${\it Message}\ of \ {\it Buddha}$ 

## Message of Buddha

Notes on the Benefits

of

Saving Beings and Setting Them Free

as well as of

The Discipline of Giving Up Killing

gleaned from

Authentic Sūtras

Sera Je Geshe Thubten Soepa

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## Introduction

I would like to give an introduction. I am Geshe Thubten Soepa, Sera Jey College, Trati Regional Division. I studied Buddhist philosophy for twenty-one years. Finally, in 1993, I passed all of my Geshe Lharam final examinations. For three years, I taught Buddhist philosophy in a Tibetan monastery; then Lama Zopa Rinpoche invited me to go to a Western country.

For a number of years I taught in Germany and other European countries. When I was still studying for my degree, I wrote Statements from Sutra Relating to Eating Meat; I showed a copy to the Dalai Lama, which he very much enjoyed reading.

I composed this volume while in Germany. The depriving of living beings of their life is the worst of actions; my motivation is to explain, herein, according to the teachings of  $\hat{Sakyamuni}$  Buddha, the most beneficial practice of the giving up of the killing of any living being.

The translation of the Tibetan text into English was done by Philip Quarcoo and Karina Reitbauer, and it has been edited by Windsor Viney.

 $Message\ of\ Buddha$ 

First of all, the general Buddhist refuge formula:

In Pāli, <sup>1</sup> Buddham saraṇam <sup>2</sup> gacchāmi <sup>3</sup> Dhammam saraṇam gacchāmi Saṅgham saraṇam gacchāmi

In Tibetan, Sang gye la kyab su chi'o Chö la kyab su chi'o Gen dün la kyab su chi'o

> I go for refuge to the Buddha I go for refuge to the Dharma I go for refuge to the Sangha

Now, our topics are (1) the benefit of saving the lives of others, (2) the benefit of liberating beings<sup>4</sup> (whose lives are threatened),

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Tibetan text says, <in the language of India>, which usually refers to (Buddhist Hybrid) Sanskrit.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The great Tibetan scholar Sa skya Paṇḍita explains saraṇaṁ (Sanskrit: śaraṇaṁ) as something that has the power to protect and thus to overcome fear. That is what makes it a refuge.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> As you rely on the object of refuge, you (go), or pass, from fear to fearlessness.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> What is mainly meant here is buying animals destined for slaughter and setting them free. Apart from that, <to liberate> also refers to setting free beings (animals, humans) who are not to be killed, but who

and (3) the benefit of the discipline which consists in giving up killing. With the intention to help everyone—myself and others—I should like to present some points the Buddha made clear in the sūtras.

Regarding the discipline which consists in giving up killing, it has been stated that it is of the greatest benefit among all kinds of discipline, that the discipline of giving up killing constitutes the main cause for being reborn as a human being or god, and that it is possible to be reborn in the higher realms as a result of granting protection from death. Furthermore, it has been stated that the result of its opposite—the action of killing—is rebirth as a hell being, hungry ghost, or animal.

In the Sūtra on the Application of Mindfulness it says,

The root of all beings is life. Whoever protects that life gives every happiness, and this is the most excellent amongst all manners of giving. It is like this: to save one's own life, or that of others, through compassion is to give life.<sup>5</sup>

How can this be explained in a concise and easily comprehensible manner? For any being whatsoever, life is

instead are locked up in prisons, cages, and the like, or are kept as slaves.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Literally, <to cultivate mental factors individually is to give life>. In other words, by applying various positive mental factors, such as loving-kindness, compassion, and so on, you will give fearlessness, which is the greatest benefit.

paramount. To save any being at all from existential fear, or to liberate a being (whose life is threatened), constitutes the practice of giving fearlessness. To save a life and to liberate a being constitute the best, most excellent manners of giving—that is what the sūtra is saying.

Furthermore, it says in the *Sūtra* on the *Application* of *Mindfulness*,

The best of disciplines for rebirth in higher realms is this: the discipline of giving life.

Why, as the sūtra says, is the discipline of giving up killing the best, most excellent cause for future rebirth as a human or a god? The reason is that by giving up killing, one practices giving life or saving life. Moreover, this is what other sūtras say about the positive action of giving up killing and protecting life: in the second chapter of the *Sūtra of the Ten Wheels of Kṣitigarbha* it says,

As killing has been abandoned, the beings contained in *saṃsāra* have been given fearlessness.

As for the benefit of this, it says,

In this life they will be praised,
Their looks and senses will be brilliant,

They will live for long—
Even the gods will protect them.
They will be reborn in happy states of existence.

In the Sūtra of the Ten Wheels of Kṣitigarbha it says,

Child of good family! Moreover, when bodhisattva mahāsattvas completely abandon killing as long as they live, this constitutes giving fearlessness with regard to all living beings.

## Concerning the benefit, it says that

Gods and men will love you even in this life and will be pleased, there will be no worries, body and mind will be extremely at ease, and you will live long. [...] Wherever you are born—wherever from—there will be no illness, your life will be long, you will have a good physique and good looks, you will be extremely happy and joyful, and you will totally give up killing.

In brief, the above quotations from the sūtras may be explained in these terms: the benefit from the discipline of giving up killing is that it is one of the most vital, positive actions, resulting in human or divine rebirth in a future life. In this life, too, you will live longer, there will be no illness, and you will have no worries that someone might be going to kill you. Even the gods will delight in you and come to your aid, and holy

beings, the lords of compassion, will be pleased. The results that conform with the cause are that, in future lives, you will rejoice in giving up killing, that your senses will be clearer, and other such benefits.

Let me explain this a bit further: if one wishes to engage in the pure, ethical practice of giving up killing, it is certainly necessary for one to give up killing, to give up causing others to kill by paying them, rewarding them, or making gifts, as well as to give up things like buying, eating, and trading the meat of animals that have been killed. The need for this may be understood upon reflection by means of scriptural and logical analysis.

Furthermore, owing to a great number of meat eaters, there will be a great number of people buying meat. As people buy meat, there will be many traders in flesh foods. For that reason, there will be many butchers who kill goats, sheep, cattle, chicken, fish, and other innocent animals against the animals' will. This link is clearly evident and comprehensible to anyone who cares to investigate.

For this reason, eating the meat of animals that have been killed, buying and trading such meat, etc., are in contradiction to the practice of protecting life; they are the main reasons for its opposite—the action of killing—and are linked to killing. If you are someone who delights in the discipline of giving killing up, you need to give up things like eating and buying the meat of

animals that have been killed. You can understand this by way of logical analysis.

In chapter six of the Lankāvatāra Sūtra, the Buddha says,

Mahāmati, if no one eats meat in any way whatsoever, then no living beings will be killed for its sake. Mahāmati, innocent living beings are killed for the sake of their value; killing for other reasons is rather rare.

The sutra says that for the most part, innocent animals are killed for the sake of their value and for their meat. Killing them for the sake of their skins also occurs, while it is rare for any other reasons.

Now, where does the pleasure of eating meat come from? On the one hand, it arises from bad habits, and on the other hand, people eat meat because of overly strong self-cherishing. What does (self-cherishing) mean? It means not to think of the way others experience suffering while considering oneself most important. To illustrate: May I be happy. In order to be happy, I do not think of animals, living beings, humans—whoever experiences suffering. Not to have loving-kindness and compassion towards others—that is self-cherishing. Self-cherishing is the opposite of *bodhicitta*. In order to be able to give up eating meat, frequently and thoroughly familiarise yourself with the idea how living beings experience suffering at the

moment of slaughter. Through this seed of compassion, you can give meat up as you understand that you yourself and others equally dislike experiencing pain.

Again, in the Lankāvatāra Sūtra it says,

Mahāmati, moreover, in this regard those who kill, kill and trade because they want profit. Whatever fools eat meat buy the meat for money. Those who perform the killing want profit, so they kill animals that fly in the sky, live in the water, or walk on the earth, in many different ways—with iron hooks, slings, and nets—thus seeking profit. Mahāmati, as there is no so-called (meat that has not been ordered, that is without seeking and without perception,) 6 you should not eat meat.

What is mainly meant is this: between those who want profit and kill animals, those who want profit and sell it, and those craving for meat who buy it, there is a link, which is why all three are negative actions. It says that since such meat is not pure in the three ways, it should not be eaten. The main point is that in order to carry out the pure practice which consists in the discipline of giving up killing, it is necessary to give up buying

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Meat is usually impure in three respects: it is associated with (1) the order to kill, (2) seeking (profit by selling it), and (3) perception, i.e., knowledge that it was intended as food and that animals were killed especially for that.

meat, selling meat, eating meat, etc. If you analyse this by means of scripture and logic, you will be able to understand.

Furthermore, in the tenth chapter of the Dhammapāda it says,

All tremble at violence; all fear death.
Putting oneself in the place of another,
One should not kill, nor cause to kill.

All tremble at violence; life is dear to all. Putting oneself in the place of another, One should not kill, nor cause to kill.

Likewise, it says in one tantra in the Kanjur,

Those who give up harming beings
Are bhikṣus, śramaṇas, and brāhmaṇas.
No weapons exist that don't cause fear;
Everyone shuns them to stay alive.
Take your body as example—
Don't cause any harm to others!

It says that whoever gives up harming others, having understood this in accordance with the situation set forth, is a real dharma practitioner. In addition, it says that if you dedicate the merit of giving up killing, you will be able to accomplish positive results as you wish.

In the Sūtra on the Application of Mindfulness it says,

As regards the roots of virtue from giving up killing, they are inconceivable. Whichever aspects anyone dedicates sincerely in whatever way, in the same way they will be achieved. And then:
[...]

To illustrate: just like a skilful goldsmith creates gold jewellery as he pleases, likewise the dedicated merit from giving up killing is achieved according to one's wishes.

What is the meaning of this sūtra statement? It says that just as you pray and dedicate, based on the merit of giving up killing and saving life, corresponding results will come about.

Again, concerning the benefit of saving the life of beings to be killed, it says in the *Karmavibanga Sūtra*,

In this regard, there are actions extending life. What are they? To give up killing, to praise giving up killing, to encourage others to give up killing, to save the lives of those sure to be killed or supposed to be killed—such as humans, cattle, goats, sheep, fish, pigs, chicken, game, and so on—to protect from fear beings oppressed by it, to generate compassion towards those who do not have a protector, to generate loving kindness towards the sick, towards children, and towards the elderly, to give them food, medicine, and so on, to generate compassion towards beggars, as well as to overcome war, and the like.

The meaning of this sūtra is fairly clear. It says that the lives of whoever is meant to be killed—humans or animals—need to be saved. Nowadays, the need to give up the new, extremely negative action of taking a child out of the womb is of utmost importance. This negative action is extremely bad. In the Vinaya, it says that if a bhiksu<sup>7</sup> kills a human being or someone being born as human being, this will constitute a defeat, i.e., a loss of monastic vows. (Someone being born as a human being) refers to that child being born in the mother's womb at the very beginning of a pregnancy<sup>8</sup>. If you kill it, you accumulate the negative action of killing a human being. As it is one of the most negative actions to kill a child in the mother's womb, the various religions probably agree on this matter. As a matter of fact, taking a child out from the mother's womb amounts to killing one's own son or daughter. The opposite of this, saving the life of one's child in the womb, is a wholesome action. Your child that is in the womb has a karmic connection with you from a previous life. To abstain from killing it is to practise the discipline of giving up killing a human being. The result of that action is the cause for higher rebirth as a god or human, a long life, and the ability to find good parents in a future existence.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Fully ordained monk.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Refers to a human embryo. Until about the seventh week of pregnancy, the term <someone being born as a human is used; from then on, the fetus is referred to as <a human being >.

According to how it is explained in the sūtras, these are some of the results of wholesome actions that will arise, and you will truly be practising compassion. Apart from that, saving the lives of humans or animals and liberating humans or animals from imprisonment is a marvellous practice of compassion. Innocent birds, such as parrots, experience immeasurable suffering in cages. To liberate them is the true practice of compassion. As for the benefit of this: there are accounts to the effect that people attained miraculous powers in this very same life. Furthermore, there are stories set forth in abhidharma commentaries about how the benefits of saving animals from castration came about in the same life. The Buddha also says in one sūtra,

Whatever deed is done, a like result will ripen.

With these practices, it is evident that the law of cause and effect, as well as the benefits of compassion, are being practised in a direct, practical fashion. Moreover, amongst the four manners of giving, to protect life is to give the protection of fearlessness, which is the commitment to be fulfilled by the Buddha Ratnasambhava. Apart from that, it is to practise the discipline of giving up killing, too.

In general, the reason killing is placed first amongst the ten unwholesome actions is that it is the most negative. The reason wrong views are placed last is that they are the source of negativity. What are wrong views? They are the views that see happiness and suffering as lacking a cause. In the *Precious Garland*<sup>9</sup> it says,

Even though you do something wholesome, there will be no result, even though you do something negative there will be no result – that view is said to be the wrong view.

The opposites of the ten unwholesome actions are wholesome actions, such as saving life and liberating animals (the opposite of killing), and the view that happiness is caused by something wholesome while suffering is caused by something negative (the opposite of the wrong view). As a result of this view, negative actions—the cause of suffering—are given up, while wholesome actions—the cause of happiness—are accomplished. Therefore, since there is an opposite wholesome practice for each of the ten unwholesome actions, those practices are the causes for happiness and welfare.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The *Ratnāvalī*, by Nāgārjuna.

Questions and Answers

*Question:* What practice is useful as a means of purifying the negativity of killing and eating much meat associated with killing in the past?

Answer: The best practices for purifying the negative karma from killing and eating much meat over an extended period of time under the power of ignorance are (1) regret, (2) saving and liberating animals with a mind of compassion, (3) financing drugs for the sake of saving other lives, (4) caring for the sick and so on, as well as (5) the commitment not to kill again in the future.

Question: What are the disadvantages if you eat meat?

Answer: It will be impossible for your practice to develop. Thus, it says in the Lankāvatāra Sūtra,

You should not eat meat because your practice of mantras will be unsuccessful. You should not eat meat because the gods will abandon those who eat meat. You should not eat meat because otherwise, the yogi mind of love will not develop.

Apart from that, according to Je Milarepa, 10

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> rJe Mi la ras pa (1052–1135), great poet-saint of Tibet.

The lifestyle where unwholesome food<sup>11</sup> has been given up is a condition conducive to the development of realisations.

In his middle Stages of Meditation, as he talks about the set of causes for calm abiding and special insight meditation, Ācārya Kamalaśīla<sup>12</sup> says,

Yogis should give up fish and meat at all times. They should not eat whatever is unconducive, and restrict their intake of food.

In the Lankāvatāra Sūtra it says,

Through eating meat, compassion and insight decay.

It also says in the Angulimāla Sūtra,

If you eat meat, you go against the acknowledgement that all sentient beings are possessed of Buddha nature. 13

In accordance with sūtras of the Śrāvakayāna, a distinction is drawn between the meat of animals that have died a natural death and the meat of animals that were killed to serve as food. Meat food associated with killing is rejected.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Food made available, or procured, by means of negative actions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Eighth-century Indian master of Svātantrika Madhyamaka.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> sugatagarbha, the potential to attain buddhahood.

Moreover, if you eat the meat of innocent animals killed by humans to serve as food, you go against the practice of great compassion. You go against the practice of actions and their results.

Question: How did the habit of eating meat come about?

Answer: Humans do not need to eat meat as soon as they are born from their mothers; human babies—unlike puppies or kittens—do not like meat. If their mothers were to give them fruit instead of meat, they could live. Later on, they become indifferent meat eaters owing to the bad habits of society. In some countries, there were famines and food ran out. Out of desperation, people were reduced to killing and eating animals, which then became a habit. Later on, it became a cultural pattern—people began to consider it one of their time-honoured traditions to eat meat.

Question: How can we give up the bad habit of eating meat?

Answer: Usually, when we eat meat we do so out of a bad habit, without considering and investigating the way those animals to be slaughtered experience so much unbearable suffering. If you consider and investigate, if you look at the truly horrific ways in which animals are killed in countries all over the world, as well

as their truly enormous numbers, it is a real, man-made hell. Moreover, if you investigate how much suffering is being inflicted upon animals, whether or not this is in opposition to the practice of compassion—the root of the teachings—and what kind of karmic effects are going to ripen, you will be able to see that it is very wrong to eat meat associated with killing. Therefore, it is necessary to investigate with discrimination and give up the bad habit.

Besides, there are models for us to emulate: if you look at holy beings who do not eat meat, as well as at vegetarian communities, it can be inspiring and get you interested. There are people saying that from their experience, you will fall ill more rarely, your life will be longer and purer, and your intellect will become clearer, if you do not eat meat. In those who eat meat again and again, negative tendencies increase while loving kindness, compassion, and discrimination deteriorate. This is set forth in the sutras. Apart from that, His Holiness the Dalai Lama made it quite clear:

Quite apart from the fact that it can be helpful to reflect on these points in detail, the study of how mistaken it is to cherish oneself and how beneficial it is to cherish others is very important. It is indispensable to Mahāyāna mind-training. (I am hungry), (I am thirsty), (I need meat), (I need blood)—these are all malicious, needy desires. Self-cherishing, that malicious enemy of loving-kindness, compassion, and bodhicitta, wants to eat meat. Once you realise that all suffering springs from cherishing oneself and all happiness springs from cherishing others, start applying the antidote to self-cherishing and give up eating meat associated with killing. If you conquer self-cherishing today, you can attain buddhahood today; if you conquer it tomorrow, you can attain buddhahood tomorrow.

In the instructions on mind-training, it says time and again that all the Mahāyāna teachings are taught as antidotes to selfcherishing and to grasping at true existence which clings to the notion of a truly existent self.

One of the most important practices—a necessity—is to bring those negative minds under control by means of analytical meditation through reasoning, and to cultivate positive minds.

*Question:* Some friends of mine are saying that meat is the very best food, and that it is stupid to abstain from it.

Answer: Meat is not the best food at all. You are saying so because you have failed to investigate. Please investigate! You are more intelligent and knowledgeable than I am. What a hundred or two hundred people agree upon after mere cursory investigation still cannot be the truth just for that reason. Please look into it more deeply! Moreover, according to statements in the sūtras and commentaries, meat is not pure, but dirty. The food of gods is said to be pure, delicious ambrosia; their divine garments, too, emerge effortlessly by the power of their merit. Human food and clothing, however, spring from harm done to sentient beings. For instance, frightful, horrific foods, such as meat and blood, as well as the smelly excretions of animal bodies—milk, butter, and so forth—are impure and dirty. That is why, compared to divine food, human food is said to be the worst.

We indulge without ever analysing our bad habit, just like dogs and crows, for example, feed on filth without ever analysing. Furthermore, Buddha Śākyamuni repeatedly stated that sentient beings mistake the impermanent to be permanent, the impure to be pure, suffering to be happiness, and that which lacks a self, to be self. Under the power of the afflictions, illusions, they experience never-ending suffering in <code>samsāra</code>. Buddha taught the path of liberation from <code>samsāra</code> through familiarisation with their opposites.

Question: Several Tibetan friends of mine say that animals are created through their karma to be eaten by humans. Some Western friends also say that animals are animals, and they are for humans to eat.

Answer: They explain it in such terms because of their desire to eat meat. They totally fail to look into how animals experience terrific suffering and strong feelings of fear while being slaughtered. These explanations are put forward randomly and selfishly because of the inability to identify the roots of negative actions, i.e., delusion, desire, and anger. They are words lacking substantiation along the lines of reliable scriptures and logic.

Supposing that animals are created through their karma to be eaten by humans, then it follows that humans, too, are created through their karma to be eaten by tigers, lions, and crocodiles. Furthermore, two thousand years ago there were accounts of humans killing and eating other humans; ogres also killed and ate humans—so aren't ogres and humans, who used to eat human flesh in the past, as well as those fearsome beasts, also created through their karma, to eat humans? Check!

Moreover, as for karma, there are three types: wholesome, unwholesome, and neutral karma, and the so-called karmic results are also distinct: the fully ripened result, the result in accordance with the experience, the result of acting in accordance with the cause, the environmental result, and so

forth. As you need to understand this well, you must continue to investigate.

*Question:* Some Western friends of mine are saying that, surely, *tsok* meat and *tsok* alcohol are necessary when we practise highest yoga tantra.

Answer: Let me present this in accordance with what I have read in the scriptures and studied: I have come across accounts of Lama Atīśa, <sup>14</sup> Drikung Kyobpa<sup>15</sup> and his disciples, as well as Taglung Thangpa<sup>16</sup> carrying out the practice of substituting molasses<sup>17</sup> for *tsok* meat and milk or yoghurt for *tsok* alcohol. On the occasion of a great Kālacakra empowerment he gave, His Holiness the Dalai Lama said it was not nice at all to see thousands of monks carrying big platters of meat here and there as a way of making *tsok* offerings, and that it would be better to substitute black tea for *tsok* meat.

Tsa Paltrul Rinpoche<sup>18</sup> said that, for eating, the meat of animals having died naturally rather than having been slaughtered was appropriate.

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 $<sup>^{14}</sup>$  Dīpamkara Śrījñāna (982–1054), one of the major figures in the reestablishment of Buddhism in Tibet after its suppression by Glang dar ma (ninth century).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> 'Bri gung skyob pa 'jig rten mgon po (1143–1217).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> sTag lung thang pa (twelfth century).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Tibetan: bu ram—molasses, cane sugar, brown sugar, raw sugar.

 $<sup>^{18}</sup>$  rDza dPal sprul rin po che (1808–1887).

The siddha Drugpa Künleg<sup>19</sup> said that with regard to offering substances, offerings must not originate from any of these three: stealing, taking by force, and killing.

Gyalse Togme Sangpo<sup>20</sup> said,

If it is appropriate for tears to well up even if animals die naturally, how could it be appropriate to eat meat of animals slaughtered to be eaten by human beings? It is not.

*Question:* Some people in the West say that when you save the lives of animals, the animals do not understand they are being saved, and that consequently, it is hard to believe there is a benefit.

Answer: We see that animals feel a very strong urge to get out and be free. We can also see that once they are free and independent, they feel happy. There is no distinction such that it would be beneficial if the animal understands while it would not be beneficial if the animal does not. It is beneficial and wholesome that the animal gains independence and happiness.

What is wholesome has an effect; what is negative also has an effect. To illustrate: suppose a woman has become pregnant and meets with difficulties. She goes to a hospital and wants the baby

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Grub thob 'Brug pa kun legs (1455–1529).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> rGyal sras Thogs med bzang po (1295–1369), renowned for his *Thirty-seven Practices of Bodhisattvas*.

in her womb to be killed. Now, if the grandmother and grandfather say, <Oh! Don't kill the baby! We'll help you, and save the baby's life, the two of them likewise achieve a great benefit, although the baby does not understand.

*Question:* The practice of saving animals doesn't exist in religions other than Buddhism, does it?

Answer: According to his Holiness the Dalai Lama, being kind to animals, saving them, and protecting them is not a matter of religion—it is something anyone should do. I have had the experience of seeing some Jain and Hindu women liberate parrots. Now and then, people without any religion may also save the lives of humans or animals, out of compassion. In the Tibetan tradition, there is the custom of liberating animals for the sake of the ill, liberating animals in order to benefit someone who has passed away, and liberating many beings for the long life of a lama. These days, Tibetan organisations and individuals liberate lots of animals for His Holiness the Dalai Lama to live long. In the Chinese Buddhist tradition, the custom of liberating animals also exists. Nowadays, some Buddhist groups in the West occasionally liberate various kinds of animals, such as rabbits and fish, too. This is an excellent traditional practice of lovingkindness and compassion. It is a practice most suitable for rejoicing.

*Question:* What mantra recitation or rituals should be carried out while animals are being liberated?

Answer: It says that it is of great benefit to have the animals listen to the Buddha's name, to make them circumambulate stupas and the like, to dedicate the merit accrued for their benefit, say prayers and so on, and have them listen to great vidyā mantras, such as the precious Ārya Avalokiteśvara dhāraṇī mantra or its shorter version, by whispering them into their ears. The vidyā mantra is as follows:

namo ratnatrayāya / namaḥ arya jñāna sāgara / vairocana / vyuharājāya / tathāgatāya / arhate / samyaksambuddhaya / namaḥ sarva tathagatebhyaḥ arhatebhyaḥ samyaksambuddhebhyaḥ / namaḥ ārya avalokiteśvarāya / bodhisattvāya / mahāsattvāya / mahākaruṇikāya / tadyatha / om dhara dhara / dhiri dhiri / dhuru dhuru / itte vatte / cale cale / pracale pracale / kusume kusumavare / ili mili / citi jvala / mapanāye svāhā /

om maņi padme hūṁ

You should set them free while reciting this as much as possible.

I have written all of this down as a basis for investigation with the aim that discussions, as well as the general awareness concerning the topics of the questions and answers, may increase.

The above sūtra quotations were taken from the *Kanjur*, so they are the Buddha's own thoughts. That does not mean, however, that one should not investigate: it is said to be best if conviction arises from investigation.

Dedication of Merit

#### Finally, the dedication of merit:

What little merit has been gained here with effort May soon turn into causes for liberation Of all six types of beings who've been my parents From terrible, shuddering fear of being killed.

You, forceful help of wisdom, compassion, and power, Lord<sup>21</sup> fit to be called the embodiment of the three families,<sup>22</sup> Tibet's patron deity, 23 eminent Tendzin Gyatso, For millions of eons: may your life be firm.

May the basic means for stopping suffering— Loving-kindness, compassion, giving, and patience— The antidotes for ignorance—insight, exchange— Through practice cause peace and happiness to grow.

Written by the FPMT Geshe Thubten Soepa of Sera Je, Drati section, in the year 2551 after the Buddha, that is, 2007 C.E., in Germany.

#### May it be virtuous!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Literally, (Lord possessed of the three), i.e., vows of *prātimoksa*, bodhisattva, and tantra.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Mañjuśrī, Avalokiteśvara, and Vajrapāni.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Literally, *Tibet's destined deity*, i.e., Avalokiteśvara.

ब्रेशःचःम। । श्रुंतःचित्रःस्याच्चेस्रसःग्रेःभ्रेंन्।तुन्सःस्याःस्याःस्याःस्याःच्चेत्रःवीनः भ्रा ।श्रुंवाःभ्रुंतःसःन्नःस्यःसःस्याःस्यःस्यःस्याःच्चेतःस्यःवीःर्थेनः

श्रेर मुश्र नवी प्रवेश द्युव प्रसूद पर्वे प्रश्र मुश्र पर्वे

ब्रेट:यर्हेर।

सिर्यास्ट्रिं हो। न्यां प्रवेश स्वायाया ।
सिर्यास्ट्रिं हो न्यां प्रवेश सिर्यास्ट्रिं हो स्वाया ।
सिर्यास्ट्रिं हो न्यां हे ने सिर्यास्ट्रिं हो स्वाया ।
सिर्यास्ट्रिं हो न्यां हे ने सिर्वेश हो स्वाया हो स्वाया ।
सिर्यास्ट्रिं हो ने सिर्वेश हो हो सिर्वेश हो स्वाया ।
सिर्यास्ट्रिं हो ने सिर्वेश हो सिर्वेश

র্মুনানার্থন র্মুন নের র্তুনে ব্রিমশ শ্রী র্মুনা

### \$ 47.47.21

নৃষ্ট্ৰ মূ' ম'ই' নাৰ্ছ্ৰ মী। ভূঞ্জী মূ' ম'ই' নাৰ্ছ্ৰ মী। মন্দ্ৰী মূ' ম'ই' নাৰ্ছ্ৰ মী।

## र्वेन अन्तु।

र्या, पर्ययः सीचना सी. मष्ट्रत्। कूना जा. मीचना सी. मष्ट्रत्। मरमा मीना जा. मीचना सी. मष्ट्रत्।

<u>बरामायरयामुयामात्रुकार्यात्रुक्तात्र्यां र्वे</u>बारुपार्ये

र्ष्याच्चित्रयाची सदास्त्र स्र्रम्। यर् स्रेत्रेत्र द्राम्य स्र्रम्च स्र्रम्य स्र्रम्य स्र्रम्य स्र्रम्य स्र्र स्र्रम्य स्रम्य द्रिःतर्ग्रेरःश्चेः प्रमःत्वीरः प्रमः विशेष्ट्राश्ची स्याः व्याः स्वीयः प्रमः विशेष्ट्रायः विशेष्ट्रायः विशेषः विशेषः प्रमः विशेषः प्रमः विशेषः प्रमः विशेषः प्रमः विशेषः प्रमः विशेषः प्रमः विशेषः व

ने'यार'अर्ने'न्द्रम्'यानेम्'यान्यान्य'१९७'या

पर्सेशकायास्त्रीत्वेश्वराय्त्। प्रमान्द्रीत्वर्त्वराष्ट्रीस्त्राच्छेत्रःयाः स्थान्यः स्थानः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थानः स्थानः स्थान्यः स्थानः स्थान्यः स्थान्यः स्थानः स्

ब्रेश.योश्रीरश.यर्यया

वर्ने त्यावर्ष्योत्याचत्रत्र ह्यूर र्ने द्रार्थो चर्ने संबुष्य द्रा विषय ह्यू स्थापी स्यापी स्थापी स

स्री स्यान्त्रियस्य म्हेन्स्य स्थान्त्रियस्य स्थानित्रस्य स्यानित्रस्य स्थानित्रस्य स्यानित्रस्य स्थानित्रस्य स्थानित्रस्य स्थानित्रस्य स्यानित्रस्य

ৰ্থিয় বাধ্যু হথা

য়.बर.अर्र्.यांवय.टेया.क्ष्यका.की.लट.ज्र्या.यांक्ट्र.झट.त.टट.ज्र्या.झैंच.तपु. য়्या.झैंचक.तपु.केशका.जुब.टी.बी.घाक्ट्र.झटका.तका.जुबा.दीय.तपु. য়য়्य.चीट.लुव.वी श्र्या.यांक्ट्र.झटका.तका.ज्र्या.दीय.तपु.तपु. য়য়्य.चेंद्रचेंद्र.चेंद्र.चेंद्र.चेंद्रचें यशन्त्रो पदे सद र्थेद दी वरे सूरा

यत्यम् । यय्याः विकास्य विकास्य विकास्य क्षेत्रः स्वितः स्वित्रः स्वितः स्वितः स्वितः स्वितः स्वितः स्वितः स्व

ই'অ'র্ম্মবা'বার্হ্র-ম্বান্ধর্ম বাম'ল্যুম'র মার্মান্র বামান্ধর্মান্র বিশ্বনার বিশ্ব

ৰ্বিঝ'বাধ্যুদ্ঝা

यद'र्धेद'दे।

बेश ग्रुट्य श्री

रावे क्षेट वर्षिर वे पर्रे पर्रे सवे सर्दे वारा

ৰ্থিকান্ত্ৰ্যাপ্ৰ-১৮.1

यदःधेंदःदे।

दी. त्यू. चट. त्यीं ट. ट्री. चट. प्रियाम्य प्रायाम्य प्रियाम्य प्रियाम प्रिया

## ৰ্থাৰ্থ্যমূখ্যব্দ্য

ब्र्याम्बर्धरायादानु क्षेत्राम्याद्यम् । व्राम्बर्धरायादान्यादान्या स्वाप्तान्याद्यम् । क्षेत्रीयाद्या क्षेत्राम्यादानु । क्षेत्राम्यादानु । क्षेत्रामय

## প্রথার্থার বার্থারে প্রার্থার

स्त्राचित्रकारान्त्री स्राक्षाचित्रकारान्त्री स्राक्षाचित्रकारान्त्री स्राक्षाचित्रकारान्त्री स्राक्षाचित्रकारान्त्री स्राक्षाचित्रकारान्त्री स्राक्षाचित्रकारान्त्री स्राक्षाचित्रकारान्त्री स्राक्षाचित्रकारान्त्री स्राक्षाचित्रकारान्त्री स्राच्याक्षाचित्रकारान्त्री स्राक्षाचित्रकारान्त्री स्राच्याक्षाचित्रकारान्त्री स्राक्षाचित्रकारान्त्री स्राक्षाचित्रकारान्त्री स्राक्षाचित्रकारान्त्री स्राक्षाचित्रकारान्त्री स्राच्याक्षाचित्रकारान्त्री स्राच्याक्षाचित्रकारच्याक्षाचित्रकारच्याक्षाचित्रकारच्याक्षाच्याक्षाचित्रकारच्याक्रकारच्याक्षाचित्रकारच्याक्य

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च्यान्त्रः। क्रिंद्राचार्श्वायाद्देशायाद्द्रः च्योत्रः च्यात्रः यथान्त्रः यथान्त्रः यथान्त्रः यद्यात्रः यथान्त्रः यद्यात्रः यथान्त्रः यद्यात्रः यद्यात्यः य

रिते-ताचिश्रात्तुः क्रिंश्यक्ष्यं क्रीश्राप्त्रं विष्यां विष्यं विष्यां विष्यां विष्यां विष्यां विष्यां विष्यां विष्यां विष्यां विष्यां विष्

लक्षा बरम् क्रियः ग्री: खुर है। व्यरः ग्रामः क्रियायः सदः स्रोतं व्येतुः हुवाः सः

क्रें में अंत्राक्षण्यात्रके स्ट्रांच्या स्ट्रांच्या

#### ৰিম'বাধ্যুদ্মা

स्त्रियाचित्रचाद्वे स्वाविकावह्व ने स्वत्र द्वे चार स्व क्षेत्राची स्ट चावा स्व क्षेत्राची स्ट चावा स्व क्षेत्राची क्षेत

र्स्यायक्ताःश्रीतःश्रीतर्तिःस्य स्वर्धःस्य स्वर्धःस्य स्वर्धः स्वरं स्व

लट.जट.भार.चिष्यश्चरतु.शर्र्.री.त.जश

ৰ্থিয় বাধ্যু হথা

पुंश-बंश्वां विश्व-बंश्वां स्त्रा अत्यान्त्रं स्त्री स्त्रा स्त्री स्त्रा स्त्री स्त्रा स्त्र स्त्

अ:बन:इङ्गासु:न:मञ्जु:स:वळें:मवे:ये:ये:ये:याः

यश्चरः स्टम्बे स्टम्स्यः स्टम्स्यः स्टम्स्यः स्टम्स्यः स्टम्स्यः स्टम्स्यः स्टम्स्यः स्टम्स्यः स्टम्स्यः स्टम् स्टम्हेर् स्वितः स्टम्स्यः स्टम्यः स्टम्स्यः स्टम्यः स्टम्स्यः स्टम्यः स्टम्स्यः स्टम्स्यः स्टम्स्यः स्टम्स्यः स्टम्स्यः स्टम्स्यः स्टम्यः स्टम्स्यः स्टम्स्यः स्टम्यः स्टम्स्यः स्टम्यः स्टम्यः स्टम्यः स्टम्यः स्टम्यः स्टम्यः स्टम्स्यः स्टम्यः

# ट्रे.चबुर्य.चगोद.दर्वीर.यर.ट्रे.क्वैट.जन्म

## म्बद्धाः मार्देदः यः यः द्वेदः देग

स्र प्रते न्यो प्रति पर्शे प्राधे न्य स्र प्रत्य प्राधि प्रत्य प्राधि प्रति प

त्यीय वियागश्री रामानु ।

अर्दे:इब्राय:हेर:माल्या:यश्

शुंत्वयुवार्च। इस्रायानार प्रतान मीराहि यू हे यू मार्थे स्थार्थ स्थान सूँ या ने यू मार्थ यू मार्थ स्था शुंत्वयुवार्च।

প্রথান্থ

त्यीयःम्। वीरात्तायश्चेत्रःरीःम्यायश्चरःस्यायश्चरःम्यायश्चरःम्यायश्चरःम्यायश्चरःस्यायःस्यायश्चरःस्यायःस

## ৰিঝ'মাঝুদঝ'র্মা

लट. क्र. व्याचारका उर्र जाता अर्ट्र विषा जाता इसा वर्षेत्रणे. सर्हा व्याचारका उर्र जाता अर्थे इसा वर्षेत्रणे.

त.र.र.। र्थाया.ज.श्र्याश.त.यण्च्यांत.क्षें। श्रीय.ज.श्र्याश.त.य्र्येथ.त.र्प्ता श्रीय.ज.श्र्याश.त.य्र्येथ.त.र.र.। श्र्रेर.य.ज.लट.येशश.तपु.श्रुशश.यज्ञेंर.त.र्रटः। येर.त.र्रटः। येर्थ.त.र्प्ता येश्वय.ज.श्रीटः हुत्र.श्रुशश.यञ्जेंर.त.र्रटः। येर.त.र्रटः। येश्वय.ज.श्रीटः विश्वय.त.र्प्ता येश्वय.ज.श्रीटः विश्वय.त.र्पतः। येश्वय.ज.श्रीटः विश्वय.त.र्पतः। येश्वय.ज.श्रीव्याश्वयः विश्वयः विश्व

## ৰ্থিয় বাধ্যু হথা

या स्थानः वैद्यायद्वायद्वायः स्थान्य स्थान्य

ब्रम्भायात्रेत्। दे,यब्यदे,श्राम्बद्भायत्,त्रं क्रूचीत्रत्र,जब्यव्यक्षात्तर्,ज्ञा श्रम्भायात्रेत्। दे,यब्यदे,श्रामबद्भायत्,त्रं क्रूचीत्रामम् स्त्रं ची.क्ष्यं श्रामात्रेत्। क्ष्रम्यः त्रुष्ठः स्वात्त्रम् । स्वात्त्रम् स्वात्त्रम्यात्त्रम् स्वात्त्रम् स्वात्त्रम्यस्वत्त्रम् स्वत्त्रम् स्वात्त्रम्यस्वत्त्रम् स्वात्त्रम्यस्वत्त्रम्यस्वत्त्रम्यस्वत्त्रम् स्वत्त्रम्यस्वत्त्रम्यस्यस्वत्त्रम्यस्वत्त्रम्यस्यस्य

वरायर व्रीताय क्षीर हुंद्र क्षेत्रकार प्रवासकार प्रवासकार प्रिया कर्म प्रवासकार कर्म क्षीर हुंद्र क्षेत्रकार प्रवासकार प्रवासकार प्रवासकार कर्म क्षीर हुंद्र क्षेत्रकार प्रवासकार कर्म क्षीर हुंद्र क्षेत्रकार प्रवासकार क्षीर हुंद्र क्षेत्रकार क्षीर हुंद्र क्षित क्षीर हुंद्र क्षेत्रकार क्षीर हुंद्र क्षेत्रकार क्षीर हुंद्र क्षित क्षीर हुंद्र क्षेत्रकार क्षीर हुंद्र क्षेत्रकार क्षीर हुंद्र क्षेत्रकार क्षीर हुंद्र क्षेत्रकार क्षीर हुंद्र क्षित क्षीर हुंद्र क्षेत्रकार क्षीर हुंद्र क्षित हुंद्र क्षित क्षीर हुंद्र क्षीर हुंद्र क्षीर हुंद्र क्षीर हुंद्र क्षीर क्षीर हुंद्र हुंद्र क्षीर क्षीर हुंद्र क्षीर हुंद्र क्षीर हुंद्र क्षीर हुंद्र क्षीर हुंद्र क्षीर क्षीर हुंद्र हुंद्र क्षीर क्षीर हुंद्र हुंद्र क्षीर हुंद्र हुंद्र क्षीर हुंद्र हुंद्र क्षीर हुंद्र हुंद्र हुंद्र क्

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ङेख्द्रःवःषेख्यसःग्वुसःय। । व्यवसःग्रुःदेख्दःहेदःतुःश्चेत। ।

विशामाशुरशार्थेत्।

क्ष्मश्राच्येद्राच्यां क्ष्मश्राच्यां क्ष्मश्राच्येद्राच्यां क्ष्मश्राच्यां क्ष्यां क्ष्मश्राच्यां क्ष्मश्राच्यां क्ष्मश्राच्यां क्ष्मश्राच्यां क्ष्यां क्ष्यां क्रित्यां क्ष्मश्यां क्ष्मश्राच्यां क्ष्यां क्ष्य

त्रु। क्रुंगानदुःस्य लुष्टाच्छुंश्वर क्रुंगामुर्ट्रा स्वाप्त्र क्रुंगामुर्ह्रा स्वाप्त क्रुंगामुर्ह्मा स्वाप्त क्रुंगामुर्ह्म

श्चित्वां स्टुति स्ट्रिया स्ट्रिया श्चित्वा ।

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य.बर.इ.यु.ज.रय.तय.ग्रीर.।

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सैंच.चृ.धेट.ट्.यह्य.च्री.कै.कूचना चस्त्रिंग.च्रीस्था। धृंच.ट्रांच.च्रा.का.का.कै.क्या चस्त्रिंग.द्रभावना ७.

> होत्। बुट.श्र.श्रधिथ.त.श्र.लुथ.त.टट.। चश.कूट्.वुथ.तरायचय.तर. क्षेत्र.श्र.श्रधिथ.तश्र.लुथ.तश्र.त.टट.। चश.कूट्.वुथ.तरायचय.तर.

ৰ্বিশ্বান্যুদ্খা

यर ग्राम्यविम्रश्नायः सदे सर्ने त्यस्

ৰ্থিয় বাধ্যু হয়।

क्ट.ज.चट्र.चित्रच्यःश्चेट.त्ज्ज्यःतम् वित्रःजुष्यःत्यः वित्रःच्येतः वित्रःच्येतः वित्रःच्येतः वित्रःच्येतः वित्रःच्येतः वित्रःच्येतः वित्रःच्येतः

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याचारः वः सुरः हे क्रेवः प्रत्ये त्यायः यः सुर्धे स्थः ययः सुर्धे ।

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प्रश्रिक्तामा

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यर्चा.वर्चका.स्चांचराः। चीर.त.ची.का.सं.ची.वर्चका.सं.वर्टा।

यर्चा.वर्चका.स्चांचराः। चीर.त.ची.सं.ची.तंर.चक्षेत्र.ची.तका.सं.वर्च

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स्ट.चबुर्यक्की.जु.चयु.च.बुचा.स्ट्रट.च.लुर्य.चोश्चट्यायद्वीयः स्ट्रिच स.ट्रेंचल.स्रुंच.तु.चयु.च.बुचा.स्ट्रट.च.लुर्य.चोश्चट्यायद्वीयः स्वीच. बुयान्यूरानालीयायादीस्यात्रम्या सूर्यासायस्यायाद्यासायीस्याचीत्राच्यासायीस्यायायात्रस्यास्यायायात्रस्यायायात्रस्यायायात्रस्यायायात्रस्यायायात्रस्या

শ্রীক্র-র্মার্ম র্মার্ম সৌর্ম নার্ম বি

## ब्रेश.योश्चेरश.यर्या

इ.चे द्वाक्ष्यंश्वास्तायवायः विवान्योसः चेरावत्व इ.चर्चाक्षः चरायोहरः विवाक्ष्यं स्वर्थात्व विवान्योसः चरायोदः चेराव्यां च्यां क्ष्यं स्वर्थात् स्वर्यात् स्वर्थात् स्वर्यात् स्वर्थात् स्वर्थात् स्वर्यात् स यास्तः त्वतः क्ष्यास्तः व्यक्षः स्वाद्यः व्यक्षः स्वरः व्यवसः स्वरः व्यक्षः स्वरः व्यवसः स्वरः स्वर

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वर्कोर फ्राप्यूपा वर्मः ष्ट्रास्तु वर्म्यू मारा वर्धे र्द्धता वुद्गर्श्वाच्या प्राप्तुःषा ष्यास्तरो बहुतार्थः तुःहुः ष्पा व यः यः व प्रतः प्रतः प्रतः प्रतः प्रतः हुः <u>શ્ચુग शंतु हुः हुः</u> व सः अह्यः अप्तः सः वेंगी हे वृद्धः । र्वे झे सहुर्या अङ्ग्रसहुर्या अङ्ग्राहरी हे गाया ५५५ या और महामा है मेहिमी हु उन्हु दा ओहे स ह्री इ.ज.२.जा सं.क्.सं.क्.जा ग्रीक्री ग्रीकी यसरी क्षेत्रेश्चेत्वी क्षेत्रेश्चा यसत्रुष्येश्चर् **ॐ**॔॔॔॔॑ऋहैॱयङ्की

क्रेन्न्युन्याबिर्येश्वर्षा भ्रम्याधिर वर्ष्या क्षेत्र व्यव्य वित्र वित

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ব্দী'ন'নইূ'না

## মছ্লাদ্য বলীব বন্ধীব কী

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श्रीय.री.ष्ट्र.घर.धेय.राष्ट्र.ची.री.यर्ज्ञी ।
स्राथर-वीर-श्रीट-मुप्ताथ.रीया.श्रुष्यात्त.ट.जन्ना ।
स्राथर-वीर-श्रीट-मुपाय.रीया.श्रुष्यात्त.ट.जन्ना ।
स्राथर-वीर-श्रीट-मुपाय.रीया.श्रुष्याचीर-ता ।
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यभ्रेल.त.चु.चर.भ्रे.च्र.चध्य.च्री.द्या । चूट.च्री.क्षे.भ्रेल.चक्षेय.वहूय.च्री.अष्ट्या । मूट.च्री.क्षे.भेल.चक्षेय.वहूय.च्री.अष्ट्या । चट.च्री.कष्टिय.चर्झ.ये.तहूय.च्री.अष्ट्या चट.च्री.कष्टिय.चर्झ.ये.तहूय.च्री.च्री.

क्ष्मभात्मेषं स्वीयाश्चीभावि यत्रे त्यसे याच्या ॥ भारत्या याक्षेत्र संस्वीय स्वाय स्वीय स्वीय ॥ चुम्मभात्मेष्ठ संस्वीय स्वयः स्वीय । चुम्मभात्मेष्ठ संस्वीय स्वीय स्वीय स्वायः स्वा ॥ र्श्वेक्षः या त्रीक्षः स्वीक्षः स्वीक्षः स्वीक्षः स्वीक्षः स्वीक्षः स्वीक्षः स्वीक्षः स्वीक्षः स्वीक्षः स्वीकः स्

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Karma-vibhanga las rnam par 'byed pa Q1005 Za 287b–288b

Saddharma-smrtyupasthana-sutra dam pa'i chos dran pa nyer bzhag gi mdo 0953 hu 101b–102b

'das pa chen po las sa'i snying po'i 'khor lo bcu pa Q905 wu 216a-217b

Dharmapada tenth chapter