

THE VICTORIOUS MERITS OF GARCHEN TRIPTRÜL RINPOCHÉ'S BLESSING OF LIBERATION THROUGH SIGHT

The “liberation through sight” mantra amulets are printed with precious mantras in Sanskrit calligraphy and their edges are laced with sacred dust derived from a relic in Garchen Rinpoché’s possession. The relic is a finger joint from a statue known as “Five Miracles in One Body, the Eleven-Faced, Thousand-Armed and Eyed Avalokiteśvara,” which was originally housed and venerated in the Jokhang Temple in Lhasa, Tibet.

The Jokhang Temple was built in the 7th century by the 33rd Tibetan King Songtsen Gampo, an emanation of Avalokiteśvara. At that time, the king gathered precious stones, five types of metal, silk fabrics and medicinal herbs and mixed them with clay in order to mold a statue of Avalokiteśvara. On the day designated for the molding of the statue, the king and his artisans arrived to discover that the Eleven-Faced, Thousand-Armed and Eyed Avalokiteśvara had arisen spontaneously. This is the first of the statue’s five miracles.

Wishing to make an addition to the sacred statue, the king entreated it. In this way, he divined that its addition would be a sacred object from a far-off distance. With great miraculous powers, he instantaneously emanated a monk who appeared on the coast of South India. There, on a particular shore, he found an unusual block of sandalwood. From within it, he retrieved a self-arisen statue of Avalokiteśvara. When this self-arisen statue was brought to Tibet, it spontaneously dissolved into the Eleven-Faced, Thousand-Armed and Eyed Avalokiteśvara statue. This is the second of the five miracles.

When the building of the Jokhang Temple was completed, the Eleven-Faced, Thousand-Armed and Eyed Avalokiteśvara statue flew to the Jokhang in the middle of the night and sat facing the statue of Akṣobhya Buddha therein. This is the third of the statue’s five miracles.

Avalokiteśvara had emanated as King Songtsen Gampo for the purpose of establishing and spreading the buddhas’ teachings in Tibet. His consorts, the princesses from China and Nepal, were emanations of White Tāra and Wrathful Vajra Tāra, respectively. When the king had accomplished his task, he dissolved into light and entered the heart center of the Eleven-Faced, Thousand-Armed and Eyed Avalokiteśvara. The queen from China also dissolved into light and entered the left side of the statue. Then, the queen from Nepal dissolved into the sacred statue’s right side. This is the fourth of the five miracles.

After this remarkable event, some of the king's ministers wished to meet with him to discuss important matters but were unable to find him. When they were told what had happened by those who had witnessed the miraculous dissolution of the king and his consorts into the sacred statue, the ministers refused to believe the story. When both parties ended up in a heated argument, the king and his two consorts suddenly manifested their countenances from the sacred statue, thus dispelling any doubt or confusion whatsoever. This is the fifth of the five miracles.

Thus, this statue was widely known as "Five Miracles in One Body, the Eleven-Faced, Thousand-Armed and Eyed Avalokiteśvara." It was one of Tibet's most blessed and special sacred statues. However, during the Cultural Revolution, when many buddha images in the Jokhang Temple and elsewhere were destroyed, this statue was also ravaged. However, due to auspicious causes and conditions, the head of this blessed statue was secretly brought to India and presented to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. His Holiness then commissioned a new body to be fashioned for the sacred statue. The restored statue can now be seen at His Holiness' monastery in Dharamsala, India.

The "liberation through sight" mantra amulet has ultimate and victorious blessing powers. Everyone should sincerely revere it and constantly make offerings to it. If it is placed above doors, all who pass under it will be blessed, purifying the misdeeds of a thousand aeons. For all who see it, the misdeeds of three hundred million aeons will be cleansed.

At Garchen Triptrül Rinpoché's request, this history was originally translated from Chinese into English by Hun Lye and edited by Ari-ma in 1997.

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