

The Meaning of the Praise and Mantra of Medicine Buddha

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by Lama Zopa Rinpoche, Land of Medicine Buddha, 28 July 2001

*To the Bhagawan with equal compassion for all
Whose name when just heard dispels lower realms' suffering
Dispeller of disease and the three poisons
I prostrate to Medicine Buddha Lapis Light.*

tayatha om bekindze bekindze maha bekindze radza samudgate soha.

The Fifth Dalai Lama explains that the first verse expresses what Medicine Buddha is and talks about the qualities.

Bhagawan means “Destroyer Qualified Gone Beyond One” or Chom Den De in Tibetan. “Destroyer” means not only destroyer of one’s own gross and subtle defilements, the delusions, but also destroyer of other sentient beings’ delusions and defilements. “Qualified” refers to six qualities. “Gone Beyond” means gone beyond the oceans of samsaric suffering.

“With equal compassion for all” means Medicine Buddha’s compassion is equal towards all sentient beings, there are no discriminating thoughts. Buddha doesn’t just help those who have faith in him. Medicine Buddha has compassion to every single living being, equally-and that includes us.

Then, “Whose name when just heard dispels lower realms’ suffering”.

Any living being who hears the name of Medicine Buddha never gets reborn in the lower realms-that’s the benefit, the power of just hearing the name, the mantra. The reason there is so much power is due to Medicine Buddha’s compassion. In the past when he was a bodhisattva he made so many prayers and dedications with strong compassion for his name to be wish fulfilling, to bring happiness.

When he became enlightened, one of the ten powers of a Buddha is the power of prayer – that means that all the prayers that have been made get fulfilled. So it is extremely important in our daily life to practice Medicine Buddha and to chant his name for the animals. It's an unbelievably easy way to liberate yourself and to help others too.

Medicine Buddha practice also purifies any broken vows, like Pratimoksha vows, or precepts. It is very powerful for purification and for healing sickness. Normally people think that Medicine Buddha is for healing but it's not only that, it's also very powerful for purifying negative karma and very powerful for success. The Medicine Buddha practice is so precious. It seems that you can do Medicine Buddha Puja for ANY purpose, ANY problem, ANYTHING. You can use the Medicine Buddha practice for any kind of problem, for court cases, to stop wars, to stop violence, anything. It is very good for business, for mothers who are pregnant to give birth successfully, anything.

The practice can be done for anything. It is very powerful for success and of course the most important success is to have the realizations of the Lam Rim, the path to enlightenment: to realize emptiness, develop wisdom, bodhicitta and guru devotion – to be able to give extensive benefit to other sentient beings.

“Dispeller of disease and the three poisons” – the three poisons are ignorance, hatred and attachment, the sicknesses of the mind from which come the physical sicknesses-cancer, depression, etc.

“I prostrate to Medicine Buddha Lapis Light.”

Medicine Buddha's mantra is: tayatha om bekindze bekindze maha bekindze radza samudgate soha.

Tayatha – means “like this”.

Om – is composed of the three pure sounds A U and MA, which signifies one's own body, speech and mind that get transformed into the vajra holy body, speech and mind.

Then bekindze bekindze -“eliminating pain, eliminating pain”. What eliminates pain is medicine. This pain is not ordinary pain – even animals do not want to experience that. The first eliminating pain is true suffering, the second is the true cause of suffering. The medicine that eliminates pain is first the graduated path of the lower capable being, and second the graduated path of the middle capable being.

Then maha bekindze -“the great eliminating pain” is the graduated path of the higher capable being, which eliminates the subtle defilements.

So bekindze bekindze maha bekindze contains the whole path to enlightenment, the ultimate medicine.

Radza – is king.

Samudgate – (ocean of goodness)

Soha – to establish the foundation in the heart, the blessing, the devotion from which the realization comes.

By actualising the meaning of the path contained in bekindze bekindze maha bekindze, the whole Lam Rim, you cease the defilements, gross and subtle, and purify the ordinary body, speech and mind into the vajra holy body, speech and mind. After this you are able to do perfect works for other sentient beings.