



## In Praise of the Stupas at the Eight Great Sacred Places

by *Arya Nagarjuna*

In the language of India: *Ashta-mahā-sthāna-caitya-stotra*

In the language of Tibet: *gnas chen po brgyad kyi mchod rten la bstod pa*

*Homage to Youthful Mañjuśrī!*

The sole guru of beings was born in Lumbinī,  
And he dwelt in the city of Kapilavastu—  
Homage to the Stupas of the Sugata,  
Ornamented by ten million precious qualities.

He sat beneath the bodhi tree in Magadha,  
On the bank of the river called Nairāñjana—  
Homage to the support for awakening,  
The Stupa of Vast Qualities.

In Kashika, the city of Varanasi,  
With the marvelous, liberating Wheel of Dharma,  
He cut through afflictions and obscurations—  
Homage to the Four Wisdom Stupas.

At Shravasti, he thwarted the might of others,  
And he displayed a great miracle at Jeta's Grove,  
And manifested a sublime thought in the three worlds—  
Homage to the Stupa of Defeating Extremists.

In the sacred and exalted city of Samkashya,  
He returned from heaven in a sublime descent.  
Brahma and Indra laid a crown at his feet—  
Homage to the Stupa of Thirty Gods' Offerings.

When the Sangha had become divided,  
The Teacher's listeners were reconciled  
At the Bamboo Grove in Rājagṛha—  
Homage to the Stupa of Loving Kindness.

When he gave up his conditioned lifetime,  
His life was blessed yet again  
And he was utterly free—  
Homage to the Blessed Stupa of Vaishali.

In Kushinagara, he inspired  
Beings to practice virtue—  
Homage to the Stupa of Nirvana,  
Between the Mallas' twin *sal* trees.

I bow to all dharmakayas abiding  
At the eight stupas of Shakyamuni,  
In the ten directions, and elsewhere—  
I humbly pay homage, always, to peace!

In this way, I pay heartfelt homage to the pure essence, free from elaboration,  
Ineffable and permanent—the dharmakaya buddha pervading beings like space.  
Through whatever pristine merit, white as snow, has been gathered in my  
mindstream,  
May every single sentient being attain samadhi, bliss, realization, and awakening.

*Thus concludes the Praise to the Stupas at the Eight Great Sacred Places, Composed by  
the Mahacharya, Arya Nagarjuna.*



### **Translation Origin**

Translated by [Samye Translations](#), 2023 (trans. Monica Thunder and Peter Woods).

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### **Tibetan Source**

Nagarjuna (klu sgrub). gnas chen po brgyad kyi mchod rten la bstod pa. Toh 1133. *sde dge bstan 'gyur*. Vol. 1 (bstod tshogs, ka): folios 81b3–82a3.