

The Shurangama Litany

At that time the World-honoured One, from the fleshy crown of His head, sent out a sparkling flood of light rays and, amidst these rays, burst forth a thousand-petaled jewelled lotus. A transformed Tathagata sat within this jewelled flower the crown of His head emitting hundreds of glistening light rays in all directions; Everywhere each light revealed all things as numerous as the myriad grains of sand in the Ganges. The Vajrapanis, Jewel in hand, lighted up the mountains, appearing everywhere within the vault of space; the great assembly beheld this with awe. Unable to hold on to their fears and desires, they sought the Buddha's pity and aid and wholeheartedly hearkened unto the radiant Tathagata atop the now-concealed crown of the Buddha's head as He chanted this sacred Invocation.

The Invocation of All the Transformations of the Invincible One

Homage to all the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas!
Homage to the Seven Fully Enlightened Buddhas and to their disciples within the billions of sanghas!
Homage to the realm of the Arahants!
Homage to those who have entered the stream!
Homage to those who are to be reborn but once more!
Homage to those who will not be reborn again!
Homage to the realm of the completely successful One who practises right actions!
Homage to the Triple Treasure!

Homage to the exalted Lord who conquers with His resolute host of celestial warriors, the Tathagata, the Arahant, the Fully Enlightened One!
Homage to the exalted Amitábha, the One of Infinite Light, the Tathagata, the Arahant, the Fully Enlightened One!
Homage to the exalted Aksobháya, the Immutable One, the Tathagata, the Arahant, the Fully Enlightened One!
Homage to the exalted Bhaisájya-guru, Radiant Healing Lord of the Indestructible Lapis Lazuli, the Tathagata, the Arahant, the Fully Enlightened One!
Homage to the exalted Shaléndra, Lord of the Most Excellent of Sala Trees in Full Bloom, the Tathagata, the Arahant, the Fully Enlightened One!
Homage to the exalted Shakyamuni, the Tathagata, the Arahant, the Fully Enlightened One!
Homage to the exalted Rátnakúsumakéti, Lord of the Flowering Jewel Banner which is the standard for our vow to train, the Tathagata, the Arahant, the Fully Enlightened One!

Homage to the exalted Family of the Tathagata!
Homage to the exalted Family of the Lotus!
Homage to the exalted Family of the Vajra-diamond!
Homage to the exalted Family of the Mani-jewel!
Homage to the exalted Family of Action blossoming forth from the Water of the Spirit!

Homage to the wise and holy ones who live amidst the devas!
Homage to those who preserve these words of pure and bright Dharma!
Homage to the wise and holy ones who preserve this pure Dharma and to those who likewise facilitate Its recitation!

Homage to Brahma who is the yearning of the heart!
Homage to Indra who is the will to train!
Homage to the exalted Rudra, the Wrathful and Purifying One, companion to Uma, the One Who Brings True Peace!
Homage to Narayána of the five great mudra seals, along with His guardians!
Homage to the Adored One!
Homage to Mahakála, Him of the Dark Realms, who put to flight the triply-fortified cities of the haughty asuras, the Confident One, along with His host of Divine Mothers who dwell within the burning-grounds of the dead!
Homage to the Adored One!

We bow in homage to all of You for You are the white canopy of light that covers the crown of the exalted Tathagata's head, all the Transformations of the Invincible One adored by all celestial beings, honoured by all celestial beings and guarded over by every celestial being!
We pray that You make all devilish entanglements and fascinations subside,
Make known what needs to be known,
Tame those who would prolong pain,
Protect us from evil,
Keep us safe from an untimely death,
Liberate us from all our fetters,
Protect us from all that is difficult to tame and from nightmarish dreams,
Free us from the four and eighty thousand enticements,
Purify the eight and twenty mansions wherein the Moon of our Original Nature abides,
Rid us of the eight great distractions of gain and loss, fame and disgrace, praise and ridicule, elation and sorrow,
Protect us from all enemies,
Make all mysteries disappear and evil visions dissolve
And make us strangers to poison, sword, fire and flood.
We call upon Thee, the Great Fierce One from the Family of the Invincible, the Great Aditya whose mighty brilliance blazes forth like the sun, destroying all darkness,
And upon Thee, the Great Dazzling White One of the blazing light, the mighty white-robed One who abides within the white lotus, the Noble Liberator born from the tear-filled eye of Compassion,
And upon Thee, Bhṛíkūti, the Wrathful Frowning One who sprang from the scowling brow of Compassion,
And upon Thee, the victorious Vajrámrīti, the Indestructible One crystal clear as the Sweet Dew,
And upon Thee, the flower-wreathed Vajra-tongued One famed for Thy teaching of the ways to sit in meditation,

And upon Thee, the One with the Invincible Vajra-sceptre, honoured by celestial beings as the
One who is thoroughly free from defiling passions,
And upon Thee, Avalokiteshwára, the Great White One whose form is as a flower,
And upon Thee with the Vajra-chains which bind all evil, second only to the Noble
Avalokiteshwára in might, along with Thy Vajra-handmaidens, the upholders of the Families,
And upon Thee, the Golden-garlanded One whose great knowledge is as a diamond which Thou
holdest in Thy hand, the Jewel in the Red Safflower, Vairochána, from whose actions the head
crown arises,
And upon Thee, Lochána, with Thy garlands in full bloom, Divine Mother Who is Wisdom, Thee
whose Vajra is lustrous as gold, who, like the Vajra-beaked Garúda, swallows the serpent of
hatred, the Dazzling White One whose eyes are like lotus blossoms, radiant as the moon at its
fullest.
As thus we speak, may all of You through Your multitudinous mudra signs protect us from all
things!

Om to the crown of the Tathagata which the whole assembly of Holy Ones praise!
Hūm trūm, smash all fetters!
Hūm trūm, restrain all evil!
Hūm trūm, shine forth!
Hūm trūm, stir up the lethargic mind!
Hūm trūm, bestow upon us what needs to be known!
Hūm trūm, restrain all corruption and wickedness!
Hūm trūm, bring to an end all entanglements with demons that bedevil us by day or stalk us by
night!
Hūm trūm, free us from the four and eighty thousand enticements!
Hūm trūm, purify the eight and twenty mansions where the Moon of our Original Nature abides!
Hūm trūm, rid us of the eight great distractions!
Protect us, we pray, protect us!
To That which transforms atop the crown of the Tathagata's head, to the Great Vajradhára, the
Thousand-armed One with a thousand heads and a hundred thousand eyes, indestructible,
whose radiance blazes up through the Mandala of the Three Worlds,
Om, we pray, help us to return to our Original Nature!

By being mindful, may I be cleansed
Of fear of rulers and whatever else would dominate me,
Of fear of thieves and whatever else would rob or deprive me,
Of fear of fire and whatever else may enflame or consume me,
Of fear of flood and whatever else would overwhelm or drown me,
Of fear of poison and whatever else would corrupt me,
Of fear of weapons and whatever else may wound or maim me,
Of fear of hostile armies and whatever else may assault me,
Of fear of famine and want, and whatever else may starve or deprive me,
Of fear of lightning and whatever else may strike me suddenly and unexpectedly,
Of fear of untimely death,

Of fear of being overwhelmed by earthquakes and whatever else may shake the ground from
beneath me,
Of fear of falling meteors and whatever else may befall me from the heavens,
Of fear of a ruler's rod and whatever else would inflict punishment or pain upon me,
Of fear of snakes and dragons and whatever else would crush me in its coils,
Of fear of storms and whatever else may thunder down upon me,
Of fear of vultures and eagles and whatever else would prey upon me.
By being mindful, may I be cleansed
Of entanglements with the imps of mischief and scorn,
Of entanglements with those who stalk the night,
Of entanglements with hungry ghosts,
Of entanglements with the demons of despair,
Of entanglements with the demons of deception and
confusion,
Of entanglements with things that sexually fascinate,
Of entanglements with the demons of agitation and fury,
Of entanglements with the demons of neglectfulness,
Of entanglements with Skanda, lord of argument and disease,
Of entanglements with the demons who bring on twitchings,
Of entanglements with the demons of intoxication and raging desire,
Of entanglements with nightmares and shadows,
Of entanglements with Révati, she who indulges in abusiveness.
By being mindful, may I be cleansed
Of whatever would rob me of my giving rise to spiritual intentions,
Of whatever would rob me of the Child whilst It is still developing in the hara,
Of whatever would rob me of the newly born Child,
Of whatever would rob me of my vitality,
Of whatever would rob me of my blood,
Of whatever would rob me of my breath,
Of whatever would rob me of my skin,
Of whatever would rob me of my flesh,
Of whatever would rob me of my marrow,
Of whatever would rob me of my vomit,
Of whatever would rob me of my bodily excretions,
Of whatever would rob me of my mind.
By being mindful, may I be cleansed
Of all these and of all other enticements and distractions.
By being mindful of those who are homeless mendicant monks, may I be cleansed;
By being mindful of the daemons who lay bare the Truth, may I be cleansed;
By being mindful of Rudra, the Purifier who rages like a tempest, may I be cleansed;
By being mindful of the True Garúda who swallows the serpent of hate, may I be cleansed;
By being mindful of Mahakála and His host of Divine Mothers, may I be cleansed;
By being mindful of Kapálíka whose skull is our begging bowl, may I be cleansed;

By being mindful of those who make us victorious, those who offer us the Divine Nectar and those who grant us the means to do all that needs to be done, may I be cleansed;
By being mindful of the Four Divine Sisters, the Transcendent Virtues that abide within the world beyond form, may I be cleansed;
By being mindful of Bríngiriti, bringer of victory, Nandikéshvara, bringer of joy, and Gánapati, clearer of paths, may I be cleansed;
By being mindful of those who are free from all ties and fetters, may I be cleansed;
By being mindful of the Arahants, may I be cleansed;
By being mindful of the excellent and distinguished assembly of monks, may I be cleansed;
By being mindful of Vajrapáni, the Bodhicitta of all the Tathagatas whose hand holds the Jewel, may I be cleansed;
By being mindful of Brahma and of Rudra and of Narayána, may I be cleansed;
By being mindful of Guhyakádhpati, the Unseen Lord of the Gúhyakas who guard the Treasure, may I be cleansed.
Protect me, I pray, protect me!

O Exalted One, I dedicate myself to Your canopy of white light which, radiantly spreading forth from its black stem, opens like a blossom!

Blaze up, blaze up!
Burn out our passions!
Burn away all defilements!
Cleave our bonds!
Tear our fetters asunder!
Sever our entanglements!
Bind all evil! Hūm, hūm, Peace, Peace. All Hail!
With joyous laughter we cry Peace!
To the Unfailing One, Peace!
To the Indestructible One, Peace!
To the Bestower of gifts, Peace!
To the One who puts the warring asuras to flight, Peace!
To all celestial beings, Peace!
To all nagas, Peace!
To all imps of mischief and scorn, Peace!
To all stalkers of the night, Peace!
To all who inflict suffering on those who hate, Peace!
To all who would storm the gates to the Heavens, Peace!
To all who distract from training by singing, Peace!
To all who distract from training by playing music, Peace!
To all who distract from training by dancing about, Peace!
To all that creates deception, Peace!
To all that disheartens through despair, Peace!
To all that arouses sexual fascination, Peace!
To all who stir things up, Peace!
To all who encourage neglectfulness, Peace!

To all who break the Precepts, Peace!
To all that is difficult to look upon, Peace!
To all that is painful and grievous, Peace!
To all that gives rise to twitchings, Peace!
To all who listen but still cleave to non-Buddhist paths, Peace!
To all manner of misguided ways, Peace!
To all forms of intoxication, Peace!
To all teachers of spiritual knowledge, Peace!
To those who make us victorious or offer us the Divine Nectar or create the means to do all that
needs to be done or are teachers of spiritual knowledge, Peace!
To the Four Divine Sisters, Peace!
To the Vajra Handmaidens who uphold the Families and to the Lords of Knowledge, Peace!
To the Great Body of Transformations, Peace!
To Vajrashankára, the Beneficent Lord of Transformations, Peace!
To Mahakála, Peace!
To His host of Divine Mothers, Peace!
To the Adored One, Peace!
To Indra, warring lord against the asuras, Peace!
To the Possessor of Sacred Knowledge, Peace!
To Rudra, the Raging One, Peace!
To Vishnu, perpetuator of all phenomena, Peace!
To Brahma, creator of all phenomena, Peace!
To the one who resists, Peace!
To Agni, Wisdom's Flame which consumes all ignorance and passion, Peace!
To Mahakáli, Her of the Dark Realms, Peace!
To Raúdri who follows upon Rudra as self-righteousness and brutality follow upon rage, Peace!
To Kaladándi, wielder of the scythe of death, Peace!
To Aíndri who follows upon Indra as violence follows upon warlike intentions, Peace!
To Wisdom, the Divine Mother, Peace!
To Chamúndi, weaver and severer of enchantments, Peace!
To Kalarátri who brings the dark night of death, Peace!
To Kapáli who wears the necklace of skulls, Peace!
To the Confident One who dwells within the graveyard, Peace!

If there are any sentient beings
With a corrupt and malignant mind,
Or with an evil mind,
Or with a brutal and raging mind,
Or with a hostile mind
Or with an unfriendly mind,
May they give rise to this Invocation, cleanse themselves with It by speaking It aloud, praying It in
whispers or reading It silently
Lest they rob us of our first conception of the Truth,

Or rob us of the developing Child within the hara,
Or rob Him of His blood,
Or rob Him of His skin,
Or rob Him of His flesh,
Or rob Him of His marrow,
Or rob Him of His birth,
Or rob Him of His new life,
Or rob Him of His vitality,
Or rob Him of His talents,
Or rob Him of His innocence,
Or rob Him of His brightness,
Or rob Him of His flowering,
Or rob Him of His fruition,
Or rob Him of the harvest of His fruits,
Or if there are any
With an evil mind,
Or a malignant and corrupt mind
As a result of entanglement with a celestial being,
Or entanglement with a naga,
Or entanglement with a mischievous or malicious imp,
Or entanglement with a stalker of the night,
Or entanglement with one who is resentful or craves power,
Or entanglement with an avenger of hatred,
Or entanglement with whatever distracts training by appealing to the ear,
Or entanglement with whatever distracts training by appealing to the eye,
Or entanglement with a hungry ghost,
Or entanglement with a demon of despair,
Or entanglement with that which creates deception and confusion,
Or entanglement with one who stirs things up,
Or entanglement with an encourager of neglectfulness,
Or entanglement with that which arouses sexual fascination,
Or entanglement with Skanda, lord of argument and disease,
Or entanglement with intoxications,
Or entanglement with nightmares and shadows,
Or entanglement with what brings on convulsions, twitching and fits,
Or entanglement with whatever drains us of our vitality,
Or entanglement with those who indulge in abusiveness,
Or entanglement with those who beg from greed,
Or entanglement with birds of omen,
Or entanglement with elation over auspicious signs,
Or entanglement with hypocrites and rogues,
Or entanglement with those who strangle to extort,
Or if there are any

Who burn with a fever, such as the one-day fever, the two-day fever, the three-day fever, the four-day fever, a constant fever or a chronic fever,
Or suffer from the humour that leads to irritability, the peevishness of biliousness or the apathy of phlegm,
Or are overwhelmed to the point of collapse,
Or suffer from all manner of feverish headaches,
Or are immobilized,
Or who suffer from disgust over things indigestible,
Or whose sight is diseased,
Or whose mouth is diseased,
Or whose heart is diseased,
Or who suffer from earache, tooth-ache, heartburn, pain in some vital organ, sore joints, chest pains, back ache, stomach ache, pinched nerves, sciatica, kidney or gall stones, painful thighs, hip pain, sore hands, sore feet or pain throughout their whole body,
Or have a fever brought on by some demon who throws them into confusion or resurrects dead issues or drains their energies,
Or who suffer from things that get under the skin and itch, or fester, like scabies, ringworm, boils and abscesses, or things that create rot, like syphilis and leprosy, or things that harden like callouses or corns,
Or who are swept with nausea,
Or are wasting away with consumption,
Or meet with an accident through such things as fire and flood,
Or with an untimely death by some insect's poisonous bite or sting, or by scorpion's or serpent's venom, or within the claws and fangs of some lion, tiger, bear or hyena,
O all Ye victors over Mara who are the Transformations within the canopy of white light that streams forth from the Great Vajra Crown for ten yojanas in all directions,
Help me to restrain such entanglements with gentle kindness and friendliness,
Help me to restrain them in all the ten quarters,
Help me to restrain them with full knowledge of what needs to be done,
Help me to restrain them with dignity and in full light,
Help me to restrain them with my very hands,
Help me to restrain them with my very feet,
Help me to restrain them with my whole body and every part of it.
Thus I pray:—
Om to Thee, Flame of the Sweet Dew, blaze forth in all Your brilliance and purity, shine forth Your skilful tenderness!
O Vajrapáni, Heroic One, Thee who holdest the Diamond of Wisdom in Thy hand, restrain all that would fetter us! Peace!
Hūm trūm, Peace! All Hail!
Homage to the Tathagata, the Successful One, the Arahant, the Fully Enlightened One who has completely realized the Wisdom that is the Path of the Divine Mother Prajnaparamita! All Hail!