A Yearning Song of Faith

a Prayer to Yeshe Tsogyal, Queen of Dakinis
E ma ho. Gyal wa kun yum dor jé nal jor ma  
*Emaho! Mother of all the Buddhas, Vajrayogini,*

dra yang gya tsö nga dag yang chen ma  
*Sovereign of infinite harmony, Sarasvati, Lady of Song,*

tug jé dro kun drol dzé je tsun ma  
*Venerable Lady whose compassion frees all beings,*

Pö la ka drin che wé khan dro ma  
*Dakini who is kind to Tibet,*

rig dzin pemé tug dzin gyé yum ma  
*Lady who pleases the heart of Vidyadhara Padmasambhava*

Pö bang yong kyi shap chig ma chig ma  
*Only Mother, only refuge of all Tibetans,*

sang ngak sab mô chô kyi jung ne ma  
*Lady, Source of the Profound Secret Mantra Dharma,*
khyen tsé nu pa chog gi dag nyi ma
You are supreme wisdom, love and power.

chi mé tsé chog drub pé rig dzin ma
Lady Vidyadhara who accomplished supreme immortality,

sa lam yongs su dzog pé nal jor ma
Yogini who completely perfected the Paths and Bhumis,

nying jé gang dul kur tön tab khé ma
Skilful in means, your compassion takes various forms to tame beings,

shen pen kha dang nyam pé dag nyi ma
You are the embodiment of Universal altruism.

trin le mu tar khyab pé rang shin ma
Your nature is limitless enlightened activity,
 yö na tug jé nyur wê je tsun ma
When invoked, your compassion is swift, Venerable lady,

drub na shin lab ché wê khan dro ma
When practiced, your blessing is great, Dakini,

tug jé ma tar sig pé drin chen ma
Gracious lady who looks on us with a mother's compassion,

shap ne kun dü dag gi gön chig ma
All sources of refuge are united in you, lady, my only Protector,

ye she tso gyal khyé la sol wa deb
Yeshe Tsogyal, to you I pray!

khan drö gyal mo khyé la sol wa deb
Queen of Dakinis, to you I pray!

trul pé wang mo khyé la sol wa deb
You who have control over manifestation, to you I pray!
ting ö bar ma khyé la sol wa deb
Lady of blazing azure light, to you I pray!

gu rui zung chig khyé la sol wa deb
Dakini of Guru Rinpoche, to you I pray!

gyu dzin yum chig khyé la sol wa deb
Mother and Lineage-holder, to you I pray!

sab ter dzö dzin khyé la sol wa deb
Holder of Profound treasure-teachings, to you I pray!

shin lab nyur jug khyé la sol wa deb
Swift in your blessings, to you I pray!

gö dö pal mo khyé la sol wa deb
Glorious Lady who grants all needs and wishes to you I pray!

dro wé ré kong khyé la sol wa deb
You fulfil the hopes of beings, to you I pray!

Wish-granting jewel, to you I pray!

Unfailing in your compassion, to you I pray!

You who are a constant refuge, to you I pray!

Instant dispeller of suffering, to you I pray!

Supreme Guide of beings, to you I pray!

You are the Lama, you are the Yidam,
khyö ni khan dro khyö ni chö shong te
You are the Dakini, you are the Dharma Protector,

kal ngnen dag gi shab chig je tsun ma
Venerable Lady, you are my sole refuge in misfortune,

khyö la nying né gü pé sol wa deb
With heartfelt devotion, to you I pray!

dung wé pu chung ma la bö pa shin
Like a child calling out with longing for his mother,

nyig mé gu pa na tsog kyi nar wé
for us who are tormented by the deteriorations of this decadent age,

gu ru yab yum jé su jug pa dag
followers after Guru Rinpoche and his Consort,

ré sa shab né khyö le shen mé do
there is no other hope or place of refuge but you!
khyö ni nying jé chen pö tar sön te
You have perfected great compassion

mé jung tsog n yi yong su dzog shé shing
and completed the wondrous Two Accumulations,

shen dön khur khyer khyen tsé nu wé tob
taking on the task of others' welfare, you are empowered with wisdom, love, and compassion,

sé ché gyal wa kun dang nyam shin du
equal to all the buddhas and bodhisattvas.

dag chag pö bang shin tu kal men nam
We Tibetans in extreme misfortune,

du kyi gu pé lhag par chö pa la
ruined in particular by this decadent time,

tug jé chen pö ug jin mi dzé na
if you did not comfort us through great compassion
dor jéi dam cha den tsig nyel lam chi
would you not be forgetful of the true words of your Vajra Vow?

teng né shang chub nying por ché kyi bar
From now until I attain the essence of Enlightenment

lu sog long shö khyö la tsog su bul
I offer my body, life and wealth altogether to you!

lo nying trang sum a ma khyé la te
I entrust myself to you, body, heart and mind, Mother!

nying né dung wé yu so je tsun ma
with heart-felt yearning I appeal to you, Venerable Lady!

de pa chen la tug jé mi lu wé
To those who have faith, you have the wisdom, love and power

khyen tsé nu nga khyö kyi den tsig shin
of unfailing compassion, according to your promise—

yang yang kul kyang dre mé yi ché pa
when we plead with you over and over, losing heart,

kal men dag la lhag par tug tser dzö
show greater love for us unfortunate ones!

We who are churned by the waves of bad karma and disturbed emotions,
mired in the mischief of sickness, evil forces and obstacles,
supreme refuge, we think single-mindedly of you,
so won't you comfort us a little with your compassion?
wang den tug jéi dag nyi khyé nam la
You who are the embodiment of power and compassion

me jung tug jé chen pö tob nga yang
and are mighty with great and wondrous compassion-

kyé ma nga dang nga dré le ngen nam
 alas! I and unfortunate ones like me-

tug jé yel war dor wa chang sid dam
 surely your compassion can't just ignore and abandon us?

ngön tsé gang chen mun pé mag rum dir
In a previous life here in the intense gloomy dark Land of Snow

gu ru yab yum khyé ku u su shug
Guru and Consort, you lived in the midst

kal sang dul shé tsog kyi yong su kor
of a throng of fortunate disciples,

sang ngak sab mö nyam tog nyi tar sel
and the experiences and realisations of the profound Secret Mantra shone forth like the
But now all that has passed into legend,

and our longing for you, Venerable Guru and Consort, is greater than ever.

Even though our only wish is to repay your kindness,
in the natural expression of this degenerate age, humans and non-humans

scorn your kindness, so even in this land

evil is strengthened, and sickness, strife and poverty increase.

Ah, the poor beings of Tibet! Have compassion
khyé jé jug pa nam kyi tsul di zig
as you regard this your followers' plight!

je tsun yab yum pema ō na shug
Venerable Guru and Consort, you reside in Lotus Light,

yul gyi kal we le ngen di na kō
afar from those of us with bad karma dwelling here,

dung shug trag pō sol wa tab na yang
and though we pray with anguished longing,

ye shé zig pé hlu wa mé mö kyi
and though you are infallible in your regard of Wisdom,

le ngen rang gi nyé pé rang drib né
we have obscured ourselves with our own karma and negativity.
kom pa mig gyui jé su nyag pa shin
Like a thirsty person chasing after a mirage

yi la ugyung chung sé ma tob na
if my mind gets not the slightest comfort

tug jé zig pa jug ché ji tar tsal
how can I plead: "look on me with compassion!"?

di na dung wé tsi ngi gang shar du
Towards this outburst of longing,

shi pé ngu lab shin du me pa la
blurted out like a child in a flood of tears,

je tsun yab yum tug jé cher gong te
Venerable Guru and Consort, have greater compassion!

ta da nyi du ré wa kang du sol
Fulfil our hopes this very moment, we pray!
je tsun yab yum khyé la mö pa la
Venerable Guru and Consort, among your devotees

kal wa men pé gang sag me chi shing
there is not a single one with inferior fortune, so

shin gyi lab shing jé su zung shè pé
whoever prays: "bless me and keep me",

shal shé gang lag du dir ngön par dzö
make their prayer come true this very moment!

shé dzog nyen drup trin lé rim pa yi
For those whose virtuous activity is Development and Completion, Approach and Achievement stages

gu rui sung shin jé su drub pa dang
in accordance with the Guru’s instructions, and

tsé chig ka drin dren pé pö bang nam
the people of Tibet who one-pointedly remember your kindness,

tse ring né mé chi sam yi shin du
good fortune without illness, whatever their minds may desire-

although your promise to accomplish these is unfailing.

teng sang gu ru yab yum ka drin la
these days the gracious Guru and Consort's kindness

is respected and borne in mind by most Tibetans,

more consider themselves unlucky, and their longing increases

since here, the degenerate age's evils are spreading,
gang chen gön po yab yum mi dren par 
through not remembering the Protector of the Land of Snows

shé pa log par so wé shé wo mang 
wrong-doers are multiplying

ten shab la lō du du nyê wa na 
and barbarians have almost ended the teachings' life,

dü kyi nar wé shé wo dag dra wa 
Just a few beings like me, tormented by this period,

nyung shé tsam shig khyé la de mö kyang 
do have faith in you, but even so

rang shen dug ngal nyön mong lab kyi trug
I and others are churned by waves of perturbing emotions and suffering,

chi sha mé par gu pé kal wa nyong 
helplessly undergoing the misfortunes of degeneration,
 dé tsé pal ri pe ma ö ling na
*At such a time, when we remind ourselves of the glorious mountain-isle of Lotus Light*

sang gyé kun du tsung mé trul pé ku
*where the peerless Manifestation of all the Buddhas in one,*

dag chag pö bang sam yö kun gyi shab
*the refuge of all loyal Tibetans*

je tsun yab yum shug nyam jé dren né
*the Venerable Guru and Consort abide - then*

mal gyi nang du tsug pé tab mé ching
*we can not rest in our beds, and*

ug kyang khar tsong chi mé char gyun bab
*with a lump in our throats, a ceaseless rain of tears descends.*
Although we pray, day and night continually, to you-

if you do not grant us a little compassion and comfort.

since you obtained countless aeons ago the Wisdom Body

which accomplishes, for others’ sake, the two vast waves of Accumulation,

peerless in power, strength and ability

if I and those who, like me, suffer great grief

do not call forth your compassion, who does?
khyé la ma khyen pa ni yong mi si
You are simply bound to understand -

sol wa tab tsé dul shé yul chen gyi
since, when we pray, we disciples are its catalyst,

trin le mi jug pa ni mi si na
if it is impossible for enlightened action not to engage

chi la dag gi ré wa dre mé song
how could our hope be fruitless?

yang né yang du sol kyang tug jéi shug
Though again and again we begged, if your compassionate strength

mé na kal men dag chag su la ré
were absent who could we luckless ones put our hope in?

shab dral yi ché nam kyi gön su shig
Who would be a protector for the broken-hearted, who have no refuge?
Even so, this ill luck is, of course, our own fault,

I and any others like me who have bad karma-

when all such as we turn to you for refuge

if our hopes are dashed, how tragic!

Guru, if those who follow you and have devotion for your words

become more fortunate than others

men pa dag chig gu kyang zö lag te
and I alone get worse, I am patient,

tug jéi ngön tag tong na su mi tro
but who could not be glad to see a sign of your compassion?

gyal wa kun gyi tug jé chig du pa
Yours is the compassion of all the buddhas condensed in one,

khyé nyi gyal wa kun le shin nyur shing
you are swifter to bless than all other buddhas-

gön po khyé kyi lhag par nyig du su
protector, you said you would, especially in this dark time,

pö bang de pa chen nam shob ché sung
be a refuge for faithful Tibetans.

Since the outcome of your vajra vow
jé jug sol wa deb la jung rig pé
is bound to ensue from your followers’ prayers,

teng né khyö kyi jé jug jé drang nam
from now on please bestow on your followers and adherents

shen le ngön töi kal war jor dzö chig
the fortune of higher rebirth than others!

si pa le kyi drong khyer trul mo ché
Experiencing the deceptive city of karmic existence

rang nang mi lam shin du nyong wa la
as like a dream, one’s own perception,

ré shig tug jéi shug chen ma ngön kyang
although the strength of your compassion may not be realised now,

nam shig hlu mé shin lab chi mi ngön
one day, without fail, your blessing surely will be!
de na dag ni shi dam dug kyang rung
*Therefore whether I am in happiness or sorrow,*

*to am ma am si tsé nar mé par*
*high or low, from the heights of existence down to its deepest depths,*

*tse rab khor wa gang dang gang shé kyang*
*no matter where in Samsara I am born,*

*je tsun yab yum tug jé jé dzin shog*
*Venerable Guru and Consort, please hold me with your compassion!*
ke chig tsam yang shé war ma gyur chig
never arise for even a single moment!

chog tu rang gyu nam par dag pa dang
It is best for my own mind to become pure, and

la ma yab yum ka shin jé su drub
practising according to the instructions of the Guru and Consort

de dang dag nang nam kha nyam par pel
may faith and pure perception spread, equal to the sky,

la mé yön ten gya tso tong war shog
may I see the Guru’s vast qualities!

la mé ka dang chö shir ka shé la
In undergoing hardships for the sake of the Guru’s teaching and the Dharma,

nar mé mé pung trag por jug pa lang
even if thrown into the fierce inferno of the Lowest Hell
like a goose frequenting a lotus lake

may I find joyful courage, without being disheartened.

Obliterating the stain of attachment to my own benefit,

for the sake of the Dharma and others' benefit, may I

allow my own life to be reduced to atoms

without the slightest sense of hardship.

nang si nam par dag pé shō yul la
In its field of activity, appearance and existence completely pure,

she rab sab mö chi der rol gyur ne
once profound Wisdom has transformed all into the enjoyment of whatever one wishes,

nyig mé gu pa kun kyang drog su shar
and all the deteriorations of this dark age arise as friends,

sa dang lam gyi yön ten pel war shog
may the qualities of the Bhumis and Paths increase.

ngön gyi tse rab nam su la ma dang
Former lifetimes' disrespect to the lama and

sang ngag sab mö shö la ma gu sog
the activities of the Secret Mantrayana, and so on -

di shii drib par gyur pa gang lag pa
whatever outer obscurations this has created

te ring nyi ne lhag mé jung gyur chig
from this day forth may they be utterly eliminated!
helen che shang chub nying pö tar tug bar
Henceforth until I attain the ultimate essence of Enlightenment

la mé ka dang dor jé teg pa le
whatever the Lama and the Vajrayana

ji ke sung pé dön nam ma lu pa
may teach, without any exception,

chog tu tro we nyam su len gyur chig
may I take to heart with supreme joy.

de tsê shi dang nang gi chen gyi tsog
At that time may accumulated outer and inner conditions

geg su gyur pa gang dang chi chee kyang
that become obstacles, whatever they may be,

Yearning Song of Faith
me la shing shin lam gyi drog su shar  
*arise as friends on the Path, like fuel to a fire,*

chi kyang yo mé dön nyi drub gyur chig
*none of them disturbing me, and accomplish the two goals.*

rang dang shen dön ten dang dro wé dön  
*The goal of oneself and others, of the teaching and of beings,*

yi la ji tar yö kun yi shin drub
*may they all be accomplished just as one would wish -*

tsé dang sö nam dön nyi ta shi pal  
*may life, merit, and all good fortune.*

gong né gong pel tar shin lhun drub shog  
*go from strength to strength and spontaneously reach perfection.*

sam pa nam par dag pé sa bön la  
*Onto the seed of pure intentions*
leg mön trö ché tsa sum gyal wé tui
along with the warmth of fine aspiration may the good rain of the power

char sang gi lab pen déi dre bu bum
of the Three Roots and the buddhas bring forth benefit and happiness,

yur du sa wé pag sam jön shing ché
and may a wish-fulfilling tree weighed down with thousands of fruits grow great

nyig mé du dir sil den dzin mé shir
in this degenerate age in the ground of Tibet, the Land of Cool Shade,

rab chab tag tu yo mé tsa wa ten
and may its ever-undeceiving, all-pervasive roots be firm,

shé gui sõ su gya cher pel gyur ne
growing vast as a remedy for all beings, and

pe mé ten la chog tu pen par shog
be of supreme benefit to the teaching of the Lotus-born.
sa dang lam gyi yön ten gag mé pel
May the qualities of the Grounds and Paths increase without obstruction,

ten dang dro wé dón chen llun gyi drub
may the great goal of the teaching and of beings be spontaneously fulfilled,

rang dang drel tog nam dang tö ché kun
may all those who connect with or see me

pe ma ö kyi shing du shé war shog
be reborn in the Celestial Realm of Lotus Light!

gu ru yab yum rig sum sem pa yi
Following the great examples of the life and liberation of

nam tar gya tsö jé su dag shug te
the Guru and Consort and the Three Great Protectors,

kha chab dro wé shō yul dang nyam pé
may I engage in the activity of Samantabhadra

कुन तु संग पो शो ला जुग पर शोग
equal in extent to beings who pervade all of space.

दग न्यी गंग दु नेपे सा शोग सु
In whatever land I may dwell

मी शि गु पा मिंग याङ मी द्राङ पर
may not even the name of misfortune or decline be heard,

दे शी ता शी गे त्से ल्हा दाङ पल
and may happiness and well-being, auspicious activity, and prosperity

न्यिन मोर शे पा शिन दु साल ग्जुर चिङ
shine forth like the light of the day!
On the twenty-first of the fourth month of the Earth-dog year, accompanied by the manifestation of the elements coming together, I improvised this yearning song, with powerful longing faith. Once again, may it become the cause of inexhaustible goodness and virtue!