

## A Song of Longing for Mother Tara, the Infallible

From my heart I bow to the Divine Mother Tara, essence of love and compassion, the Three Precious Jewels of Refuge gathered into one. From now until I reach enlightenment, hook me with your great love and kindness to liberate me.

With the Three Jewels as witness — not just from my mouth but from the depth of my innermost heart and bones — I pray to you morning and evening: show your blissful face to me. Loving one, grant me the nectar of your speech.

Great gurus and small gurus cheat us with their made-up teachings, selling Dharma, teaching without comprehension, not observing who is qualified and who is not, being concerned about their own happiness and the eight worldly concerns.

Since I cannot trust such friends of this degenerate age any more, you are my principal guru. Bless me, Divine Mother, essence of love; arouse the great power of your compassion and think of me.

I take refuge in you, Tara. Like you, no buddha could even deceive me, but through understanding the odd character of these times most buddhas went into the bliss of nirvana. Even though they have great compassion, we have little karmic connection.

Since I have no other deity, you are my principal deity. Please bestow realizations upon me, divine mother, essence of love; arouse the great power of your compassion and think of me.

Most Dharma protectors do not show their powers; tired of those who invoke them, they do not act. Other protectors, lacking insight but proud of their power, may be friendly for a while but will later do me harm.

Since I cannot rely on protectors such as these, you are my principal protector. With divine action, wisdom mother, essence of love, arouse the great power of your compassion and think of me.

To ordinary view, the names of objects are the same as their meaning; (like this) worldly riches produce delusions and bind us to samsara. When it is time to die, unless I understand true nature, can a wish-fulfilling gem let me carry even a sesame seed?

Since I cannot trust illusory riches, you are my real richness. Please grant my desires, divine mother, essence of love; arouse the great power of your compassion and think of me.

I cannot rely on non-virtuous friends for even a day. They pretend to be close to me but all the while have in mind the opposite. They are friends when they wish it, and enemies when they don't.

Since I cannot trust this kind of friend, you are my best friend. Be close to me, divine mother, essence of love; arouse the great power of your compassion and think of me.

You are my Guru, my yidam, my protector, my refuge, my food, clothing, possessions, and my friend. Since your divine quality is everything to me, let me spontaneously achieve all that I wish.

Although I am overwhelmed by my habitual, uncontrolled mind, please cut these self-cherishing thoughts so that I will be able to give my body and life millions of times without any difficulty to each sentient being. Bless me to be able to develop such compassion to benefit all.

Please empower me to cut the root of samsara, self-grasping, and to understand the pure doctrine, the most difficult-to-comprehend middle way, free from the errors of extreme views.

Please bless me to practise as a bodhisattva, turned away from the world, dedicating all my virtues to the teachings and to living beings, never for one instant thinking of my own happiness. Let me wish to attain buddhahood for the sake of others.

Please empower me to actualize as well as I am able the most subtle precepts and to keep them without a careless mind, thus becoming the most perfect bodhisattva.

May I be simple in my practice on the outside, and inwardly actualize the profound Vajrayana, having the strong wish to practise the two paths. Please bless me to attain enlightenment quickly for the benefit of all.

Divine wisdom mother Tara, you know everything about my life, my ups and downs, my good and bad — think of me with love, my only mother.

Myself and all those who trust in me I offer to you, divine wisdom mother Tara, with complete openness to you. May we quickly be born in the highest pure land, with no births in between.

My mothers, who do not follow the conquerors' teachings, and all mother sentient beings, whoever they are — with your hook of compassionate skilful means, please transform our minds into the Dharma.

By reciting this prayer morning, noon and night, and by remembering divine wisdom mother Tara, may I and all beings who are connected with me attain whatever pure land we wish.

May the Three Precious Jewels and especially the divine wisdom mother, whose essence is compassion, hold me dear until I reach enlightenment. May I quickly conquer the four maras.

[If, for as long as you live, you recite this prayer three times each day, not just from the mouth but strongly linked with your mind, you will have a close connection with Tara and will be able to see her face. No hindrance will be received, and all wishes will be fulfilled.] *Excerpted from Tara Purification Night, FPMT, 2007.*