



# 8 Great Bodhisattvas

## 8 Practices and 8 Mantras

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# 8 Great Bodhisattvas

## 8 Practices and 8 Mantras

The 8 Supreme Bodhisattvas — also known as the Eight Heirs or the Eight Heroes — represent the eight great ideals of the Mahayana Path. They also represent the Eightfold Path as taught by Buddha in his very first teaching, through the compassionate lens of Mahayana Buddhism, the Bodhisattva Path.

## 8 Great Bodhisattvas

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- **Manjushri**, embodies Buddha’s wisdom.
- **Avalokiteshvara** — embodies Buddha’s compassion.
- **Vajrapani** embodies Buddha’s power.
- **Maitreya** embodies Buddha’s activity. He is the most active because Maitreya is to be the next or “Future Buddha”.
- The **Earth Store** Bodhisattva **Kshitigarbha** embodies Buddha’s merits and the “richness” derived from merits.
- **Samantabhadra** embodies the aspirations and conduct of Buddha through the practice of the Bodhisattva path.
- **Akashagarbha** embodies Buddha’s blessings and blessing qualities.
- **Sarvanivarana-Vishkambhin** embodies Buddha’s practices and qualities, and in this way purifies obstructions.



## Short Merit-Accumulation Practice of the 8 Bodhisattvas

I Prostrate and Take Refuge in Buddha, Dharma and Sangha, and to the Eight Bodhisattvas until I attain Enlightenment for the benefit of all sentient beings. (3 times)

I offer real and imagined flowers, incense, butter lamps, scent, food, music, and so forth. Assembly of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, please accept them.

I confess all my faults from beginningless time until now, committed with a mind under the sway of the afflictions, such as the ten nonvirtues.

I rejoice in whatever merit has been accumulated in the three times by Hearers, Solitary Realizers, Bodhisattvas, ordinary beings, and others.

Please turn the wheel of the Dharma according to the intentions and mental dispositions of sentient beings.

Until Samsara is emptied, please do not pass into Nirvana but look with compassion upon sentient beings that are drowning in the ocean of suffering.

May whatever merit I have accumulated become the cause of Enlightenment for the benefit of sentient beings.

May all beings have happiness and the causes of happiness. May they be free from suffering and the causes of suffering. May they not be separated from the sublime happiness that is free from suffering. May they rest in the great equanimity that is free of the duality of attachment and aversion.

Thus we gather the accumulations through prostrating, offering, confessing, and generating the two types of bodhichitta of the preliminaries.

Now I accumulate wisdom, compassion and activity with the mantras of the eight Bodhisattvas.





### Manjushri

To the Bodhisattva, Hero, fully enlightened Manjushri, Wisdom of All the Buddhas, I prostrate, make offerings, and go for refuge.

***Om Ah Ra Pa Cha Nha Dhi***



### Avalokiteshvara

To the Bodhisattva, Hero, fully enlightened Avalokiteshvara, Compassion of All the Buddhas, I prostrate, make offerings, and go for refuge.

***Om Mani Padme Hum Hrih***



### Vajrapani

To the Bodhisattva, Hero, fully enlightened Vajrapani, Activity of All the Buddhas, I prostrate, make offerings, and go for refuge.

***Om Vajrapāṇi Hum.***



### Samantabhadra

To the Bodhisattva, Hero, fully Enlightened Samantabhadra, Perfect Conduct of All the Buddhas, I prostrate, make offerings, and go for refuge.

***Namaḥ samantabuddhānāṃ,  
samatānugata virajadharmanirjāta  
mahāmaha svāhā.***



### Maitreya

To the Bodhisattva, Hero, fully Enlightened Maitreya, Perfect Activity of All the Buddhas, the Future Buddha, I prostrate, make offerings, and go for refuge.

***Om maitri mahāmaitri maitriye svāhā.***



### Kṣitigarbha

To the Bodhisattva, Hero, fully Enlightened Kṣitigarbha, Perfect Merit of All the Buddhas, Earth Store Bodhisattva, Lord of the Six Ways, I prostrate, make offerings, and go for refuge.

***Namaḥ samantabuddhānām, ha ha ha, sutanu svāhā.***



### Sarvanivarana-Vishkambhin

To the Bodhisattva, Hero, fully Enlightened Sarvanivarana-Vishkambhin, Perfect Qualities of All the Buddhas, Hero Who Blocks All the Obstructions, I prostrate, make offerings, and go for refuge.

***Namaḥ samantabuddhānām, āḥ sattvahitābhyudgata traṃ traṃ raṃ raṃ svāhā.***



### Ākāśagarbha

To the Bodhisattva, Hero, fully Enlightened Ākāśagarbha, Perfect Blessings of All the Buddhas, Hero Who Purifies All Negativities, I prostrate, make offerings, and go for refuge.

***Namaḥ samantabuddhānām, ākāśasamatānugata vicitrāambaradhara svāhā.***



By the power of praising and supplicating you, wherever I and others reside may illness, obstructive spirits, poverty, and fighting be pacified, and may the Dharma and auspiciousness flourish.

Buddhas, bodhisattvas, and the Sangha, please heed me. From the great, beginningless Samsara, I and all beings have performed the virtue of cultivating generosity and ethical discipline and have rejoiced in the expression of these deeds. By the virtue practiced thus, with the mind of holy generosity, and for the sake of our parents, teachers, masters, and all sentient beings, may we achieve Buddhahood. By the merit arisen from this virtue, may we acquire all the perfections such as life, merit, enjoyment, a retinue, and virtuous practice, and may all obstacles be pacified without exception.

May I attain Enlightenment for the benefit of all sentient beings.



*We dedicate the merit of this presentation to the benefit of all sentient beings.*

MAY ALL BEINGS BENEFIT



## Helpful links



For a full introduction to the 8 Great Bodhisattvas: 8 Practices and 8 Mantras, including this recitation, see our video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=neMDKY681Y4>

Written Feature on Buddha Weekly:

<https://buddhaweekly.com/the-8-great-bodhisattvas-represent-the-8-great-qualities-of-buddha-why-we-need-these-qualities-to-help-heal-the-world/>

## Other related videos

[Manjushri Wisdom Mantra 1 Hour: Enhances Cognition and Memory Chanted Beautifully in Sanskrit](#)

[Great Compassion Heart Dharani of Avalokiteśvara-ekadaśamukha, 1000-armed, 11-faced Chenrezig Guanyin](#)

[Avalokiteshvara compassion mantra 108 times with meditative images: chant along Om Mani Padme Hum](#)

[Buddhist Heart Sutra Chanted in Sanskrit: Prajñāpāramitāhṛdaya - with Gate Gate Mantra](#)







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