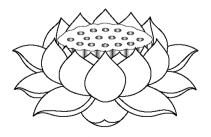
THE SUTRA ON THE ORIGINAL VOWS AND MERITS OF THE MEDICINE MASTER LAPIS LAZULI LIGHT TATHAGATA





Translated by the Chung Tai Translation Committee September 2009 From the Chinese translation by Tripitaka Master Xuan Zang, 7th Century

Prior English translation by the Buddha Text Translation Society was used as base texts and other translations were used as references.

The Chung Tai Translation Committee comprises of Dharma Masters and lay disciples and convenes regularly. To view or download other sutra translations by CTTC, visit "Dharma Gems" on <u>http://sunnyvale.ctzen.org</u>. Comments and suggestions may be sent to translation@ctzen.org

Namo Fundamental Teacher Shakyamuni Buddha

南無本師釋迦牟尼佛

SUTRA OPENING GATHA

開經偈

The Dharma, infinitely profound and subtle, Is rarely encountered even in a million kalpas. Now we are able to hear, study, and follow it, May we fully realize the Tathagata's true meaning.

無上甚深微妙法 百千萬劫難遭遇 我今見聞得受持 願解如來真實義

藥師琉璃光如來 本願功德經

如是我聞:一時薄伽梵,遊化諸國,至廣 嚴城,住樂音樹下。與大苾芻眾八千人俱, 菩薩摩訶薩三萬六千,及國王、大臣、婆 羅門、居士、天龍藥叉,人非人等,無量 大眾,恭敬圍繞,而為說法。爾時、曼殊 室利法王子,承佛威神,從座而起,偏袒 一肩,右膝著地, 向薄伽梵,曲躬合掌。 白言:

「世尊!惟願演說如是相類諸佛名號,及 本大願殊勝功德,令諸聞者業障銷除,為 欲利樂像法轉時諸有情故。」

爾時世尊,讚曼殊室利童子言:「善哉!善 哉!曼殊室利!汝以大悲,勸請我說諸佛 名號本願功德,為拔業障所纏有情,利益 安樂像法轉時諸有情故。汝今諦聽!極善 思惟!當為汝說。」曼殊室利言:「唯然願 說!我等樂聞!」

THE SUTRA ON THE ORIGINAL VOWS AND MERITS OF THE MEDICINE MASTER LAPIS LAZULI LIGHT TATHAGATA

Thus have I heard: Once the World Honored One was traveling through various lands to teach the Dharma. When he arrived in Vaishali, he rested under the Tree of Music, accompanied by eight thousand great bhiksus and thirty-six thousand bodhisattvas and mahasattvas, as well as kings, ministers, Brahmins, laymen, dragons, yakshas, and other human and non-human beings. enormous assembly gathered This respectfully around the Buddha as he preached the Dharma. At that time, Manjusri, Prince of the Dharma, through the marvelous power of the Buddha, rose up from his seat, exposed his shoulder, and knelt on his right knee. Bowing deeply, with palms joined, he addressed the Buddha:

"World Honored One, may I beseech you to expound the various names and titles of the buddhas, and their great original vows and extraordinary merits, to help remove karmic obstructions to those who hear them and to bring benefits and joy to sentient beings in the Dharma Semblance Age."

Then the World Honored One praised Bodhisattva Manjusri: "Excellent! Excellent! Manjusri, out of great compassion, you have asked me to expound the buddhas' names, as well as their vows and merits, in order to liberate those bound by karmic obstructions and bring benefits, peace, and joy to sentient beings in the Dharma Semblance Age. Now, listen attentively and reflect thoroughly. I will explain them to you." Bodhisattva Manjusri replied: "Yes, please instruct us. We are listening with delight." 佛告曼殊室利:「東方去此,過十殑伽沙等 佛土,有世界名淨琉璃,佛號藥師琉璃光 如來、應正等覺,明行圓滿、善逝、世間 解、無上士、調御丈夫、天人師、佛、薄 伽梵。曼殊室利!彼佛世尊藥師琉璃光如 來,本行菩薩道時,發十二大願,令諸有 情,所求皆得。

第一大願:願我來世,得阿耨多羅三藐三 菩提時,自身光明,熾然照耀,無量無數 無邊世界,以三十二大丈夫相,八十隨好, 莊嚴其身;令一切有情,如我無異。

第二大願:願我來世,得菩提時,身如琉 璃,內外明徹,淨無瑕穢;光明廣大,功 德巍巍,身善安住, 燄網莊嚴,過於日月; 幽冥眾生,悉蒙開曉,隨意所趣,作諸事 業。

第三大願:願我來世,得菩提時,以無量 無邊智慧方便,令諸有情,皆得無盡所受 用物,莫令眾生,有所乏少。

The Buddha then said to Bodhisattva Manjusri: "To the east of this world, past countless buddha lands, there exists a world called Pure Lapis Lazuli. The buddha of that world is called the Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata, Arhat, the Completely Enlightened, Perfect in Wisdom and Conduct, Well Gone, Knower of the World, Unsurpassed One, Skilled Tamer, Teacher of Heavenly and Human Beings, Buddha, and World Honored One. Manjusri, when the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata was practicing the bodhisattva way, he made Twelve Great Vows so sentient beings may have all their wishes fulfilled. They are:

"The first great vow: I vow that in the future, when I attain unsurpassed complete enlightenment, my body will shine forth brilliant rays, illuminating infinite, countless, boundless realms. Endowed with Thirty-two Marks of the Great One and Eighty Auspicious Characteristics, I can enable all sentient beings to become just like me.

"The second great vow: I vow that in the future, when I attain perfect enlightenment, my body will be translucent inside and out, like lapis lazuli, with brightness and flawless purity. This great, radiant body will be adorned with superlative virtues and dwell peacefully in a mesh of light more magnificent than the sun or moon. The light will awaken the minds of all beings dwelling in darkness, enabling them to engage in their pursuits according to their wishes.

"The third great vow: I vow that in the future, when I attain perfect enlightenment, with infinite wisdom and skillful means, I will enable all sentient beings to obtain inexhaustible goods so that they will never again lack anything. 第四大願:願我來世,得菩提時,若諸有 情,行邪道者,悉令安住菩提道中;若行 聲聞獨覺乘者,皆以大乘而安立之。

第五大願:願我來世,得菩提時,若有無 量無邊有情,於我法中,修行梵行,一切 皆令得不缺戒,具三聚戒;設有毀犯,聞 我名已,還得清淨,不墮惡趣!

第六大願:願我來世,得菩提時,若諸有 情,其身下劣,諸根不具,醜陋、頑愚、 盲、聲、瘖、瘂、攣躄、背僂、白癩、癲 狂、種種病苦;聞我名已,一切皆得端正 點慧,諸根完具,無諸疾苦。

第七大願:願我來世,得菩提時,若諸有 情,眾病逼切,無救無歸,無醫無藥,無 親無家,貧窮多苦;我之名號,一經其耳, 眾病悉除,身心安樂,家屬資具,悉皆豐 足,乃至證得無上菩提。

"The fourth great vow: I vow that in the future, when I attain perfect enlightenment, if there are those who follow evil ways, I will set them all upon the bodhi path; if there are those who cultivate the path of the sravaka or pratyekabuddha, I will set them onto the Mahayana path.

"The fifth great vow: I vow that in the future, when I attain perfect enlightenment, I will help the countless sentient beings who cultivate morality in accordance with my Dharma to observe the precepts to perfection, in conformity with the Three Sets of Pure Precepts. Upon hearing my name, even those guilty of disparaging or violating the precepts will regain their purity and avoid descending into the wretched destinies.

"The sixth great vow: I vow that in the future, when I attain perfect enlightenment, sentient beings with inferior bodies, deficient senses and abilities, who are ugly, stupid, blind, deaf, mute, crippled, hunchbacked, leprous, insane, or suffering from various other illnesses—upon hearing my name, they will obtain bodies with fine features endowed with intelligence, intact senses and abilities, free of illness and suffering.

"The seventh great vow: I vow that in the future, when I attain perfect enlightenment, sentient beings afflicted with various illnesses, with no one to help them, nowhere to turn, no physicians, no medicine, no family, no home, who are destitute and miserable, will, when my name passes through their ears, be relieved of all their illnesses. With mind and body content and at peace, they will enjoy home, family, and property in abundance, and eventually realize unsurpassed enlightenment. 第八大願:願我來世,得菩提時,若有女 人,為女百惡之所逼惱,極生厭離,願捨 女身;聞我名已,一切皆得轉女成男,具 丈夫相,乃至證得無上菩提。

第九大願:願我來世,得菩提時,令諸有 情,出魔羂網,解脫一切外道纏縛;若墮 種種惡見稠林,皆當引攝,置於正見,漸 令修習諸菩薩行,速證無上正等菩提!

第十大願:願我來世,得菩提時,若諸有 情,王法所錄,繩縛鞭撻,繫閉牢獄,或 當刑戮,及餘無量災難凌辱,悲愁煎迫, 身心受苦;若聞我名,以我福德威神力故, 皆得解脫一切憂苦!

第十一大願:願我來世,得菩提時,若諸 有情,饑渴所惱,為求食故,造諸惡業; 得聞我名,專念受持,我當先以上妙飲食, 飽足其身,後以法味,畢竟安樂,而建立 之。

"The eighth great vow: I vow that in the future, when I attain perfect enlightenment, if there are women who are extremely disgusted with the numerous feminine afflictions, and wish to abandon their female form, upon hearing my name, they will be reborn as men endowed with noble features, and eventually realize unsurpassed enlightenment.

"The ninth great vow: I vow that in the future, when I attain perfect enlightenment, I will help all sentient beings escape from the demons' net and free themselves from the bonds of heretical paths. Should they be caught in the thicket of wrong views, I will lead them to correct views, gradually inducing them to cultivate the ways of the bodhisattva so that they will promptly realize unsurpassed complete enlightenment.

"The tenth great vow: I vow that in the future, when I attain perfect enlightenment, those sentient beings who are shackled, beaten, imprisoned, condemned to death, or subjected to countless miseries and humiliations by royal decree, and who are suffering in body and mind from such oppression, need only hear my name to be freed from all those afflictions, due to the marvelous power of my merits and virtues.

"The eleventh great vow: I vow that in the future, when I attain perfect enlightenment, if sentient beings who are tormented by hunger and thirst, creating evil karma in their attempts to survive, should hear my name, recite and uphold it, I will first satisfy them with the most exquisite food and drinks. Later, with the flavor of the Dharma, I will establish them in the realm of peace and happiness. 第十二大願:願我來世,得菩提時,若諸 有情,貧無衣服,蚊虻寒熱,晝夜逼惱; 若聞我名,專念受持,如其所好,即得種 種上妙衣服,亦得一切寶莊嚴具,華鬘塗 香,鼓樂眾伎,隨心所翫,皆令滿足。

曼殊室利!是為彼世尊藥師琉璃光如來應 正等覺行菩薩道時,所發十二微妙上願。 復次,曼殊室利!彼世尊藥師琉璃光如 來,受殊室利!彼世尊藥師琉璃光如 來,行菩薩道時,所發大願,及彼佛土, 功德莊嚴,我若一劫、若一劫餘,說不能 盡。然彼佛土,一向清淨,無有女人,亦 無惡趣,及苦音聲;琉璃為地,金繩界道, 城闕宮閣,軒窗羅網,皆七寶成;亦如西 方極樂世界,功德莊嚴,等無差別。於其 國中,有二菩薩摩訶薩:一名日光遍照, 二名月光遍照。是彼無量無數菩薩眾之上 首,次補佛處,悉能持彼世尊藥師琉璃光 如來正法寶藏。是故曼殊室利!諸有信心 善男子、善女人等,應當願生彼佛世界。」

"The twelfth great vow: I vow that in the future, when I attain perfect enlightenment, if sentient beings who are utterly destitute, lacking clothes to protect them from mosquitoes and flies, heat and cold, and are suffering day and night, should hear my name, recite and uphold it, their wishes will be fulfilled. They will receive all manners of exquisite clothing, precious adornments, flower garlands and incense powder, and will enjoy music and entertainment to their heart's content.

"Manjusri, the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata, Arhat, the Completely Enlightened made these Twelve Sublime Vows when he was cultivating the bodhisattva path. Moreover, Manjusri, the many great vows made by the Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata while he was practicing the bodhisattva way, as well as the merits and adornments of his buddha land, I cannot possibly describe them all, not even if I were to speak for a kalpa or more. However, this buddha land is utterly pure, without any woman, without the wretched destinies or any sounds of suffering. Its ground is made of lapis lazuli; the boundaries are demarcated with golden cords; the towns, towers, palaces, pavilions, balconies, windows, and draperies are all made of the seven jewels. The merits, virtues, and adornments of this realm are identical to those of the Western Land of Ultimate Bliss. In this land dwell two great bodhisattvas: One is called Universal Sunlight and the other Universal Moonlight. They are the leaders of countless bodhisattvas and will be successors to this Buddha, upholding the True Dharma Treasury of the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata. For these reasons, Manjusri, devout good men and women should vow to be born in this buddha land."

爾時世尊,復告曼殊室利童子言:「曼殊 室利!有諸眾生,不識善惡,唯懷貪吝, 不知布施,及施果報,愚癡無智,闕於信 根,多聚財寶,勤加守護。見乞者來,其 心不喜,設不獲已,而行施時,如割身肉, 深生痛惜。復有無量慳貪有情,積集資財, 於其自身,尚不受用,何況能與父母妻子 奴婢作使,及來乞者?彼諸有情,從此命 終,生餓鬼界,或傍生趣。

由昔人間,曾得暫聞藥師琉璃光如來名 故,今在惡趣,暫得憶念彼如來名,即於 念時,從彼處沒,還生人中;得宿命念, 畏惡趣苦,不樂欲樂,好行惠施,讚歎施 者,一切所有,悉無貪惜,漸次尚能以頭 目手足,血肉身分,施來求者,況餘財物?

復次,曼殊室利!若諸有情, 雖於如來受 諸學處,而破尸羅;有雖不破尸羅,而破軌 則;有於尸羅軌則,雖則不壞,然毀正見;

The Buddha then told Bodhisattva Manjusri: "Manjusri, there are sentient beings who cannot tell right from wrong. They are greedy and miserly; they do not practice charity nor understand its rewards. They are short on wisdom and deep in ignorance. Lacking the root of faith, they amass riches, which they assiduously hoard. When they see those begging for alms, they become annoyed; when they have to give against their will, they feel as much pain and anguish as if they were parting with their own flesh. Moreover, there are also countless sentient beings who are miserly and avaricious. They amass wealth, yet do not even spend it on themselves, let alone on their parents, spouses, children, servants, slaves, or beggars. Upon their death, these people will descend into the realms of hungry ghosts or animals.

"However, if they have briefly heard the name of the Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata when they were humans, although now they are reborn into the wretched destines, if they can recall the Buddha's name even briefly, they will immediately be free from these destinies and be reborn as human beings. They will remember their sojourn in the lower destinies, and, dreading their past sufferings, cease to wallow in worldly pleasures. They will gladly practice charity, praise others who do so, and will no longer be ungenerous. Gradually, they will even be able to donate their heads, eyes, limbs, blood, flesh, or other parts of their bodies to those who need them, not to mention mere material possessions.

"Moreover, Manjusri, there are sentient beings who accept the teachings of the Tathagata but have violated the precepts; or, they have not violated the precepts, but have broken the regulations; or, while they do not violate the precepts or the regulations, they have disparaged right views; or they have not 有雖不毀正見,而棄多聞,於佛所說契經 深義,不能解了;有雖多聞,而增上慢, 由增上慢,覆蔽心故,自是非他,嫌謗正 法,為魔伴黨。如是愚人,自行邪見,復 令無量俱胝有情,墮大險坑。此諸有情, 應於地獄傍生鬼趣,流轉無窮。

若得聞此藥師琉璃光如來名號, 便捨惡 行,修諸善法,不墮惡趣;設有不能捨諸 惡行、修行善法,墮惡趣者,以彼如來本 願威力,令其現前,暫聞名號,從彼命終, 還生人趣,得正見精進,善調意樂,便能 捨家,趣於非家,如來法中,受持學處, 無有毀犯, 正見多聞,解甚深義, 離增 上慢,不謗正法,不為魔伴, 漸次修行諸 菩薩行,速得圓滿。 disparaged right views but have abandoned extensive study of the Dharma and therefore cannot understand the profound meaning of the sutras preached by the Buddha. Or else, although they may be knowledgeable, they have grown conceited in their Dharma knowledge. Clouding their minds with Dharma conceit, they believe that they are always right and others wrong. They may even deprecate the true Dharma, thereby allying themselves with demons. Such deluded persons not only follow wrong views themselves, but also lead countless others into very dangerous pitfalls. These sentient beings are bound to the paths of hell, animals, and hungry ghosts endlessly.

"Yet, if they should hear the name of the Medicine Buddha, they may abandon evil conduct, cultivate good deeds, and avoid descending into the wretched destinies. Even those who have descended into the wretched destinies because they cannot abandon evil practices nor cultivate good deeds, the marvelous power of the Medicine Buddha's original vows may still enable them to hear his name momentarily, so that when their present lives end, they will be reborn in the human realm. They will obtain right views, be diligent, pursue right livelihood, and discipline their minds well and be joyful. They will then be able to abandon the home life to become monastics. They will uphold the precepts and regulations of the Tathagata without violation. With right views and extensive study, they will fathom the extremely profound meaning [of the Dharma], be free from arrogance, never disparage the true Dharma nor be companions to Mara (the demon). They will gradually cultivate the practices of bodhisattvas and swiftly perfect them.

復次,曼殊室利!若諸有情, 慳貪嫉妒, 自讚毀他,當墮三惡趣中,無量千歲,受 諸劇苦!受劇苦已,從彼命終,來生人間, 作牛馬駝驢,恆被鞭撻,饑渴逼惱,又常 負重,隨路而行。或得為人,生居下賤, 作人奴婢,受他驅役,恆不自在。若昔人 中,曾聞世尊藥師琉璃光如來名號,由此 善因,今復憶念,至心歸依。以佛神力, 眾苦解脫,諸根聰利,智慧多聞,恆求勝 法,常遇善友,永斷魔羂,破無明轂,竭 煩惱河,解脫一切生老病死,憂愁苦惱。

復次,曼殊室利!若諸有情,好喜乖離,更 相鬥訟,惱亂自他,以身語意,造作增長 種種惡業,展轉常為不饒益事,互相謀害。 告召山林樹塚等神;殺諸眾生,取其血肉 祭祀藥叉、羅剎婆等;書怨人名,作其形 像,以惡咒術,而咒詛之;魘魅蠱道,咒 起屍鬼,令斷彼命,及壞其身。

"Moreover, Manjusri, there are sentient beings who are miserly, avaricious, envious, and jealous, praising themselves while disparaging others. They are bound to sink into the three wretched destinies, suffering intense misery for countless thousands of years. When this intense suffering comes to an end, they will be reborn in the world as oxen, horses, donkeys, or camels. Always afflicted with hunger and thirst, they are constantly beaten while carrying heavy loads on the road. If they are reborn as human beings, they will be among the poor and lowly, forever serving and belabored by others, enjoying no freedom. However, if any of them, in a former incarnation as a human being, have heard the name of the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata, and as a result of this good cause, now remember and take refuge in him wholeheartedly, they will, thanks to this Buddha's spiritual powers, be freed from all suffering. Their senses will be sharp and they will be learned and wise, constantly seeking the supreme teachings, and encounter good spiritual friends. They will forever break through Mara's net, smash the shell of delusion, dry up the river of afflictions, and thus escape all the distress and suffering of birth, old age, illness, and death.

"Moreover, Manjusri, there are sentient beings who love to quarrel, create schisms, and engage in legal disputes. They make themselves and others suffer, creating and increasing all kinds of evil karma with body, speech, and mind. They plot against one another without mercy. While invoking the spirits of mountains, forests, trees, and tombs, they kill sentient beings and use their flesh and blood as sacrifices to the yaksa and raksasa demons. They may also write down the names and make images of those against whom they harbor grudges, curse them with evil mantras or try to harm or kill them with potions, witchcraft, or demons revived from the dead. 是諸有情,若得聞此藥師琉璃光如來名號, 彼諸惡事,悉不能害,一切展轉,皆起慈心, 利益安樂,無損惱意及嫌恨心,各各歡悅, 於自所受,生於喜足,不相侵凌,互為饒益。 一切展轉,皆起慈心,利益安樂,無損惱意 及嫌恨心,各各歡悅,於自所受,生於喜足, 不相侵凌,互為饒益。

復次, 曼殊军利! 若有四眾: 苾芻、苾芻 尼、鄔波索迦、鄔波斯迦,及餘淨信善男 子、善女人等,有能受持八分齋戒, 或經 一年,或復三月,受持學處,以此善根, 願生西方極樂世界無量壽佛所,聽聞正 法,而未定者,若聞世尊藥師琉璃光如來 名號,臨命終時,有八大菩薩,其名曰: 文殊師利菩薩, 觀世音菩薩, 得大勢菩薩, 無盡意菩薩,寶檀華菩薩,藥王菩薩,藥 上菩薩,彌勒菩薩。是八大菩薩乘空而來, 示其道路,即於彼界,種種雜色眾寶華中, 自然化生。或有因此,生於天上,雖生天 中,而本善根,亦未窮盡,不復更生諸餘 **惡趣。天上壽盡,還生人間,或為輪王,** 統攝四洲,威德自在,安立無量百千有情, 於十善道;

"However, if the victims succeed in hearing the name of the Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata, none of these evil practices can harm them. Moreover, everyone involved will gradually develop compassion, endeavoring to benefit and bring peace and joy to others. Without harmful, angry, and spiteful thoughts, everyone will be happy and content.

"Moreover, Manjusri, there are those in the fourfold assembly of bhiksus, bhiksunis, upasakas, and upasikas, as well as among other men and women of pure faith, who are able to uphold the Eight Precepts or other precepts and regulations, for one year or three months, dedicating these good roots toward rebirths in the Western Land of Ultimate Bliss, so as to listen to the true Dharma from the Buddha of Infinite Life. However, if their rebirth in the pure land is still uncertain, and they hear the name of the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata, then, at the time of death, eight great bodhisattvas, namely: Bodhisattva Manjusri, Bodhisattva Guanyin, Bodhisattva Great Strength, Bodhisattva Inexhaustible Mind, Bodhisattva Sandalwood Flower. Precious **Bodhisattva** King. Medicine Superior Medicine, Bodhisattva and Bodhisattva Maitreya will descend from space and show them the way. Thereupon, they will be reborn through natural transformation among precious flowers of various colors in that Pure Land. Moreover, thanks to hearing the Medicine Buddha's name, there are those who are born in the celestial realms, and with their good roots still not exhausted, they will not be born again into the wretched destinies. When their celestial lifespan ends, they may return to the human realm as Wheel Turning Kings, ruling over the Four Continents. With merits, authority, and skill, they will set countless hundreds of thousands of sentient beings onto the path of the ten virtues.

或生剎帝利、婆羅門、居士大家,多饒財 寶,倉庫盈溢,形相端嚴,眷屬具足,聰 明智慧,勇健威猛,如大力士。若是女人, 得聞世尊藥師琉璃光如來名號,至心受 持,於後不復更受女身。

復次,曼殊室利!彼藥師琉璃光如來,得 菩提時,由本願力,觀諸有情,遇眾病苦, 瘦戀乾消,黃熱等病;或被魘魅蠱毒所 中;或復短命,或時橫死;欲令是等病苦 消除,所求願滿。時彼世尊,入三摩地, 名曰除滅一切眾生苦惱。既入定已,於肉 髻中,出大光明,光中演說,大陀羅尼曰:

南無薄伽伐帝 鞞殺社 窶嚕薜琉璃 鉢喇婆 喝囉閣也 怛他揭多也 阿囉喝帝 三藐三勃陀耶 怛姪他 唵 鞞殺逝 鞞殺逝 鞞殺社 三沒揭帝莎訶

爾時光中說此咒已,大地震動,放大光明, 一切眾生,病苦皆除,受安隱樂。曼殊室 利!若見男子女人,有病苦者,應當一心, 為彼病人,常清淨澡漱,或食或藥、或無 蟲水、咒一百八遍,與彼服食,所有病苦, 悉皆消滅。 "There are those who are reborn as ksatriyas, Brahmins, or laymen of affluent families, with abundant wealth and overflowing granaries. They will be endowed with noble features, abundant families and full retainers, intelligence and wisdom, as well as courage, vigor, and strength of a giant. Likewise, if a woman hears the name of the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Tathagata, and wholeheartedly upholds his name, she will never again be reborn with a female body.

"Manjusri, when the Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata attained perfect enlightenment, he realized, by virtue of his original vows, that sentient beings endured various ailments, such as emaciation, crippling disabilities, fever, dysentery, jaundice, etc. Some were targets of black magic or various poisons, while others suffered short life or untimely death. He sought to put an end to these miseries and fulfill the wishes of these beings. At that time, the World Honored One entered a samadhi called 'Eliminating All the Suffering and Afflictions of Sentient Beings'. Having entered that samadhi, a brilliant light shone forth from his usnisa (fleshy crown) as he uttered a great dharani:

ná mó bó qié fá dì pí shā shè jù lū bì liú lí bō lá pó hē là shé yě dá tā jié duō yě ā là hē dì sān miǎo sān bó tuó yě dá zhí tā ān pí shā shì pí shā shì pí shā shè sān mò jié dì suō hē

"As soon as the Medicine Buddha, in his radiance, had uttered this mantra, the entire earth shook and shone brilliant lights, curing the disease and eradicating the suffering of sentient beings, enabling them to enjoy peace and happiness. Manjusri, if people come across any man or woman suffering from illness, they should sincerely and frequently help that person bathe, cleanse, and rinse, then recite this mantra one hundred and eight times over his food, medicine, or water that is free from insects. Once the sick person has taken the food or drink, the illness and suffering will be eradicated. 若有所求,至心念誦,皆得如是,無病延 年;命終之後,生彼世界,得不退轉,乃 至菩提。是故曼殊室利!若有男子女人, 於彼藥師琉璃光如來,至心殷重,恭敬供 養者,常持此咒,勿令廢忘。

復次,曼殊室利!若有淨信男子女人,得 開藥師琉璃光如來,應正等覺,所有名號, 聞已誦持。晨嚼齒木,澡漱清淨,以諸香 花,燒香塗香,作眾伎樂,供養形像。於 此經典,若自書,若教人書,一心受持, 聽聞其義。於彼法師,應修供養,一切所 有資身之具,悉皆施與,勿令乏少。如是 便蒙諸佛護念,所求願滿,乃至菩提。」

爾時曼殊室利童子白佛言:「世尊!我當 誓於像法轉時,以種種方便,令諸淨信善 男子、善女人等,得聞世尊藥師琉璃光如 來名號,乃至睡中,亦以佛名,覺悟其耳。 世尊!若於此經,受持讀誦。或復為他演 說開示;若自書、若教人書;恭敬尊重, "If the patient wholeheartedly recites this mantra, he or she will be free of disease and enjoy longevity, with every wish being fulfilled. Furthermore, after death, this person will be born in the land of the Medicine Buddha and attain enlightenment without retrogression. Therefore, Manjusri, any man or woman who wholeheartedly reveres and respectfully makes offerings to the Medicine Buddha should keep reciting this mantra, never giving up or forgetting it.

"Moreover, Manjusri, men and women of pure faith upon hearing the various names of the Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata, Arhat, the Completely Enlightened, should recite and uphold this name. Each morning, at dawn, having brushed their teeth and bathed themselves, they should make offerings of fragrant flowers, incense, scents, and various kinds of music before an image of this Buddha. Furthermore, they should copy this sutra or have others do so, as well as wholeheartedly accept and uphold it, and listen to explanations of its meaning. They should offer all the necessities of life to the Dharma masters, making sure they lack nothing. The buddhas will be mindful of and bless such devout men and women; all their wishes will be fulfilled and they will eventually attain enlightenment."

Bodhisattva Manjusri then respectfully addressed the Buddha: "World Honored One, I vow that in the Dharma Semblance Age, I will use every skillful means to help men and women of pure faith hear the name of the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata; even in their sleep, I will awaken their ears with the name of this Buddha. World Honored One, if any devout persons should recite, remember, and uphold this sutra; or expound its meaning to others; or copy it or have others copy it; or if they should pay it the utmost reverence, 以種種華香塗香、末香燒香、花鬘瓔珞、 幡蓋伎樂,而為供養;以五色綵,作囊盛 之;掃灑淨處,敷設高座,而用安處。爾 時,四大天王,與其眷屬,及餘無量百千 天眾,皆詣其所,供養守護。

世尊!若此經寶,流行之處,有能受持, 以彼世尊藥師琉璃光如來本願功德,及聞 名號,當知是處,無復橫死;亦復不為諸 惡鬼神,奪其精氣,設已奪者,還得如故, 身心安樂。」

佛告曼殊室利:「如是如是!如汝所說。 曼殊室利!若有淨信善男子、善女人等, 欲供養彼世尊藥師琉璃光如來者,應先造 立彼佛形像,敷清淨座,而安處之。散種 種花,燒種種香,以種種幢幡,莊嚴其處。 七日七夜,受持八分齋戒,食清淨食,澡 浴香潔,著新淨衣,應生無垢濁心,無怒 害心,於一切有情,起利益安樂,慈悲喜 捨,平等之心,鼓樂歌讚,右繞佛像。 adorning it with fragrant flowers, scents, incense powder and sticks, garlands, necklaces, banners, canopies, dance, and music, and with pockets made of five-colored cloth; and if they should prepare a clean site, erect a high altar, and place the sutra upon it, the Four Great Heavenly Kings, their retinues as well as countless hundreds of thousands of other celestial beings, will thereupon proceed to this place to make offerings and guard this sutra.

"World Honored One, wherever this sutra has spread and there are people capable of upholding it, you should know that, thanks to the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata's original vows, his merits, and the power of his name, the place will be free of untimely death. In that place, there will no longer be evil demons or spirits to sap the vital energy of the people. Even if the harm were already done, they would recover and enjoy good health and peace of mind."

The Buddha then spoke to Manjusri: "So it is, so it is. It is just as you have explained. Manjusri, if good men and women of pure faith wish to make offerings to the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata, they should first make an image of this Buddha, and install it upon a pure, clean altar. They should scatter all kinds of flowers, burn many varieties of incense, and adorn the place with many kinds of banners and pennants. For seven days and seven nights, they should uphold the Eight Precepts, consume only pure food, bathe and freshen themselves, put on clean, fresh clothing, and keep their mind undefiled, free of anger or malice. They should develop kindness, compassion, joy, and equanimity toward all sentient beings, while bringing them benefits, peace, and happiness. They should circumambulate his image clockwise while offering music, chants, and praises to the Medicine Buddha.

復應念彼如來本願功德,讀誦此經,思惟 其義,演說開示。隨所樂求,一切皆遂: 求長壽得長壽,求富饒得富饒,求官位得 官位,求男女得男女。若復有人,忽得惡 夢,見諸惡相;或怪鳥來集;或於住處, 百怪出現。此人若以眾妙資具,恭敬供養, 彼世尊藥師琉璃光如來者,惡夢惡相,諸 不吉祥,皆悉隱沒,不能為患。或有水火、 刀毒懸險、惡象師子、虎狼熊羆、毒蛇惡 敏、蜈蚣蚰蜒、蚊虻等怖;若能至心憶念 彼佛,恭敬供養,一切怖畏皆得解脫。若 他國侵擾,盜賊反亂,憶念恭敬彼如來者, 亦皆解脫。

復次,曼殊室利!若有淨信善男子、善女 人等,乃至盡形不事餘天,惟當一心歸佛 法僧,受持禁戒:若五戒、十戒、菩薩四 百戒、苾芻二百五十戒,苾芻尼五百戒。 於所受中,或有毀犯,怖墮惡趣,若能專 念彼佛名號,恭敬供養者,必定不受三惡 趣生。 "Moreover, they should bear in mind this Buddha's merits and original vows while reciting and memorizing this sutra, reflect on its meaning, and explain it to others. All their wishes will then be fulfilled—wishing longevity, one will obtain longevity; wishing wealth, one will obtain wealth; wishing official position, one will obtain official position; wishing the birth of sons and daughters, one will obtain sons and daughters. Moreover, if suddenly suffer nightmares and witnesses people evil omens-such as flocks of strange birds or many strange occurrences where they live-if they venerate, with various kinds of wonderful offerings, the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata, then these unfavorable incidents such as nightmares and bad omens will all disappear, and can no longer harm them. If any sentient beings are in fear of water, fire, knives, poison, falling off a precipice, or of vicious beasts-such as wild elephants, lions, tigers, wolves, bears, venomous snakes, scorpions, centipedes, millipedes, mosquitos or gnats-they need only wholeheartedly recall and recite the name of the Medicine Buddha, and respectfully make offerings to him, and they will escape all these terrors. If a country should be subject to invasion, disruption, banditry, or rebellion, the inhabitants who pay homage and recall or recite the name of the Medicine Buddha will be free from such calamities.

"Moreover, Manjusri, there are men and women of pure faith who do not worship other deities for the rest of their lives and only one-mindedly take refuge in the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha and uphold the precepts—the five or ten lay precepts, the four hundred bodhisattva precepts, or the two hundred and fifty bhiksu or five hundred bhiksuni precepts. However, if any of them have violated the precepts they have taken, and are fearful of falling into the wretched destinies, they should concentrate on the name of the Medicine Buddha and respectfully make offerings to him, they will then certainly avoid rebirth in the three wretched destinies. 或有女人,臨當產時,受於極苦;若能至 心稱名禮讚,恭敬供養彼如來者,眾苦皆 除。所生之子,身分具足,形色端正,見 者歡喜,利根聰明,安隱少病,無有非人, 奪其精氣。」

爾時世尊,告阿難言:「如我稱揚彼世尊 藥師琉璃光如來所有功德,此是諸佛甚深 行處,難可解了,汝為信不?」阿難白言: 「大德世尊!我於如來所說契經,不生疑 惑,所以者何?一切如來身語意業,無不 清淨。世尊!此日月輪,可令墮落,妙高 山王,可使傾動,諸佛所言,無有異也。 世尊!有諸眾生,信根不具,聞說諸佛甚 深行處,作是思惟:云何但念藥師琉璃光 如來一佛名號,便獲爾所功德勝利?由此 不信,反生誹謗。彼於長夜,失大利樂, 墮諸惡趣,流轉無窮!」

佛告阿難:「是諸有情,若聞世尊藥師琉 璃光如來名號,至心受持,不生疑惑,墮 惡趣者,無有是處。

"If women, who experience extreme pain during childbirth, can recite and praise the name of the Medicine Buddha with utmost sincerity, venerate and make offerings to him, they will be relieved of their sufferings. The children born to them will have healthy bodies, be proper in appearance, and pleasing to those who see them. They will be endowed with sharp senses and intelligence. They will seldom become ill, nor will non-humans sap their vital energy."

The World Honored One then asked Ananda: "I have just extolled the merits of the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata. These merits are results of the extremely profound practices of all buddhas, but are difficult to explain. Do you have any faith in them or not?" Ananda respectfully replied: "Venerable World Honored One, I do not have any doubts about the sutras preached by the Tathagatas. Why? It is because the Tathagatas' karma of body, speech, and mind are all pure. World Honored One, the sun and the moon may fall, Mount Sumeru, the majestic king of mountains, may topple, but the words of the buddhas are never mistaken. World Honored One, some sentient beings, whose roots of faith are deficient, may hear of the sublime practices of the buddhas and think, how can we, just by being mindful of the name of the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata alone, obtain these superior merits? Because of this lack of faith, they even develop disparagement, thus forfeiting great benefits and remaining in the long, dark night. They descend into the wretched destinies, revolving in them without end."

The Buddha then said to Ananda: "If sentient beings should hear the name of the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata, wholeheartedly uphold it without harboring doubts, then it will be impossible for them to fall into the wretched destinies. 阿難!此是諸佛甚深所行,難可信解;汝 今能受,當知皆是如來威力。阿難!一切 聲聞獨覺,及未登地諸菩薩等,皆悉不能 如實信解,惟除一生所繫菩薩。

阿難!人身難得;於三寶中,信敬尊重, 亦難可得;聞世尊藥師琉璃光如來名號, 復難於是。阿難!彼藥師琉璃光如來,無 量菩薩行,無量善巧方便,無量廣大願; 我若一劫,若一劫餘,而廣說者,劫可速 盡,彼佛行願,善巧方便,無有盡也!」

爾時眾中,有一菩薩摩訶薩,名曰救脫, 即從座起,偏袒右肩,右膝著地,曲躬合 掌,而白佛言:「大德世尊!像法轉時, 有諸眾生,為種種患之所困厄,長病羸瘦, 不能飲食,喉脣乾燥,見諸方暗,死相現 前,父母親屬、朋友知識,啼泣圍繞;然 彼自身,臥在本處,見琰魔使,引其神識, 至於琰魔法王之前。 "Ananda! These extremely profound practices of the buddhas are difficult to believe in, difficult to understand. Yet you are now able to accept them. You should realize that this is all due to the marvelous power of the Tathagatas. Ananda! Even the sravakas, pratyekabuddhas, and bodhisattvas who have not reached the Ten Grounds cannot completely understand and believe in this truth. Only the bodhisattvas who are one lifetime away from buddhahood can.

"Ananda! A human body is difficult to obtain; however, to believe in, respect, and honor the Triple Jewels is even more difficult. To hear the name of the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata is more difficult still. Ananda, the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata has cultivated countless bodhisattva practices, employed countless skillful means, and made countless far-reaching vows. If I were to take a kalpa or more to recount them, the kalpa would come to an end before I could exhaustively describe all these practices, vows, and skillful means."

At that time a great bodhisattva in the assembly, named Salvation, arose from his seat, bared his right shoulder, knelt on his right knee, joined his palms, respectfully bowed and addressed the Buddha: "Venerable World Honored One, in the Dharma Semblance Age, there will be sentient beings who suffer numerous calamities, who are always sick and emaciated, unable to eat or drink, whose throats are dry and lips are parched, and whose eyes see darkness everywhere. As the signs of death appear, they are surrounded by parents, family, friends, and acquaintances, weeping and lamenting. As such a patient lies in bed, he sees the messengers of Yama arrive to lead his consciousness before this King of Justice. 然諸有情,有俱生神, 隨其所作,若罪若 福,皆具書之,盡持授與琰魔法王。爾時 彼王,推問其人, 算計所作,隨其罪福, 而處斷之。時彼病人,親屬知識,若能為 彼,歸依世尊藥師琉璃光如來,請諸眾僧, 轉讀此經,然七層之燈,懸五色續命神幡, 或有是處,彼識得還,如在夢中,明了自 見。或經七日,或二十一日,或三十五日, 或四十九日,彼識還時,如從夢覺,皆自 憶知,善不善業,所得果報;由自證見業 果報故,乃至命難,亦不造作諸惡之業。 是故淨信善男子,善女人等,皆應受持, 藥師琉璃光如來名號,隨力所能,恭敬供 養。」

爾時阿難問救脫菩薩言:「善男子!應云 何恭敬供養,彼世尊藥師琉璃光如來?續 命幡燈,復云何造?」救脫菩薩言:「大 德!若有病人,欲脫病苦,當為其人,七 日七夜,受持八分齋戒。應以飲食,及餘 資具,隨力所辦,供養苾芻僧。晝夜六時, 禮拜供養,彼世尊藥師琉璃光如來。讀誦 此經四十九遍,然四十九燈;

"Now, all sentient beings have accompanying spirits who record everything they do, both their transgressions and their merits. These spirits then present the patient's entire record to King Yama. At that time, the King questions the dying person and tabulates his good and bad karma before deciding upon his fate. If, at that point, the relatives and acquaintances of the patient are able to take refuge in the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata, on his behalf, invite monks and nuns to recite this sutra, light seven-tiered lamps and hang five-colored longevity banners, his consciousness may return then and there, as if seeing himself clearly in a dream. Or else, after seven, thirty-five, or twenty-one. forty-nine davs. when his consciousness returns, as if awakening from a dream, he will recall his good and bad karma and the consequences thereof. Having personally witnessed the consequences of karma, he will refrain from creating evil karma, even if his life were in danger. Therefore, men and women of pure faith should uphold the name of the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata, venerate and make offerings to him according to their capacity."

Ananda then asked the Bodhisattva Salvation: "Good Man, how should we venerate and make offerings to the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata, and how should we make the longevity pennants and lamps?" Bodhisattva Salvation replied: "Virtuous One, in order to help the patient recover, you should uphold the Eight Precepts for seven days and seven nights, make offerings of food, drinks, and other necessities to monks and nuns in accordance with your means, you should pay homage and make offerings to the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata from day to night and recite this sutra forty-nine times. You should light forty-nine lamps; 造彼如來形像七軀,一一像前,各置七燈, 一一燈量,大如車輪,乃至四十九日,光 明不絕。造五色綵幡,長四十九搩手,應 放雜類眾生,至四十九,可得過度危厄之 難,不為諸橫惡鬼所持。

復次,阿難!若剎帝利、灌頂王等,災難 起時,所謂:人眾疾疫難,他國侵逼難, 自界叛逆難,星宿變怪難,日月薄蝕難, 非時風雨難,過時不雨難。彼剎帝利,灌 頂王等,爾時應於一切有情,起慈悲心, 赦諸繫閉。依前所說,供養之法,供養彼 世尊藥師琉璃光如來。由此善根,及彼如 來本願力故,令其國界,即得安隱,風雨 順時,穀稼成熟,一切有情,無病歡樂。 於其國中,無有暴惡,藥叉等神,惱有情 者,一切惡相,皆即隱沒;而剎帝利,灌 頂王等,壽命色力,無病自在,皆得增益。

阿難!若帝后妃主,儲君王子,大臣輔相, 中宮采女,百官黎庶,為病所苦,及餘厄 難;亦應造立,五色神幡,然燈續明,放 諸生命,散雜色花,燒眾名香;病得除愈, 眾難解脫。」 make seven images of the Medicine Buddha and place seven lamps before each image, each lamp as large as a wheel, letting them burn continuously for forty-nine days and nights. You should also make multi-colored banners, forty-nine hand-lengths long. Furthermore, you should release forty-nine species of animals. The patient may then escape danger and will not be under the sway of evil demons, nor subject to untimely death.

"Moreover, Ananda, when the anointed ksatriya kings find themselves beset by calamities, such as epidemics, foreign invasion, internal insurrection, an adverse alignment of the stars, an eclipse of the sun or moon, unseasonable storms or a failure of the monsoons, the anointed ksatriya kings should develop compassion toward all sentient beings. They should also pardon prisoners, and in accordance with the rites described earlier, make offerings to the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata. Thanks to these good roots and the power of the Medicine Buddha's original vows, peace and stability will soon return to the countries; the rains and winds will be favorable; crops will mature on time and everyone will be healthy and happy. The country will be free of evil yaksas who are out to harm the populace. All the evil omens will immediately disappear, and these anointed ksatriva kings will enjoy greater longevity and vitality, finer appearance as well as greater health and freedom than ever before

"Ananda, when the queens, consorts, princesses, royal heirs, great ministers, court ladies, officials, or commoners suffer disease and other misfortunes, they should also make offerings to the Medicine Buddha. They should make five-colored longevity banners, light lamps, ensuring that they burn continuously, free different kinds of animals, scatter flowers of various colors, and burn assorted premium incense. They will then recover from disease and escape misfortune."

爾時,阿難問救脫菩薩言:「善男子!云 何已盡之命,而可增益?」救脫菩薩言: 「大德!汝豈不聞如來說有九橫死耶?是 故勸造續命幡燈,修諸福德,以修福故, 盡其壽命,不經苦患。」阿難問言:「九 橫云何?」

救脫菩薩言:「若諸有情,得病雖輕,然 無醫藥,及看病者,設復遇醫,授以非藥, 實不應死,而便橫死。又信世間邪魔外道, 妖孽之師,妄說禍福,便生恐動,心不自 正,卜問覓禍,殺種種眾生,解奏神明, 呼諸魍魎,請乞福祐,欲冀延年,終不能 得。愚癡迷惑,信邪倒見,遂令横死,入 於地獄,無有出期,是名初橫。二者、橫 被王法之所誅戮。三者、畋獵嬉戲,耽淫 嗜酒,放逸無度,橫為非人,奪其精氣。 四者、横為火焚。五者、横為水溺。六者、 橫為種種惡獸所噉。七者、橫墮山崖。八 者、橫為毒藥魘禱咒詛、起屍鬼等之所中 害。九者、饑渴所困,不得飲食,而便橫 死。是為如來略說橫死,有此九種,其餘 復有無量諸橫,難可具說!

35

Then Ananda asked Bodhisattva Salvation: "Good Man, how can an expiring life span be lengthened?" Bodhisattva Salvation replied: "Venerable, have you not heard the Tathagata speak of the nine forms of untimely death? Therefore I urge everyone to make longevity banners and lamps and cultivate merits. Thanks to such cultivation, they will escape suffering and misfortune throughout their lives." Ananda further asked: "What are the nine forms of untimely death?"

Bodhisattva Salvation replied: "Some sentient beings contract a minor illness which goes untreated for lack of a physician or medicine; or, even though there is a physician, he prescribes the wrong medicine, causing premature death. Or, the patients, believing the false pronouncement of earthly demons, heretics, or practitioners of black magic, may panic and fear, unable to calm their minds. They may then engage in divination or perform animal sacrifices in order to propitiate the spirits, praying for blessings or hoping to extend their lives. These are all in vain. Through ignorance, confusion, and reliance on wrong, deluded views, they meet with untimely death and sink into the hells with no end in sight. This is the first form of untimely death.

"The second form is execution by royal decree. The third is through hunting, debauchery, alcohol abuse, extreme dissipation, or, their vital energy is sapped by non-humans. The fourth is death by fire. The fifth is death by drowning. The sixth is being devoured by savage beasts. The seventh is falling off a mountain or a cliff. The eighth is death by poison, incantations, evil mantras, or demons revived from the dead. The ninth is from hunger or thirst, for lack of food and water. These are the nine forms of untimely death that the Tathagatas briefed. There are also countless other forms, which are too numerous to describe. 復次,阿難!彼琰魔王主領世間,名籍之 記,若諸有情,不孝五逆,破辱三寶,壞 君臣法,毀於信戒,琰魔法王,隨罪輕重, 考而罰之。是故我今勸諸有情,然燈造幡, 放生修福,令度苦厄,不遭眾難。」

爾時,眾中有十二藥叉大將,俱在會坐, 所謂:宮毘羅大將,伐折羅大將,迷企羅 大將,安底羅大將,頞儞羅大將,珊底羅 大將,因達羅大將,波夷羅大將,摩虎羅 大將,真達羅大將,招杜羅大將,毘羯羅 大將。此十二藥叉大將,一一各有七千藥 叉,以為眷屬。同時舉聲白佛言:

「世尊!我等今者,蒙佛威力,得聞世尊 藥師琉璃光如來名號,不復更有惡趣之 怖。我等相率,皆同一心,乃至盡形,歸 佛法僧,誓當荷負一切有情,為作義利, 饒益安樂。隨於何等,村城國邑,空閑林 中,若有流布此經,或復受持藥師琉璃光 如來名號恭敬供養者,我等眷屬,衛護是 人,皆使解脫一切苦難,諸有願求,悉令 滿足。或有疾厄,求度脫者,亦應讀誦此 經,以五色縷,結我名字,得如願已,然 後解結。」 "Moreover, Ananda, King Yama is responsible for keeping the karmic register of everyone in the world. If sentient beings have not been filial, have committed the Five Cardinal Sins, disparaged the Triple Jewels, broken the laws of the land, or violated the major precepts, King Yama will mete out punishment according to the infraction. Therefore, I urge sentient beings to light lamps, make banners, free animals, and cultivate merits in order to avoid suffering and misfortune."

At that time, there were twelve powerful yaksa generals in the great assembly: namely, General Kumbhira, General Vajra, General Mihira, General Andira, General Anila, General Sandila, General Indra, General Pajra, General Makura, General Sindura, General Catura, and General Vikarala. Each was accompanied by a retinue of 7,000 yaksas. They all raised their voices in unison and said respectfully to the Buddha:

"World Honored One, thanks to the Buddha's marvelous power, now we have heard the name of the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata and no longer fear descending into the wretched destinies. Together, with one-mind, we take refuge in the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha for the rest of our lives, and pledge to support all sentient beings, bringing them genuine benefits and joy. Whether in villages, towns, kingdoms, or the wilderness, if people circulate this sutra, or uphold the name of the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata, and venerate or make offerings to him, we will protect them, so they will be released from all sufferings and calamities and have their wishes fulfilled. If those afflicted by disease or calamity wish for salvation, they should also recite this sutra. They should tie five-colored strands with our names on them and untie them when their wishes are fulfilled."

爾時,世尊讚諸藥叉大將言:「善哉!善 哉!大藥叉將!汝等念報世尊藥師琉璃光 如來恩德者,常應如是,利益安樂,一切 有情。」

爾時,阿難白佛言:「世尊!當何名此法 門?我等云何奉持?」佛告阿難:「此法 門名說藥師琉璃光如來本願功德;亦名說 十二神將饒益有情結願神咒;亦名拔除一 切業障;應如是持!」

時薄伽梵, 說是語已, 諸菩薩摩訶薩, 及 大聲聞, 國王、大臣、婆羅門、居士、天 龍、藥叉、揵達縛、阿素洛、揭路茶、緊 捺洛、莫呼洛伽、人非人等, 一切大眾, 聞佛所說, 皆大歡喜, 信受奉行。

藥師琉璃光如來本願功德經

Thereupon, the Buddha praised the great yaksa generals with these words: "Very well, very well, great yaksa generals! Those of you who wish to repay the benevolence and the virtues of the World Honored Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata should always benefit and bring joy to all sentient beings in this way."

Ananda then asked the Buddha: "World Honored One, what should we call this teaching, and how should we follow and uphold it?" The Buddha replied to Ananda: "This teaching is called the 'Expounding the Original Vows and Merits of the Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata' or 'Expounding the Divine Mantra of the Vows of the Twelve Yaksa Generals to Benefit Sentient Beings' or 'Eradicating All Karmic Obstacles'. You should uphold it as such."

When the Bhagavan had spoken this sutra, the great bodhisattvas, as well as the great sravakas, kings, ministers, Brahmins, laypersons, devas, nagas, yaksas, grandharvas, asuras, garudas, kinnaras, mahoragas, and other human and non-human beings, having heard the Buddha, were all filled with immerse joy; they accepted and followed the teaching faithfully.

The Sutra On The Original Vows And Merits Of The Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata

藥師灌頂真言

南無薄伽伐帝 鞞殺社 窶嚕薜琉璃 缽喇婆 喝囉閣也 怛他揭多也 阿囉喝帝 三藐三勃陀耶 怛姪他 唵 鞞殺逝 鞞殺逝 鞞殺社 三沒揭帝莎訶

解冤偈

解	結	解	結	解	冤	結
解	了	多	生	冤	和	業
洗		滌	慮	發	虔	誠
今	對	佛	前	求	解	結
藥	師	佛		藥	師	佛
			臺町			
隨	ど	滿	願	藥	師	佛

回向

佛	光	注	照		本命元辰
災	星	退	度	福	星臨
九	曜	保	툱	生	運限和平
福	壽	永	康	寧	
南	無	增	福	壽	菩薩摩訶薩

Medicine Buddha Initiation Mantra

ná mó bó qié fá dì pí shā shè jù lū bì liú lí bō lá pó hē là shé yĕ dá tā jié duō yĕ ā là hē dì sān miǎo sān bó tuó yĕ dá zhí tā ān pí shā shì pí shā shì pí shā shè sān mò jié dì suō hē (3 times)

Gatha of Releasing Enmity

Release, release, release the bonds of enmity. Remove the enmity and karma of many lifetimes. Cleanse the mind, free it from worries, and generate sincerity. Before the Buddha I now pray to release my bonds. Medicine Buddha, Medicine Buddha, misfortune-dispelling and longevity-enhancing Medicine Buddha, Wish-fulfilling Medicine Buddha

Dedication of Merits

The light of the Buddha illuminates the Birth Star. Stars of misfortune recede and stars of blessing arrive. The Nine Stars insure longevity, bringing good fortune and peace. May we always have a life of blessings, health, and peacefulness. Namo Bodhisattva Mahasattva of enhancing blessing and longevity

THREE REFUGES

三皈依

I take refuge in the Buddha, may all sentient beings Understand the Great Way profoundly, And bring forth the bodhi mind.

I take refuge in the Dharma, may all sentient beings Deeply enter the sutra treasury, And have wisdom vast as the sea.

I take refuge in the Sangha, may all sentient beings Form together a great assembly, One and all in harmony.

自皈依佛	當願眾生	體解大道	發無上心
自皈依法	當願眾生	深入經藏	智慧如海
自皈依僧	當願眾生	統理大眾	一切無礙
和南聖眾			

FOUR GREAT VOWS

四弘誓願

Countless are sentient beings, I vow to liberate; Endless are afflictions, I vow to eradicate; Measureless are the Dharmas, I vow to master; Supreme is the Buddha Way, I vow to attain.

眾生無邊誓願度 煩惱無盡誓願斷 法門無量誓願學 佛道無上誓願成

REPENTANCE

懺悔偈

All the harm I have ever done, since time immemorial, Are caused by greed, anger, and ignorance, And produced through my body, speech, and will, Now I confess and amend all.

往昔所造諸惡業	皆由無始貪瞋痴
從身語意之所生	一切罪障皆懺悔

DEDICATION OF MERITS

回向偈

May the merits of our deeds Reach every part of the world; Sentient beings large and small All attain enlightenment. Maha-Prajna-Paramita

願以此功德 普及於一切 我等與眾生 皆共成佛道 摩訶般若波羅蜜



中台禪寺

Chung Tai Chan Monastery

2 Chung Tai Road, Puli, Nantou 54544, Taiwan, R.O.C. Tel: (886-49) 2930-215 http://www.ctworld.org ctworld@mail.ctcm.org.tw

750 East Argues Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94085, USA 美國太谷精舍 Tel. (1) 408-733-0750 Chung Tai Zen Center http://sunnyvale.ctzen.org sunnyvale@ctzen.org of Sunnvvale 3254 Gloria Terrace, Lafavette, CA 94549, USA 美國佛門寺 Tel. (1) 925-934-2411 Buddha Gate Monastery mail@buddhagate.org www.buddhagate.org 1173 San Bernardino Avenue, Pomona, CA 91767, USA 美國中洲禪寺 Tel. (1) 909-625-0187 Middle Land Chan Monastery www.middleland.org middleland@ctzen.org 5800 South Anderson Road, Oklahoma City, OK 73150, USA 美國佛心寺 Tel. (1) 405-869-0501 Buddha Mind Monastery buddhamindokc@gmail.com www.ctbuddhamind.org 12129 Bellaire Boulevard, Houston, TX 77072, USA 美國普德精舍 Tel. (1) 281-568-1568 Chung Tai Zen Center zen@cthouston.org www.cthouston.org of Houston 100 Chung Tai Road (P.O. Box 1247), Shepherd, 德州寶塔禪寺 TX 77371, USA Texas Pagoda Chan Monastery Tel. (1) 936-365-2451 or (1)713-560-2889 www.ctcmusa.org zen@ctcmusa.org 7930 Rainier Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98118, USA 美國佛寶寺 Tel. (1) 206-721-9921 Buddha Jewel Monastery www.buddhaiewel.org buddhajewel@ctzen.org 2550 Henderson Mill Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30345, USA 美國法寶寺 Phone: 770-939-5008 Dharma Jewel Monasterv http://dharmajewel.us dharmajewel@ctzen.org 94A High Street, Glen Iris, VIC. 3146, Australia 澳洲寶林禪寺 Telephone: 03-9813-8922 Bao Lin Chan Monastery www.chungtai.org.au baolin@mail.ctcm.org.tw 22-2 Shinbashi-cho, Kadoma City, Osaka 571-0048, Japan 日本普東禪寺 Tel. 06-6902-2400 Pudong Chan Monastery http://jpzen.org/pdeng zen@jpzen.org 716 Jose Abad Santos St, Little Baguio, San Juan, 菲律賓海天禪寺 Metro Manila, Philippines Ocean Sky Monastery Tel. (632) 723-6132 http://ctworld.org/108/oceansky oceansky@mail.ctcm.org.tw G/F, Kingstown Mansion, 319-323 Jaffe Road, Wan Chai, 香港普廣精舍 Hona Kona Puguang Meditation Center Tel. (852) 2915-6011 http://ctworld.org/108/puguang3 puguang@mail.ctcm.org.tw 61/84-86 Mooban Thaveemit, Rama 9 Rd, Bangkok 10320, 泰國泰佛寺 Thailand Great Buddha Monastery Tel. (66) 2643-2386 http://ctworld.org/108/GreatBuddha thaifo@mail.ctcm.org.tw Hoerzingerstr. 62 ab, 4020 Linz, Austria 奥地利普法精舍 Tel. (43) 732-944704 Chung Tai Zen Center of Linz http://www.ctworld.org/108/pufa pufa@mail.ctcm.org.tw 義大利華義寺 Via Dell' omo N.142 00155 Roma Italia Tel. (39) 06-22428876 Hua Yi Si huayi@mail.ctcm.org.tw Tempio Cinese-Italiano

For a listing of Chung Tai meditation centers and monasteries in Taiwan, visit http://www.ctworld.org