

The Splendor of an Autumn Moon The devotional verse of tsongkhapa

Translated and Introduced by Gavin Kilty

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ઞને ન અનુ નું સું ન તે સું તે ખ્યાન બુગ જ જે []

Prayer for Birth in Sukhavati, Realm of Bliss

With deeds exalted, you grant splendor unending; once remembered, you hurl far all fear of the lord of death; with constant love, you look on others as sons and daughters. Amitayus, teacher of gods and men, I bow before you.

I will write, swayed by compassion, as best I can few words of a prayer for birth in Sukhavati, land of bliss, praised again and again by the mighty Buddha as the highest of realms.

All knowledge of right and wrong covered

by layers of ignorance,

all future life in higher realms murdered

by the weapons of anger,

lying trussed by the ropes of desire in the prison of samsara,

I am carried helplessly to the oceans of existence

by rivers of karma,

tossed by endless waves of aging, sickness, and other suffering,

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พิราณาสู้สามารญี่สามหรารมารับรู่ไ ส์รพายสาทุตสาทธิภาณรุสามาร์รารยุภาพรา สูสารพาทุสิภาพารกราฐณาพุพาพยาธิสารีกไ ลทัรารรากธุพาณาทุพามพาทพัฒาตรกพาสไป รุสาพาพรารพาณาทุพามพาทพัฒาตรกพาสไป รุสาพาพธิภารสูญรายสำรุญาธิภาสุมพาฏิริก มูลาพาพธิภารสูญรายสำรุณารธุรณารสูญณากรไป สุราณาพธิภารสูญรายสำรุณารธุรณารสูญณากรไป สุราณาสุราณาร์ราญพิเพณาณาร์สุลไป สูราณุจัญณาผู้กายเป็ญเพาะเรารายเกิดไป

thrown to the jaws of that savage monster the lord of death, to languish under the weight of unwanted suffering.

Without protector and with anguished cries I ask with devotion,
as witnesses to the yearnings of my mind,
Amitabha, guide and sole friend to the deprived,
powerful Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattva, Vajrapani and
entourage,
to not forget the vows of the supreme bodhi mind
made over countless eons for our sakes
and like the mighty garuda hawk swooping through the skies,
to come, with the power of miracles, in great compassion
before me.

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ઞનગાનનગાલન છે નુષાગાસુઅન્ન ગલેવા ગલે દેવાયા ગણેષા છે જી અર્દે સુઅષા ય વ લ્વે નુવ માર્વે ન ન મળા મું એન માં સુષ્ય છે કુર્વે ગાફે જાય ચેંગાય મારે બેવર્વે સ્છ્રીય ୵ୢୠୖ୷ଽ୵ସ୕ଊଽ୕ୖୠୄଽୠୄୄଊ୶ୄୄ୕ୄ୵ୖୄ୷୲ୖଽ୵ୖଢ଼୵ୄ୲୵ୖୖୖୖୖ୵ୡ୕ୖ୲ଽୄୖୢୄ୷ୠ୲୰୷୲ୠୖଡ଼୕ଽ୵ୄଽ୵୲୴ୠ୶୲୰୲୰୲୵ୡୗ୶୲୶୲ ⁴दे रत्र हु नन मन्त्र गार्थ क्रुका हे॥ गवन गार्डन ग्री क्रुगा म्हूल केन मन्त्र गानन म મજીન દુઃદુઃ લ્લુ બા છી આ ભુગા માં મે ગ ને ગ અ કન્યું બર્યો ગ લે બ્યા દે ભુગ ગ ન લિ કા નું ગ શ્રુ કા મ [৻]ય'महेत'त्र^ॴ'म'रेत'च्चि'बि''''ट्र'देत'र्य'केते'मन' आ'यश्वर्थाय''केत'र्यते'र्देण्ठा' ই্রনঝান্যান্থার্মাবাঝান্যার্ম্মির চরাগ্রীর্ক্তবাঝান্যবাদ্র রানা স্থানা স্থানি না ক্রিবানা ক্লিবানা ক্লিবানা ক্লিবা શુર દેશ ને સચય છે નેં તે દે ભૂગ પ્રત્વે નું ગેં તે નું હું તે સ્વય સાન છે ગે તે તે બાવન १८११मधे दिन नु क्रीमा देवा ग्रान नहे न भुगवा नुवा में वा गाव देवा नही नहीं हैं वा वा म ૹ૽૿ૢૺૻૻઽઽૻૻઽઽૻ૾૽ૼગ૾ૺૹૢૣૺઌૻઌૻૻ૽૽ૼૺૡૢૻઌૻઌૡ૾ૺૡૻઽૢૻૻ૾ૼૼૹૻૻઌૻૹૣૡૻૻઌૻઌૻઌૡૢ૾ૡૻૹ૾૾ઌૻઌૹૻઌૹૣઌ૾ૻૹ นลิพมาสสมนารๆๆนานาลศักรุฐพานารูฐาชิๆ ผู้กานาสกรุรูฐานาริเรๆ নধন দান্ ব্রুমান দি দিন দান ক্রিম জিলা

By the power of the immense twin accumulation of spiritual merit stored by others and myself in past, present, and future, I pray that when death draws near I see before me my guide Amitabha, his two main disciples, his entourage, and others. At that time may I have strong faith in this great conqueror and his entourage and be free from the pains of being severed by death. By recalling and holding in my mind objects of faith, I pray that as soon as my consciousness has left this body, the eight bodhisattvas arrive by miraculous power to show the way to Sukhavati, there to be born within a jeweled lotus, of intelligent mind and of Mahayana family.

Once born in Sukhavati may I gain immediately the powerful dharani memory, meditative concentration, the objectless bodhi mind, inexhaustible confidence, and countless other qualities. By pleasing the highest of teachers, Amitabha and all buddhas and bodhisattvas of the ten directions, may I take with propriety the Mahayana teachings.

When I have absorbed and understood the true meanings of these teachings, may I be able to travel in an instant and without hindrance to limitless Buddha realms by miraculous power, there to perfect every powerful practice of the bodhisattva.

Though born in pure Sukhavati, I pray that I be able to journey, with unhindering miraculous power motivated by fierce compassion, primarily to impure realms, there to teach every living being the Dharma according to disposition and so bring them to that immaculate path hailed by the Buddha.

By quickly perfecting these exalted practices may I, for the benefit of countless living beings, easily attain the enlightened state of a buddha.

When the amalgamations of this life are spent, may I plainly behold in my path of vision Amitabha encircled by vast entourage, and may my mind be filled with faith and compassion. Once the bardo visions have appeared, may I be shown the path by the eight bodhisattvas and, born in Sukhavati, may I by manifestation become a spiritual guide for impure realms.

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Should I not attain such exalted states, may I in every life incarnate solely in a form capable of engaging in authentic study, contemplation, and meditation upon scripture and practice of the Buddhadharma.

May that form be endowed always with the seven desirable features of higher realms.

In every such existence may I gain the memory that recalls perfectly all my past lives.

In every life may I see all existence as being without essence, be driven by a mind captivated by the virtues of nirvana, and be ordained into the monastic discipline so excellently taught by the Buddha.

Once ordained may I live as the monk Akshobhya who, unsullied by the slightest fault, perfected morality and gained great enlightenment. ਗ਼ੑਗ਼ਫ਼ੑ੶୴ଽୄୢୠୄୗ୕੶ଵ੶ਸ਼ਸ਼ਸ਼੶ਲ਼ੑੑੑੑ੶੶ੑਗ਼ੑਗ਼ਫ਼ੑਸ਼੶ਲ਼ੑੑਫ਼੶ਸ਼ਁਸ਼੶ਸ਼੶ਖ਼੶ਖ਼੶ਖ਼੶ਸ਼੶ਸ਼ੑਸ਼੶ਸ਼ਗ਼ੑ੶੶ਖ਼ਖ਼੶ਫ਼ੑਖ਼੶੶ਫ਼੶ ୄୄୄୄୄ୶ୖ^୷୕୳ୖଵୄ୶ୄୖୄୣୠୄୖ୳ୠ୶୲୶ଽଽୢଌୖୡ୳୳ୖୖୖ୶ୖ୴୶୲୴୶୲ୖଈ୕୶୲ୢୖୡ୶୶୲ୖୄୄୄୖୄ୴ୖଌ୕୶୲୵ଽୖଽ୶ ૨૬ 'శેન' શી આ મગ્રુન 'મ' મલે લે' નું 'માલ લે ' ભા જે લે ' મ' બા જે મા આ સે ન' મા તે જે જે ન આ સા સ આ นมารุญานาร์กานมายู่มาชิญ พฤดุลาพยาหู้าารผมพาชรารู้ารุณณามาหน้ามา <u> ૬૮) ફ</u>ુભ્<u>ય</u>ભાશીયુભાષેશ્વાપાભાર્શ્વગામવે અદેવ પર બેશામાં ફુશ્રશા દેવા માં ૬૮) ૹ૾ૺૻૡૹૣઌૻઌૻૻઽૻૡ૽ૢૻઽૻ૾ઙ૾૽ઌૻૻૻૻૢૢૢૢૺઌૻઌૡઌૻૻૡૻૻઌૻઌૻઌૻૻૡૻૻઌૻૻૡૻ૽ઌૻૡૡૻૻૻ૱ૡૻ ᠵᠵ᠈ᡷᢅᢧᠴᢦ᠈ᡚᢆᡧ᠙ᠵᢆᢖᡪ᠈ᢋᡐ᠉ᡘᡭ᠈ᡩᢦ᠉ᡔᠴᠼᠴᢦ᠉᠋ᠼ᠈ᠴ᠉ᡱᠴ᠉ᠽᠼᢌᢌ तर्नेश्वायमार्व्युन् वृश्वायत्रिलेशाम्माण्यायार्व्यायमार्ग्यमार्थ्य स्वर्ध्यसार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमेर्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार् स्वर्यसार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमा स्वर्यसार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमार्थ्यमा ૡૻૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૹૢૻૻૻૡૻૻૻૡૻૻૡ૽ૻૼૹૻ૾ૹ૾૽૱ૡૹૻૻૡૻૹૢ૽ૢ૾ૡૻૹૻૹ૽ૻૡૼૡૻઌૻૡૻૡૼૡૻૹૻ ୳ୖୖ୳୶୶୳୵୳ୄୄଌ୵୵୳ୖଌ୵୳୵ୄୖଌ୵ୖଽ୶୲ୗ୶୲ଵୡୄୖଈ୶୲ଌ୵୶୲ୖଌଽ୵୶୲ୖ ઽઌ૾૽ છે ૾ૺૹ૾૾ૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૡૻૻ૾ૡૻૡૢૼૡૹૻૻૻૹ૽ૺૼઽૻઌઽૡૢૼૡૼઌૡ૽ૺૼૼૼૡ૽૾ૡ૽૾ૡૻ૱ૻ૱ૡૻૹૼૼૼ૱ઌઽૡૢૻૣઽૻ શુર દેવા દિષ્ટ્ર બેશરવા છે. ગામબાવા શુરાવા વા ગામવે સુવા દુરૂદ્દે વિશ્વ સુભા ૾ૢ૽ૼૼ૱ૻૻૻૻૻઌૻૻૻ૱ૻઌઌ૾ૺૻઌ૽ૼૻ૽ઌૻૻઌૻૻઌૻૻઌૻૻઌૻૻ૱૱૱

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Furthermore, in every life having fully comprehended the ways of deluded states of mind and the paths of purification and freedom so that I may master them, may I develop the powerful and accomplished dharani memory to maintain total recall over every word and meaning of the teachings. And in the same way that I retain these dharmas, may I gain a pure and unhindered confidence to teach them likewise to others.

Furthermore, in every life may I master and never be apart from the ways of meditative concentrations such as the warriorlike *shurangama samadhi*. May I acquire supernatural sight such as that unhindered by matter, as well as clairvoyance such as that which knows the ways of miraculous powers.

Furthermore, in every life may I develop that great wisdom that, self-reliantly and unaided, is able to separate right from wrong.

May I develop the clear wisdom that unerringly separates to the subtlest degree deluded states of mind from paths of purification and freedom.

May I develop the swift wisdom that holds the power to counter, as soon as they appear, all doubts, fallacious views, and incomprehension.

May I develop the deep wisdom that penetrates unopposed the meanings of scripture unfathomable to others.

In short, with wisdom freed from the faults of all deluded insight may I rise to the wisdom skillful in unlocking the meanings of scripture in order to travel, as the noble Manjushri has done, to the perfection of every bodhisattva practice.

Having gained without difficulty great, clear, swift, and deep wisdom may I, in order to gather the fortunate, crush false orators, and to please the wise, perfect the arts of teaching, debating, and composition that focus upon the entire teachings of the Buddha. ૱ઽ૱૱એ૱ૹઽૡૡ૾ૺૹૣ૽ૢૢ૽ૼૼૼૼૻૼૼૼૼૻ૱૱ૹૻૻ૱૽ૻ૱૾ૻ૱૾૾ૡૢૹૻૹૡ૽ૺ૱ૹ૱ૻૻ ૹ૾ૢૢૼૼૼૼઽૻૼૻૹૹૹૻૻઙૼઽૺ૽૽ઌૢ૿ૺૹૻૻઽ૽ૹૼૡૼૹૻ૽ૣૡૻૹૼૡૼૹૣૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૻૡૻૹૹૻૹૻ૾ૡૻ૾ઌૻ૾૾ૻૡૢૻ૱ૻઌ૾ૢૣૻ૱ૻ૽ઌૻૣ૾૱ૻ૽ૡૻૢ૱ૻ ଌୖ୶ୗ୶୲୶୶୶୷ଽୖୢୄୠ୲୷୳୶୶୶ଌ୵ୖୄୣ୵୕୵୵୕୵୵୕୰୲୶୶ୖୄଈୖ୵୕୶୷୶ୡୢଽ୶୲୷୶୷ୄ୵୵ ៹៹੶ୡୢ୲ୄୄୖୡ୶୲୶ୣ୵ଽ୕୳୶ୖୄୖୄୖୖୄ୴ୖ୶୳୕୳ଌ୶୶୕ଌୣ୵ୖ୶ଽ୕୶୶୲୳୵ୖୢୠୣ୵୕୳୲୶୲ଌ୳୶୲୶୲୶୶ นดิ สุขานดิ ลิ ์สุขา อูราลูกา พิมพารนดิ ลิ ์รานายมขางราชิ มยรา พัสานา ลิ મર્સું વાયર મહે મનવા મેં ભૂગ્તુ ર શુર છે વા સિંગ વાયય છે તે તે ખેતી સે માલે છે. ઞ્સેનું નયાવત્વા સાન દેવા ગાન વાયોવા માસેન મન સુવર્ષ મેં જેવે વર્સુ લ ગામ છે સે વિશ્વ ଽ୵ୢଌ୳୕ଌୖ୶ୖ୳୕୳ୄୖୡ୶୳୳୕୶ୠ୶ୖ୶୵ୄୣୣୣ୶ୄୖୄ୴ୖଌୖଽୢୄଈ୰ୖ୳ୄୖଡ଼ୄ୳ୢୠ୕୵ୄୖୄୠ୕ୣ୵ୖୖୖୄୖୠ୷ୖ୳୶୶ ७२७ विग्वराष्ट्रेन वुषायायने वर्रायाविग्रायाञ्चवायवि ज्यायां प्रियुग् राष्ट्र रेगा । ୩୲ଵୣୣ୶୲୴ଽୄୄୢୖୢୠ୲୕୴୳୳୶୶୲ଌୣଽୄୄୣ୳ୖଽୄଢ଼୵୲ୡୖୄଽୣ୳୳୴ଢ଼ୖଵ୶ୖଈ୕୲୶୳୶ୄୢୖୢୡୣ୶୳୲୴୲୶୲ଈୡୣ୲ୡ୶୲ สู้สานเริ่มเป็นเว็พเขาเทลเกษรูเนาเรื่อนเลาอย่างรูเลรียนเกษรเริ่มได้เหลายังเ ગઢેં નયગ દુ: એન યાક્ષુ: વુર શુર જે ગ ઢિવે ગર અન લ્શુર નું છે. ગ ર ર્સુન યાં જે ઽયગા મું એ ઽ પ અ ર સે ર ખ અ પ લે ગા - ગી અ ર નુ ખ પ - ૬ સે આ સુ સ પ ર સુ તે . ୢୢୢୣୣୣୣୣୣୣୣୣୣୣୣୣୣୣଽୣ୵୷୵୷ୄଽ୵୷ୡଵୄ୵୲୲୷୲ଌଽୄ୲୵୷୲ଌଡ଼୲ୄ୵ୖୖୖୖୖୖୖୖୡ୵୷୵ୄ୵୰୲ୖୄୖୡୣ୵୰୲୷୲ୄଊ୶୲ য়৾৾ৡ৾য়৾৾য়৾৾য়৾ঀ৾য়য়৾য়ৢয়৾৾য়৾য়৾

Furthermore, in every life, having put an end to a way of thinking primarily concerned with self, to all laziness and weakness regarding the powerful practices of the bodhisattva, may I possess a bodhi mind wise in the accomplishment of supreme courage and the willingness to dedicate myself to others, and may I travel, as the noble Avalokiteshvara has done, to the consummation of every bodhisattva practice.

Furthermore, in every life, whenever I apply myself to the welfare of self and others, may I possess a skillful ability to demolish the hordes of Mara, defeat those of extreme views, thwart all enemies, and may I travel, as the noble Vajrapani has done, to the consummation of every bodhisattva practice.

To perfect the bodhisattva practice that dispels all laziness, may I become like the unparalleled Shakyamuni who first created the bodhi mind, and by powerful endeavor undistracted for even an instant, reached great enlightenment

To eradicate obstacles to practices of enlightenment such as illness to body or mind, may I in every life pacify, as the King of Physicians, the Medicine Buddha, has done, all pain of body, speech, and mind, merely by mentioning his name.

Furthermore, in every life may I have the power to live out my span of life as I would wish and, merely by mentioning his name, may I destroy all untimely death as the conqueror Amitayus has done.

Whenever life-threatening obstacles approach, may I behold in all clarity Amitayus, who curbs the threat by way of the four kinds of Buddha activity, and with such a vision, may every hindrance to life be at once removed.

<u></u> વેલે અશુ ભાષ્ટ દેવ અરસું ગાય અચારુ ન નું જીભાષા છે. તે બાદ સાથે તે ગાય તે ગાય તે ગાય તે વાર સાથે તે ગાય તે ગ શું લદ્દે ન પ્રત્ર શુત્ર છે ના દિશ્વ શું મારુ મારે જે તે આ પર પ્રત્યો મારે મારે જે તે આ પ્રત્ય સાથે છે. anagararan anagaran an ฃๅรมณานารรา สิพาพูากษุสามาขึ้มณาธรามาสรามสิรามาณรัมพานรายูรา ୖଌ୶ୄ୲ୖ୳*ଽ*୶୶ଽୄୖୄୄ୰ୖଽ୶୳୶୶୰ଌ୳ୖଽୄୣଌ୲୷୰ଵୖ୶ୄୢ୰୲ୖଡ଼୳ୄୖ୳ୠୢୠ୲୶୶ୣୢଈୣ୷୰୶୶୲୶ୡ୲ શ્વેર્યમ: શેનુ સુચય્યમ: શુમ: ઉગ ાથે નગે મહે મબેચ ગહેર નન સેગા મહે ગેવામાં ૡૢૻૻૻ૱ૻૻૣૢૢૼ૱ૻૻ૱ૻ૱ૡૻૻૡૻૻ૱ૻૡૻ૽ૡૼૼૻઽૢૻ૱ૢૻૼૻ૱ૡૻૹ૽ૼૡૻૻ૱૱૱૱૱૱ ૱ૼૢૻૡ૬઼ૣઌઽઽૡૢૻૻઽ૾ઌ૾૾૾૾ૢૻ૱ૹૹૹ૱ૢૼૡૢૹૻઽઽઽઌૻૡ૱ૡ૾ૢૹૻ૱ૹ ম'র্মি'র্মি'ক্সুম'ফ্রুম'উগ

The Splendor of an Autumn Moon

Recognizing such an appropriate manifestation to be none other than Amitayus, may I develop firm, uncontrived faith by whose power I will forever be in the presence of Amitayus as my spiritual teacher.

Furthermore, in life after life may I, pleasing him in return, be forever fostered by an accomplished Mahayana spiritual master, the source of every virtue of this world and beyond.

In his care, may I acquire in him a firm unshakable faith, pleasing him by every means possible, doing nothing, even for an instant, to disappoint him.

May my spiritual master impart to me every instruction and every teaching in its entirety. Having understood them faultlessly, may I practice them and be able to bring them to perfection.

May I never, even for a moment, fall under the sway of malevolent teachers and misleading friends.

Having developed, in every life, belief in cause and effect, renunciation, the bodhi mind, and the pure view, may I engage in them continually with effortless experience.

In every life may every virtuous act gathered by way of body, speech, and mind be causes solely for the welfare of others and for the purest and highest enlightenment.

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The Tibetan saint Tsongkhapa (1357–1419), the founder of the Dalai Lama's tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, was renowned for his vast learning, meditational achievements, influential writings on practice and philosophy, and reform of tantric religious practices. A deeply humble and religious man, he expressed himself in exquisite verse.

Here, presented in both the original Tibetan and in English translation, are twenty-one devotional poems by Tsongkhapa. Each verse—dedicated to the Buddha, bodhisattvas, and lamas illuminates some aspect of the Buddhist path. Gavin Kilty's commentary places each prayer into context, and his careful, artful translations will appeal to anyone with a love of poetry.

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