

## **The Foundation of All Good Qualities**

(Tib: Yonten-Shi Gyur-Ma)

- *Lama Tsongkhapa*

1. The foundation of all good qualities is the kind and perfect pure Guru;  
Correct devotion to him is the root of the path.  
By clearly seeing this and applying great effort,  
Please bless me to rely upon him with great respect.
2. Understanding that the precious freedom of this rebirth is found only once,  
Is greatly meaningful and is difficult to find again,  
Please bless me to generate the mind that unceasingly,  
Day and night, takes its essence.
3. This life is as impermanent as a water bubble;  
Remember how quickly it decays and death comes.  
After death, just like a shadow follows the body,  
The results of virtuous and non-virtuous karma follow.
4. Finding firm and definite conviction in this,  
Please bless me always to be careful  
To abandon even the slightest negativity

And accomplish all virtuous deeds.

5. Samsaric splendours are unsatisfying and unreliable;  
Seeking them is the door to all suffering.  
Recognizing these shortcomings,  
Please bless me to generate a strong wish for the bliss of liberation.
6. Led by this pure thought,  
Mindfulness, alertness and great caution arise.  
The root of the teachings is keeping the Pratimoksha Vows.  
Please bless me to accomplish this essential practice.
7. Just as I have fallen into the sea of Samsara,  
So have all mother migratory beings.  
Please bless me to see this, train in supreme Bodhichitta,  
And bear the responsibility of freeing migratory beings.
8. Even if I develop Bodhichitta, but I don't practise the three types of morality,  
I will not achieve enlightenment.  
With my clear recognition of this,  
Please bless me to practise the Bodhisattva Vow with great energy.

9. Once I have pacified distractions to wrong objects  
And correctly analysed the meaning of reality,  
Please bless me to generate quickly within my mindstream,  
The unified path of Calm Abiding and Special Insight.
10. Having become a pure vessel by training in the general  
path,  
Please bless me to enter  
The holy gateway of the fortunate ones,  
The supreme Vajra Vehicle.
11. At that time, the basis of accomplishing the two attainments  
Is keeping pure vows and samaya.  
As I have become firmly convinced of this,  
Please bless me to protect these vows and pledges like my  
life.
12. Then, having realized the importance of the two stages,  
The essence of Vajrayana,  
By practising with great energy, never giving up the four  
sessions,  
Please bless me to realize the teachings of the Holy Guru.
13. Like that, may the Gurus who show the noble path

And the spiritual friends who practise it have long lives.  
Please bless me to pacify completely,  
All outer and inner hindrances.

14. In all my lives, never separated from perfect Gurus,  
May I enjoy the magnificent Dharma.  
By completing the qualities of the stages and paths,  
May I quickly attain the state of Vajradhara.

*Colophon:*