

## A PRAISE ON THE TWELVE EXEMPLARY DEEDS OF THE LORD BUDDHA

By Acarya Nagarjuna

Homage to you, King of the Shakyas, whose body is radiant, like a mountain of gold; who, though compassion and skill in means, took birth in the Shakyan clan and vanquished the hosts of evil that others could not conquer.

Homage to you who awakened first the resolve to attain enlightenment, then fully perfected the accumulation of merit and transcendental wisdom to become the protector of living beings through your vast spiritual works in this age.

Homage to you who, as the ruler of the gods, knew that the time had come to bring the Law to living beings; descending from the realms of celestial, you foresaw the clan into which you would take birth and, like a great elephant, entered the womb of Mayadevi.

Homage to you, Scion of the Shakya clan, at whose birth in the grove of Lumbini ten full months thereafter, Brahma and Shakra came to pay homage and Sages proclaimed with certainty that you belong to the race of Great Beings.

Homage to you, Incomparable One, who, as a youthful, powerful Lion among men, showed the miracle of Anga-maga-dhara and deflated the pride of conceited persons.

Homage to you who through skill in means, sustained a kingdom and assumed a retinue and queen to accord with the customs of worldlings and helped them to become free from errors.

Homage to you who perceived that worldly affairs are insubstantial, renounced the householder's life and went forth to accomplish the stages of renunciation at each one of the immaculate Stupas.

Homage to you who dwelt in austerity for six years beside the Nairanjana River, diligently intent on attaining enlightenment and perfect in vigor, attained there the highest stage of mediation.

Homage to you who, in order to bring fruit to the efforts you made throughout beginningless time, sat beneath the Bodhi Tree in Magadha and awakened to Perfect Enlightenment.

Homage to you who then quickly looked upon beings with compassion and, at Varanasi and other holy places, turned the Wheel of Doctrine to help them also (traverse to liberation by relying on) the Three Vehicles.

Homage to you, Sage victorious in spiritual battle, who vanquished the demons in the land of Khormo Jik and put an end to the erroneous wranglings of Devadatta, the six heretical sages and others.

Homage to you who, with virtues unequaled in the three worlds, manifested the Great Miracle at Shravasti and cause the Doctrine to be greatly enhanced by the reverence of gods, humans and all other beings.

Homage to you who, to move lazy disciples to hasten their efforts, manifested the perishing of your deathless, adamantine Body at the pure abode of Kushinagara, And passed beyond into Peace.

Homage to you who left behind eight aspects of your Body and many relics to show that, in Reality, you had not perished and to help future beings acquire merit through their worships.

Through the merit of this brief eulogy in praise of the deeds of the Blessed One, our Master in the Holy Teaching, may all living beings also become equal to the Buddha in their own works.

May I and all living beings become like you, O King of Shakyas, endowed with a form like yours, a span of life like yours, a retinue like yours, a Pure Land like yours, and marks of perfection like yours alone.

### **PRAYERS TO REQUEST FOR BLESSINGS**

By the coming of the Teacher into the world,  
By the sunshine-like glowing of the Teachings, and  
By the concord of the Sangha, upholders of the  
Teaching and disciples, may it be our good fortune  
that the Teaching long endures.

By the force of praise and supplications to you,  
In such places as I and others dwell,  
I pray that illness, demons, poverty, and  
conflict are pacified, Dharma and well-being increased.