VERSES FOR CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS
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Compiled by Kyodrak Khenpo Ghawang

Translated by Lama Eric Trinle Thaye
and Kagyu Monlam Translation Group

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Verses for Celebrating Birthdays

Long Life Prayers

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama

His Holiness the 17th Karmapa

His Eminence Tai Situ Rinpoche

His Eminence Jamgon Kongtrul Rinpoche

Kyabje Sangye Nyenpa Rinpoche

Kyabje Thrangu Rinpoche
Khenchen Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche

Kyabje Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche

Kyabje Bokar Rinpoche

Yongey Mingyur Rinpoche

Khenpo Karthar Rinpoche

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VERSES FOR CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS
Though there is some mention of recognizing birthdays in old writings, since the tradition of celebrating birthdays for both exalted and ordinary beings has become wide-spread, we need a text from our tradition. First, nicely arrange whatever offerings you have, and begin with refuge and bodhichitta:

sang gyé chö dang tsok kyi chok nam la
Until enlightenment, I go for refuge

jang chup bar du dak gi kyap su chi
To the Buddha, Dharma, and the supreme Sangha.

dak gi jin sok gyi pé sö nam kyi
By acting generously and so forth,

dro la pen chir sang gyé drup par shok
May I become a buddha to help beings.

Repeat three times.
ཐམས་ཅད་་ནི་ས་གཞི་དག
May the ground everywhere be pure,

sek ma la sok me pa dang
Free of all stones and the like,

lak til tar nyam vai dūr yay
Even as the palm of the hand,

rang shin jam por né gyur chik
The nature of beryl, and soft.

Inviting the Three Jewels:

ma lü sem chen kün gyi gön gyur ching
For each and every being, a protector,

dü de pung ché mi se jom dze lha
You vanquished the ferocious hordes of Mara.
You know all things just as they are, Bhagavan;

I pray you come here with your retinue.

Requesting them to be present:

I offer you this hundred-petaled lotus,

Spacious and comfortable, equal in size

To this realm of a billion worlds.

I pray you take your seat with ease.
Gathering the accumulations through the sevenfold practice:

I prostrate to all lions among humans,

As many as appear, excepting none,

In the three times in worlds of ten directions

Sincerely with my body, speech, and mind.

With the power of this prayer for excellent conduct,
I fully prostrate to all victors with

As many bodies as atoms in all realms

With all the victors right before my mind.

Upon one atom, numerous as atoms

Are buddhas in the midst of bodhisattvas.

I thus imagine that victorious ones

Completely fill the entire dharma expanse.
dé dak ngak pa mi zé gya tso nam
With sounds from oceans of melodious traits

yang kyi yen lak gya tsö dra kün gyi
I extol the qualities of all the victors,

gyal wa kün gyi yön ten rap jö ching
Whose oceans of praiseworthiness will never

dé war shek pa tamché dak gi tô
Run dry, and praise all of the sugatas.

mé tok dam pa treng wa dam pa dang
I make an offering to these victors of

sil nyen nam dang juk pa duk chok dang
The best of flowers and the finest garlands,

mar mé chok dang duk pö dam pa yi
Cymbals and ointments, the best parasols,
gyal wa dé dak la ni chö par gyi
The best of lamps, and incense the most fine.

nam sa dam pa nam dang dri chok dang
I make an offering to these victors of

ché mé pur ma ri rap nyam pa dang
The finest robes, the finest fragrances,

kö pa khyé par pak pé chok kün gyi
And powders in heaps equal to Mount Meru,

gyal wa dé dak la yang chö par gyi
Arranged in the most sublime of displays.

ché pa gang nam la mé gya ché wa
I also imagine offering to all victors

dé dak gyal wa tam ché la yang mö
That which is vast and unsurpassable.
I offer and bow to the victors with
The power of faith in excellent conduct.
Under the influence of desire, hatred,
And ignorance, I have committed wrongs
Using my body, speech, and also mind—
I confess each and every one of them.
And I rejoice in all that is the merit
rang gyal nam dang lop dang mi lop dang  
Of all the victors and the buddhas’ children,

dro wa kün gyi sö nam gang la yang  
Pratyekabuddhas, learners, and nonlearners,

dé dak kün gyi jé su dak yì rang  
Of all the wanderers of the ten directions.

gang nam chok chü jik ten drön ma dak  
I request all those guardians who have detachment—

jang chup rim par sang gyé ma chak nyé  
Wakened to buddhahood and found

gön po dé dak dak gi tam ché la  
The lamps of the worlds of the ten directions—

khor lo la na mé par kor war kül  
To turn the Wheel that cannot be surpassed.
 nya ngen da tön gang shé dé dak la  
With my palms joined, I supplicate all those

dro wa kün la pen zhing dé wé chir  
Who wish to demonstrate nirvana to stay

kal pa shing gi dül nyé shuk par yang  
As many aeons as atoms in the realms

dak gi tal mo rap jar söl war gyi  
To aid and bring well-being to all wanderers.

chak tsal wa dang chö ching shak pa dang  
I dedicate to enlightenment whatever

jé su yi rang kül shing söl wa yi  
Slight merit I have gathered from prostrating,

gé wa chung sé dak gi chi sak pa  
And offering, confessing, and rejoicing,
Requesting, and from making supplications.

*Mandala offering:*

This earth, perfumed with scented water, strewn with flowers,

Graced with Mount Meru, the four lands, the sun and moon,

I visualize to be a buddha realm and offer

So that all beings enjoy a perfectly pure realm.

*If not celebrating for a guru but for an ordinary being, offer this, an offering scarf and whatever else to sacred representations.*
Then, for example, if celebrating Goshir Gyaltsab Rinpoche’s birthday, recite:

(Other lama’s long life prayers • རྣལ་བའི་བཞེང་ལུགས་བཞི་བཞི་བཞི་)  

Lord of Secrets, vajra mind of all the victors,  
Ananda, repository of the speech of the victor,  
Heir to the Karmapa, the supreme victor,  
Gyaltsab, Great Goshir, may you live long.

Then:  
I supplicate that the gurus be healthy.
I supplicate that their lives be supremely long.

I supplicate that their activity spread and flourish.

Bless me to never be separate from the gurus.

The source of the glory of samsara and nirvana,

May the teachings of the Muni long abide.

May the eminent beings who hold them

Live long and with abundance.
For ordinary persons:

ལོ་བ་འཚ་ཞིང་ོན་བ་མཐོང་བ་དང་།
By the auspiciousness of remaining a hundred years, seeing a hundred autumns,

ཚ་རིང་ནད་མེད་བདེ་ིད་ན་མ་ཚགས།
Living long, being healthy, having the best of happiness,

ཐེག་པ་མཆོག་ལ་ངེས་པར་འག་འར་བའི།
And definitely entering the supreme vehicle,

བགེགས་རིགས་ོང་ག་བད་་ཞི་བ་དང་།
By the auspiciousness of the eighty thousand hindrances being pacified,

མི་མན་གནོད་པའི་ེན་དང་ལ་བ་དང་།
The absence of unfavorable harmful conditions,
ནུས་ཀྱང་དབང་བཞིན་དབང་གཞིང་པོ་བཞིན་ལ།

`tün pa tsok shing pün sum tsok gyur pay
The accumulation of what is favorable, and abundance,

འབྲི་ཤིས་དེས་ང་དིང་འདིར་བདེ་ལེགས་ཤོག་

`tra shi de kyang ding dir de lek shok
May there be joy and goodness here and now.

སྐལ་ཐུབ་རིྟ་མིད་།

*Lighting a lamp:*

འོད་ི་མིང་ན་ོན་མེ་འདི།

`ö kyi dang den drön me di
I offer to the precious Three Jewels

དཀོན་མཆོག་རིན་ཆེན་མས་ལ་འལ།

`kön chok rin chen nam la bül
The radiant light of this lamp.

མ་རིག་ན་པ་རབ་བསལ་ནས།

`ma rik mün pa rap sal né
Vanquishing the darkness of ignorance,

ཤེས་རབ་ང་བ་ས་པར་ཤོག་

`she rap nang wa gyé par shok
May the brilliance of prajna increase.
The brilliance is symbolic and offered to the Jewels, therefore, it should not be blown out.

Enjoying some sweets:

By offering with faith this well-prepared

Enticing food of a hundred flavors

To the victors and their children, may all beings

Enjoy abundance and the food of samadhi.

Dedicating the virtue to awakening:

By this merit may I attain omniscience and defeat
The enemy, wrong action; may I free all beings.

From the ocean of samsara buffeted by waves of birth, aging, sickness, and death.

A general aspiration:

May all sentient beings be happy.

May all the lower realms be forever empty.

May the aspirations all bodhisattvas
ེད་དག་ན་ི་ོན་ལམ་འབ་པར་ཤོག
Abiding on the bhumis be fulfilled.

More specifically, An Aspiration for the Well-Being of the World:

ེ་ག་འཛམིང་བདེ་བའི་ོན་ལམ་ནི།
Undeceiving sources of refuge, Three Jewels and three roots;

ད་པར་གངས་ཅན་མགོན་པོ་ན་རས་གཟིགས།
Especially Avalokita, protector of the Land of Snow;

ེ་བན་ོལ་མ་་་པ་འང་།
Noble lady Tara; Guru Padmakara:

གསོལ་བ་འདེབས་སོ་གས་དམ་ཞལ་བཞེས་དགོངས།
I pray to you. Consider your pledges and promises.

་མོང་ལམ་ཡོངས་་འབ་པར་ིན་ིས་ོབས།
Grant your blessings that my aspirations be fulfilled.
Through the incorrect thoughts and actions of beings in degenerate times
And turmoil of the outer and inner elements,
There are new human and animal diseases.
We are struck by planets, nagas, gyalpos, and evil bhutas;
Blight, frost, hail, and poor harvests; war and fighting;
Uneven rainfall, blizzards, destruction by voles and rats,
Earthquakes, fire, danger from the four elements;
And especially invasions that threaten the Dharma.

May all such things that menace this world

Be quickly pacified and eradicated.

May all beings, human and nonhuman,

Naturally generate precious bodhichitta

And be free from malevolent thoughts and actions.

May they love one another.
dzam ling ta wü de kyi pal gyi jor
May the whole world be filled with joy, well-being, and wealth.

sang gyé ten pa dar gyé yün né shok
May the Buddhadharma spread, flourish, and long remain.

tsa sum gyal wa sé ché den pay top
Through the power of the truth of the three roots, buddhas, and bodhisattvas;

khor dé ge way tsa wa gang chi dang
The power of all the roots of virtue in samsara and nirvana;

dak chak lhak sam nam par kar way tü
And the power of our pure benevolence;

söl tap mön pay dré bu drup gyur chik
May what we have prayed and wished for be accomplished.

A prayer for auspiciousness:
Auspicious by day, auspicious by night,
Auspicious also at noon,
Always auspicious, by day and by night,
In front, the dense darkness of fear waits to take us in;
May the Three Jewels bring goodness and joy.

If embraced with skillful means,
Even our ongoing activity can become
The cause for temporary and ultimate well-being.
This is the very nature of interdependence.

This concise collection of verses for a birthday celebration was requested by Dentruk Dawa and arranged by the wander Kyodrak Ghawang in the Himachal region. To the extant verses, I have composed and added the verse for lighting the lamp. May auspiciousness abound!

Most of the translations have come from the Kagyu Monlam Book. Other translations by Eric Trinle Thaye. March 2019.
In the pure realm surrounded by an enclosure of snow mountains

resides the source of all benefit and happiness.

Tenzin Gyatso, mighty Avalokiteśvara,

may your lotus feet stand firm until the end of existence!
His Holiness the 17th Karmapa

Karmapa, embodiment of the compassion of all the buddhas;

Karmapa, union of the awakened activity of all the buddhas,

Karmapa, empowered as regent of all the buddhas;

Orgyen Drodul Trinle, may your life be long!
Regent of the Lotus, protector of the teachings and beings,

Buddha of the future, invincible regent,

Tai Situ Pema Donyö, may your life be long,

and may your activity flourish!
Illustrious treasure of boundless and impartial compassion,

emanation of Vairocana endowed with qualities of intellect and liberation,

Jamgon Lodrö Chökyi Nyima, may your life be long,

and may your activity flourish!
Emulating the forefathers’ learning, ethics, and nobility,

The very essence of all the buddhas of the three times,

Refuge and supreme protector of beings, Vajradhara,

Jetsun Sangye Nyenpa, may your life be long.
Kyabje Thrangu Rinpoche

ten pay pal gyur kar ma lo drö shap
Karma Lodrö, the teachings’ great glory, may your qualities

ché pal sang poy yön ten kha khyap tu
Of glorious, good dharma expand throughout space,

pel shing shap pe tak ten she drup kyi
Your lotus-like feet everlastingly firm, your activity

trin lé chok lé nam gyal pal bar shok
Of teaching and practice in all blaze with triumph and glory.
You are endowed with the glory of discipline, field of all qualities,

For you an ocean of Dharma’s meaning appears clear and distinct,

In all ten directions, you sing melodious songs of the profound view and meditation,

Genuine spiritual friend, may you always remain.
ས་ེ་ོགས་ཆེན་དཔོན་ོབ་རིན་པོ་ཆེའི་ཞབས་བན་གསོལ་འདེབས།

kün sang tek pay sung rap gya tsoy chü
Is the heart luminous definitive meaning.

ངེས་དོན་འོད་གསལ་ིང་པོའ་རིང་གས་ཆེའི།
nge dön ö sal nying poy ring luk chey
The vital essence of the ocean of scriptures in Samantabhadra’s vehicle

བན་པའི་ལ་མཚན་ོགས་མཐར་ེལ་མཛད་པ།
ten pay gyal tsen chok tar pel dze pa
You fly the victory banner of this great tradition’s teachings throughout the reaches of space.

དཔལ་ན་་མ་མཆོག་གི་ཞབས་བན་གསོལ།
pal den la ma chok gi shap ten söl
Glorious, supreme guru, may you always remain.
By the power of the myriad immortal long-life deities of the three roots,

may the incomparable glorious protector of the teachings and beings—

remain for one hundred kalpas and may his activity flourish.

The Lord of Dharma, Karma Senge Gyaltsen Palzangpo—
Yongey Mingyur Rinpoche

ིར་ད་ལེགས་་ར་ཅིག
om de lek su gyur chik
Om May joy and goodness prevail.

རབ་འམས་ལ་བའི་གས་བེད་ལས་བ་པ།
rap jam gyal way tuk kye lé drup pa
Second Buddha Padmasambhava, born from the aspirations of infinite buddhas,

ཨོ་ན་སངས་ས་གཉིས་པས་དགེ་ལེགས་ོལ།
orgyen sang gyé nyi pé ge lek tsöl
Please grant us all that is virtuous and good.

མི་འར་ོ་ེའི་ངོ་བོར་ཞབས་བན་གསོལ།
mì gyur dor jéy ngo wor shap ten söl
Live long within the unchanging (Mingyur) vajra (Dorje) essence.

May your emanation, the spiritual guide of all (Yongey),
Khenpo Karthar Rinpoche

Through the blessing of infinite, all-conquering compassion

And through the power of pure motivation in us, your students,

You who fulfill the supremely victorious and magnificent Karmapa’s activity,

We pray that your life be long.
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