

Holy Mantra of Medicine Buddha

TADYATHA OM BEKHANDZE BEKHADZYE MAHA BEKHANDZYE

RADZA SAMUDGATE SVAHA

The following recited, then the mantra

Bhagavan, with equal compassion for all. Whose name when just heard dispels lower realms suffering? Dispeller of disease and the three poisons (ignorance, hatred, and attachment), I prostrate to the Medicine Buddha Lapis Light.

Tadyatha means “like this” (Thus have I heard)

Om is composed of the three pure sounds that signify the holy body, speech, and mind.

Bekhandzye means “eliminating pain” What eliminates pain is medicine. But this is not ordinary pain: the first elimination is the pain of true suffering; the second is the true cause of suffering. The medicine is to take two paths that are part of the path to enlightenment.

Maha Bekhandze means “great eliminating pain” and refers to the graduated path of the higher capable being, which eliminates the subtle defilements. So Bekhandzye Bekhandzy Maha Bekhandzye contains the whole path to enlightenment: the ultimate medicine.

Radza means “king.”

Samudgate means “he who has come forth.”

Svaha means establishing a foundation in the heart, the blessing, the devotion from which the realization comes.

So the Medicine Buddha mantra implies that, by actualizing the path contained in Bekhandzye Bekhandzye Maha Bekhandzye – the whole Lam Rim, or graduated path to enlightenment - a person is able to cease all defilements(both gross and subtle) and purify and transform the ordinary body, speech, and mind into the Vajra holy body, speech, and mind. After this, one is able to do perfect work for sentient beings.