

The Seven Branches from

The Noble King of Aspirations to
Sublime Conduct

Āryabhadracaryāpraṇidhānarājā

འཕགས་པ་བཟང་པོ་སྤྱད་པའི་སྒྲོན་ལམ་གྱི་རྒྱལ་པོ།

(basic tone)

To youthful Mañjuśrī we bow!

(all in one melody)

Countless buddhas, lions of humankind,
Throughout all realms of time and space prevail.
To each of them with body, speech, and mind
With hearts imbued with reverent love we bow.

By power of my bodhisattva prayer
The buddhas vividly appear to mind.
With bodies infinite as stars' array —
To each of them devotedly we bow.

(harmonies begin)

Within each atom which abounds in space
Abound infinite buddhas with their heirs.
With victors in their infinite array,
Infinite space, I see, is full this way.

(forte)

To each and everyone of them that are
We sound their noble qualities, we roar,
With multitudes of melodies we sing
And praise all those to perfect bliss who've gone.

(piano)

Here, gem-strung garlands and the freshest flowers,
Sweet melodies, divine balms I present,
Bright lights, fine incense, silken parasols —
I offer to the victor-buddhas all.

(mezzo)

Delightful scent, the finest apparel,
Heaps of fragrant powders, mountain high,
Arranged in pure, exalted symmetry —
I offer to the ones who've gone to bliss.

(sopranos & bass humming "bam bam bam")

Mind-offerings as peerless as they're vast,
With pure intent to them I form; and with
Conviction in the bodhisattva way
To all infinite buddhas I here yield.

(all back to lyrics)

All of my degraded actions past
Committed with my body, speech, and mind
Through the force of dullness, passion, hate,
I each confess to purify them all.

(forte)

This joyful heart lifts at the merit of
The buddhas and their heirs throughout all space -
Self-buddhas, learners, those beyond the path,
And myriad wandering beings everywhere.

The Seven Branches

(mezzo)

Beacons of the ten directions' realms

Who, step by step, attained the buddha way

Of wakeful freedom, you, my guides, I pray

Please turn the matchless wheel of Dharma still.

I join my palms and reverently implore

The ones who'll fade into nirvana's peace

For beings' comfort and their final good

Remain for endless eons yet to come.

(piano)

The slightest virtue born from homage and

These offerings, confession, and this joy,

(forte – slow)

Requests to teach and stay, all these I pledge ---

(PAUSE)

To the full awakening of all.

Translated and metered for recitation and singing by Christian Bernert and James Gattuso in Hanoi, Vietnam, 2022. The meter chosen for this composition is iambic pentameter. The translation is based on a commentary by the most venerable Khenchen Appey Rinpoche, published in: Words of a Gentle Sage. Collected Teachings of Khenchen Appey Rinpoche, Vol. 2. Kathmandu: Vajra Publications. 2022.

Debut performance on October 20, 2022 (25th day of the 8th month) at Dzongsar Khyentse Chokyi Lodro Institute, Chauntra, HP, India, on the auspicious occasion of the transmission of the Compendium of Sādhana by Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche. Melody by Christian Bernert and musical arrangement by Jamie Creek.

Any merit born from this we dedicate so that all beings may be blessed with inspiration to pursue awakened paths, that the flowers of true Dharma may blossom in their hearts, and that all genuine upholders of the teachings may enjoy perfect conditions to benefit the worlds of beings in myriad skillful ways.

May the winds of Dharma bless the jeweled sailboats of the arts, so that these too be sacred vehicles that deliver beings to the haven of true freedom and sublime wisdom.