

In Praise of Khenchen, Vajradhara and Great Knowledge Holder of Definite Meaning

Your discipline completely pure, unsoiled like Lake Manasarovar;
your concentration unwavering, stable like Tise Mount Kailash;
and your wisdom realizing all phenomena, clear like the sun:
Khenchen, lama of all beings, why shouldn't we praise you!

Knowing the three turnings of the Dharma for those of various mental powers
and understanding the 84,000 afflictions as medicine,
you teach the Dharma wheels with the ten bhumis, five paths,
37 factors conducive to awakening, and more, turning the wheel of Dharma – how amazing!

“An essential nature not established, it is emptiness,
and emptiness does not transcend the boundaries of cause and result,”
thus you reveal the way that cause and result function, clearly distinguishing them,
and turning the Dharma wheel of profound dependent origination – how amazing!

With the training of abandoning and accepting—the three vows¹— forming a stable foundation,
you are not shrouded by stains of natural misdeeds or transgressions²:
Great spiritual master who upholds the teachings of the Vinaya,
you turn the Dharma wheel of individual liberation – how amazing!

Recognizing parents as parents,
you hold all beings as children with your loving-kindness,
and sincerely wishing to liberate all beings from samsara out of compassion,
you turn the Dharma wheel of bodhicitta – how amazing!

With the recognition that oneself is fully established
as the supreme deity from the beginning,
you show the path without hardships, rich in methods, to those beings who don't realize this,
turning the Dharma wheel of profound secret mantra – how amazing!

With the view realizing the basic disposition of all phenomena,
and striking in your pure conduct, the three vows never declining,
having arrived in the kingdom of meditation without distraction or grasping,
you turn the Dharma wheel of view, conduct, and meditation – how amazing!

The method consists of the three vows, six paramitas, and bodhicitta,
and wisdom is realizing that the basic disposition of all phenomena is emptiness:
Manifesting the union of both, you turn the Dharma wheel of the ultimate fruition
with the qualities that are the fruits of separation³ – how amazing!

During this time when the Drigung teachings have weakened,
the Heart Essence and the Gongchig⁴ are the king of wish-fulfilling gems.
When the great treasure revealer of this time reveals them
from the center of the wisdom-mind ocean, why shouldn't we praise him!

Having studied the extensive scriptures of the highest learning,
with profound wisdom, you were liberated from the constraints of doubts
and practiced by meditating on the five-fold Mahamudra –
why shouldn't we praise one who perfected his own benefit!

In explaining, like the Lord of Sages Ratna Shri;
in debate, the fearless Great Pandita Naropa;
in composition, Chenga Sherab Jungne⁵:
You are inseparable from the incomparable treasure revealer of the Gongchig – how amazing!

Knowledgeable ones spread the fame of the forefathers' Dharma in this world,

venerable ones accept you as Khenchen who holds the Vinaya teachings:
Your heart a treasury filled with excellent qualities,
Khenchen, you are the home of all sublime qualities – how amazing!

To avoid the wholesome roots of even a single sentient being from becoming exhausted,
the Second Victorious Teacher⁶ taught that the fundamental character of the mind of all is one,
and that to guard even a single vow will benefit all:
You uphold and revive his tradition – how amazing!

At the time you taught the basic disposition of phenomena how it is
to assemblies that held on to mere tradition with more arrogance than knowledge,
your instructions went right to the heart of the matter,
and we saw your numerous wondrous qualities – how amazing!

Distinguishing samsara and nirvana, like a Kashuka stone⁷ that distinguishes gold from brass,
with the power of the teachings of cause and result arising without mixing
and the wisdom directly seeing right and wrong,
you are the guide to the ultimate path – how amazing!

With the four fearlessnesses⁸ like four claws straddling the snow,
you take up five-fold Mahamudra, radiantly blazing like a mountain lion,
the Gongchig like your vast mane:
Khenchen, you are a lion of men – how wonderful and amazing!

Venerating the assembly of the sangha at the crown of your head with high esteem,
by giving profound instructions on abandoning faults and accomplishing qualities,
you turn the wheel of Dharma unceasingly:
You are the glorious lama with all the qualities – how amazing!

Providing the sangha with material objects for their sustenance
and bearing hardships to visit everywhere,
you nurture those to be trained with unsurpassed Dharma,
offering your delight at the Three Jewels – what wonderful and amazing skillfulness!

Without giving deceitful praise out of attachment to your own position
or denigrating others' opinions out of aversion,
you show the meaning of the profound basic disposition of cause and result
and clarify the Victor's intent – how amazing!

Your body immaculately tempered in completely pure renunciation,
your speech sublimely true and free from the faults of embellishing or denigrating,
your mind bodhicitta holding all beings in your heart:
You are a monk and great vajra holder – how amazing!

While numerous teachers of the sublime Dharma, Khenpos and others,
may give teachings without having practiced them,
you are one who gives excellent explanations on the sublime from your experience:
You, Khenchen, are residing at the abode of the sublime – how amazing!

All Dharma teachings, which came from nakedly and directly perceiving the basic disposition –
the nature of reality – came together in the sublime Dharma of the Gongchig,
the true heart of Dharma, and teaching it clearly, you are its guardian
who turns the Dharma wheel of the Gongchig – how amazing!

Loving the entire sangha community like a great mother,
you are the actual great father who grants the monastic vows and precepts:
Supreme spiritual master, Drigung Khenchen,

may you live long and may your enlightened activities flourish!

Despite being well-adorned with a title of great ones,
not holding on to any self-importance and traveling alone, without attendants,
you are pre-eminent among the most supreme.
Peaceful and gentle and filled with a smile, may you live long!

All virtues resulting from this praise of the glorious lama who possesses all the qualities,
I dedicate to all mother sentient beings of the three realms,
so they may attain the level of Jigten Sumgön, after the basic disposition of phenomena,
the way things are, has become evident to them.

Respectfully, following the wishes and request of the mendicant Sonam Rinchen, by the scholar and meditator Trotse in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, on the morning of Nov. 30, 2021, with aspirations.

Translated into English by Mark Riege.

¹ The three vows are the Pratimoksha or individual liberation vows, the bodhisattva vows, and the secret mantra vows.

² Misdeeds can be distinguished as two types: those that are naturally harmful, such as killing, and those that transgress vows one has taken.

³ The “fruits of separation” are the positive results of abandoning harmful actions.

⁴ The *Heart Essence of Mahamudra* and *Gongchig* (“Single Intent”) are major works by Jigten Sumgön, also called Ratna Shri, the founder of the Drigung Kagyu lineage.

⁵ Chenga Sherab Jungne is one of Jigten Sumgön’s main students, who compiled many of his oral teachings.

⁶ The “Second Victorious Teacher” refers to Jigten Sumgön.

⁷ The Kashuka stone is a black stone that is rubbed against gold to determine its quality.

⁸ ‘the four fearlessness are:

- a. fearlessness in proclaiming for oneself, “All faults that are to be discarded have been discarded.”
- b. fearlessness in proclaiming for oneself, “I possess all qualities.”
- c. fearlessness in proclaiming for others, “This is the path that will bring enlightenment.”
- d. fearlessness in proclaiming for others, “These are the obstacles to be avoided on the path.”