

From Tsong-kha-pa: A Buddha in The Land of Snows
translated by Thupten Jinpa
(Shambhala Publications, 2019, p 122-23)

"Prayer to the Lineage Gurus" (Excerpt)

May I live with few wants, contented, peaceful, and disciplined;
Seeking liberation from my heart, may I always speak the truth;
May I be with good friends who promote conscientiousness;
Bless me so that I see everyone as friends, with no biases.

Death is certain, but we cannot predict when it might strike;
Contemplating it, not just in words, I realize that there is no
time;
Bless me so that I feel repulsed from deep within
By wealth and honor, and know that they have no meaning.

Recognizing all beings as my kind mothers, and
Contemplating the sufferings of these desperate beings,
May I turn away from the desire to seek my welfare alone;
Bless me so that compassion arises in me without effort.

The single medicine to cure the illness of all extreme views
Is the profound truth of dependent origination beyond extremes.
Bless me so that I may comprehend this truth,
In exact accord with the intent of Nāgārjuna and his sons.

As exemplified by this present virtuous deed,
Whatever roots of virtue I and others may have amassed in all
three times,
May none of it turn into a cause, even for an instant,
In all my births, life after life,
For things contrary to the pursuit of enlightenment:
Seeking material gain through teaching dharma, becoming
famous,
Having followers, possessing wealth, or receiving honor,
All of which are contrary to the pursuit of enlightenment.
May these virtues become causes for enlightenment alone.

Through the blessings of the wondrous buddhas and
bodhisattvas,
Through the infallible truth of the laws of dependent
origination,
And through the power of the purity of my aspirations,
May the aims of my prayer be fulfilled without hindrance.²¹²

(by
Tsong-kha-pa)