

The Armor of Fearlessness A Chant to Prepare for the Intermediate State

The Sakyong, Jampal Trinley Dradül

When this life comes to an end, I will quickly enter the intermediate state. This will be a confusing and disorienting time. Tremendous fear, doubt, and suffering may occur. Once I have entered this state, I will be on my own. Family and friends will be unable to help me. My wealth and all my possessions will be of no use. Even my physical body will be left behind.

Thus, as this great journey to the unknown begins, I will be relying solely upon my mind. Even if I utter words, no one will hear me. For days or weeks, I may not even realize I have died. In this state of bewilderment, I will go about my regular life as if I were alive. If I begin my journey not knowing that I have actually passed away, I will be less ready for the full, intense force of the rest of the intermediate state. Therefore, I must now prepare. O Rigdens of Shambhala, precious warrior teachers, have great love and compassion for me. Help me awaken from my confusion. Dispel my fear.

I know that when this great journey is underway, I will no longer be able to control what happens to me. All past actions will come to bear. All physical acts that have caused harm to others will return to torture me. My spiteful words and malicious speech will create massive echoes resounding throughout my mind. Negative thoughts will ripple like thunder through my consciousness.

Thus, O great warriors of fearlessness, please protect me from fear. Clothe me in the armor of the dralas so that instead of trembling, I will be steadfast. Infuse my speech with the powerful warrior's cry so that I will not forget to utter the primordial mantra KI KI SO SO. Awaken the Ashe in my heart so that my mind instantly recalls all the visualized deities I have practiced. In particular, beings of awakening, quickly ripen the Ashe so I instantly realize that the images that appear are my mind's self-fabrications. Give me confidence so I can render these concepts futile. Let me see their inherent nature as the mandala of the Great Eastern Sun.

O master of the elements, please transform space, wind, fire, water, and earth so they do not create havoc on my journey. Rather, let me see them as the mandala of the turquoise dragon.

O warriors of auspiciousness, please bless me so that I may quickly pass through the intermediate state to the pure and blessed realm of Shambhala, where I will be asked to perform the stroke of Ashe before the profound, brilliant Rigden. May I dwell in this land until attaining the state of a perfect warrior.

If, because of my past actions, this does not occur, may I at least be born in the higher realms in order to practice and propagate the path of virtue. If this does not transpire, may I be born in the human realm. May my faculties be intact. May my mind be humble and intelligent. May I be able to quickly and effortlessly engage in the path of warriorship. Please, great compassionate ones, allow me to be born in a land where the great teachings of Shambhala are offered. Bless me so that my future parents understand the view of basic goodness. May I be born in a land without conflict of view or action.

If this does not occur, with your mighty power, please dispel my negative tendencies so that I am not born in the lower realms. Save me from the stupidity of the animal realm and the stinginess of the ghost realms, where one is never satisfied. At all

costs, please close the gates to the lower, hellish realms, where through great confusion the mind falls into duality, giving rise to great anger.

Knowing the power of the warrior-teacher to be mighty, and the blessings of the profound Rigden to be inconceivable, when I enter the intermediate state, please render all my negative actions obsolete. Help me awaken all the inherent good qualities I have developed.

Bless me and give me the confidence to realize that from the beginning of time, I have been basically good. This is the universal mandala that has never changed. It is fathomless and inconceivable, protected by the great Ashe. This is my life-force essence. With such conviction, I can see life as illusory and dreamlike, knowing that this life is but one of many. Therefore I need not be fearful, for with this level of confidence my mind expands, and I am able to exhale and relax. May I never forget the face of the great warrior-teachers. May their blessings and love perpetually aid me.

In this life I performed my duties, serving the great kingdom of awakening with diligence and loyalty. Thus may I, [name], as a [role in mandala], be blessed with profound, brilliant, just, powerful, all-victorious confidence so that I remain totally fearless as I enter the intermediate state. May whatever merits I have gained through service, meditation, and caring for others be dedicated to their welfare. In this way, may I be free from fixating on my spiritual and worldly attainments. In a state of fearlessness and nonattachment, may I be ready for the great journey on which I am about to embark.

May I return to the cosmic mirror, where there is no beginning or end. May I be reunited with perfect peace, the primordial being Shiwa Ökar. May the vast hosts of werma and drala allow this auspiciousness to occur. I call upon the completely fearless ones. Please fulfill all my wishes and aspirations.

KI KI SO SO

Colophon

The Armor of Fearlessness should be chanted by warriors of Shambhala who are preparing for the intermediate state. This plants the aspirational seeds for fulfilling the warrior's wishes, and gives rise to great confidence.

These words were written with fearless conviction in the Ashe, as well as complete submission and humbleness before the profound, brilliant Rigden. At the request of warriors who asked how to arouse great fearlessness before entering the intermediate state, with complete faith in the divine Shiwa Ökar, I, Jampal Trinley Dradül, recalled the very face of the fearless Sakyong Dorje Dradül. May all beings fearlessly pass through the intermediate state and enter the land of Shambhala. May all warriors recognize the primordial Ashe and acknowledge the black Ashe. Through such conviction, may they be firmly established in the very center of the three courts. May this bring fearlessness, fearlessness, fearlessness.

Written on the auspicious tenth day of the twelfth month, in the fearless land of Yang Le Shö, where the great Padmasambhava manifested as Vajrakilaya and twirled the great phurba with its three terrifying faces, representing the complete fearlessness of heaven, earth, and humanity.

Pharping, Nepal
13 February 2011