preceptor Vidyākaraṇa and the Tibetan translator Bandé Yeshé Nyingpo, and the senior editor-translator Bandé Paltsek, who edited and



finalized the text. The text is also listed in both the Denkarma and Phangthangma (*'phang thang ma*) catalogs. This confirms the dating of the Tibetan translation to the early ninth century at the latest.<sup>4</sup>

i.3 There is no extant Sanskrit text of this sūtra, and there are no known canonical or Tibetan commentaries. There is no known English translation of it nor any translation into any European language, and no academic research or scholarly studies of it are known. A translation of the Tibetan text is, however, available in the Mongolian Kangyur.<sup>5</sup> The translation presented here is based on the Tibetan version in the Degé Kangyur and consultation of the Comparative Edition (*dpe bsdur ma*) as well as the Stok Palace manuscript.

i.4 The structure of the present text partly reflects the liturgy of “seven branches” or “seven limbs” (*yan lag bdun pa*), a set of practices that came to serve as the basic structure of many Mahāyāna and Vajrayāna Buddhist prayers, sādhanas, and pūjās. The seven branches are commonly as follows: prostration or homage, offering, confession, rejoicing in virtue, requesting the buddhas to teach, requesting the buddhas not to pass into nirvāṇa, and dedication of merit. Not all of these seven are present in this text, which suggests that perhaps the set was formalized only later. The structure of the present text also partly reflects the structure of the preceding text. For example, here there is also only a single line of homage at the very beginning, which might indicate that the line was intended only as the customary line of homage found at the beginning of all Kangyur works. Also in common with the preceding text, the line of homage is followed by a request that the buddhas and bodhisattvas pay heed to the reciter. And what immediately follows are four brief lines, each of them devoted to a single act in the order in which they appear in the preceding text: confession, rejoicing, supplicating the buddhas, and dedicating all merits.

i.5 What sets this short text apart, however, is the extensive dedication that follows, comprising the bulk of the prayer. This features an enumeration of the many faults, shortcomings, and afflictions that burden sentient beings, as well as the many possible attainments that they may have consequently not realized, with the reciter expressing the wish that everything negative that would otherwise ripen for sentient beings may instead “ripen for me” (*bdag la smin*), so that all sentient beings would thus be liberated and purified. This strongly resonates with the much later Tibetan mind training (*blo sbyong*) teachings, especially their central contemplative exercise of “giving and taking” (*gtong len*). Considering how pervasive the mind training teachings became, and still remain, in the Tibetan Buddhist world, it might come as a surprise to learn that other sūtra sources in the Kangyur for the development of that specific aspiration—that the suffering and negative karma of sentient

beings “ripen for me”—are practically nonexistent. In fact, it would appear that this hitherto unnoticed dedication contains the only explicit articulation to be found in the Kangyur of the paradigmatic aspiration of mind training—the wish that the suffering of others instead “ripen for me.”

**The Noble Dedication**  
**Protecting All Beings**

1.

## The Translation

[F.79.b] [F.80.a]

1.1 I prostrate to the Buddha, to the Teaching, and to the entire Assembly.

1.2 Blessed buddhas and all bodhisattva great beings, please pay heed to me!

1.3 I confess all sins.

I rejoice in all merits.

I pray to all buddhas.

I dedicate all merits so that all sentient beings attain the unsurpassed wisdom of omniscience.

1.4 Just as by their truth and true words the blessed buddhas who teach the truth have dedicated their perfect roots of virtue, in the same way do I, too, make this dedication. By that truth and those true words: whatever sins, nonvirtuous deeds, and evils that all sentient beings have committed; whatever falsehoods they have spoken and harmful thoughts they have had; whatever obscurations—afflictive obscurations, karmic obscurations, ripened obscurations, and cognitive obscurations—have obscured, veiled, and fettered them; that they have not correctly known their own and others' aspirations, latent dispositions, constituents, or intrinsic nature; that they have not correctly known their differences in faculties and diligence or in their virtues and nonvirtues; that they have not correctly known those qualities that are blameworthy, not blameworthy, to be relied upon, or not to be relied upon; that they have not succeeded in encountering holy beings, listening to the holy Dharma, directing their minds appropriately, or practicing in accordance with the Dharma; that they have not correctly known the various methods of taming by which beings may be tamed however they are obscured, veiled, and fettered by obscurations: the taming of sentient beings, the taming of self, the taming of others, the taming of both, taming gently, [F.80.b] taming wrathfully, taming with equanimity,

taming threateningly, taming by exorcism, taming with censure, taming by means of acts of service, veneration, and worship, taming by explaining the Dharma, taming by smiling, taming by going into seclusion to meditate, taming by means of the ascetic disciplines and having few possessions, taming through the practice of the perfections of generosity, ethical discipline, endurance, diligence, meditative absorption, and wisdom, and taming by faith, ethical discipline, learning, renunciation, wisdom, and meditative cultivation; that they have not given rise to the causes of ethical discipline; that they have not made pure the causes of meditative concentration, the causes of mental focus, the causes of meditative absorption, the causes of calm abiding, the causes of transcendent insight, the causes of the superknowledges, the causes of the exhaustion of defilements, or the causes of the discernments; that they have not actualized the meditative absorptions, the liberations, the meditative concentrations, and the meditative attainments, and that when appearances arise they have allowed what has arisen to decline; that they have given rise in their minds to the wish for gain, the wish to be honored, the wish for fame, and the wish for followers; that they have harbored in their minds thoughts of desire, malevolent thoughts, violent thoughts, thoughts about immortality, thoughts about children, thoughts about relatives, and thoughts about the requisites of clothing, food, bedding, and medicines for treating illness; that they have experienced short lives, much ill health, bad complexions, poor figures, weakness, low status, [F.81.a] meagre resources, stupidity, being reborn in the lower realms among the hell beings, in the animal realms, and in the realm of the Lord of the Dead, and that they have experienced many such kinds of suffering deriving from their bodies and mental unhappiness deriving from their minds; and that they have delighted in wrong aspirations and have not realized rightful aspirations—may everything that will ripen for sentient beings obscured and fettered by these and any other obscurations ripen for me! And may all sentient beings thus be liberated and purified.

- 1.5      Whatever extent the Buddha element may have, whatever extent the Dharma element may have, whatever extent the Saṅgha element may have, whatever extent the very limit of reality may have, whatever extent nonduality may have, whatever extent suchness may have, whatever extent sameness may have, whatever extent the elements of desire, anger, and ignorance may have, and whatever extent those who are bound and will be bound in saṃsāra may have—to that very extent may all sentient beings' primary afflictions, all their secondary afflictions, and whatever elements of affliction itself there may be, all ripen for me! And may all sentient beings thus be liberated and purified.

1.6        However many roots of virtue I have created and accumulated from cyclic existence's undiscoverable beginning, I dedicate them to all sentient beings. Attached to desire, tormented by anger, confused by ignorance, and yoked to the primary afflictions, secondary afflictions, and affliction itself, I do not correctly know, see, or understand how to dedicate the roots of virtue. But the blessed buddhas do know, see, and understand such things, and just as they dedicated their roots of virtue, so too do I dedicate mine. [F.81.b] I dedicate them in accordance with the mind of the tathāgatas. Just as they tamed sentient beings; just as they ripened their roots of virtue; just as they multiplied their roots of virtue; and just as they knew suffering, abandoned its origin, realized cessation, cultivated the path, attained the unsurpassed wisdom of omniscience, abandoned all roots of nonvirtue, possessed all roots of virtue, vanquished the latent tendencies, and attained the state of non-forgetfulness and the knowledge of all aspects—in just the same way that all the buddhas appearing in the past, the present, and the future dedicated their roots of virtue when they were bodhisattvas, so too do I dedicate mine. I dedicate them through sameness; I dedicate them through nonduality; I dedicate them by means of the dedication that completely protects all beings; and thus I recite a second time, and thus a third time.

1.7        May sentient beings see me in whatever manner will tame them,<sup>6</sup> without their having any such thoughts in mind. And may I always engage in physical, verbal, and mental actions in whatever ways sentient beings will be purified.

1.8        In whatever time, whatever place, and whatever way sentient beings will be tamed, may the sphere of reality be thus revealed to them without confusion!

*The Noble Dedication "Protecting All Beings" is concluded.*

c.

## Colophon

c.1 Translated by the Indian preceptor Vidyākaraprabha and the translator Bandé Yeshé Nyingpo, and edited and finalized by the senior editor-translator Bandé Paltsek.<sup>7</sup>

n.

## NOTES

- n.1 Most Kangyurs include one or more sections of dedication and aspiration texts, designated as such in the catalogs, and containing both extracts from longer texts and standalone works, all of them being canonical texts translated into Tibetan. In the Degé Kangyur, two such sections are found, one (Toh 809–827) at the end of the main Tantra collection (*rgyud 'bum*), and the other (Toh 1094–1108) at the end of the Compendium of Dhāraṇīs (*gzungs 'dus*). It is in these sections that we would perhaps most expect to find these texts placed.
- n.2 Pekar Sangpo (2006), pp. 383–90. In this regard, it is worth noting that Pekar Sangpo gives both texts titles that include the word “sūtra.”
- n.3 To the extent that the two texts may constitute a pair with a common origin, there is a distinct possibility that this colophon is intended to apply to the preceding text, *The Dedication “Fulfilling All Aspirations”* (<https://read.84000.co/translation/toh285.html>) (Toh 285) as well.
- n.4 The present text is found in the Denkarma catalog in the Various Prayers (*smon lam sna tshogs*) section under the title *'gro ba thams cad yongs su skyob par byed pa'i bsngo ba* and in the Phangthangma catalog in the One Hundred and Eight Names, Praises, Blessings, and Various Prayers (*mtshan brgya rtsa brgyad dang stod ra dang bkra shis dang smon lam sna tshogs*) section under the title *'gro ba thams cad yongs su skyob par byed pa zhes bya ba'i bsngo ba*; its length is said to be forty ślokas. See Denkarma, folio 304.a; Herrmann-Pfandt (2008), p. 268, no. 467; Phangthangma, p. 33.
- n.5 It is located in the Various Sūtras (Mongolian *eldeb*, Tib. *mdo sna tshogs*) section. Mongolian Kangyur vol. 84, folios 92.b–94.b; cf. Ligeti (1942), p. 279.
- n.6 See, for example, Dharmachakra Translation Committee, trans., *The Jewel Cloud*, Toh 231 (84000: Translating the Words of the Buddha, 2019), 1597



<https://read.84000.co/translation/toh231.html#UT22084-064-001-736>).

n.7 See n.3.

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 affliction itself

*kun nas nyon mongs pa*

ཀུན་ནས་ཉོན་མོངས་པ།

*samkleśa*

A term referring to all the primary and secondary afflictive emotions that completely disturb the mind.

g.2 anger

*zhe sdang*

ཞེ་སྡང་།

*dveṣa*

Hatred, aggression, and/or aversion. One of the affective behavior patterns known as the three poisons.

g.3 aspiration

*smon lam*

སློན་ལམ།

*praṇidhāna*

A declaration of one's aspirations and vows, and/or an invocation and request of the buddhas, bodhisattvas, etc.

g.4 Bandé Paltsek

*ban de dpal brtsegs*

བན་དེ་དཔལ་བརྩེགས།

—

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

Paltsek (eighth to early ninth century), from the village of Kawa north of Lhasa, was one of Tibet's preeminent translators. He was one of the first seven Tibetans to be ordained by Śāntarakṣita and is counted as one of Guru Rinpoché's twenty-five close disciples. In a famous verse by Ngok Lotsawa Loden Sherab, Kawa Paltsek is named along with Chokro Lui Gyaltsen and Zhang (or Nanam) Yeshé Dé as part of a group of translators whose skills were surpassed only by Vairotsana.

He translated works from a wide variety of genres, including sūtra, śāstra, vinaya, and tantra, and was an author himself. Paltsek was also one of the most important editors of the early period, one of nine translators installed by Tri Songdetsen (r. 755–797/800) to supervise the translation of the Tripiṭaka and help catalog translated works for the first two of three imperial catalogs, the Denkarma (*ldan kar ma*) and the Samyé Chimpuma (*bsam yas mchims phu ma*). In the colophons of his works, he is often known as Paltsek Rakṣita (*rak+Shi ta*).

In this text:

The senior editor-translator who edited and finalized this text.

g.5 Bandé Yeshé Nyingpo

*ban de ye shes snying po*

བན་དེ་ཡེ་ཤེས་སྡིང་པོ།

—

Translator of this text.

g.6 blessed one

*bcom ldan 'das*

བཙམ་ལྷན་འདས།

*bhagavat · bhagavān*

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

In Buddhist literature, this is an epithet applied to buddhas, most often to Śākyamuni. The Sanskrit term generally means “possessing fortune,” but in specifically Buddhist contexts it implies that a buddha is in possession of six auspicious qualities (*bhaga*) associated with complete awakening. The Tibetan term—where *bcom* is said to refer to “subduing” the four *māras*, *ldan* to “possessing” the great qualities of buddhahood, and *'das* to “going beyond” *saṃsāra* and *nirvāṇa*—possibly reflects the commentarial tradition where the Sanskrit *bhagavat* is interpreted, in addition, as “one who destroys the four *māras*.” This is achieved either by reading *bhagavat* as *bhagnavat* (“one who broke”), or by tracing the word *bhaga* to the root  $\sqrt{bhañj}$  (“to break”).

g.7 bodhisattva

*byang chub sems dpa'*

བྱང་ལྷུབ་སེམས་དཔལ།

*bodhisattva*

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

A being who is dedicated to the cultivation and fulfilment of the altruistic intention to attain perfect buddhahood, traversing the ten bodhisattva levels (*daśabhūmi*, *sa bcu*). Bodhisattvas purposely opt to remain within cyclic existence in order to liberate all sentient beings, instead of simply seeking personal freedom from suffering. In terms of the view, they realize both the selflessness of persons and the selflessness of phenomena.

g.8 bodhisattva great being

*byang chub sems dpa' sems dpa' chen po*

བྱང་ལྷུབ་སེམས་དཔལ་འཇོན་པོ།

*bodhisattva-mahāsattva*

Those “great beings” who have the intention to achieve the complete enlightenment of a buddha in order to liberate all sentient beings from cyclic existence. An epithet of a bodhisattva.

g.9 calm abiding

*zhi gnas*

ཞི་གནས།

*śamatha*

Sometimes also translated as “mental quiescence.” Refers to a calm state without thought, or the meditative practice of calming the mind to rest free from the disturbance of thought. One of the two basic forms of Buddhist meditation, the other being transcendent insight (*vipaśyanā*, *lhag mthong*).

g.10 dedication

*bsngo ba · yongs su bsngo ba*

བསྐྱོ་བ། · ཡོངས་སུ་བསྐྱོ་བ།

*pariṇāma · pariṇāmana*

Dedication of the merit at the end of a spiritual practice or virtuous action, usually for the attainment of full enlightenment by all sentient beings. In this way the actions thus dedicated contribute to the purpose of attaining enlightenment for the sake of all sentient beings.

g.11 defilements

*zag pa*

ཟག་པ།

*āsrava*

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

Literally, “to flow” or “to ooze.” Mental defilements or contaminations that “flow out” toward the objects of cyclic existence, binding us to them.

Vasubandhu offers two alternative explanations of this term: “They cause beings to remain (*āsayanti*) within saṃsāra” and “They flow from the Summit of Existence down to the Avīci hell, out of the six wounds that are the sense fields” (*Abhidharmakośabhāṣya* 5.40; Pradhan 1967, p. 308). The Summit of Existence (*bhavāgra*, *srid pa'i rtse mo*) is the highest point within saṃsāra, while the hell called Avīci (*mnar med*) is the lowest; the six sense fields (*āyatana*, *skye mched*) here refer to the five sense faculties plus the mind, i.e., the six internal sense fields.

- g.12 **desire**  
*'dod chags*  
 འདོད་ཆགས།  
*rāga · lobha*  
 Passion, attachment, and/or lust. One of the affective behavior patterns known as the three poisons.
- g.13 **diligence**  
*brtson 'grus*  
 བརྩོན་འགྲུས།  
*vīrya*  
 Also “perseverance.” One of the six perfections of the bodhisattva.
- g.14 **discernment**  
*so so yang dag par rig pa*  
 སོ་སོ་ཡང་དག་པར་རིག་པ།  
*pratisaṃvid · pratisaṃvedanā*  
 Correct and unhindered discriminating knowledge.
- g.15 **element**  
*kham*  
 ཁམས།  
*dhātu*  
 A word that can refer, in different formulations, to the fundamental constituents of material and/or mental phenomena, or to the realms of existence, it also has the general meaning of the nature of something.
- g.16 **endurance**  
*bzod pa*  
 བཟོད་པ།  
*kṣānti*  
 Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:  
 A term meaning acceptance, forbearance, or patience. As the third of the six perfections, patience is classified into three kinds: 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. As a term referring to a bodhisattva’s realization, *dharmakṣānti* (*chos la bzod pa*) can refer



to the ways one becomes “receptive” to the nature of Dharma, and it can be an abbreviation of *anutpattikadharmakṣānti*, “forbearance for the unborn nature, or nonproduction, of dharmas.”

g.17 ethical discipline

*tshul khrims*

ཚུལ་ཁྲིམས།

*śīla*

Morally virtuous or disciplined conduct and the abandonment of morally undisciplined conduct of body, speech, and mind. One of the six perfections of the bodhisattva.

g.18 generosity

*sbyin pa*

སྤྱིན་པ།

*dāna*

The practice of giving or making offerings to others. One of the six perfections of the bodhisattva.

g.19 holy Dharma

*dam pa'i chos*

དམ་པའི་ཚོས།

*saddharma*

The Buddhadharma or the Buddha’s teachings.

g.20 ignorance

*gti mug*

གཏི་མུག།

*moha*

Delusion, stupidity, closed-mindedness, and/or mental darkness. One of the affective behavior patterns known as the three poisons.

g.21 intrinsic nature

*rang bzhin*

རང་བཞིན།

*svabhāva*

The inherent nature of a phenomenon; in the present text, this is possibly a reference to the buddha-nature, *tathāgatagarbha*.

g.22 karmic obscuration

*las kyi sgrib pa*

ལས་ཀྱི་སྒྲིབ་པ།

*karmāvaraṇa*

Obscurations or obstructions caused by past deeds.

g.23 latent disposition

*bag la nyal*

བག་ལ་ཉལ།

*anuśaya*

Habitual impulses or subconscious habit patterns that underlie emotions such as desire and hatred. These are also causes of the perpetuation of cyclic existence.

g.24 latent tendencies

*bag chags*

བག་ཆགས།

*vāsanā*

Karmic traces or residues imprinted by past actions and constituting tendencies that predispose one to particular patterns of behavior.

g.25 learning

*thos pa*

ཐོས་པ།

*śruti · śruta*

Hearing or listening to teachings, this refers to receiving oral instructions and studying scriptures.

g.26 liberations

*rnam par thar pa*

རྣམ་པར་ཐར་པ།

*vimokṣa*

In this context, this refers to a category of advanced meditative attainments.

g.27 meditative absorption

*bsam gtan*

བསམ་གཏན།

*dhyāna*

One of the synonyms for meditation, referring specifically to states of mental stability or one-pointed abiding in an undistracted state of mind free from afflicted mental states. *bsam gtan / dhyāna* can refer to the specific states of absorption of the form and formless realms (eight in total). One of the six perfections of the bodhisattva.

g.28 meditative attainment

*snyoms par 'jug pa*

སྟོབས་པར་འཇུག་པ།

*samāpatti*

Meditative equipoise or evenness of mind. Another synonym for meditation, this refers to a category of advanced meditative attainments.

g.29 meditative concentration

*ting nge 'dzin*

ཉིང་ངེ་འཛིན།

*samādhi*

A general term for states of deep concentration. One of the synonyms for meditation, referring in particular to a state of complete concentration or focus.

g.30 merit

*bsod nams*

བསོད་ནམས།

*punya*

Virtuous thoughts, words, and actions that produce positive results, or merit. In Mahāyāna practice, these are to be dedicated for the benefit of all sentient beings.

g.31 nonvirtuous deed

*mi dge ba*

མི་དགེ་བ།

*akuśala*

There are ten nonvirtuous deeds, being the opposites of the ten virtuous deeds. The three physical misdeeds are killing, taking what is not given, and engaging in sexual misconduct. The four verbal misdeeds are lying, divisive

talk, harsh speech, and gossiping. The three mental misdeeds are covetousness, ill will, and false views.

g.32 obscuration

*sgrib pa*

སྒྲིབ་པ།

*āvaraṇa · nivaraṇa*

Defilements that obstruct liberation and omniscience. This term refers both to affective and cognitive obscurations.

g.33 omniscience

*thams cad mkhyen pa · thams cad mkhyen pa nyid*

ཐམས་ཅད་མཁྱེན་པ། · ཐམས་ཅད་མཁྱེན་པ་ཉིད།

*sarvajñatā*

This refers to the gnosis or omniscience of the Buddha, the “All-Knowing” or “Omniscient” One.

g.34 primary affliction

*nyon mongs pa*

ཉོན་མོངས་པ།

*kleśa*

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

The essentially pure nature of mind is obscured and afflicted by various psychological defilements, which destroy the mind’s peace and composure and lead to unwholesome deeds of body, speech, and mind, acting as causes for continued existence in saṃsāra. Included among them are the primary afflictions of desire (*rāga*), anger (*dveṣa*), and ignorance (*avidyā*). It is said that there are eighty-four thousand of these negative mental qualities, for which the eighty-four thousand categories of the Buddha’s teachings serve as the antidote.

*Kleśa* is also commonly translated as “negative emotions,” “disturbing emotions,” and so on. The Pāli *kilesa*, Middle Indic *kileśa*, and Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit *kleśa* all primarily mean “stain” or “defilement.” The translation “affliction” is a secondary development that derives from the more general (non-Buddhist) classical understanding of *√kliś* (“to harm,” “to afflict”). Both meanings are noted by Buddhist commentators.

g.35 realm of the Lord of the Dead

*gshin rje'i 'jig rten*

གཤམ་རྗེའི་འཇིག་རྟེན།

*yamaloka*

The preta realm, or the realm of ghosts, where Yama, the Lord of Death, is the ruler and judges the dead. Yama is also said to rule over the hells. This term is also the name of the Vedic afterlife inhabited by the ancestors (*pitr*).

g.36 sameness

*mnyam pa nyid*

མཉམ་པ་ཉིད།

*samatā*

(The state of) “equality,” “equal nature,” “equanimity,” or “equality.”

g.37 secondary afflictions

*nye ba'i nyon mongs pa*

ཉེབའི་ཉོན་མོངས་པ།

*upakleśa*

Literally, “near-afflictions,” or subsidiary afflictive emotions derivative of or related to the primary afflictions.

g.38 sentient being

*sems can*

སེམས་ཅན།

*sattva*

Any living being in one of the six realms.

g.39 sphere of reality

*chos kyi dbyings*

ཚོས་ཀྱི་དབྱིངས།

*dharmadhātu*

A synonym for emptiness, the ultimate reality, or the ultimate nature of things. This term is interpreted variously due to the many different meanings of *dharm* (*chos*) as element, phenomena, reality, truth, and/or the teaching.

g.40 suchness

*de bzhin nyid*

དེ་བཞིན་ཉིད།

*tathatā*

A synonym for emptiness, this term refers to the ultimate nature of things, the way things are in reality.

g.41 superknowledges

*mngon par shes pa*

མངོན་པར་ཤེས་པ།

*abhijñā*

Traditionally there are six modes of supernormal cognition or ability, namely, clairvoyance, clairaudience, knowledge of the minds of others, remembrance of past lives, the ability to perform miracles, and the knowledge of the destruction of all mental defilements. The first five are considered mundane or worldly and can be attained to some extent by non-Buddhist yogis as well as Buddhist arhats and bodhisattvas. The sixth is considered to be supramundane and can be attained only by Buddhist yogis.

g.42 tathāgata

*de bzhin gshegs pa*

དེ་བཞིན་གཤེགས་པ།

*tathāgata*

“Thus-gone one,” an epithet of a buddha. A buddha is one who has “gone” to thusness, suchness, or ultimate reality.

g.43 three poisons

*dug gsum*

དུག་གསུམ།

*triviṣa*

The three main affective behavior patterns, namely ignorance, desire, and anger.

g.44 transcendent insight

*lhag mthong*

ལྷག་མཐོང་།

*vipaśyanā*

Often translated as “insight meditation,” referring to the liberating insight into the nature of reality or the meditative practice of developing insight into the nature of reality. One of the two basic forms of Buddhist meditation, the other being calm abiding (*śamatha*).

g.45 very limit of reality

*yang dag pa'i mtha'*

ཡང་དག་པའི་མཐའ།

*bhūtakoti*

A synonym for ultimate reality, and also a near-synonym for nirvāṇa.

g.46 Vidyākaraprabha

*bidyA ka ra pra bha*

བིདྱཀ་ར་པ་པ་མ།

*vidyākaraprabha*

Indian preceptor, a translator of this text.

g.47 wisdom

*shes rab*

ཤེས་རབ།

*prajñā*

Transcendent or discriminating awareness; the mind that sees the ultimate truth. One of the six perfections of the bodhisattva.