

Calling the Guru from Afar

A Supplication to Pierce Your Heart with Devotion

Guru, hear us. Guru, hear us.
Please, root guru, kindly hear us.

Essence of the buddhas in the triple times,
Sacred Dharma's source of statements and insight,
Supreme among all groups, the noble sangha,
Please, root guru, would you hear us.

Greatest treasure of the kindest blessings,
Wellsprings of the two accomplishments,
Activity that fulfills the aims of everyone,
Please, root guru, would you hear us.

Guru Buddha Amitabha, please hear us.
Look here from dharmakaya's sphere beyond concepts.
Lead us with bad karma, who roam in samsara,
To Sukhavati's realm of pure perfection.

Guru Avalokiteshvara, please hear us.
Look from sambhogakaya's realm, lucid knowing.
Calm from their root the pains of the six beings,
Churn from their depths the three realms of samsara.

Guru Padmasambhava, please hear us.
Look here from Chamara's Lotus Light palace,
On us who are helpless, your Dark Age disciples,
Please rescue us right now with your compassion.

Guru Yeshe Tsogyal, please hear us.
Look from your realm, the divine Mahasukha.
Save us, the wretched, from samsara's ocean,
To the great citadel of liberation.

Kahma and Terma lineage masters, please hear us.
Look from the realm of the unified wisdom.
Break down the dark house of our mind's delusion
With the sunrise of the true realization.

All-knowing Drimey Özer, please hear us.
Look from your fivefold light-sphere of self-presence.
Fulfill insight's great strength, pure and primordial.
And let us reach to the end of four visions.

Peerless Atisha and heart-sons, please hear us.
Look from Tushita's one hundred devas.
Help to make dawn in our minds, bodhichitta,
Emptiness filled with the heart of compassion.

Marpa, Mila, Gampopa, please hear us.
Look from the vajra realms of Mahasukha.
Help in our heart dharmakaya to waken,
Great Seal's bliss-void, the sublime of all siddhis.

Karmapa, lord of all worlds, please hear us.
Look from the sphere where you tame endless beings.
Help to see all things as unreal illusions
And to accept the perceiver's three kayas.

Kagyus, four great and eight small, please hear us.
Look from your personal knowing, the pure realms.
Help to make vanish the four states of blindness
So practice-moods and the insights are perfected.

Five forefathers of the Sakyapas, please hear us.
Gaze from samsara-nirvana in union.
Combining the true view, with training and conduct,
Lead us onto the true path of all secrets.

Shangpa Kagyu masters, the matchless, please hear us.
Look from your buddha-realm, pure and primordial.
Help us train truly in means and in freedom
And to achieve unity beyond learning.

Tangtong Gyalpo, great siddha, please hear us.
Gaze from your effortless sphere of compassion.
Help reach the training, insight in illusion
So that we master the winds and the thought-flow.

Padampa Sangye, only father, please hear us.
Look from the realm of sublime, perfect action.
Suffuse our hearts with the lineage of blessings
To see beyond limits auspicious connections.

Machik Labdrön, only mother, please hear us.
Gaze from the sphere of the transcendent knowledge.
Help cut at the root proud beliefs in an ego
To see beyond ego the absence of concepts.

Dolpo Sangye, all-knowing, please hear us.
Look from the realm, the supreme of all aspects.
Help us to cease shifting winds in the dhuti
And gain vajrakaya beyond all transition.

Taranatha, most noble, please hear us.
Gaze from the sphere of the triple companions.
Lead us unhindered through vajra path's secrets,
And help us gain the divine rainbow body.

Chokgyur Lingpa, great tertön, please hear us.
Look from dharmakaya's expanse, all-pervading.
Help dual thoughts melt away, beyond rising,
And to attain our seat of self-knowing.

Orgyen Dechen Lingpa, please hear us.
Gaze from sambhogakaya's realm, natural knowing.
Let us make real the five kaya's self-presence,
The vastness transcending objects and attainments.

Shikpo Lingpa, all-pervasive, please hear us.
Look from compassionate states taming beings.
Please help us find the mind-gem within us
So that fruition matures in the basis.

Padma Nyugu, bodhisattva, please hear us.
Gaze from your magical net of illusions.
Let us be one with you, lord of four kayas,
Most sublime wakefulness of all the buddhas.

Jamyang Khyentse Wangpo, please hear us.
Look from your sphere, the two knowing wisdoms.
Clear up our mind's darkness of unknowing.
Help us to spread the light of great knowledge.

Ösel Trulpey Dorje, please hear us.
Gaze from your realm of five-colored rainbows.
Help rinse the stains of thoughts, winds and bindus,
And to awaken the youthful vase body.

Padma Do-ngak Lingpa, please hear us.
Look from your sphere, empty bliss beyond changing.
Help us be able to fulfill completely
All conquerors' and their offsprings' intentions.

Ngawang Yonten Gyamtso, please hear us.
Gaze from the space and wisdom united.
Help so belief in real things is dismantled
And we can use all events as the training.

Lodrö Taye, son of buddhas, please hear us.
Look from your realm of compassionate kindness.
Help us accept everyone as kind parents
So we can help every being sincerely.

Padma Gargyi Wangchuk, please hear us.
Gaze from your lucid sphere of mahasukha.
Help us in wakefulness to melt the five poisons
And to cut loss and gain's twofold attachment.

Tennyi Yungdrung Lingpa, please hear us.
Look from samsara and nirvana in sameness.
Help us feel an authentic devotion,
The vast, simultaneous insight and freedom.

Child of the siddhas, Karma Urgyen, please hear us.
Gaze from your wakeful space, empty knowing.
Transmit the mind-lineage to your destined disciples,
Help us retake our kingdom, realization.

Kindest root guru, the gracious, please hear us.
Look from the crown of our head's blissful mansion.
Help us to face dharmakaya's self-knowing
And to reach buddhahood within this lifetime.

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Sentient beings like ourselves with heavy dreadful karma
Drift since time without beginning through samsara's realms.
While we still will have to go through torment that is endless,
Not a moment's real remorse has ever filled our hearts.
Guru, would you hear us, help us right now with your kindness.
Inspire us to let the wish for freedom grow within.

This precious life is found, but our time completely wasted,
Meaningless pursuits always diverting our lives.
Laziness abducting the most meaningful, our freedom,
We leave empty-handed from this land of precious gems.
Guru, would you hear us, help us right now with your kindness.
Inspire us to make this life be truly meaningful.

Everyone upon this earth will die, without exception.
People pass away right now, like standing in a line.
Since we also have to die, and this can happen shortly,
It is surely foolish to make plans for many years.
Guru, would you hear us, help us right now with your kindness.
Inspire us to not waste time but keep to shorter plans.

Loving spouse and friends continue, each their separate journeys.
Others will enjoy the wealth we piled up stingily.
Also left behind will be this fondly treasured body,
While our mind will roam the bardo with no place or aim.
Guru, would you hear us, help us right now with your kindness.
Inspire us so we can see: for these we have no need.

Confronted with a terrifying darkness right before us,
Chased at our rear by karma's cruel, ferocious storm,
Lord of Death's repulsive thugs will batter us and force us
To endure the painful rebirths in the wretched states.
Guru, would you hear us, help us right now with your kindness.
Inspire us to flee the abyss of the lower realms.

Though our faults are mountains we maintain them veiled
from others.

Though another's fault is slight we tell it far and wide.
Without the least of virtues we pretend to be outstanding.
While using dharma names we act exactly contrary.
Guru, would you hear us, help us right now with your kindness.
Inspire us to pacify conceited selfishness.

The self-belief, our nemesis, we keep concealed within us.
All our thoughts cause nothing but emotions to increase.
All our deeds will only bear a fruit that is unwholesome,
Not a single step forward on liberation's path.
Guru, would you hear us, help us right now with your kindness.
Inspire us to cut self-clinging from its very root.

The slightest praise or blame can cause us so much
joy or sorrow.
A single hurtful word destroys our shield of tolerance.
When we see a destitute we feel no wish to help him,
Every chance for charity held back by stinginess.
Guru, would you hear us, help us right now with your kindness.
Inspire us to bring the truest Dharma to our hearts.

Samsara is just pointless but we think it has some purpose.
Just for food and clothing we discard the lasting good.
Having all we need we are consumed by further craving,
Letting magical illusions mislead our minds.
Guru, would you hear us, help us right now with your kindness.
Inspire us to shed the interest living on like this.

Bearing not the slightest pain, not physical or mental,
While our stone-hearts feel no fear of taking dreadful births.
Though we see directly: what you sow is what you're reaping.
Rather than the wholesome it is harm we carry on.
Guru, would you hear us, help us right now with your kindness.
Inspire us to feel conviction in causation's law.

Hating enemies we love our family and friendships.
Delusion's gloomy clouds obscure what's right
and what is wrong.
Training in the Dharma's ways we're drowsy, dim or sleepy,
During mundane deeds our senses are both sharp and clear.
Guru, would you hear us, help us right now with your kindness.
Inspire us: slay selfish feelings, the true enemy.

Looking from outside we seem the truest Dharma people,
While inside the Dharma has not even touched our hearts.
Just like lethal snakes, emotions are concealed within us,
The practitioner's faults are all laid bare when put to test.
Guru, would you hear us, help us right now with your kindness.
Inspire us to try to soften up our rigid hearts.

While we fail to notice even our greatest defects,
We play Dharma people, doing every type of wrong.
Selfish deeds and feelings have become our ingrown habits.
Every time a good thought moves, each time it comes to naught.
Guru, would you hear us, help us right now with your kindness.
Inspire us to recognize the faults that are our own.

Every day that passes brings our passing that much closer.
Every day that passes our hearts have grown more cold.
Trust in our teachers have now steadily diminished.
Love and true respect for Dharma friends have dropped away.
Guru, would you hear us, help us right now with your kindness.
Inspire us to tame this savageness within our hearts.

While we chant the refuge, prayers, and form the bodhichitta,
Devotion and compassion are not felt in our hearts.
These activities of Dharma are no more than chanting.
We go through the motions while our hearts remain untouched.
Guru, would you hear us, help us right now with your kindness.
Inspire us so Dharma penetrates our every deed.

Misery, it's said, is caused by wanting selfish pleasure.
Buddhahood is found from wanting every others' well.
Forming bodhichitta but in secret we stay selfish.
While not helping others, we will bring them only harm.
Guru, would you hear us, help us right now with your kindness.
Inspire us that we can put ourselves in others' place.

Though a buddha in the flesh, we think he's just a person.
The guru's gift of kind advice we often don't recall.
When not getting our way we lose every conviction.
His noble thoughts and deeds get veiled by doubting and distrust.
Guru, would you hear us, help us right now with your kindness.
Inspire us so true devotion may not fade but grow.

Our minds are buddhas, but we do not recognize this.
Though our thoughts are dharmakaya, we don't realize.
Uncontrived the natural way, but we fail to maintain it.
Naturalness the basic state, but we lack certainty.
Guru, would you hear us, help us right now with your kindness.
Inspire us to free our natural knowing in itself.

Though our death will clearly come, we lack the guts to face it.
Though the Dharma surely helps, we lack sincerity.
Though the law of karma works, we fail to choose in earnest.
Heedfulness is needed, but forgotten every time.
Guru, would you hear us, help us right now with your kindness.
Inspire us to keep an undistracted mindfulness.

Born of nasty karma here in Kaliyuga's ending,
All we've done till now results in further painful states.
Veiled by negative companionship like blurring cloudbanks,
Spiritual activities are robbed by pointless talk.
Guru, would you hear us, help us right now with your kindness.
Inspire us to practice Dharma with more fortitude.

First we thought of nothing but a life with dharmic meaning,
But results are rebirths in samsara's painful realms.
Fruits of freedom are now wrecked by frost of harmful actions,
The goal of lasting value has been savagely destroyed.
Guru, would you hear us, help us right now with your kindness.
Inspire us to practice Dharma until it's complete.

Inspire us to disenchantment from our deepest being.
Inspire us to not waste time but keep to shorter plans.
Inspire us to think sincerely we are merely mortals.
Inspire us to feel deep trust in actions' consequence.
Inspire us so our path is never blocked by hindrance.
Inspire us to practice with a joyous constancy.
Inspire us to see all pain as part of our journey.
Inspire us to use the remedies with steadfastness.
Inspire us to feel devotion that is true, authentic.
Inspire us to recognize our being's natural state.
Inspire us so natural knowing awakens deep within us.
Inspire us to cut confusion at its very root.
Inspire us so in this life we reach enlightenment.

We call on you, precious guru.
With longing we cry, gracious Dharma Lord.
Have pity for us, we have no hope but you.
Bless us to see our minds are never two.

Although several devoted practitioners have encouraged me to write something like this for a long time, I neglected to do so. Recently, at the request of both Samdrub Drönma, a noble female practitioner, and Deva Rakshita, this was written by Lodrö Thaye, someone who merely maintains the image of a dark age lama, at the great practice center Dzongshö Deshek Düpa. May virtuous goodness increase!

Translated for singing by Erik Pema Kunsang