

Medicine Buddha

Sutra of Medicine Buddha
Venerable Master Hsing Yun

**Commentary by Khenpo Tsultrim Tenzin-Winter Retreat 2024-Tibetan
Meditation Center**

Medicine Buddha



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- ***Meritorious Virtues and Original Vows of the Medicine Buddha Pure Crystal Radiance Sutra is commonly referred to as The Sutra of Medicine Buddha***
- *This sutra narrates how the Buddha in response to Manjusri Bodhisattva's request, concerning the meritorious virtues of the Medicine Buddha's Eastern Pure Land of Crystal Radiance. And details the 12 Great Vows of Medicine Buddha made when he was a Bodhisattva.*

Medicine Buddha

Characteristics of Pure Land of Crystal Radiance

1. *A world of Abundance*
 2. *A purified Society*
 3. *A world with pure and honest Governance*
 4. *A world of health and happiness in Body & Mind*
- In addition they receive the teachings and guidance from the Buddha*

Medicine Buddha

How does Medicine Buddha transform & Liberate Sentient Beings?

1. *Benefiting of hearing & contemplating his name:*
 - A. Destroying the 4 Evils: Stinginess, evil of transgression & arrogant views, Evil of Jealousy and Slander, Evil of Strife & Curse.
 - B. Increasing the 4 Benefits: Benefit of being reborn in the Pure land, benefit of being reborn into the heavenly realms, benefit of being reborn into the human form, benefit of being reborn into the male form.

Medicine Buddha

How does Medicine Buddha transform & Liberate Sentient Beings?

- 2. Benefits of healing illnesses through reciting the Mantra*
- 3. Benefits of making offerings and maintaining practices*

1st Vow: May all sentient beings be equal to the Buddhas

- *All sentient beings have Buddha Nature, only it cannot manifest because it is covered by ignorance. Therefore, Medicine Buddha wishes to eliminate and purify sentient beings' dust of afflictions with his Buddha Light thus helping them attain Buddhahood.*
- *He vows that upon attaining Buddhahood his body will shine forth a bright light illuminating immeasurable Worlds*
- *He will be adorned with the 32 Major Marks and eighty noble qualities*
- *Emphasizes **Dharmakaya** manifesting the equality of buddhas and all sentient beings.*

2nd Vow: May all Sentient beings awaken and Engage in beneficial actions

- *Emphasizes Nirmanakaya that arises from the Dharmakaya, to teach and benefit all sentient beings.*
- *Ordinary people's bodies have crystal radiance of wisdom. However this light can not radiate within or without due to the barrier of afflictions.*
- *When light emanates light from his body, any sentient being that is caught in the depths of profound darkness can be illuminated and become awake.*
- *Medicine Buddha employs knowledge and skill to benefit sentient beings.*

3rd Vow: May all Sentient beings enjoy abundant Resources

- *If we cannot operate from the base of immeasurable wisdom to make skillful applications of our technology and material resources disparity in resources occurs, greed, anger, and ignorance arise and as a result, conflicts and wars never cease.*
- *Medicine Buddha Vows that all sentient beings shall have illuminating wisdom in order to permanently cease conflicts and to have peace and enjoy abundance of food, clothing and resources.*
- *This Vow also focused on Materialistic aspects of life and enjoying those resources*

4th Vow: May all sentient beings be established on the path of Great Vehicle

- *This Vow focused on establishment of correct Views and Understanding*
- *Medicine Buddha vows that all sentient beings who are heading towards the lower realms who have cultivated various unwholesome karma due to their disbelief of Law of causality, may all abandon evil practices and engage in the Dharma.*
- *Helping Sentient beings to Cultivate precepts, meditative concentration and Wisdom*
- *Medicine Buddha wishes those on the sravaka or Pratykabuddha vehicle become engaged by the means of Great Vehicle*

5th Vow: May all Sentient beings uphold precepts in perfect purity

- *The first of the 4 Vows that are focused on giving Joy.*
- *The 5th thru the 8th Vow are focused on elimination of suffering*
- *As sentient beings uphold precepts, if, due to a moment of ignorance, they cannot uphold precepts in purity and perfection, or if there is any violation or transgression, they can avoid falling into the unwholesome realms upon hearing the name of Medicine Buddha*

6th Vow: May all sentient beings be complete in all faculties

- *Any one with illnesses of the mind can receive proper healing, and treatment, enabling them to live a good life with a wholesome body and mind*
- *Wish for those suffering from serious illness and deformities upon hearing his name, can regain optimum health.*
- *The second of the 4 vows that directly focus on giving joy.*

7th Vow: May all sentient beings enjoy health and happiness in body and mind

In Contrast to the 6th Vow, this Vow commits to helping those who are ill and poor.

The compassion of the Buddha reaches out to all beings, especially to the sick, lonely, poor.

This Vow is the 3rd of the Vows that focuses on Giving Joy

8th Vow: May all women who wish to let go of their female form be transformed into the male form

- *In Mahayana Male and Female are equal. This Vow is focused on Societies and Cultures where there is oppression due to Gender.*
- *Upon hearing Medicine Buddha's name, those who wish to transform their gender due to oppression can do so.*
- *He then can maintain the Male Form thru multitude of life times until Buddhahood is reached*
- *This is the 4th Vow that focuses on Giving Joy.*

9th Vow: May all sentient beings turn from evil to correct Views

- *Sentient beings like a moth to a flame are entangled with evil practices, generate incorrect views and burn and destroy themselves.*
- *Due to the power of the Vow by Medicine Buddha, sentient beings can turn from incorrect to correct views and gradually establish themselves in the practices of 6 perfections and attain Buddhahood.*

10th Vow: May all Sentient beings be liberated from sorrow and Suffering

- *This Vow was made for the liberation of sentient beings who are imprisoned for their wrongdoing.*
- *For example individuals falsely accused, or being punished for a wrongdoing*
- *If they call upon Medicine Buddha, he will free them from anxiety, sorrow, grief. If they sincerely repent, they can be free from afflictions of suffering.*

11th Vow: May all sentient beings have exquisite food and drinks

- *Khenpo Tsultrim says: First fulfill desire then lead them to Dharma*
- *First entreat him with material things, then lead him to a Buddha's Wisdom-Buddha Shakyamuni*
- *Medicine Buddha first fulfills and satisfies sentient beings with food and drink and afterwards through the feast of pure Dharma, Sentient beings are able to attain ultimate peace and happiness.*

12th Vow: May all sentient beings have exquisite clothing and all the material fulfillment

- *Dispelling Poverty*
- *Medicine Buddha vows to enable all sentient beings who are poverty stricken to acquire an abundance of clothing and other material resources according to their needs and wishes, allowing them to experience complete satisfaction and Contentment.*

Praise to The Medicine Buddha

Medicine Buddha, the king of extended life

Please shine your radiant presence on this Dharma Assembly

Which resembles the moon's reflection in water.

You, who comes to the rescue of the suffering,

Bestow your auspiciousness, remove all suffering and dispel all disaster

We are here to repent all wrongdoings committed in the three time periods

We pray for continuous good fortune and long life

May the high, auspicious star

Shower the light of your kindness upon us,

Fulfilling our wishes and bringing peace and health