

The Litany of Manjusri Bodhisattva



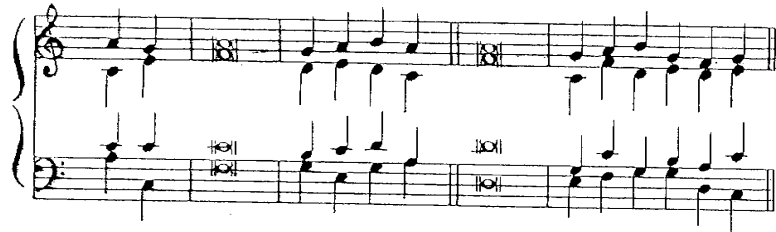
* At that | time, there was a king named Univer|sal Enfolder. :
He was a universal monarch who possessed all the seven trea-
sures | and ruled the four continents in accord|ance with the
True Dharma. ||

For eighty-four thousand years he respectfully offered wonderful
clothing, | food and drink, | palaces, | towers, | pavilions, |
servants and services to the Tathagata of Thunderous Voice, |
His Bodhisattvas | and Sravakas. :
His empress, | royal relatives, | maids of honour, | princes and
ministers did nothing but make offerings and never tired of
it, — though they | made offerings for years. ||

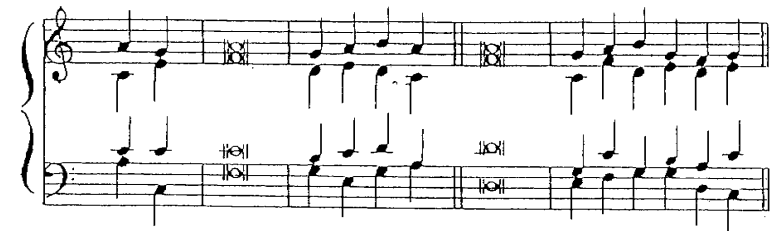
The king thought alone in a | quiet place, :
“I have already accumulated many great good roots but I have not
yet decided how | I shall dedicate them. ||

Do I seek to be a shakra, | a brahma, | a uni|versal monarch, :
A Sravaka or | a Pratyekabuddha?” ||

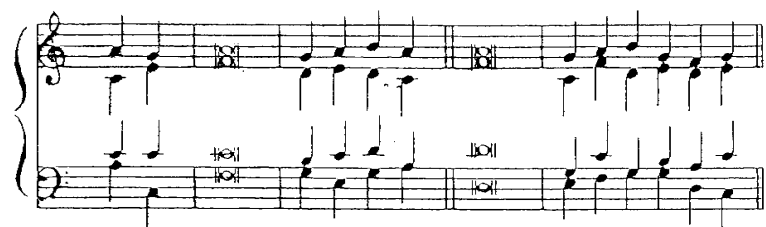
After he had thought thus, | the gods in the | air said to him, :
“Oh king, | do not engender such a narrow, infer|ior aspiration! ||
Why? | Because, having gathered so many bless|ings and vir-
tues, :
You should engender | supreme Bodhichitta.” ||



When the king heard those words, he was very | glad and
thought, :
"From now on I shall most definitely not re|gress from Bodhi-
chitta. ||
† Why? | Because gods know my mind | and come to remind
me." ||
Then the king, | together with more than eight billion myriads of
other | sentient beings, :
Went to the Buddha of Thunderous Voice and, | on arrival, |
prostrated themselves with their heads at the Buddha's
feet, — made seven circumambulations to His right, | bowed
respectfully, | and joined their | palms toward the Buddha. ||
† Then | the king spoke in verse: ||
"I shall ask the Supreme | One a question. :
May | He answer it for me! ||
How can one become a Supremely Honoured One | among
humans? :
To the Refuge of the world I have made offerings for a long
time, — but, wavering in mind, | did not know how to |
dedicate my merits. ||
Alone, I thought, | 'I have cultivated great bless|ings and virtues; :
How | shall I dedicate them? ||
Do I seek to be a brahma, | a shakra, | or a uni|versal monarch? :
Do I seek to be a Sravaka or | a Pratyekabuddha?' ||



When I thought in this way, the gods in the | air told me, :
'O king, engender not a narrow, | inferior aspiration | as
you | dedicate your merits! ||
For the sake of all | living beings, :
You should | make a great vow. ||
In order to bene|fit the world :
You should en|gender Bodhichitta.' ||
Now I beg the World-Honoured One, | Who has free command of
dharma, — to tell me how to engender | Bodhichitta, :
So that I shall realize enlightenment | as Shakyamuni has. ||
May the Honoured One among | gods and humans :
Ex|plain this for me!" ||
Then the Tathagata spoke to the | king in verse: :
"Oh king, | listen attentively. ||
† I am going to explain | this to you point by point. ||
All dharmas result from causes and conditions | and can accord
with one's | inclinations; :
One can acquire the | results one wishes. ||
In my past lives, I also engendered | Bodhichitta, :
Wishing to benefit | all sentient beings. ||
In accordance with my wish and my Bodhichitta engendered | in
the past, :
I realized enlightenment quickly and | never regressed from it. ||
You should earnestly cultivate all | virtuous deeds; :



Then you will attain the great, ¹supreme enlighten|ment of
Buddhahood." ||

When the king heard the | Buddha's teaching, :

He rejoiced as | he never had before. ||

He made a great lion's roar¹ in the presence of the assembly,
speak|ing in verse: :

"Now, in the presence of the entire assembly, ¹I bring forth
Bodhichitta for the sake | of all sentient beings. ||

I vow to involve myself in samsara | countless times :

To bring great boons to living beings until | the end of the
future. ||

I shall cultivate all the Bodhi|sattva's deeds :

To save living beings | from their sufferings. ||

From this moment on, ¹if I break my vow and become greedy,
miserly | or resentful, :

I shall be deceiving the Buddhas | in the ten directions. ||

From today until the day I realize en|lightenment, :

I shall always follow the Buddhas in cultivating pure conduct; —

I shall observe the Pure Precepts and | commit no misdeeds. ||

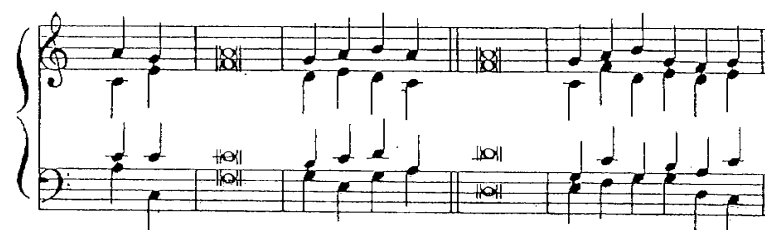
I shall not cherish the idea of realizing Buddha|hood in haste, :

But until the end of the future, ¹shall benefit all living beings, ¹
and adorn and purify incalculable, ¹incon|ceivable Buddha-
lands. ||

My name | shall be heard :

Throughout the worlds | in the ten directions. ||

Now I prophesy on my | own behalf :



That I shall without | fail become a Buddha. ||

Because my aspiration is superi|or and pure, :

I have no | doubt of my achievement. ||

I shall purify my words, | thoughts and deeds :

And let no | trace of evil arise. ||

In accordance with this sincere vow, ¹I shall eventually be|come
a Buddha, :

An Honoured One | among human beings. ||

If my vow is truly | sincere, :

May the six kinds of | quakes shake the great earth! ||

If my words are genuine | and not false, :

May musical instruments sound spon|taneously in the air! ||

I am free of flattery | or resentment; :

If this is true, may flowers of the | coral tree rain down!" ||

When the king, ¹who was then Manjusri Bodhisattva, ¹had
spo|ken this verse, :

The six kinds of quakes shook billions of Buddha-lands in the ten
directions, — musical instruments sounded in the air and
flowers of the coral tree rained down, — all because the |
king's vow was sincere. ||

At that time two billion of the king's attendants re|joiced in
ecstasy. :

They said to themselves with delight, ¹"We shall realize supreme
enlightenment," ¹and thus followed the king's example by
engen|dering Bodhichitta. ||