

# MENTOR BONDING: THE DEEP PATH OF NON-DUAL BLISS-VOID PRACTICE

by Panchen Lozang Chokyi Gyaltsan (1570-1662)

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## I. INVOCATION

At the feet of my Noble Mentor of peerless kindness  
I bow and take refuge. I beg you to look after me  
Always and everywhere, with your great care.  
Since relying on you who grant embodied great bliss  
And all ordinary attainments instantly  
Is the supreme wish-fulfilling gem,  
Respectfully I sit at your lotus feet, Diamond Master.  
This practice is second to none,  
A boundless joy and aid for the lucky disciple,  
The supreme garland necklace culled  
From lotus-fields of holy precepts, open and secret.

## II. PRELIMINARIES

### Self-Generation and Blessing

From the great bliss sphere I arise as a Mentor-Archetype  
From whose body rainbow lights  
Emanate everywhere blessing the world and beings,  
Purifying and cultivating, transforming all  
Into a consummate display of excellence.

From an open-minded state, clear and pure,  
I and mother beings boundless as space  
Take refuge in triple gem Mentors  
Until the essence of enlightenment.  
*Homage to Mentors! Homage to Buddha!*  
*Homage to the Teaching! Homage to the Community!*

To benefit all living beings  
I must become a Mentor-Archetype,

Able to place every being  
In a guru-deity's final state.  
For the sake of all mother beings I must realize  
The innate, evolved mentor-archetype state  
In this life, as quickly as possible,  
To be able to free all mother beings from pain  
And lead them to the great bliss Buddha stage,  
Therefore I practice  
This profound Mentor-Archetype yoga.  
(Bless the offerings with the 3 breath sounds:)  
*OM AH HUM! OM AH HUM! OM AH HUM!*

Real intuitions, manifesting as inner and diverse outer  
Offering substances, serve to stimulate  
Special bliss-void intuitions in six sense domains;  
Clouds of outer, inner and secret offerings,  
Sacred instruments and inconceivable apparitions,  
Cover the ground to the horizon and fill the whole sky.

### III. THE ACTUAL PRACTICE OF MENTOR BONDING

#### Homage

In broad heavens of inseparable bliss-void,  
Amidst universally good offering clouds,  
At the crown of an immense wish-granting tree  
With exquisite leaves, flowers, fruits,  
On a jewel lion throne with broad lotus, sun, moon,  
Sits my mentor of threefold kindness,  
Actuality of all Buddhas, one face two hands,  
In the form of a saffron-robed monk, beaming smile,  
Gold scholar's cap, right hand teaching,  
Left in meditation holding an elixir filled bowl.  
At his heart is his Diamond Master,  
Midnight blue one face two hands,  
Holding scepter and bell, embracing Reality Queen,  
Delighting in play of innate bliss-void.  
Adorned with many gems, clothed in heavenly silks,  
Displaying the marks and signs of full maturity,

With a rainbow aura of a thousand rays,  
Seated in pure diamond posture, his life systems  
Are the five pure Transcendent Buddhas,  
His four elements, the four Lady Buddhas,  
His senses, channels, joints, actually Bodhisattvas.  
His pores are the 21,000 Saints, his limbs,  
Fierce Terrifics, his aura, Realm Protectors  
And Sworn Furies, underfoot, the World Gods.  
He sits surrounded by concentric waves,  
Lineage Mentors, Divine Archetype Hosts,  
Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, Heroes, Heroines, Protectors.  
At their three doors the triple gem signatures—  
From his heart HUM light hooks invite Wisdom Beings  
From their natural abodes to be inseparably bound.

Timeless source of consummate joy,  
O Root and Lineage triple gem Mentor-Gods,  
With Heroes, Heroines, Archetypes, Protectors,  
On the strength of compassion come here to stay!  
Though the nature of things is change-free,  
Your acts of love and wisdom dawn  
To suit the many minds to be tamed.  
Please come with hosts O Noble Lord!  
O Mentors, Buddhas, Altruists, and Protectors—  
Please come and inspire my visualization!  
The Wisdom and Commitment Beings become nondual.

In your great bliss compassion realm  
Even the ultimate three body state  
Is instantly granted! O gemlike Mentor,  
I bow at the lotus feet of your Diamond Form.

With the vast intuition of all Victors  
Whose supreme art dawns for every need,  
You play the role of a patch-robed monk,  
Noble Protector at your feet I bow.

All faults and instincts rooted out,  
Treasury of boundless qualities,

One door issuing untold aid and joy,  
Gemlike Mentor at your feet I bow.

Actuality of all Buddhas, Teacher of Gods,  
Source of 84,000 Noble Teachings,  
Splendid amidst the whole noble assembly,  
Mentor of kindness to you I bow!

To the Mentors of all times and places,  
Supreme triple gem worthy of all praise,  
With oceans of songs of faith and devotion,  
I bow in forms as many as atoms in space!

### Offering

Protective Lord, honored Mentor and host,  
I present ocean clouds of diverse gifts;  
From a fine array of vast crystal vases  
Four rivers of purifying elixir flow;  
Beautiful flowers, well-woven garlands and petals  
Covering the ground to the horizon;  
The heavens thick with summer blue clouds  
Of lapis-smoked pungent incense;  
A host of sun, moon, and star lit lamps  
Whose joy rays dispel gloom from 3,000 worlds;  
A saffron, sandalwood and camphor scented  
Perfume sea swirling to the horizon;  
Hundred-flavored food and drink,  
Mountains of divine and human delicacies;  
A vast orchestra of musical instruments  
Whose harmony pervades the triple world;  
Goddesses bearing inner and outer goods—forms,  
Sounds, scents, tastes, textures—everywhere;  
A billion four continent worlds with mountains,  
Seven precious and semiprecious things;  
Perfect environments and inhabitants that radiate joy,  
A vast trove yielding divine and human enjoyment,  
With pure devotion I offer you, supreme field,  
O Compassion Treasure, Refuge Lord!  
From ashore an ocean of pleasures real and imagined,

Gifts drawn from the pure forms of existence and peace,  
Thousand-petalled lotuses that captivate all,  
The flowers of all three door virtues, mundane  
And transcendent, with which I and others are blessed,  
All-good gifts emanating 100,000 sweet scents,  
Fruits of the three trainings, two stages, five paths,  
A pleasure grove I offer to delight my Gemlike Mentor!

I offer an ocean elixir, an expansive brew enriched  
With a hundred tastes, fine scent, saffron glow,  
The five lights, five hooks, and such,  
Purified, transformed and multiplied.

And I offer gracious magical partners,  
A host of muses born from heavens, poetry, spontaneity,  
Graceful masters and mistresses of passionate arts,  
Endowed with the enchanting glow of youthfulness.

I offer you the supreme spirit of enlightenment,  
Great intuition of innate bliss unobstructed,  
The natural nondual realm of all things' uncomplicated  
Reality, beyond expression in thought or speech.

I offer the whole diversity of fine medicines  
That cure the ills of four thousand addictions;  
And to show my devotion I offer myself as your subject,  
Please keep me in your domain vast as space.

### Confession

The acts of non-virtue and vice I have committed,  
Ordered or approved from beginningless time,  
I regret and confess to your great compassion,  
And resolve never to indulge them again.

### Congratulations

Though things lack intrinsic identity and reality,  
From the depths of our hearts we rejoice

In whatever pure forms of happiness dawn  
Like dreams for all Noble and misguided beings.

### Requesting Teaching

From clouds full of your perfect wisdom and love  
Please rain the profound and magnificent Doctrine  
To delight and nurture the night-lilly field of these  
Endless beings, cultivating growth and longevity.

### Requesting Presence

Though your diamond body lacks both birth and death,  
We beg you to stay without entering Nirvana  
Until the very end of the world  
In the royal vessel of your Integration.

### Dedication

All the merit thus gathered  
I dedicate to being cared for in all lives  
By a Gemlike Teacher of threefold kindness,  
To reach a Diamond Master's Integration.

### Prayer

Quality Source, Morality Sea,  
Replete with treasuries of vast learning,  
Saffron robed lordly second Sakyamuni,  
Please help me hold my ground of discipline.

Endowed with all the ten true qualities of one  
Who shows the way of Transcendent Lords,  
Heir of endless Victors, Lord of Truth,  
Supreme Vehicle Guide I implore you!

Three doors well guarded with patient genius,  
Unwavering, unerring mystic practice expert,  
Adept at describing and explaining all arts,  
O prime Diamond Master I implore you.

O compassionate Savior and Refuge,  
Please point the good way of Transcendent Lords  
To beings of a decadent age, unfit, hard to tame,  
Unsubdued by countless past Buddhas.

Since the sun of the Sage has set on earth,  
O compassionate Savior, please  
Adeptly reenact a Victor's deeds  
For the many beings without refuge or guide.

I beg you, compassionate Lord,  
Even a single pore of whose hair  
Is a merit field more praiseworthy  
Than the Victors of all times and directions.

I implore you, compassionate Refuge,  
To guide beings from their ordinary ways  
With your fascinating magic art,  
The three body jewel wheel of Transcendent Lords.

Your life-systems, elements, senses, limbs,  
By nature are five mother-father Transcendent Ones,  
Heroes and Terrifics, your reality  
The triple gem, Supreme Mentor I implore you.

Your nature is the million mandala cycles  
That spring from omniscient intuitive play,  
Sole omnipresent Jewel Master of a hundred clans,  
I implore you, Lord of innate Integration.

Pervasive Lord of all things, inseparable  
From the play of unblocked innate bliss,  
Primally free from extremes, all-good ultimate,  
Actual Spirit of Enlightenment I implore you!

You, Mentor! You, Archetype! You, Hero and Tutelary!  
From now until enlightenment  
I seek no refuge beyond you;  
Through life, between, and future lives,  
Hold me in the hook of your compassion to the end,

Free me from fears of existence and peace,  
Grant all attainments, and be the constant companion,  
Who keeps me from harm!

By virtue of making this request three times  
From the Mentors body, speech, and mind,  
White, red, and blue beams and nectars  
Come in sequence, then together, to melt  
In sequence, then together, into my three places,  
Purifying four blocks, granting four consecrations,  
The attainment of four bodies, and a duplicate Mentor  
Who gladly melts into me and grants his blessings.

#### IV. REQUESTING HELP AT ALL STAGES OF THE PATH

By virtue of offering and making heartfelt requests  
To the supreme sacred field, my Noble Mentor  
Root of happiness, Lord, may you  
Joyfully bless me with your care.

##### Renunciation

Realizing this rare opportunity may come just once,  
So hard to find and so quickly gone—  
I ask your blessing to grasp its true essence  
Undistracted by this life's senseless activity.

Fearing the burning pains of bad fates,  
Taking heartfelt refuge in the triple gem  
I ask your blessing to strive devotedly  
To renounce vice and amass the whole store of virtue.

Churned in a sea of evolution and compulsion,  
Devoured by the crocodiles of three sufferings,  
Bless me to develop the urge for freedom  
From this endless, horrific sea of cyclic life.

Help me uphold the royal standard of freedom,  
Guard the treasury of the Noble three disciplines,

And give up viewing as a pleasure grove  
This unbearable, prison-like cyclic life.

### Aspirational Spirit of Enlightenment

Recognizing these miserable beings all as mothers  
Who kindly have nursed me again and again,  
Help me develop authentic compassion  
Like a mother's love for her precious child.

Since in not wanting even the least bit of pain  
And not being content with any pleasure  
There is no distinguishing myself from others,  
I ask your blessing to bring others joy.

Seeing this chronic disease of self-indulgence  
As the root that yields unbearable pain,  
Help turn my resentment on the culprit,  
And expel the demon of self-enclosure.

Seeing as the door to all excellence the genius  
That holds mothers dear and secures their happiness,  
Help me hold these beings more precious than life,  
Even when they appear as enemies.

In short, since the naive work for their sake alone,  
While Buddhas work to benefit others,  
Help me distinguish merits from flaws,  
And learn to equate and exchange self and other.

Since self-enclosure becomes the door to all ills,  
And cherishing mothers, the ground of all excellence,  
Help me act on the essential precept,  
The art of exchanging self-enclosure for altruism.

From now, O compassionate Mentor,  
May the pain, faults and blocks of all mother beings  
Fully manifest in me now,  
And help me endow all beings with bliss,  
By giving others my virtues and happiness.

Since the results of vice cover the world and beings  
In a downpour of injury, stress and trauma,  
Help me turn adversity into the path  
And choose the acts that end negative evolution.

In brief, whether what dawns seems good or ill,  
Help me develop the pure blissful mind  
To make it a path to both spirits of enlightenment,  
With five powers to make the best of all things.

Help me give meaning to this opportunity,  
Learning how education and vows train the mind,  
Then applying myself immediately to meditation  
Through mastery of all four preparations.

#### Actual Spirit of Enlightenment

Help me conceive the spirit of enlightenment  
To free beings from the ocean of existence  
With love, compassion, high resolve,  
And the magic of mounting give and take on the breath.

Bless me to strive devotedly  
To observe the Supreme Vehicle's triple ethos,  
To bind my mind with the pure vows of a Victor's heir,  
The one way taken by all Victors everywhere.

Help me perfect transcendent generosity  
By precepts that cultivate the detached giving  
Which turns body, resources and three times merit store  
Into materials suited to each being's need.

Help me perfect the transcendent ethics  
Which benefits beings and gathers virtues,  
By holding vows of liberation, enlightenment  
And embodied process more dear than life.

Help me perfect the transcendent patience  
Which responds to injury by working to help,

Undisturbed by insults, critiques and threats,  
Even the rage of all beings everywhere.

Help me perfect the transcendent effort  
Which strives for supreme enlightenment  
With unswerving empathy, even staying  
Oceans of eons in hell for each being.

Help me perfect transcendent meditation,  
Abandoning flaws of distraction and dullness,  
For single-pointed equipoised concentration  
On the nature of voidness, all things' reality.

Help me perfect transcendent wisdom  
By practice of ultimate spacious equipoise,  
Joining ecstatic flow of great bliss  
With wisdom discriminating reality.

Help me perfect the dreamy aftermath,  
Realizing how the appearance of things  
Outer and inner is unreal as a dream or illusion,  
Or the moon's reflection in a pristine lake.

#### Perfect View

Help me realize Nagarjuna's true intent, in which  
Lack of an atom of intrinsically real world or transcendence  
And the inexorable relativity of cause and effect  
Both dawn as complementary, without contradiction.

#### Unexcelled Yoga Tantras

Since the ocean of embodied practice is crossed  
Through the kindness of my pilot Diamond Master,  
Bless me to hold more dear than life  
The vows and pledges, roots of attainment.

Bless me to see all appearances dawn as divine forms,  
All purified of taints of ordinary perceptual habit

By the first stage practice of converting  
Death, between, and life into three Victor Bodies.

Bless me to transform this life into the path,  
The integration of clear light and illusory body  
Which comes of your sublime dance, O Lord,  
On the eight-petal heart lotus in my central channel.

If death comes before I complete the path,  
Bless me to reach a Buddhaverse  
By teaching me mastery of the five forces—  
The potent art of enlightenment by Mentor Transference.

In brief, by looking after me  
Always, in life after life,  
Bless me to be a prime heir  
Who embodied your mystic form, speech, and mind.

Wherever you manifest enlightenment,  
May I be the first in your retinue,  
And may I be blessed with all the best conditions  
One could desire or need for natural success!

With these requests, O Sublime Mentor,  
May you gladly come to bless my crown  
Then to the midst of my heart lotus,  
Bring your dance of lucid affection to stay!

## V. DEDICATION

I dedicate the clarity and virtues thus achieved  
To support the textual and practical teachings,  
And accomplish the boundless aims of all  
Transcendent Lords and their heirs forever!

On the strength of this practice may I in all lives  
Not part with the four wheeled Supreme Vehicle,  
And complete the path of renunciation,  
Altruism, clear view and both stages.

Churning the milk sea of noble precepts  
With the axial mountain of analysis,  
May I make this life an ambrosial vessel  
Of peerless eloquence, a composition  
For the lucky, a lamp that dispels endless gloom  
From each devoted student's heart  
And brings mundane and transcendent blessings,  
And a hook that summons all quickly  
To harvest the store of virtue that springs  
From cultivating this technology.  
Finally, so that all achieved will be pure as the moon,  
I dedicate this so that all beings may be cared for  
By Noble Mentors, Roots of Blessing!

Colophon: *Mentor Bonding: The Profound Path of Non-Dual Bliss Void Practice (Zhab-lam bLa- ma mChod-pa'i Cho-ga bDe-strong dByer-med pa)*, also known as *Gurupujasya-kalpa*, composed by Panchen Lozang Chokyi Gyaltsan (1570-1662), was translated by Joe Loizzo, M.D., Ph.D., for the Jewel Heart Winter Retreat 1994, on the 575th anniversary of Je Tsong Khapa Lozang Drakpa's Parinirvana (1357-1419), at the request of the Venerable Ngawang Gelek Demo Rinpoche (1939-2017). It was revised in 2010, 2015, and 2017 for the Sustainable Happiness Program and the Contemplative Psychotherapy Program at the Nalanda Institute for Contemplative Science.