

Kab-sum-pa Praise of Buddha

Whose lotus feet are adorned
By the crown jewel of all of these:
Seers of the Three Times¹, Enemies of Indra²,
Smell-Eaters³, Hooded Ones⁴, and Head of the Siddhas⁵?

Body gleaming with glorious golden light
Speech with which gandharvas' voices cannot vie
Mind brighter than the splendor of ten million suns:
That Supreme Guide of Migrators, Chief of the Shakyas!

Just as stars and planets rising in the pure sky
are reflected clearly from the middle of the sea,
In the ocean of my clear mind your qualities' reflection
Very clearly and distinctly appears!

And as the petals of a young lotus struck by moonlight
My hands fold together at my heart in reverence:
With my mind focused only on you I shall praise you;
May You, O Compassionate One, hear me!

Like a cluster of stars round the moon in the sky
You are surrounded by heroic Bodhisattvas
Like the supreme leader of a herd,
You walk ahead of a host of Arhats!

Your Form covered with thousand-fold lacework of light
Filling the whole expanse of space
Like a king of swans, You came soaring
Out of the sky with many miracles!

At that time hundreds of thousands of humans and devas
Whose long-gathered karma had fully ripened,
The moment they saw you, the hundreds of faults
Binding their untamed minds were released!

1 Devas
2 Asuras
3 Ghandarvas
4 Nagas
5 Mahesvara

Hero, at the foot of the Bodhi Tree,
Through the force of wisdom and compassion
You overwhelmed mara, the lord of delusion's forces
Just as a strong wind drives away a dark cloud!

Without taking up arrows and armor,
You alone defeated millions of maras;
Who but You could conceive
Of such a heroic act of combat?

Thus, although the fire of your love
Brings anguish to Mara, the Lord of Desire's heart
O treasure-mine of compassion:
You love all without bias!

You never become even slightly discouraged
Acting on behalf of beings;
Living beings, likewise, never tire
Of expressing Your qualities!

Mind as deep as the vast ocean
Speech eloquent, as the drum of the gods
Body, regal as Mount Sumeru
You make it meaningful for all who see, hear, or think of You!

Were all beings of all worlds at once
to seek from you answers,
Immediately a form of your body and speech
would appear before each of them!
Such are your deeds, but without conceptual thought

If the secrets of your Body, Speech and Mind
are unfathomable even to bodhisattvas,
solitary Buddhas, and Listeners, try as they may ,

Then, how much more so to Brahma and Indra!

The Garuda, lord of birds, flying through the sky
Must eventually stop due to exhaustion
And not because space comes to an end!
So it is to attempt expressing your qualities.

Like a sparrow trying to take the path
That full grown mighty eagles have flown
I aspire to that supreme path taken by Buddhas
Who are Endowed With the Ten Powers!

Deprived of eyes to see the way things are,
Lacking wealth of renunciation and bodhicitta,
Continually harassed by heavy delusions,
Fallen into an endless abyss of self-grasping,
Such is the desperate state I've come to!

Compassionate One, if you were to leave me, indifferent,
O Protector with even greater compassion for the lowly,
Who, other than You,
could I look to for Refuge?

Why, then, would You have been highly praised
With names like 'White Lotus' by all the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas
When you took on this realm all others had forsaken
So rife with the five degenerations!

However, You with your enlightening influence
Are never oblivious or indifferent to the plight of trainees
So my misfortune is no one's fault but my own!
Therefore, since you are never at fault,

From now on until I overcome Mara's forces
And attain the essence of enlightenment
May You care for me in all of my lives
And may I be insatiable for the nectar of your speech!

by Je Tsongkhapa