The Bodhisattva’s Confession of Downfalls

from the Words of the Buddha

semchen tamché takpar lama la kyab su chi o
All sentient beings take refuge always in the Guru;

sangye la kyab su chi o
Take refuge in the Buddha;

chö la kyab su chi o
Take refuge in the Dharma; and

gendün la kyab su chi o
Take refuge in the Sangha.

chomdendé deshyin shekpa drachompa yangdakpar dzokpa sangye shakya tubpa la chaktsal lo
Homage to the blessed one, the tathāgata, the arhat, the complete and perfect Buddha, Śākyamuni!

dorjé nyingpo rabtu jompa la chaktsal lo
Homage to Vajra Conqueror²

rinchen ötro la chaktsal lo
Homage to Blazing Jewel;³

luwang gi gyalpo la chaktsal lo
Homage to Sovereign King of Nāgas;⁴
pawö dé la chaktsal lo
Homage to Leader of the Warriors;²

palgyé la chaktsal lo
Homage to Heroic Sound;⁶

rinchen mé la chaktsal lo
Homage to Glorious Jewel;²

rinchen da ö la chaktsal lo
Homage to Jewel Moonlight;⁸

tongwa dön yö la chaktsal lo
Homage to Unerring Vision;²

rinchen dawa la chaktsal lo
Homage to Jewel Moon;¹⁰

drima mepa la chaktsal lo
Homage to Stainless One;¹¹

paljin la chaktsal lo
Homage to Gift of a Hero;¹²

tsangpa la chaktsal lo
Homage to Pure One;¹³

tsangpé jin la chaktsal lo
Homage to Gift of Purity;¹⁴

chulha la chaktsal lo
Homage to Water Deity;¹⁵
chuhé lha la chaktsal lo
Homage to God of the Water Deities;\textsuperscript{16}

palzang la chaktsal lo
Homage to Glorious Goodness;\textsuperscript{17}

tsenden pal la chaktsal lo
Homage to Glorious Sandalwood;\textsuperscript{18}

zji tayé la chaktsal lo
Homage to Infinite Vitality;\textsuperscript{19}

öpal la chaktsal lo
Homage to Glorious Splendour;\textsuperscript{20}

nyangen mepé pal la chaktsal lo
Homage to Glorious One Without Sorrow;\textsuperscript{21}

semé kyi bu la chaktsal lo
Homage to Son of No Craving;\textsuperscript{22}

metok pal la chaktsal lo
Homage to Glorious Flowers;\textsuperscript{23}

deshyin shekpa tsangpé özer nampar rolpa ngönpar khyenpa la chaktsal lo
Homage to the tathāgata, Splendour of Brahma, Miraculous Insight;\textsuperscript{24}

deshyin shekpa pemé özer nampar rolpa ngönpar khyenpa la chaktsal lo
Homage to the tathāgata, Splendidous Lotus, Miraculous Insight;\textsuperscript{25}

norpal la chaktsal lo
Homage to Glorious Wealth;\textsuperscript{26}
drenpé pal la chaktsal lo
Homage to Glorious Mindfulness;²⁷

tslenpal shintu yongdrak la chaktsal lo
Homage to Renowned and Glorious One;²⁸

wangpö tok gi gyaltsen gyi gyalpo la chaktsal lo
Homage to King Indra’s Banner;²⁹

shintu nampar nönpé pal la chaktsal lo
Homage to Glorious Hero;³⁰

yul lé shintu nampar gyalwa la chaktsal lo
Homage to Perfect Victor in Battle;³¹

nampar nönpé shekpé pal la chaktsal lo
Homage to Transcendent Victory;³²

kinné nangwa kópé pal la chaktsal lo
Homage to Glorious Array of Eternal Splendour;³³

rinchen pemé nampar nönpa la chaktsal lo
Homage to Courageous Lotus Jewel;³⁴

deshyin shekpa drachompa yangdakpar dzokpé sangye rinpoche dang pemé den la
rabtu shyukpa riwang gi gyalpo la chaktsal lo
Homage to the tathāgata, the arhat, the complete and perfect buddha, Lotus Jewel
Steadfast like the King of Mountains;³⁵
dedak lasokpa chok chu jikten gyi kham tamche na deshyin shkopa drachompaa
yangdakpar dzokpa sangye chomden te dang jinye chik shyuk te tso shying shyepe
sangye chomden te dedak tamche dak la gong su sol
May you, and however many other blessed ones, tathagatas, arhats, complete and perfect
buddhas there are living and dwelling in all the world systems in all directions—all you
blessed buddhas—please pay attention to me!

dak gi kyewa di dang kyewa tokma dang tama machipa ne khorwa na khorwe kyene
tamche du dikpe le gyipa dang gyi du tsalwa dang gyipa la jesu yirangwa am
In this life and all my other lives circling from one form of saṃsāric existence to the next
throughout beginningless time—whatever wrongs I may have done, or caused other to do,
or have rejoiced in;

chorten gyi kor ram gendin gyi kor ram chok chu gendun gyi kor trokpa dang trok tu
tsalwa dang trokpa la jesu yirangwa am
Whatever possessions of stūpas, possessions of the Saṅgha, or possessions of saṅghas
dwelling in all directions, I may have appropriated, caused others to appropriate, or
rejoiced in the appropriation of;

tsam machipa ngel le gyipa dang gyi du tsalwa dang gyipa la jesu yirangwa am
Whichever of the five actions of immediate retribution I may have committed, caused
others to commit, or rejoiced in;

migewa chu le kyi lam yangdakpar langpa la shyukpa dang juk tu tsalwa dang shyukpa
la jesu yirangwa am
Whichever of the ten unwholesome actions I may have committed, incited others to
commit, or rejoiced in;
Whatever karmic veils I may have developed that would lead to the hells, or to the animal realm, or to the land of the pretas, or to birth in border regions, or amongst barbarians, or amongst the long-lived gods, or that would lead to incomplete sense faculties, or holding wrong views, or to not rejoicing at the advent of a Buddha—

All of these I confess in the presence of the blessed buddhas, who are aware, who observe, who are witnesses, who are authorities, who know and see. I admit them and do not conceal them, and I make a vow to refrain from them henceforth!

All you blessed buddhas, please pay attention to me!

Over the course of this life and all other lives in samsāra without beginning or end—whatever wholesomeness there may be from having given gifts to others, even as little as a mouthful of food to a being born as an animal;
dak gi tsultrim sungpé gewé tsawa gang lakpa dang
Whatever wholesomeness there may be in having preserved discipline;

dak gi tsangpar chöpa la nepé gewé tsawa gang lakpa dang
Whatever wholesomeness there may be in having maintained chaste behavior;

dak gi semchen yongsu minpar gyipé gewé tsawa gang lakpa dang
Whatever wholesomeness there may be in having caused sentient beings to mature;

dak gi changchub chok tu semkyepé gewé tsawa gang lakpa dang
Whatever wholesomeness there may be in having roused a mind set on supreme awakening;

dak gi lanepa yeshe kyi gewé tsawa gang lakpa dedak tamché chik tu dü shing dum té
Whatever wholesomeness there may be in unsurpassable wisdom—

dom né lana machipa dang gong nama chipa dang gongmé gongma lamé lamar yongsu ngöwé lanepa yangdakpar dzokpé changchub tu yongsu ngowar gyi o
Combining, gathering, and collecting all of this together, I dedicate it to the unexcelled, unsurpassed, most exalted, the most excellent; I dedicate it to unsurpassable, complete and perfect awakening.

jitar depé sangye chomdendé nam kyi yongsu ngöpa dang jitar majönpé sangye chomdendé nam kyi yongsu ngowar gyurwa dang jitar dantar shyukpé sangye chomdendé nam kyi yongsu ngowar dzepa deshyindu dak gi kyang yongsu ngowar gyi o
Just as past blessed buddhas have dedicated, and just as future buddhas, blessed ones, will dedicate, and just as the buddhas, blessed ones of the present in all directions, are dedicating now, I also fully dedicate in the very same way.
dikpa tamché ni sosor shak so
I confess each and every misdeed.

sönam tamché la ni jesu yi rang ngo
I rejoice in all goodness.
sangye tamché la ni kul shying solwa deb so
I request and pray to all the buddhas to teach and remain in samsāra.
dak gi lanamepa yeshe kyi chok dampa tobpar gyur chik
May I attain sublime, supreme, unsurpassed wisdom!
michok gyalwa gangdak dantar shyukpa dang
Supreme among humans, Victors now present,
gangdak depa dak dang deshyin gang majön
Those of the past, and those yet to come,
yönten ngakpa tayé gyatso dra kün la
Your praiseworthy qualities are boundless like the ocean—
talmo jarwar gyi té kyab su nyewar chi o
With folded palms, I take refuge in you!
in the footnotes have been checked against the GRETL Sanskrit edition.


7. ↑ Skt. Ratna-śrī.


11. ↑ Skt. Vimala. The Sanskrit version of the Śikṣāsamuccaya adds a homage to Nirmala before Vimala. Both of these buddhas’ names could be rendered into Tibetan as dri ma med pa.

12. ↑ Skt. Śūra-datta.


18. ↑ Skt. Candana-śrī.


22. ↑ Skt. Nārāyaṇa. The Sanskrit is variously interpreted as "resting upon water," "the path of human beings," and "the son of man." The Tibetan interpretation, which we are following here is "the son of Nāra," with Nāra translated as "one without craving."


25. ↑ Skt. Padma-jyotir-vikrižitābhi-jña. The Sanskrit version of the Śikṣāsamuccaya omits a homage to this buddha.


27. ↑ Skt. Smṛti-śrī.


31. ↑ The Tibetan appears to translate the Sanskrit name Vijjita-saṃ-grāma. Alternatively, the Tibetan could also be a translation of the Sanskrit name Yuddhajaya. The Śikṣāsamuccaya reads Vicitra-saṃ-krama (Eng. Perfect Transference).

32. ↑ Skt. Vikrānta-gāmin.

33. ↑ Skt. Samantāva-bhāsa-vyūha-śrī.

34. ↑ Skt. Ratna-padma-vikrāmin.


This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 Unported License.