

Noble Samantabhadra's Conduct and Vows

from Avatamsaka Sūtra (Flower Ornament Scripture), Ch. 39: Arya-Bhadra-Charyā-Pranidhāna-Rāja (tr. T. Cleary, revised K. Henkel)

1. Vow to respectfully bow to all buddhas

As many buddhas as there may be in all worlds
Throughout the ten directions, in the past, present, and future,
With pure body, speech, and mind,
I honor them all, without exception.
With as many bodies as atoms in all lands
I bow to all buddhas, as many as atoms,
With a mind directed to all buddhas,
By the power of the vow of the practice of good.

2. Vow to praise all buddhas and their virtues

In a single atom, buddhas as many as atoms
Sit in the midst of enlightening beings;
So it is of all things in the cosmos—
I realize all are filled with buddhas.
I praise all the buddhas therein,
Expounding in all languages
The qualities of all buddhas,
With endless oceans of manifestations.

3. Vow to extensively make offerings to all buddhas

With the finest flowers, garlands,
Musical instruments, perfumes and parasols,
The finest lamps and incenses,
I make offerings to those buddhas.
With the finest clothes, fragrances,
And mountainous baskets of aromatic powders,
With the finest of all kinds of adornments
I make offerings to those buddhas.
Whatever may be the best of offerings,
I produce them for all buddhas;
By the power of devotion to the practice of good,
I honor and serve all buddhas.

4. Vow to confess and repent karmic hindrances

All my past harmful actions,
From beginningless greed, hate, and delusion,
Born through body, speech, and mind,
I now fully confess and repent.

5. Vow to rejoice in the merit and virtue of others

And whatever the virtue of beings everywhere,
Hearers, saints, self-conquerors,
Enlightening beings and buddhas,
In all that I do rejoice.

6. Vow to request the turning of the wheel of teachings

And all the Lamps of the Worlds in the ten directions
Who have realized enlightenment and attain nonobstruction
I seek as guides, requesting that they turn
The supreme wheel of teaching.

7. Vow to request the buddhas to remain in the world

And those who wish to manifest extinction
I respectfully request to remain
For eons as many as atoms in the land
For the welfare and happiness of all beings.
By bowing, praising, and making offerings to buddhas,
By requesting that they remain and turn the wheel of teaching,
By repenting and rejoicing, whatever good I have accumulated,
I dedicate it all to living beings and the way of buddhas.

8. Vow to always practice the teachings of the buddhas

Learning from all buddhas, fulfilling the practice of good,
I will practice pure conduct, always free from defect.
May the buddhas of the past be honored,

As well as those now in the worlds of the ten directions.

May buddhas of the future be at ease,
Filled with joy, having realized enlightenment.
I will study with them in the past, present, and future,
And quickly realize enlightenment.

May all the lands of the ten directions
Be purified, supreme, and filled
With buddhas and enlightening beings
At the tree of enlightenment.

May all beings in the ten directions
Be happy and well, without worry.
May all beings' righteous aims be successful,
And all afflictions cleared away.
As I am carrying out enlightenment practice,
May I recall my lives in all states;
In every lifetime, as I die and am reborn,
May I always transcend the mundane, with pure conduct.

9. Vow to always accord with living beings

I will expound the teaching
In the languages of gods and dragons,
In the languages of demons and humans,
And of all living beings.

May those engaged in the transcendent perfections
Not stray from enlightenment;
And may all harmful obstructions
Be thoroughly extinguished.

I will traverse the paths of the world
Free from compulsion, affliction, and delusion,
Like a lotus unstained by water,
Like the sun and moon unhindered in the sky.
Extinguishing all the miseries of bad states
And bringing all beings to happiness,
I will act for the welfare of all beings
In all lands everywhere.

According with the conduct of sentient beings
While fulfilling the practice of enlightenment,
And cultivating the practice of good,
Thus will I act throughout future eons.

May I always be in communion
With those who share my practice;
With body, speech, and mind

I will carry out vows as one practice.
And may I always be with my benefactors,
Who teach me the practice of good;
May I never displease them.

May I always see the buddhas face to face,
Surrounded by enlightening beings;
I will make fine offerings to them forever, unwearied.
Preserving the true teaching of buddhas,

Illuminating the practice of enlightenment,
And purifying the practice of good,
I will practice for all future eons.

Migrating through all states of being,
Having acquired inexhaustible virtue and knowledge,
May I become an inexhaustible treasury of wisdom and means,
Concentration, liberation, and all virtues.

As I carry on the practice of enlightenment,
May I see the inconceivable buddhas
sitting among enlightening beings

In the lands as numerous as atoms that are in each atom.
Thus may I perceive the oceans
Of buddhas and lands of all times
In each point in the ten directions
As I practice for myriad eons.
May I ever penetrate the eloquence of buddhas,
The voices of all buddhas which adapt to intentions,
The purity of articulation of all buddhas,
By the sounds of the ocean of tones in a single utterance.
Into those infinite voices of all buddhas of all times
May I enter by buddha-power,
Turning the wheel of teaching.
May I enter all eons of the future instantly,
And may I act in all eons of all times within an instant.
May I see all buddhas of all times in one instant
And always enter their sphere
By the magical power of liberation.
May I produce the arrays of all lands
Of all times in an atom, may I thus perceive all the arrays
Of buddha-lands in all the ten directions.
Learning the teachings of
The Lamps of the Worlds to come,
I will visit all the guides who have passed away to eternal rest.
By supernatural powers, swift in all ways,
By the power of knowledge, all-sided,
By the power of practice, with all virtues,
By the power of universal love,
By the power of goodness, all pure,
By the power of knowledge, unobstructed,
By the power of concentration, wisdom, and means,
Gathering the power of enlightenment,
Clearing away the power of actions,
Destroying the power of afflictions,
Impairing the power of demons,
May I fulfill all powers of the practice of good.
Purifying oceans of lands,
Liberating oceans of beings,
Learning oceans of teachings,
Plumbing oceans of knowledge,
Perfecting oceans of practices,
Fulfilling oceans of vows,
Serving oceans of buddhas,
May I practice, untiring, for oceans of eons.
The lofty vows of enlightenment practice
Of the buddhas of past, present, and future
May I fulfill completely,
Practice what is good, and realize enlightenment.
All who share in the practice
Of the sage of Universal Good, Samantabhadra,
The foremost offspring of all buddhas, I name them good.
Pure in body, speech, and mind,
Pure in conduct, with a pure land,
As the sage is named Good, may I become thus equally.
May I carry out the vow of Manjushri
To totally purify the practice of good;
Tireless through all future ages, may I fulfill all those tasks.
May there be no limits to practice, and no limit to virtues;
Persisting in infinite practices,
I know all their miraculous creations.
As long as the earth exists, as long as all beings exist,
As long as actions and afflictions exist,
So long will my vow remain.

Let me give the buddhas all worlds
In the ten directions adorned with jewels,
Let me give celestials and humans supreme happiness
For eons as many as atoms.
Those who develop respect and devotion
On hearing this supreme dedication,
Seeking supreme enlightenment,
Will be most blessed.
They will have abandoned all evils and all bad associates
And will quickly see Infinite Light, Amitabha,
If they have this vow of enlightening practice.
Great is their gain, worthwhile their life,
Auspicious their birth as humans;
They will soon be like
The enlightening being Universal Good.
Those who have committed horrible crimes
Under the sway of ignorance
Will quickly put an end to them all
When this practice of good is expounded.
Endowed with knowledge, distinction, and nobility,
Invulnerable to false teachers and demons,
They will be honored by all in the triple world.
They will quickly go to the tree of enlightenment
And sit there for the benefit of all living beings;
They will realize enlightenment,
Turn the wheel of teaching,
And conquer demons and all their cohorts.
Buddha knows those who hold this vow to practice good,
Who cause it to be told of and taught;
The fruit of this is supreme enlightenment—
Do not entertain any doubt.
10. Vow to universally dedicate all merit and virtue
As the hero Manjushri knows,
So too does Universal Good;
As I learn from them
I dedicate all this virtue.
By the supreme dedication praised
by the buddhas of all times
I dedicate all this virtue
to the practice of highest good.
Acting in accord with the time,
may I remove all obstructions,
May I see Infinite Light face to face
and go to the land of bliss.
There, may all these vows be complete;
Having fulfilled them,
I will work for the weal of all beings in the world.
Let me abide in the circle of that buddha,
born in a beautiful lotus,
And receive the prophecy of buddhahood
there in the presence of the buddha of Infinite Light.
Having received the prophecy there,
with millions of emanations
I will work for the weal of beings everywhere,
by the power of Buddha.
By whatever virtue I accumulate,
having invoked the vow to practice good,
May the pure aspiration of the world be at once all fulfilled.
By the endless surpassing blessing
realized from dedication to the practice of good,
May worldlings submerged in the torrent of passion
Go to the higher realm of Infinite Light.