७ । प्रेंचयः पत्रे प्यवायः पश्ययः मुख्यः पत्र्वाया

A Method of Confessing and Pledging through the Four Powers

by Lobzang Chökyi Gyaltsen

व.ज्ञ्.यी.री.पर्डी.क्र्री.bरे.ला

Namo guru mañjughoṣāya!

यालय स्थल ग्रीट क्ट्रिंट विट्रान्त प्रत्ने प्रति हुंच मुं सूर्य स्वार्थ माल्य स्थल ग्रीट क्रिंट क्र

For those who wish to confess misdeeds, what follows is the incomparable remedy for harmful actions and downfalls. The way to practise the essence of the four powers is as follows. Clean the place of practice, set up supports of enlightened body, speech and mind, and arrange extensive offerings before them. Settle on a comfortable seat, and take refuge and generate bodhicitta as many times as possible, ensuring that you do not merely mouth the words but really integrate the practice with your mind. Invite the field of merit with the lines beginning, "Three Jewels, together with your attendants, pervading the whole of space and time..." Consider that the guru and Three Jewels are present, filling the space before you. Then offer the seven branches, with pure visualization, using the lines from, "In all the worlds throughout the ten directions" to "All this I dedicate towards complete awakening". Then, like a forceful culprit relying on a form of support, consider how you and others—all sentient beings—have committed misdeeds and accumulated downfalls throughout beginningless time. As a result, you risk falling into the three lower realms and experiencing the terrors of saṃsāra. You must therefore rely on the unfailing refuge, the guru and Three Jewels in the sky before you, and entrust yourself entirely, heart and soul, to them. Recite the lines beginning "Leader, victorious one, protector of all..." three times. If, as a practitioner, you know how to direct your motivation, all the other powers are complete here too, but the practice up to here relates mainly to the power of support.

वडेब्रायासकुसासेन् प्रृत्युति क्वुत्यार्थे प्रदा

drenpa nyammé shakyé gyalpo dang Unequalled guide, king of the Śākyas,

र्दे. इ. श्रेट म्बार प्राप्त प्र प्राप्त प्र प्राप्त प्राप्त प्र प्राप्त प्र प्राप्त प्र प्राप्त प्र प्राप्त प्र प्राप्त प्र प्र प्राप्त प्र प्र प्र प्र प्र प्र प्र प

dorjé nyingpö rabtu jompa sok Vajra Essence who Utterly Subdues

सरसःकुसःसंःखःयदेःग्वेगसःद्ययःर्यःयतुत्।।

sangye so nga deshek pawo dün

And the remainder of the thirty-five buddhas, together with the seven heroic sugatas,

nyikmé gönpo deshyin shekpa gyé

Eight tathāgatas, protectors in this time of degeneration,

नभूषानवराददेवायाद्युनायते के वार्केरा

kalzang drenpa tubpé nyima tong

Thousand sun-like sages, guides for the Fortunate Aeon,

marmé dzé dang tubwang jam gön sok

Dīpaṃkara, lord of sages, protector Maitreya,

र्थः यश्चित्रः मुक्षः पठकः वस्रवः उर्दः व

dü sum gyalwa sé ché tamché la

And others—buddhas of the three times, together with your heirs,

युगायर्कणः सर्केदः स्ट्रीटः द्रुषः सुन्यः सुन्यः सुः सर्के।

chaktsal chö ching nying né kyab su chi

We pay homage to you, make offerings and sincerely take refuge:

यन् या रुया रुया रुव र र्सेट रसेट राये रवहे या साथ रासें प्रस्ता ।

dakchak ngensong sipé jik lé kyob

Protect us from the lower realms and threats of existence!

लेबन्देन्थ्र-प्रवास्याचनायात्रवाचाईद्रायात्वी नाक्षेत्रचान्त्रात्वाद्वात्त्रम्

Reciting this from the depth of your heart provides the antidotal power.

हुंग्रयार्थियां ये देंग्यं मित्रा मित्र मित्र

chok dü küntu shyukpé gyal nam dang

Victorious buddhas of every place and time,

व्यायाहे के ख्रामुल ख्राप्य प्राप्य के इसमा

tukjé cheden gyalsé pawo nam

And great compassionate bodhisattva warriors,

न्द्रे'नदे'ह्युग्रथ'ग्रीक'न्द्रग'त्य'द्र्य'क्र्यंत्रा

tsewé tuk kyi dak la gong su sol

Consider me with your loving wisdom minds.

यन्गामी अर्घेगा सेन् 'तुस्र दस्र न 'तृस्ते पर्।

dak gi tokmé dü né danté bar

Throughout beginningless time until now,

र्गामाशुक्ष-५नरःमीकावर्षक्षकाकोर् छे नास्।

duk sum wang gi tsammé nyewa nga

Overpowered by the three poisons, I have committed the five boundless crimes,

श्री-नवी-नदु-नद्यकेंग-मशुक-न्ग्री-स्वाका-स्वाका

mi gé chu dang chok sum kor trok sok

And ten unwholesome actions, plundered the property of the Three Jewels,

तह्माकार्रुटाट्र केंट्रमासुसार्ट्र ट्रिमेंसायदी

jikrung ngensong sum dang mikhompé

And carried out acts that lead to rebirth in fearsome destinies

ग्रदशःशुःश्चे त्ययुर्त्रः शेर् गेःश्चेगः पदेः वशा

né su kyé gyur mi gedik pé lé

And inopportune states—both naturally negative deeds

परुषान्दास्याचित्रावात्रासार्वे या ।

ché dang rangshyin khana mato ba

And those that involve an infringement of the rules.

वग्रीभार्तरावग्रीत् सुत्याहेशासु प्योग्यराचा ।

gyi dang gyi tsal jesu yirangwa

I have committed, requested and rejoiced at such acts.

गर्वे ५ 'बेर 'दर्गे ५ 'यम 'दक्ष न 'हेर 'हे 'हे ५ 'यम ।

nö shying gyöpé chab ching mi bepar

With regret and remorse, I openly acknowledge all, withholding nothing.

वहिन्यास्त्रिन्स्मन्यस्यस्मित्रं देश्वर्राणुः दुर्।

jik shing trakpé gönpo nam kyi drung

Anxiously, I join my palms together before these great protectors,

मूँ ग्रुअ गुरु प्यस्य सम्या सम्या स्थित मुत्र मु

go sum güpé talmo jar jé té

Expressing devotion and respect physically, verbally and mentally.

चन्नम् । वन्नम् । वन्नम् ।

sampa takpé yang dang yang du shak

And sincerely and repeatedly, I offer this confession:

पञ्चे'पदे'सुग्रम्'ग्रीम'र्वेरम'यर'ग्राबुर'रु'ग्रमेंया

tsewé tuk kyi nongpar zung du sol

In your loving wisdom, forgive these wrongs, I pray!

लेश'यहें र डिट सेसराया है। इस'यर सुदार ही दारी सेंपर सेंपर

Recite this and reflect on the meaning. This is the power of repentance.

र्स्टरायदे माद्रेत्र सर्हेग् सुर्ये मुन्य ग्री सुर्या

pongpé nyen chok lumé kyab kyi pul

Supreme remedy in deprivation, most excellent, unfailing refuge,

रुषामासुस्रायने मानेमासास्यायस्या ।

dü sum deshek sé ché nam la

Bliss-gone buddhas of the three times together with your heirs,

अकूर्या.रि.यीस.तस.घल.झैर.यासूज.य.थी ।

chok tu güpé taljar solwa ni

With the utmost devotion, I join my palms together and pledge:

द्यःस्ट्रादर्शे से सिंधायमु द्वार स्वार स

ngensong ngendro mikhom gyé nam su

That which leads to the various miseries and all that is unwished for

श्रायर्रे र स्वाप्यस्यास्य स्वाप्यस्य स्वाप्यस्य

mindö dukngal natsok jungwé go

In the lower realms, evil destinies and eight inopportune states

सुराम्याचित्रः शुःश्चेषाः भूतः स्रोत्ये विदेशस्य

lü ngak yi kyi diktung mi gé lé

Is non-virtuous action—downfalls and harmful deeds of body, speech and mind,

नेरावशास्त्रीवाकनानीवानुःस्रानायना ।

deng né chinché shintu trawa yang

So from this moment on, I shall refrain from the slightest non-virtue,

भ्रीत्म मुन्त्र मुन्त्

mi gyi sok dang dö té yangdak dom

Even at the cost of my own life—this is my commitment!

लेशनहें ५ रेट रें व सेससमा दी हेरायायस सुर हें गायते हें नस न सुनायते हसाय से संस्था ।

Recite this while considering the meaning. This is the practice that accomplishes the power of refraining from wrongdoing

याप्परार्श्वेत्रयात्रते क्रियाप्पत्रयात्र्ये प्रत्यात्र्ये यात्र प्रत्यात्र प्रत्यात् प्रत्यात्र प्रत्यात् प्रत्यात्

As a conclusion, seal the practice with dedication and prayers of aspiration. Request forgiveness and if you have a supporting image request the deities to remain; if not, request their departure. Moreover, since the four powers are also complete in both the visualization and recitation of Vajrasattva and the confession of downfalls based on the thirty-five buddhas, and these are excellent methods of confessing misdeeds please practise them as well.

सव् निर्देश्वर् क्ष्र्र क्ष्रि क्ष्र क्ष्रि क्ष्रि क्ष्रि क्ष्र क्ष क्ष्र क्ष क्ष्र क्ष्र क्ष्र क्ष्र क्ष्र क्ष क्ष्र क्

Even if thick dark clouds of misdeeds and downfalls gather
To obscure the brilliant sunlight of benefit and happiness,
And bring a thunderous rain of unendurable suffering,
This instruction on confessing and pledging through the four powers
Scatters and powerfully disperses them in a single instant.
Therefore, ascend the staircase of lapis lazuli,
Leading to the higher realms and goodness,
And even the names of such afflictions
As birth, ageing, sickness and death will not arise.
And since, like a wish-fulfilling jewel among beings,
This bestows the supreme gift, all those wishing to travel
To the city of omniscience should take it to heart!

Thus, when the great abbot of Ganden hermitage insistently requested a brief means of confessing and pledging based on the four powers that could be recited regularly, the wandering monk Lobzang Chökyi Gyaltsen wrote this at once in the place of gathering sunlight, the upper storey of his chamber of Tashilhunpo. Om ye dharmā hetu prabhāvā hetum teṣām tathāgato hyavadat teṣām ca yo nirodha evam vādī mahāśramaṇaḥ svāhā. May auspiciousness reign!

| Translated by Adam Pearcey, 2019.



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DHARMA. ON THE HOUSE.