



S H A M B H A L A

Letter on the view of the new Shambhala Chants August 2011

The Dorje Dradül's presentation of the Shambhala teachings clearly highlights the necessity for the borders of spiritual isolationism and individual liberation to dissolve. We must now enter into a great sea of humanity...

.... The Shambhala community must be confident, kind, and intelligent. I believe this will put us in the best position to benefit the world in innumerable ways. Our Shambhala community is becoming more and more diverse. This diversity mixed with complete one-pointed conviction in basic goodness creates a dynamism that is flexible and strong.

*Answer of the Golden Sun,
Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche*

The Shambhala teachings have the potential to reach many millions of people, starting with our Centres.

*Letter of the Morning Sun,
Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche*

Dear Shambhala Centre Directors, Coordinators, Shastris, and Directors of Practice and Education,

In support of *reaching millions of people, starting with our Centres*, as the Sakyong says in his *Letter of the Morning Sun*, we are writing to introduce three levels of chant books for the Shambhala community. This approach spans daily chants suitable for first-time practitioners through chants for the most advanced practitioners.

Chanting is a proclamation of the dharma. This proclamation touches and informs us as we deepen our practice of meditation. Shambhala Buddhist chants cover the entire expanse of the teachings, and are a profound teaching and practice in and of themselves. By introducing chants progressively, from the newest practitioner to the most advanced,

we contemplate teachings that are relevant and guide our practice. Through a clear relationship and resonance with chants and chanting, contemplating the dharma through speech, our minds and hearts harmonize more readily with the meaning of the chants as we gently turn toward the dharma.

The three levels of chant books follow:

- I. *Shambhala Chant Book***
- II. *Warrior Chant Book***
- III. *Collected Vajra Liturgies***
 - A. *Vajrayana Liturgies***

I. *Shambhala Chant Book*

The *Shambhala Chant Book* is for sangha-wide use. It reflects the vision and intention of the lineage of Sakyongs, which emphasize the significance of basic goodness and the Shambhala teachings for this time. The selection of chants also is in direct response to supplications that have been made to the Sakyong over many years, asking for daily chants that are more accessible to greater numbers of people. The Sakyong has written three new chants for this purpose (“Proclamation of Goodness,” “Shambhala Protector Chant,” and the “Aspiration of Shambhala: Fulfilling the Wishes of the Dorje Dradül”). The intention of the new daily chant book is to provide chants that are meaningful and accessible. Also, the new chant book decreases the number of chants for morning and evening practice sessions.

The *Shambhala Chant Book* is the daily chant book for Shambhala Meditation Centres and Meditation Groups. These chants can also be used for opening and closing meditation sessions at home. However, practitioners are welcome to choose whichever chants they have been introduced to for home use.

Introduction of the *Shambhala Chant Book* and use of these chants will take place formally at the Shambhala Lineage Festival in September. As of this letter, all Shambhala Centres and groups are invited to purchase the *Shambhala Chant Book* in order to have it available in time for the Festival.

The complete *Shambhala Chant Book* is available from the Nalanda Translation Committee, for Centres and groups only, in a coil-bound edition. Having a similar format mandala-wide will provide a consistent elegance of chant books in all Shambhala Centres. This edition is only available to Centres and groups, and the cost has been kept very low. A hardbound edition for individual use is also available. To support purchasing copies of the coil-bound edition, Centres may order copies of the hardbound edition at a discount to sell to members. Please see the attached letter from the NTC or click on the following link for ordering details. <http://nalandatranslation.org/publications/shambhala-chant-book/>

This chant book includes the following chants:

Morning Chants

Proclamation of Basic Goodness ***new***

Supplication to the Shambhala Lineage

Homage

Morning chants provide the first spark of connection to the lineage, the teachings and our discipline. They wake us up from our morning fog! Morning chants are done at a relatively perky pace except for the first chant, “Proclamation of Goodness,” which the umdze proclaims alone – slowly and with feeling – after ringing the gong three times and deadening.

Evening Chants

Protector Chant

Shambhala Protector Chant ***new***

It is said that around dusk is an in-between time, things are shifting and the practitioner can lose his or her awareness. The protector chants, in particular, are designed to help cut through obstacles and obscurations. These chants are about protecting something precious, our mind of dharma, and protecting from something – our hesitation, doubt and fears. This allows our wisdom to emerge. In doing the protector chants, we are reminded that it is possible to wear our fear or anxiety as adornment or ornament.

The Sakyong has written a new protector chant, the “Shambhala Protector Chant,” a general protector chant that replaces other protector chants for Centres. This is the protector chant to be recited at Centres for the evening chants. Other protector chants may be chanted at home, on certain occasions – such as vajrayana or international programs, at Land Centres, and as appropriate to particular programs or levels of practice. The “Shambhala Protector Chant,” as with other protector chants, is done briskly.

The tea offering with this chant is made with the following lines. Hold up the tea offering at the line: “Guardians of Mukpo Dong, do not forget your commitment...” and bow/offer the tea at “dispel outer, inner, and secret obstacles.”

Closing Chants

Supplication for the Longevity of Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche

Invocation

Aspiration of Shambhala: Fulfilling the Wishes of the Dorje Dradül ***new***

Shambhala Dedication of Merit

At night, the closing chants help us to recall and sum up our day of practice. Once again, they wake us up. In the closing chants, we acknowledge the lineage, aspire for the long lives of teachers and their vision and aspirations. The Sakyong has written a new aspiration, “Aspiration of Shambhala: Fulfilling the Wishes of the Dorje Dradül.” These closing chants and aspirations are chanted at a moderate pace, a little more fluid.

Shambhala Centres and Meditation Groups are encouraged to begin using the above chants at daily or weekly chant sessions, including nyintüns, as of the Shambhala Lineage Festival. In addition to offering evening sessions that include chants, Centres and groups are welcome to continue to offer selected evening sessions for the public that do not include chants.

II. *Warrior Chant Book*

This second-level chant book is available to those attending Warrior Assembly. Please see Chant Lists at the end of this letter for the chants in the *Warrior Chant Book*.

III. *Collected Vajra Liturgies*

The *Collected Vajra Liturgies* includes many additional Shambhala Buddhist chants. This is a large collection of Shambhala and Buddhist chant liturgies. They are available to Centres to draw upon for selected programs and Centre events, as appropriate. For example, if a Centre offers a program on the Vajrakilaya Sadhana, the morning and evening chants might include relevant Nyingma chants. Or, for a Primordial Rigden, Kagyü, and Nyingma ngöndro week, the morning and evening chants could include the Kagyü and Nyingma chants. Or, for a program focusing on the mahayana teachings, the morning chants could include the “Sutra of the Heart of Transcendent Knowledge,” and so on. Further details about chant use for selected programs will be forthcoming.

The *Collected Vajra Liturgies* are available to individuals attending a weektün or datün. Please see Chant Lists at the end of this letter for the chants in the *Collected Vajra Liturgies*.

A. Vajrayana Chants

As a subset of the *Collected Vajra Liturgies*, four additional vajrayana chants are available to individuals attending Vajrayana Seminary. These include the following chants:

Feast Offering (by Jigme Lingpa)

Pacifying the Turmoil of the Mamos

Confession Liturgy That Brings Reconciliation with the Jnanadevas

Aspiration (by Chogyur Dechen Lingpa)

These three levels of chant books and their harmonious proclamation awaken us to our basic goodness. The new “Shambhala Chant Book” is intended for all levels of practitioners. It is offered to further the Shambhala teachings for this time and to make chants and chanting more accessible. All of the Shambhala Buddhist chants support a culture of basic goodness and the inherent goodness in society.

May the Golden Sun of Shambhala Blossom!

In the vision of the Great Eastern Sun,

Kalapa Acharya Adam Lobel

Rupa Acharya Suzann Duquette

Andrea Doukas, Director, Shambhala Office of Practice and Education

Chant Lists for Warrior Chant Book and Collected Vajra Liturgies

Warrior Chant Book

Homage

The Supplication to the Rigden Father

The Supplication to the Mother Lineage

Invocation for Raising Windhorse

Meal Chants (Shambhala)

Drala Invocation

Preta Invocation

Anthem

Guard Song

Unborn, Unborn

Great Eastern Sun Arise

Shambhala Song

Hail, Hail, Hail

Invocation

Collected Vajra Liturgies

The following is a list of Shambhala and Buddhist chants available in the *Collected Vajra Liturgies*. Some chants of Shambhala are not listed here and, with the growing number of chants, the ordering of chants is in the process of being revised.

**Proclamation of Goodness*

The Four Dharmas of Gampopa

**Supplication to the Shambhala Lineage*

Seven-Line Supplication to Padmakara

Supplication to the Takpo Kagyü

**Great Clouds of Blessings*

**The Verses of the Eight Auspicious Noble Ones*

**Nyingma Lineage Supplications*

**Light of Blessings*

The Sutra of the Heart of Transcendent Knowledge

Homage

Meal Chants (Buddhist)

***The Sutra of the Recollection of the Noble Three Jewels*

Four-Armed Mahakala

Vetali

Ekajati

**Condensed Offering to Ekajati, Rahula, and Vajrasadhu*

Vajrasadhu

The Silver Banner of the Golden Drink of Pomra

Gampo Lhatse

Abbreviated Offering to Gesar

(Shambhala Protector Chant) This chant is available for separate purchase.

**Protectors of the Three Courts*

***Concluding Request to the Protectors*

***Exorcism Chant*

Supplication to Padmasambhava

Supplication for the Longevity of the Seventeenth Glorious Gyalwang Karmapa

**Supplications for the Longevity of Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche*

**The Melody That Accomplishes Deathlessness*

Fulfilling the Aspirations of Gyalwang Karmapa

Invocation

**Aspiration of Shambhala: Fulfilling the Wishes of the Dorje Dradiül*

Fulfilling the Aspirations of the Vidyadhara the Venerable Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche

**Oral Instructions That Delight the Dharma Kings*

Dedication of Merit

* = Included in the set of new chants

** = Included in the set of revised chants

cc: Acharyas