

The Origin of Tara in Brief

In the age known as “Light of Various Worlds”,
The princess “Moon of Wisdom”
Who had the highest respect for the teaching
Of the Tathagata “Sound of Drum”
Gave rise to supreme bodhicitta for the first time.

At that time, all the bhikshus
Exhorted the princess “Moon of Wisdom”, saying:
“You should pray that through the power of your merit,
You may become a man in this very life
And thus accomplish the benefit of the teachings”.

To that the princess Moon of Wisdom replied:
“Here, there are no men, there are no women,
There is no self, no individual and no perception.
These labels as ‘male’ and ‘female’ are meaningless.
They are the utter confusion of weak-minded worldly beings.”
Thus she taught the equality of all things.

“Many are those who wish to attain enlightenment with a male body,
But no one wishes to do so with a female body.
Therefore, with a female form, till Samsara is emptied,
I will vastly accomplish the benefit of beings.” Thus she vowed.

For many millions of years, in the king’s palace,
While skillfully enjoying the five sense pleasures,
She accomplished the Samadhi of liberating beings,
Thus she was renowned as “The Liberator”.

In the kalpa “Very Vast Complete Enlightenment”,
In front of the Tathagata “Meaningful Accomplishment”,
She vowed to protect from all harm
All sentient beings in the ten directions.
Thus she became known as “The Swift Liberator Heroine”.

In the kalpa “Unobstructed”,
The bhikshu “Radiance of Stainless Light”
Received the empowerment of the light rays of compassion
From all the Tathagatas in the ten directions,
And thus became Avalokiteshvara.
Born from his heart, she protects from the eight and the sixteen fears.

In the kalpa known as “Asangka”,
The Tathagatas of the ten directions
Granted her the empowerment of the genuine reality.
Thus she became the Mother that gives birth to all the Buddhas.

In this present kalpa, at the Potala mountain,
In the midst of countless Buddhas,
Bodhisattvas, devas, nagas and yakshas,
(Avalokiteshvara) taught the Tara tantra
In ten million verses.

During the Satyayuga, through ten million verses;
During the Tretayuga, through six hundred thousand verses;
During the Dvaparayuga, through twelve thousand verses;
During the Kaliyuga, through one thousand verses;
Thus she is known as “The One Who Vastly Accomplishes
The Welfare of Beings”.