



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

*by Arya Nagarjuna*

In the language of India: Ashta-maha-sthana-caitya-stotra  
In the language of Tibet: gnas chen po bryad kyi mchod rten la bstod pa

*Homage to Youthful Mañjushri!*

First, he sublimely aroused bodhicitta, then  
Gathered accumulations for three countless aeons.  
He awakened in Bodhgaya, and tamed Mara—  
Homage to the Stupa of Great Awakening.

He was born at Kapilavastu, the ground of Dharma,  
From his mother Maya to the Shakya Clan of Shuddhodana.  
She stood as he emerged from her right hip, into Brahma's arms—  
Homage to the Stupa, Source of Auspiciousness.

He went for alms around Varanasi,  
And tamed Bimbisara's mad elephants  
With the touch of a finger—  
Homage to the Stupa of Taming a City.

While he pondered upon a grassy field,  
Hanuman offered him sweet honey, but then  
Died at a well and was reborn among the thirty-three—  
Homage to the Stupa, Source of Compassion.

Brahma offered a wheel and he turned it.  
He tamed six extremist teachers through his might,  
And pleased gods and humans with myriad emanations—  
Homage to the Stupa of Displaying Miracles.

He was revered by a host of nagas,  
Like Nanda, and received milk from a maiden.  
He subjugated all the world and its teachings—  
Homage to the Stupa of Twenty-Four Victors.

A host of bodhisattvas, pratekyabuddhas,  
Shravakas, and arhats surrounded him, and  
He inducted them into vows and ethics—  
Homage to the Stupa of Purity.

From the thought to tame transient beings  
To his descent from heaven, all deeds were complete.  
Ckhunda offered a meal; he passed three months later.  
Homage to the Stupa of the Deed of Nirvāṇa.

*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**

Nāgārjuna (klu sgrub). gnas chen po brgyad kyi mchod rten la bstod pa. Toh 1134. *sde dge bstan 'gyur*. Vol. 1 (bstod tshogs, ka): folios 82a3–82b3.