

THE LIFE AND LIBERATION OF PADMASAMBHAVA

CANTO 103

**The Advice Given
the Three Fortunate Women
Before the Departure**

Then Ngang Chung, the glorious noble queen,
invited the Guru, that second Buddha,
into the temple of turquoise dedicated to her tutelary deities.
Piling up on a precious throne fine silks and tables of divination
and regaling him with many pleasing things,
she greeted him respectfully and made this request:
"Give me a few words of great import, an effective verse which I
can memorize.

Though I have not renounced the world, I would like to cherish
within me
a Doctrine which at a later time would lead me to Buddhahood."
To this the Guru replied, "Listen, Queen Ngang Chung!
To begin with, pay urgent attention to impermanence,
then strongly turn your mind towards taking Refuge,
and direct your prayers to the lamas.
These are the preliminaries without which no means exists.
After that, disposing yourself physically to be calm,
as in an empty house the raindrops slowly gather,
relax - do not force your mind or body.

Since the tranquillity of Sunyata is the foundation,
by forcefully turning your mind to emptiness, you chase
misconceptions.
In the thoughts which arise, understanding will come without doing
anything.
Again and yet again work on whatever estranges you from
meditation!
Lay bare whatsoever arises, good and bad thoughts alike!
The child who knows his way, carries along on the path
every harmless thing he happens upon and nothing that
harms him.

During the time of insight which is surrounded by a calm, and gentle
aura,
openness and appearance are inseparable.
The six senses come forth, though appearance and voidness are
inseparable;
this is the real foundation, without which no means exists.

During the period of meditation, there is not anything; it is simply open.

But when you waver towards appearances, delusions will arise. After careful examination, understand not to discriminate, to neither accept nor reject.

As anything can happen, peace will arise from within.

Even when you do not meditate, for personal growth you need to exercise effort.

If you do so without accomplishing anything thereby, know that at all times Realization is your own nature, and from within, act for the benefit of all beings!

Unceasingly do Dharma actions;

when you purify yourself of your faults, Realization will naturally come from within.

Seal your virtuous action with prayers and a dedication for the purpose of all beings.

Without such prayers and dedication, no means exists.

Not falling into the errors of excitement or passivity, be filled with confidence.

Here, in few words of great import, lie preparation, enactment, and fulfillment.

The Doctrine's deepest reaches, of this life as of the life to come."

Thus did he speak. And Queen Ngang Chung was led to salvation.

Then to the Crystal Grotto of Yarlung,
the young Himalayan woman Mangala the dog-keeper,
the Dakini of Joyousness, and Yeshe Tsogyal
invited the Guru, and surrounded him with one hundred
ganacakras.

"When the Master has gone away to the land of the Ogres,
what are we to do?"

Thus did the Guru answer, "In this way:

From within transcend the desires of body, speech and mind!

Teachers who do not gladden others, and who are morose
themselves – give them up!

The books and letters that you do not practice – give them up!

Those who compete with others and hoard possessions – give them up!

Women who create disturbances and hold grudges – give them up!

Hope and expectations for your own benefit – give them up!

Turn away from the ranks of men and the eight worldly concerns.

Do not even own a needle or a thread;

externally offer everything to the Three Jewels,

internally make one hundred offerings to the pure field of the
Buddha;

immediately perform as many ganacakras as you can.

The ill-adapted and the incapable will reach the land of mercy.

Reflect on the great dry misery of the cycle!

Exhort others who have not shaken off the demon's grasp, and win
merit for yourselves!

Though slain within the mind, desire returns from the outside.

Not other than the Holy Dharma is the lineage of leading others.

Think of others in solitude whom no one aids!

Do not be loud and boastful . . . rather, depend on solitude.

Having renounced relatives, friends, achievements, food, clothing,
external, internal, and intermediate contingencies,

with nothing of your own left to you, depend on only what is
necessary.

Like the leper, take and reflect on the humblest share.

Since one cannot rely upon all the laws,

in the same way as one is deceived by a faithless friend,

until death comes, do without whatever is necessary!

And since absolutely nothing useless will arise,

the endless wandering of the mind will be conquered.

Even unto poverty, misery and death, contemplate the Great

Perfection.

Do not fail to call on me! Do not despair!"

*Of the History, unabridged, of the Lives
of the Guru of Uddiyana, Padmasamabhava,
this is the one hundred and third canto,
The Advice Given the Three Fortunate Women Before The Departure
Sealed Oaths*