

The Armor of Fearlessness

Chant for the Intermediate State

When this life comes to an end, I will quickly enter the intermediary state. This will be a confusing and disorienting time. Tremendous fear, doubt, and suffering may occur. Once I have entered this state, I will be on my own. Family and friends will be unable to help me. My wealth and all my possessions will be of no use. Even my physical body will be left behind. Thus, as this great journey to the unknown begins, I will be solely relying upon my mind. Even if I utter words, no one will hear me.

For days and weeks, I may not even realize that I have died. In this state of great denial, I will go about my regular life as if I were alive. If I begin my journey not knowing that I have actually passed away, I will be less prepared for the full intense force of the rest of the intermediate state. Therefore I must now prepare. Thus, Rigdens of Shambhala, great and precious warrior teachers, have great love and compassion for me. Help me awaken from my confusion, and dispel my fear.

I know that when this great journey is underway, I will no longer be able to control what happens to me. All past actions will come to bear. All physical acts of harm to others will come to torture me in this state. All spiteful words and malicious speech will create massive echoes that will resound throughout my mind. Negative thoughts will ripple through my consciousness like thunder.

Thus, O great warriors of fearlessness, please protect me from fear. Clothe me in the armor of the dralas, so that I will not tremble, but will be

steadfast. Infuse my speech with the powerful warrior's cry, so that I will not forget to utter the primordial mantra KI KI SO SO. Awaken the Ashe in my heart, so that my mind instantly recalls all the visualized deities I have practiced. In particular, beings of awakening, quickly ripen the Ashe so I instantly realize that all appearing images are simply a self-fabrication of the mind. Give me confidence, so I render these concepts futile. Let me see their inherent nature as the mandala of the Great Eastern Sun.

O master of the elements, please transform the elements so that space, wind, fire, water, and earth do not create havoc on my journey. Rather, let me see them as the mandala of the turquoise dragon.

O warriors of auspiciousness, please bless me so that I may quickly go through the intermediate state to the pure and blessed realm of Shambhala, where I will be asked to perform the great stroke of Ashe before the profound, brilliant Rigden. May I be able to dwell in this land until I attain the state of the perfect warrior.

If, due to my past actions, this does not occur, may I be born in the higher realms, so that I may practice and propagate the path of virtue. If this does not transpire, may I be born in the human realm. May my faculties be intact. May my mind be humble and intelligent. May I be able to quickly and effortlessly engage in the path of warriorship. Please, great compassionate ones, allow me to be born in a land where the great teachings of Shambhala are taught. Bless me so that my future parents understand the view of basic goodness. May I be born in a land without conflict of view or action.

If this does not occur, please, with your mighty power, dispel my negative tendencies so that I may not be born in the lower realms. Save me from the stupidity of the animal realm, and the stinginess of the ghost realms, where one is never satisfied. At all costs, please close the gates to the lower hellish realms, where through great confusion, the mind buys into the theory of duality, and thus great anger arises.

Knowing that the power of the warrior teacher is very mighty, and the blessings of the profound Rigden are inconceivable, when I enter this state, please render all negative actions obsolete, and please help to awaken all inherent good qualities I have developed.

Please bless me and give me confidence to realize that from the beginning of time, I have been basically good. This is the great universal mandala that has never changed. It is fathomless and inconceivable. It is protected by the great Ashe. This is my life-force essence. With such conviction, I need not be fearful. Thus, with this confidence I can see life as illusory and dreamlike, and can know that this life is but one of many. When this level of confidence occurs, my mind expands and I am able to exhale and relax. May I never forget the face of the great warrior teachers. May their blessing and love perpetually aid me.

Thus, in this life, where I performed my duties, and served the great kingdom of awakening with diligence and loyalty, I request that I, **[name]**, as a **[role in mandala]**, be blessed with profound, brilliant, just, powerful, all-victorious confidence, so that I remain in a total state of fearlessness as I enter the intermediate state. May whatever merits I have gained through service,

meditation, and caring for others be dedicated to the welfare of others. In this way, may I be free from fixating on my spiritual and worldly attainments. Thus in this state of fearlessness and nonattachment, may I be ready for this great journey on which I am about to embark.

May I return to the cosmic mirror, where there is no beginning or end.
May I be reunited with perfect peace, which is the primordial being Shiwa Ökar.
May the vast hosts of werma and drala allow for this auspiciousness to occur.
Thus I call upon you, the completely fearless one. Please fulfill all my wishes and aspirations.

KI KI SO SO

Colophon

The Armor of Fearlessness should be chanted by any warriors of Shambhala who are preparing for the intermediate state. Chanting this plants aspirational seeds so that the warrior's wishes may be fulfilled. Chanting this gives rise to great confidence.

These words were written with fearless conviction in the Ashe, as well as complete submission and humbleness before the profound, brilliant Rigden. At the request of warriors who asked how to arouse great fearlessness before the intermediate state, and with complete faith in the divine Shiwa Ökar, I, Jampal Trinley Dradül, recalled the very face of the fearless Sakyong Dorje Dradül. May all beings fearlessly pass through the intermediate state and enter the land of Shambhala. May all the warriors recognize the primordial Ashe, and acknowledge the black Ashe. Thus, through such

conviction, may they be firmly planted in the very centre of the three courts. May this bring fearlessness, fearlessness, fearlessness.

Written in the fearless land of Yang Le Shö, where the great Padmasambhava manifested as Vajrakilaya and twirled the great phurba, which has three terrifying faces, representing the complete fearlessness of heaven, earth, and man. This was written on the auspicious tenth day of the twelfth month.

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