

Dharma Dance Song

By Śākya Śrī



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Translated by Tib Shelf



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Ema Ho!

Thus, in the manner of cham dance, with stamping double-steps and section-by-section transitions, he sang:

The secret treasury of the celestial ḍākinīs,
The supreme place, Lhadrak Yangdzong.
Samaya-holding yogins, master and disciples,
Assembly of vajra siblings gathered here:

On the dance-ground of the celestial ḍākinīs,
In this place of uncontrived self-perfected presence,
Fortunate siblings, self-aware,
Having arrived effortlessly and spontaneously in the pure realm of Khecara—
Let us dance a joyful dharma dance!

Again, O vajra siblings,
Look at your own undeluded mind!
The experience of bliss, clarity, and non-conceptuality,
Within the expanse of the vast boundless horizon,¹
The stamping dance of undeluded self-liberation—
Dance it as non-dual, bliss-emptiness!

Again, O vajra siblings,
Look at your own undeluded mind!
Mind itself, groundless and rootless,
Within the expanse of the sameness of whatever arises,
The stamping dance of non-grasping, free-from-elaboration—
Dance it as the union of clarity-emptiness!

Again, O vajra siblings,
Look at your own undeluded mind!
Where appearance and mind inseparably merge,
Within the expanse where no one thing has true existence,
The stamping dance of undistracted one-taste—
Perform the dharma dance of appearances with unobstructed openness!

¹ *Khor yug chen po*, literally “the great encompassing expanse,” creates the sense of the largest spatial image the tradition affords—possibly echoing the Abhidharma *mahācakravāla*, the iron-mountain ring at the outermost edge of the world-system.

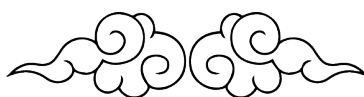


Again, O vajra siblings,
 Look at your own undeluded mind!
 Free from meditator and meditated,
 Within the expanse of non-dual saṃsāra and nirvāṇa,
 The stamping dance of non-meditation, non-distraction—
 Dance it as great awareness-emptiness!

Again, O vajra siblings!
 Look at your own undeluded mind!
 To the supreme kind refuge:
 Mind-itself, rootless and groundless,
 The buddhas of the three times,
 The dynamic display of self-awareness and emptiness,
 Arising as non-dual spontaneous presence—
 We make the offering of unobstructed non-grasping
 As undeluded self-liberation!

The siddhi of the unsurpassable secret—
 Please grant it most swiftly!

Thus, at the supreme sacred place Lhadrak Pema Yangdzong, in response to the request of the monastic student Chöphel, I, Shakyā Shri, disciple of Tenpe Nyima, wrote Song of the Dharma Dance as a song of experience. May it be virtuous!



BIBLIOGRAPHY

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