

Prayer for the Deceased

Oh Buddhas and Bodhisattvas dwelling in the ten directions, I entreat your attention to the deceased one namely

Driven by karmic power, the deceased one may already be born or is to be born in any of the six realms. May all the forces of virtuous deeds, done by the deceased one from the beginningless samsara, such as giving, observing the moral rules, meditating samadhi and other immeasurable root virtues; making others to do the same and appreciating such deeds done by others, continue to follow the deceased one.

Also the forces of the meritorious deeds done by the surviving relations, such as making offerings to gurus and precious ones, serving the sangha, charity to poor people, chanting mantras, reciting scriptures, bestowing initiations to the deceased one in the mandala and performing other methods of purifying non-virtuous acts follow the deceased one namely; and having followed, may the deceased one be freed from suffering of any of the six realms and attain the fully enlightened state of Buddhahood. *(Repeat up to here 3 times)*

Until such a state is not attained, may the deceased one get a rebirth with a perfect human life characterized by good opportunity of taking the Dharma path. May that rebirth possess seven good qualities of higher rebirth.¹ May that rebirth also possess seven wealth of sublime qualities.² May the deceased be never, in all the future rebirths, be deprived of seeing Buddha. May the deceased be never deprived of receiving teachings of the sublime Dharma. May the deceased be never deprived of the merits of serving and honoring the sublime sangha.³

¹ The seven good qualities of higher rebirth: 1) long life, 2) health, 3) good physic, 4) wealth, 5) respected family, 6) power, 7) knowledge.

² The seven wealth of sublime qualities: 1) devotion, 2) morality, 3) learning, 4) generosity, 5) conscience sense of shame 6) good behavior, and 7) wisdom

³ This short text of prayer found in Lama Tsongkhapa's miscellaneous section of writings (ref: TBRC 000EGS10257 text-531, page 621 of 632) was selected and translated into English by Lama Doboorn Tulku with a hope that it may be beneficial for Buddhist minded people at the time of passing away of their loved ones.