

This “Short Prayer to Dorje Chang”, known in the Tibetan language as the “Dorje Chang Tungma”, is one of the most commonly used prayers in the Kagyu tradition. It is frequently recited at the beginning of practices and lectures. It is also a part of Guru Yoga in ngondro. This prayer briefly presents all the essential teachings of mahamudra.

Dorje chang-chen, telo narotang
Marpa mila, choje gampopa
Dusum shecha, Kunchen karmapa
cheshi chungje, jutpa dzin-nam tang
Dritak tsalsum, palden drukpa-sok.

Great Dorje Chang, Tilopa, Naropa,
Marpa, Milarepa, Prince of Dharma- Gampopa,
Karmapa- who knows all of the past, present and future,
The holders of the Four Great and Eight Smaller Lineages
Drikung, Talung, Tsalpa, glorious Drukpa and many others,
I pray to you who have realised the deep path of Mahamudra.

Sablam chaja, chela nga-nye-pe
Nyam-me drogon dhagpo kajula
Solwa'ndepso, kaju lamanam.
Jutpa dzin-no, namtar chinji-lop

The Dhagpo Line of Oral Transmission,
That peerless protector for all beings.
I will also uphold the tradition of the Kagyu Lamas;
Grant your blessing that I may follow the example of their wondrous deeds.

Shenlok gomji kangpar, sungpa-shin.
Senor kunla, chakshen mepa-tang.
Tsendir dotak-chopa, gomchenla.
Nyekur shempa, mepar chinji-lop.

Weariness with Samsara is taught to be the feet of meditation,
Thus the true meditator is uninvolved with food, wealth, or anything,
And cuts his/her bondage to this life.
Grant your blessing that he/she may be unattached to success and honour.

Mogu gomji gowor, sungpa-shin
Men-nga tergo, jepe lamala.
Jundu solwa'ndep-pe gomchenla.
Chomin mogu, chewar chinji-lop.

Devotion is taught to be the head of meditation.
Thus the true meditator constantly prays to his guru
The one who opens the treasure of the essential instructions.
Grant your blessing that uncontrived devotion may arise in him/her.

Yengme gomji ngoshir, sungpa-shin.
Kangshar tokpe, ngowo somate.
Macho tekarak jokpe, gomchenla
Gomcha lotang tralwar chinji-lop.

Non-distraction is taught to be the actual meditation,
Thus whatever arises, the true meditator simply rests within the uncontrived,
In the very essence of thought.
Grant your blessing that he/she may be free from the idea of something to meditate on.

Namto ngowo chokur, sungpa-shin.
Chi-yang ma-yin, chiryang charwala.
Manga rolpar.charwe gomchenla.
Korde yerme, tokpar chinji-lop.

The essence of thought is taught to be the Dharmakaya.
Nothing whatsoever- yet it manifests as anything whatsoever,
Appearing in unhindered play to the true meditator.
Grant your blessing that he/she may realise the indivisibility of Samsara and Nirvana.

Chewa kuntu, yanda lamatang.
Tralme cho-chi, pal-la longcho-ching.
Satang lamji, yonten rapzone.
Dorje changi, kompang nyurtop-sho.

In all my lives may I never be without a true Guru
And may I make proper use of the splendour of Dharma.
Perfecting all the qualities of the levels and paths,
May I swiftly achieve the state of Dorje Chang.