

SANBUTSU GE

The gatha SANBUTSUGE comes from The Larger Sutra of Immeasurable Life. It is the praises voiced by Bodhisattva Dharmakara to the Buddha Lokeshvararaja. In these praises Dharmakara expresses his own desire to attain Buddhahood and his heartfelt determination to accomplish his goal for the sake of saving all sentient beings.

PRAISES OF THE BUDDHA

The light of your face is unsurpassed in majesty, your awesome greatness is beyond limit, a brightly shining flame with no equal. Next to your brilliance, even the brightness of sun, moon and Mani jewel seem covered in black ink.

Tathagata's transcendent appearance has no comparison in all the world. The whole universe vibrates with the great sound of your enlightenment. Your rare and superior virtues of wisdom, understanding, deep meditation, and strength of endeavor are awesome, beyond comparison.

The Tathagata deeply meditates on the Dharma of the Buddhas which is as deep and as wide as the ocean. He fully understands its depth and breadth. Of ignorance, greed, and anger, the World-Honored One has none. The divine virtues of the man of Lion, Tathagata, is immeasurable.

The virtues of the Tathagata are innumerable and broad. His knowledge is deep; His majestic light illuminates the thousand worlds. I (Dharmakara Bodhisattva), after attaining Buddhahood and becoming master of the Dharma, may I deliver mankind from birth and death.

Dana, discipline, patience, endeavor, meditation and wisdom shall be of the best. I will become a Buddha and completely fulfill my vow. I will bring great peace to all who are in doubt or fear.

Even though there are a myriad Buddhas and sages as numerous as the sands of the Ganges, and I were to offer homage to them all, it is still better for me to be faithful and strong in seeking the true Path, never retreating.

The Buddha worlds, also innumerable as the Ganges sands, will be completely, exquisitely beautiful. My country will be like Nirvana, a place of practice, transcendent beyond words, without equal. In my compassion I will enlighten all.

Beings will come from the ten directions to be born in my country. They will be pure, their minds filled with gladness. Those in my pleasant country will be peaceful and at ease.

Please, dear teacher, accept this proof of my sincerity. Here I establish my vow. Through strength and endeavor I shall fulfill this desire.

The wisdom of all the Buddhas of the ten directions is unimpeded. May they always know my intent.

Even though my body may undergo many sufferings and much pain, I shall never cease in my efforts. Whatever I must bear, I shall have no regrets.