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T10n0296 文殊師利發願經

Scripture on the Vows of Mañjuśrī

Translated during the Eastern Jin dynasty (317 – 420)

by the Northern Indian Tripiṭaka Master, Buddhābhadda.

I. Paying Homage and Professing

My actions of body, speech, and mind I make pure,

That all my afflictions may cease and endure no more.

With one single, reverent intent and a mind devout,

I pay homage to Buddhas, near and far out.

Past, present, and future, in directions ten,

I perceive all Buddhas through Saantabhadra's vow power again.

To every one of the Buddhas' great lands,

As dust grains are numerous, my reverence stands.

In just one single mote of dust I can see,

All the varied Buddhas for eternity.

With assemblies of awakened beings around,

In every dust particle, this truth is found.

With wondrous melodies and sweetest tone,

The greatness of the conquerors is known.

Their merit, an ocean that knows no bound,

Can never, never be exhausted and drowned.

With the strength of Samantabhadra's way,

The finest materials I gather each day.

I make offerings to all the Buddhas with might,
Of the ten directions, in darkness and daylight.
Fine incense and flower blossoms with sheen,
With musical instruments that fill the scene,
And all manner of wondrous adornments to see—
These I offer broadly to all of the free.
Through my own greed, anger, and ignorance's sway,
I have surely committed misdeeds on my way.
The non-virtuous actions of mind, speech, and form,
I confess and clear away from every storm.

II. Rejoicing and Requesting

The merit that all sentient beings have gained,
The hearers, solitary ones, and those awakened, contained;
The bodhisattvas, and the Buddhas' own worth,
I thoroughly rejoice in their merit on earth.
To all Buddhas ever omnipresent,
Who have reached Perfect Enlightenment,
I implore and beseech them with deepest respect,
The wheel of the unsurpassed Dharma to direct.
To those intent upon nirvāṇa to win,
I join my palms, praying their stay soon begin.
May they remain here for eons like dust grains we find,
To bring joy and peace to all living kind.
All the accumulated merit I hold dear,
I dedicate it to beings far and near,
So they may realize practices that to *bodhi* lead,
And unsurpassed enlightenment they shall succeed.

III. Practices and Dedication

I make offerings to Buddhas who have passed
And present Buddhas whose greatness is cast.
I wish all future World Honored Ones shall soon,
The supreme path of enlightenment attune.
May all Buddha-fields in directions ten fine,
Be completely adorned, brilliantly to shine.
With a Thus Come One seated in the place of the truth,
And a full host of bodhisattvas from childhood to youth.
May they cause all beings in worlds far and wide,
To eradicate all afflictions, with nothing to hide.
Deeply comprehending true reality's core,
And constantly abiding in joy evermore.
As I cultivate practices of awakening beings grand,
May the knowledge of my past lives come to hand.
And may all my obstacles finally break,
Eternally and without remainder for goodness' sake.
From the cycle of birth and death I am forever distanced,
From *māras* and afflicted karma, I am assisted.
As the sun hangs in space, unattached and serene,
A lotus unsullied by water, pure and clean.
I shall roam freely through worlds, ten directions across,
Transforming all beings, whatever the cost.
I'll eradicate the sufferings of unfortunate plight,
And instill in them practice, shining ever so light.
Though I adapt to the mundane affairs that may be,
The bodhisattva path I'll never flee.

Throughout limitless eons, though lengthy the age,
I'll fully cultivate Samantabhadra's page.
If others have wishes and vows similar to mine,
May we always abide in the same place divine.
So our virtuous deeds of body, speech, and mind,
Align in kind.

IV. Vision and Power

If I encounter virtuous friends,
May I guide them to Samantabhadra's path till the end.
So that, in this place of awakening,
They can remain forever, without straying.
May I see all Buddhas on high,
Surrounded by bodhisattvas beneath the boundless sky.
And for limitless eons I'll give them my all,
Making offerings to them and answering their call.
I will guard and protect the Dharma which they proclaim,
Lauding the deeds of awakening beings' good name,
Which I'll cultivate for endless future time,
To emulate Samantabhadra's practice sublime.
Though in the cycle of life and death I remain,
May I be equipped with inexhaustible gain,
Of wisdom, skill, and meditation's pure hold,
With liberation's freedom, more precious than gold.
In each minute particle of dust, tiny and small,
I see inconceivable realms that stand tall;
Within each realm, I see Buddhas untold,
In this way, throughout ten directions, brave and bold.

I see oceans of realms stretching far into space,
In each of these oceans, a Buddha has place.
In the sound of a single utterance they do make,
All wondrous voices appear for all to take.

V. Conclusion of the Vows

In every single one of those wondrous voices,
Are contained the most sublime voices.
May I, through the power of deep wisdom's grace,
Enter these voices in time and in space,
Which turn the pure, undefiled wheel of the Dharma so true,
Of all the great Buddhas, past, present, and new.
In a single moment of thought, I shall find,
All the eons yet to come, to my mind.
May the ages of past, present, and future complete,
Be contained in this instant, swift and discrete.
In that instant I see all Thus Come Ones clear,
Of the past, present, and future, holding them dear,
Discerning each one with a singular sight,
I enter their realms and their glorious might.
From one minute mote of dust, all pure realms do arise,
Of past, present, and future beneath heavens' guise.
All particles of dust in the ten regions are neat,
Equally adorned, perfectly complete.
May I fully observe the Buddhas to come,
Attaining the Way when their journey is done,
Turning the wheel of the Dharma's pure Law,
Then finishing their duties and entering nirvāṇa's awe.

May I attain divine powers, pervasive and keen,
The power of the Great Vehicle, the universal scene;
The power of compassion, to cover all strife,
And the power of practice, enriching my life.
The power of merit, pure and clear,
The power of wisdom, unobstructed by fear;
The powers of focus and skillful device,
The power to enlighten, priceless beyond price.
The power of pure, virtuous acts I pursue,
The power to end afflictions, forever brand new;
The power to destroy and disperse all māras afar,
May I fully attain Samantabhadra's guiding star.
I shall adorn and purify an ocean of lands,
And liberate an ocean of beings with my hands,
Discern an ocean of karma, wisdom to exhaust,
Purify an ocean of practice, whate'er the cost.
Fulfill an ocean of vows that never will cease,
And see an ocean of Buddhas bringing all peace.
For an ocean of kalpas, I'll carry out what's true,
The practices and great vows of all Buddhas old and new.
The practices of Samantabhadra, I vow to complete,
And attain Buddhahood, gloriously sweet.
The name of this bodhisattva Samantabhadra so fair,
Is foremost among the children of Buddhas everywhere.
I dedicate all the roots of virtue I've found,
And aspire to his level on hallowed ground.
Purifying my mind, speech, and body,
I adorn all realms of Buddhas freely.

Quickly attaining true enlightenment's bliss,
In the same noble fashion as Samantabhadra, like this.
In accordance with the practices that Mañjuśrī set forth,
And Samantabhadra, of inestimable worth.
I shall dedicate my virtuous roots so I may
emulate these beings' true ways.
This is the dedication path praised by the wise,
The Thus Come Ones of all ages beneath the vast blue rise.
I dedicate virtuous roots so I may
fully accomplish Samantabhadra's way.
I vow that when this life of mine comes to its close,
I will end all obstructions and all of my woes.
Truly free, I will meet Amitābha face to face,
And become reborn in his land of ultimate bliss.
When I become reborn in that blessed domain,
I will fulfill all great vows, over and again.
And the great Buddha Amitābha,
Shall predict too my becoming a Buddha.
May I perfect the practices of Samantabhadra's might,
And fulfill the vows of Mañjuśrī, both noble and right.
For all innumerable eons yet to come,
May I fulfill the path where enlightening beings have gone.