

Lama Zopa Rinpoche

DAILY PURIFICATION



A Short Vajrasattva Practice

SHORT VAJRASATTVA MEDITATION



PUBLISHER'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We are extremely grateful to Lama Zopa Rinpoche for his eternal and unsurpassed love, compassion, wisdom and guidance; to all our benefactors—large and small, regular and occasional; and of course, to the great Lama Yeshe, who started it all and whose kindness exceeds that of the buddhas of the past, present and future.

May whoever sees, touches, reads, remembers, or talks or thinks about this book never be reborn in unfortunate circumstances, receive only rebirths in situations conducive to the perfect practice of Dharma, meet a perfectly qualified spiritual guide, quickly develop bodhi-citta and immediately attain enlightenment for the sake of all sentient beings.

LAMA ZOPA RINPOCHE

SHORT VAJRASATTVA
MEDITATION

Purification with the
Four Opponent Powers

Edited by Nicholas Ribush

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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

In *Liberation in the Palm of Your Hand*, Pabongka Rinpoche explains how the great Atisha would purify any negativity, no matter how small, immediately. Even in public or when riding his horse, as soon as he noticed a breach of his ethics, he would stop what he was doing, drop to one knee and then and there, purify it with the four opponent powers—the powers of dependence, regret, remedy and restraint.

Of course, compared to us, Atisha may not have had that much to purify. Still, he would say, “I never break my pratimoksha vows; I rarely break my bodhisattva vows; but my tantric vows—I transgress those like falling rain.”

Atisha practiced purification in this way because of his deep realization of the psycho-mechanics of negative karma, especially

its four fundamentals: negative karma is certain to bring suffering; it multiplies exponentially; if eradicated, it cannot bring its suffering result; and once created, it never simply disappears.

Through the study and practice of Dharma, we should try to attain Atisha's level of understanding. In the meantime, we should try to practice as he did.

Therefore, out of his great compassion, Lama Zopa Rinpoche has composed this short Vajrasattva practice and requested that it be published in a format that is easy for people to carry around and have available at all times. Thus, we can be like the great Atisha—whenever we notice we have broken a vow or created any other kind of negative karma, we can whip out our little Vajrasattva book and purify that negativity with the four opponent powers without a second's delay.



THE POWER OF DEPENDENCE (A): TAKING REFUGE

“I forever take refuge in Buddha, Dharma
and Sangha,
I take refuge in all the three vehicles,
In the dakas and dakinis of secret
mantra yoga,
In the heroes and heroines, the gods
and goddesses
And in the bodhisattvas of the
ten bhumis.
But most of all, I take refuge in my holy
guru forever.” (3x)

THE POWER OF REGRET

First recall the definition of negative karma—any action that results in suffering, usually an action motivated by ignorance, attachment or aversion.



“Almost every action I do, twenty-four hours a day, is motivated by worldly concern, attachment to the comfort of this life. It is like this from birth to death in this life and has been like that from beginningless rebirths. Nearly every action I have ever created has been non-virtuous, the cause of suffering. Not only that, but continuously I have also been breaking my pratimoksha, bodhisattva and tantric vows. Worst of all, I have created the heaviest of negative karmas in relation to my virtuous friends—getting angry at them, generating wrong views, having non-devotional thoughts towards them, harming their holy body and disobeying their advice. Having these negative imprints on my mental continuum is unbearable. It’s as if I’ve swallowed a lethal poison. I must practice the antidote right away and



purify all this negative karma immediately, without a second's delay.”

In this way, generate strong feelings of urgency and regret.

REMEMBERING IMPERMANENCE AND DEATH

“Many people my age or younger have died. It's a miracle that I'm still alive and have this incredible opportunity to purify my negative karma. Death is certain but its time is most uncertain. If I were to die right now, I would definitely be born in the lower realms. Because I could not practice Dharma there I would remain in the lower realms for countless eons. Therefore, how unbelievably fortunate I am to be able to purify my negative karma right now, without even a second's delay, by practicing the Vajrasattva meditation-recitation.”



THE POWER OF DEPENDENCE (B): GENERATING BODHICITTA

“But I am not practicing this Vajrasattva purification for myself alone—the purpose of my life is to release all hell beings, pretas, animals, humans, asuras, suras and intermediate state beings from all their suffering and its causes and lead them to unsurpassed enlightenment. In order to do this I must first reach enlightenment myself. Therefore, I must purify all my negative karma immediately by practicing the Vajrasattva meditation-recitation.”

VISUALIZATION

“Above the crown of my head, seated upon a lotus and moon seat, are Vajrasattva father and mother. Their bodies are white; each has one face and two arms. He holds a dorje and bell, she a curved knife and



skull cup. They are embracing each other. The father is adorned with six mudras, the mother with five. He sits in the vajra posture, she in the lotus.

“Vajrasattva is my root guru, the holy mind of all the buddhas, the dharmakaya, who out of his unbearable compassion, which embraces me and all other sentient beings, appears in this form to purify me and all others.”

In this way, your mind is transformed into guru devotion—the root of all blessings and realizations of the path to enlightenment.

“On a moon disk at Vajrasattva’s heart stands a HUM encircled by a garland of the hundred syllable mantra. A powerful stream of white nectar flows from the HUM and mantra garland and I am cleansed of all sickness, spirit harm, negative karma and obscurations.”

THE POWER OF THE REMEDY: MANTRA RECITATION

“OM VAJRASATTVA SAMAYA
MANUPALAYA, VAJRASATTVA DENOPA
TITHA, DIDO ME BHAVA, SUTO KAYO
ME BHAVA, SUPO KAYO ME BHAVA,
ANURAKTO ME BHAVA, SARVA
SIDDHI ME PRAYATSA, SARVA KARMA
SU TSAME, TSITTAM SHRIYAM KURU
HUM, HA HA HA HA HO, BHAGAVAN
SARVA TATHAGATA, VAJRA MAME
MUN TSA, VAJRA BHAVA MAHA
SAMAYA SATTVA AH HUM PHET”



The meaning of the mantra: *You, Vajrasattva, have generated the holy mind (bodhicitta) according to your pledge (samaya). Your holy mind is enriched with the simultaneous holy actions of releasing transmigratory beings from samsara (the circling, suffering aggregates). Whatever happens in my life—happiness or suffering, good or bad—with a pleased, holy mind, never give up but please guide me. Please stabilize all happiness, including the happiness of the upper realms, actualize all actions and sublime and common realizations, and please make the glory of the five wisdoms abide in my heart.*

Recite the mantra seven or twenty-one times or as many times as possible, practicing the three techniques of downward cleansing, upward cleansing and instantaneous cleansing.¹



GENERATING FAITH IN HAVING BEEN PURIFIED

“From the crown of my head, Guru Vajrasattva says, ‘Son of the race,² your negativities, obscurations and broken and damaged pledges have been completely purified.’”

Generate strong faith that they have been completely purified just as Guru Vajrasattva has said.

THE POWER OF REFRAINING FROM CREATING NEGATIVITIES AGAIN

“Before Guru Vajrasattva, I vow never again to commit those negative actions from which I can easily abstain and not to commit for a day, an hour or at least a few seconds those negative actions from which I find it difficult to abstain.”

ABSORPTION

Guru Vajrasattva is extremely pleased with your pledge. Vajrasattva father and mother melt into light and dissolve into you. Your body, speech and mind become inseparably one with Guru Vajrasattva's holy body, speech and mind.

DEDICATION

“In emptiness, there is no I, creator of negative karma; there is no action of creating negative karma; there is no negative karma created.”

Place your mind in that emptiness for a little while. In this way, look at all phenomena as empty—they do not exist from their own side. With this awareness of emptiness, dedicate the merits.

“Due to all the merits of the three times collected by me, buddhas, bodhisattvas



and all other sentient beings (which appear to be real, from there, but which are empty), may the I (which appears to be real but is empty) achieve Guru Vajrasattva's enlightenment (which appears to be real but is empty) and lead all sentient beings (who appear to be real but are totally empty) to that enlightenment (which appears to be real but is empty) by myself alone (which appears to be real but is also totally empty, non-existent from there).

“May the precious bodhicitta, the source of all happiness and success for myself and all other sentient beings, be generated within my own mind and in the minds of all sentient beings without even a second's delay; and may that which has been generated be increased.

“May I and all other sentient beings



have Lama Tsong Khapa as our direct guru in all our lifetimes, never be separated for even a second from the pure path that is greatly praised by the conqueror buddhas, and actualize the complete path—the three principal paths and the two stages of Highest Yoga Tantra—the root of which is guru devotion, within our minds as quickly as possible.

“Just as the brave Manjushri and Samantabhadra realized things as they are, I dedicate all these virtues in the best way, that I may follow after them.

“Whatever dedication the three time victorious ones gone to bliss have admired as best, in the same way, I also perfectly dedicate all these roots of virtue so that I may perform good works.”

Notes

1. See *The Tantric Path of Purification*, pp. 58-60, for details of these three methods of purification.
2. This “son of the race” has nothing to do with gender but refers to a sentient being of a certain mental type, which in turn relates to the buddha family into which one has been initiated.

References

Lama Zopa Rinpoche. *Teachings from the Vajrasattva Retreat*. Lama Yeshe Wisdom Archive: Boston, 2000.

Lama Yeshe. *The Tantric Path of Purification*. Wisdom Publications: Boston, 1995.

Colophon

This teaching was given by Lama Zopa Rinpoche during the Vajrasattva retreat, Land of Medicine Buddha, Soquel, California, USA, 1999, and revised in New York, November 1999.

LAMA YESHE WISDOM ARCHIVE

The LAMA YESHE WISDOM ARCHIVE (LYWA) is the collected works of Lama Thubten Yeshe and Lama Thubten Zopa Rinpoche and a section of the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition (FPMT; www.fpmt.org). The ARCHIVE was founded in 1996 by Lama Zopa Rinpoche, its spiritual director, to make available in various ways the teachings it contains. Distribution of free booklets of edited teachings is one of the ways.

Lama Yeshe and Lama Zopa Rinpoche began teaching at Kopan Monastery, Nepal, in 1970. Since then, their teachings have been recorded and transcribed. At present the LYWA contains some 7,000 cassette tapes and approximately 40,000 pages of transcribed teachings on computer disk.

Here at the ARCHIVE, we preserve the tapes and transfer them to digital media; edit and publish the teachings for free distribution; edit teachings for publication as trade books; and maintain and develop our web site www.LamaYeshe.com.

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LAMA YESHE WISDOM ARCHIVE
PO Box 356, Weston, MA 02493, USA
Telephone (781) 899-9587
Fax (413) 845-9239
info@LamaYeshe.com
www.LamaYeshe.com

DEDICATION

Through the merit created by preparing, reading, thinking about and sharing this book with others, may all teachers of the Dharma live long and healthy lives, may the Dharma spread throughout the infinite reaches of space, and may all sentient beings quickly attain enlightenment.

In whichever realm, country, area or place this book may be, may there be no war, drought, famine, disease, injury, disharmony or unhappiness, may there be only great prosperity, may everything needed be easily obtained, and may all be guided by only perfectly qualified Dharma teachers, enjoy the happiness of Dharma, have only love and compassion for all beings, and only benefit and never harm each other.

LAMA THUBTEN ZOPA RINPOCHE was born in Thami, Nepal, in 1946. At the age of three he was recognized as the reincarnation of the Lawudo Lama, who had lived nearby. Aged ten, Rinpoche went to Tibet, where he stayed until the Chinese occupation of Tibet in 1959 forced him into exile in India, where he met Lama Yeshe. The Lamas went to Nepal in 1967 and started teaching Dharma to Westerners. In 1974, they began traveling the world to teach and establish centers of Dharma. When Lama Yeshe passed away in 1984, Rinpoche took over as spiritual head of their organization, the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition, which now numbers some 150 centers and activities in almost thirty countries worldwide and continues to flourish under his peerless leadership.



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