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October 30, 2018



PATH TO PURE LAND

THE FINAL TEACHING OF UPASAKA XIA LIAN JU

淨修捷要英文版

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23) With one heart, contemplate and revere the Dharma-door that is the Buddha vehicle of true teachings, the sea where all virtues flow into, open to both Sages and commoners and cultivated by both the brilliant and base. The door that encompasses the Eight Teachings, perfectly amalgamates the Five Houses, cuts sideways through the Samsara to reach the Four Lands, and allows the nine grades of rebirth to be attained within one life. Praised in unison by the Buddhas of the ten quarters, the true meaning of thousands of sutras and tens of thousands of discourses, the Jeweled King of Samadhi, the unimaginably profound Dharma-door.

Namo Amita Buddha (prostrate once and recite thrice)

24) With one heart, contemplate and revere the transformation body of Amita Buddha, he who entered Samadhi through the process of hearing and reflecting, returned to the self-nature and attained Unsurpassed Bodhi. He who cultivated the Bodhisattva-Way, attained Pure Land rebirth and made great and profound vows. He who is the Universal Dharma-door, the savior of those who cry in pain, and he who gives immediate relief and response. Anyone who sincerely takes refuge in him while in dire need or danger, will be extricated to safety. A colossus as regal as Tyrian purple and the finest gold, Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva.

Namo Amita Buddha (prostrate once and recite thrice)

25) With one heart, contemplate and revere the first Patriarch of the Pure Land School, he who entered Anutpattika-dharma-ksanti through reciting the Buddha's name, tamed the six senses through pure and unceasing recitation, which also gave true Bodhi and allowed Samadhi to be entered. His is the foremost way. Dwelling with Avalokitesvara in this Saha World to show the path to immense benefit and bliss, he does not forsake anyone, especially those who are willing to recite the Buddha's name. Helping all to leave the evil realms and attain unsurpassed benefit, the boundless body of light and wisdom, Mahasthamaprapta Bodhisattva.

Namo Amita Buddha (prostrate once and recite thrice)

26) With one heart, contemplate and revere he who majestically sits upon the seat of honor in the Tathagata of Infinite Life's congregation. He who is the master of the Avatamsaka Sutra, exudes augustness at all times, transforms into the Vajra-sattva, and is the eternal first Patriarch of the Vajrayana School. Humble and always collecting the Avatamsaka and Lotus Dharma, the King of Ten Great Vows who is sworn to the Land of Ultimate Bliss, of grand vows and great conduct, Samantabhadra Bodhisattva.

Namo Amita Buddha (prostrate once and recite thrice)

27) With one heart, contemplate and revere the Crown Prince of Dharma, Teacher of Seven Buddhas, Exalted, Wondrous, Auspicious, and Defilement Free Grand Sage. He who vows to ascend to the Land of Ultimate Bliss together with all sentient beings, to cherish only one Buddha, exclusively recite his name, and to meet Amita while mindful of him. Of great and profound wisdom and boundless Samadhi, Manjursi Bodhisattva.

Namo Amita Buddha (prostrate once and recite thrice)

28) With one heart, contemplate and revere he who, at the assembly of Rajgir hill, was personally entrusted with the Mahayana Infinite Life Sutra and the duty to spread the Dharma-door of Pure Land. He who is currently in the Inner Court of Tushita, waiting to achieve Perfect Enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree at the future Thrice Dragon Blossom Assemblies. Of boundless merit, Maitreya Bodhisattva.

Namo Amita Buddha (prostrate once and recite thrice)

29) With one heart, contemplate and revere Sariputta, the esteemed great disciples, Sagely protectors, and the Sixteen Lay Bodhisattvas of the Tathagata of Infinite Life's congregation. All of them follow the eminent Samantabhadra, who is complete with limitless virtues, vows and firmly abides in all meritorious Dharmas. These are the multitude of Mahabodhisattvas.

Namo Amita Buddha (prostrate once and recite thrice)

30) With one heart, contemplate and revere the past and present Dharma Masters of the Pure Land School. They have established disciplines, spoken the sutras, taken refuge in Pure Land, reconciled the various proper teachings to the Pure Land, received the precepts, spread the Dharma and anointed the heads of the pious. They are the multitude of Dharma Masters.

Namo Amita Buddha (prostrate once and recite thrice)

31) With one heart, contemplate and revere the Three Treasures, dharma protectors, Bodhisattvas of the ten quarters, Vajras, Brahma-devas, gods, dragons, protector spirits, Sages and wise men of the universe and Dharma-realm.

Namo Amita Buddha (prostrate once and recite thrice)

32) With one heart, bear the burdens of your current and past life parents, relatives, teachers and karmic enemies. Dedicate your cultivation to them all, prostrate to the Three Treasures in their place, repent their offenses on their behalf, and carry all sentient beings of the Dharma-realm towards the Western Land of Ultimate Bliss, to attain rebirth there and perfect wisdom together.

Namo Amita Buddha (prostrate once and recite thrice)

Praise to the Buddha of Infinite Life:

The Buddha of Infinite Life and King of Sweet Dew has majestic merit and potent vows. Sincere and pious recitation of his name will eradicate calamities, eliminate obstacles, and transform burning houses into delightful breezes. By Welcoming the Buddha's light within the heart of Bodhi, roots of merit, wisdom and virtue naturally increase. Recite it single-mindedly and without doubt. Allow the smoke of the incense of Sila and Samadhi to regularly adorn you. Faith, Resolve and Action are the three nourishments that sustains your practice. He is the benevolent ship of salvation that sails upon the sea of suffering, Namó Greatly Compassionate, Greatly Benevolent, of Great Strength and Great Vows, Guide and Savior, Amita Buddha of the Western Land of Ultimate Bliss.

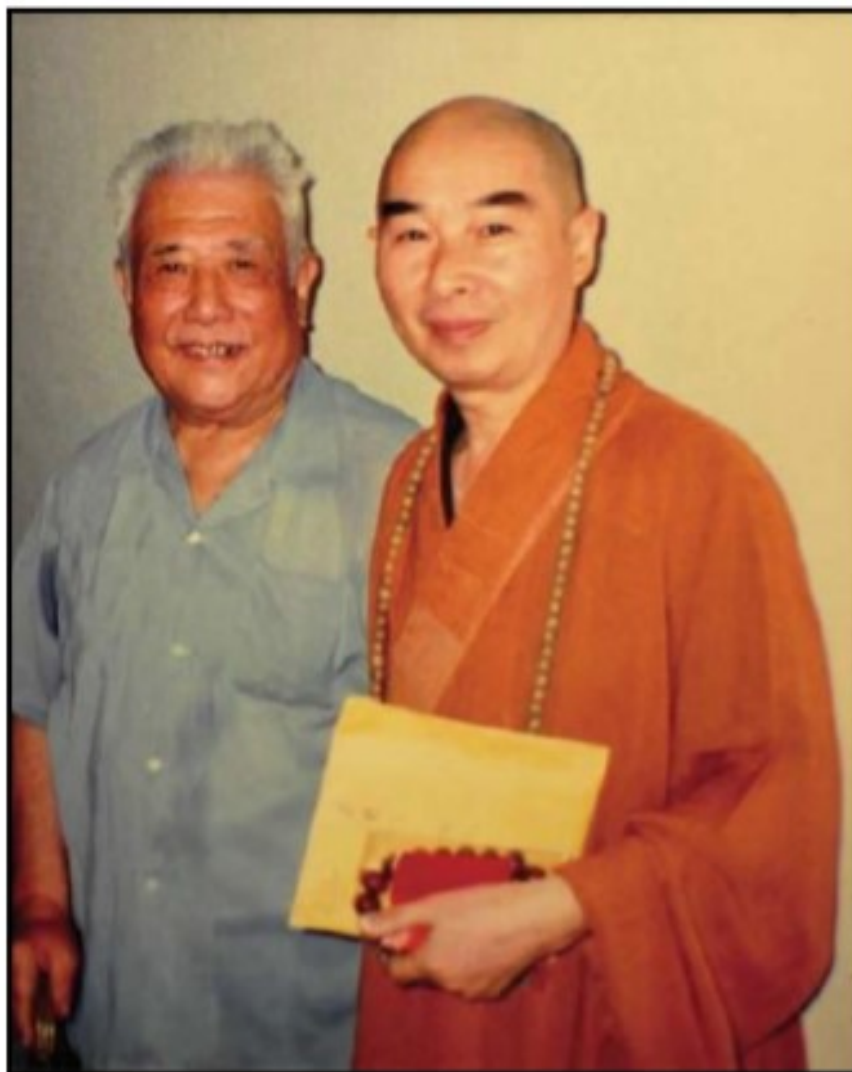
NAMO AMITA BUDDHA

(Recite either one thousand times or ten thousand times).

Dedication of Merit:

I hereby dedicate the merit derived from this practice to all sentient beings of the Dharma-realm, all beings of the Samsara and four types of birth, and to all current and past karmic creditors. May they, through the power of the Dharma, gain liberation. Let those who are alive receive increased merits and have their lifespans prolonged, and may the departed achieve Pure Land rebirth. Let us all escape the wheel of suffering and reach the shores of liberation together.

Acknowledgments:



Left: Upasaka Huang Nien Tsu (黃念祖老居士) / Right: Ven.

Master Chin Kung (淨空法師)

This translation would not have been possible without the nine hour long deathbed commentary of the Path to Pure Land by Upasaka Xia Lian Ju's great disciple, the Upasaka Huang Nien Tsu (one of the teachers of the esteemed Ven. Master Chin Kung). Spoken just before his Pure Land rebirth in order to repay his Upasaka Xia's kindness, it is his last and most important teaching.

The commentary (Chinese) is titled: 淨修捷要報恩談

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