

Kathman lu, 10th February 2006 Yannick



की मुंद्र-पड्ट-हेन-पट्ट-ट्र-उट्टिट्टेट्टेट्टेन्ड्-पट्टेप्टा-पट्ट-हेन-पट्ट-ट्र-पट्टेप्ट्र-पट्ट-हेन-पट्ट-ट्र-पट्टेप्ट-पट्ट-हेन-पट्ट-ट्र-

The Sheltering Tree
of Interdependence
A Buddhist Monk's Reflections
on Ecological Responsibility



During the course of my extensive travelling to countries across the world, rich and poor, east and west. I have seen people revelling in pleasure, and people suffering. The advancement of science and technology seems to have achieved little more than linear, numerical improvement; development often means little more than more mansions in more cities. As a result, the ecological balance—the very basis of our life on earth—has been greatly affected.

On the other hand, in days gone by, the people of Tibet lived a happily life, untroubled by pollution, in natural conditions. Today, all over the world, including Tibet, ecological degradation is fast overtaking us. I am wholly convinced that, if all of us do not make a concerted effort, with a sense of universal responsibility, we will see the gradual breakdown

of the fragile ecosystems that support us, resulting in an irreversible and irrevocable degradation of our planet, Earth.

These stanzas have been composed to underline my deep concern, and to call upon all concerned people to make continued efforts to reverse and remedy the degradation of our environment. The poem is being released on the occasion of the presentation of a statue of the Buddha to the people of India; and to mark the opening of the International Conference on Ecological Responsibility: a Dialogue with Buddhism.

—Bhikshu Tenzin Gyatso The XIV Dalai Lama Buddhist Era 2537 – October 2, 1993



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- 1 O Lord Tathagata
 born of the Ikṣvākus tree
 Peerless One
 Who, seeing the all-pervasive nature
 Of interdependence
 Between the environment and sentient beings
 Samṣāra and Nirvāna
 Moving and unmoving
 Teaches the world out of compassion
 Bestow thy benevolence on us
- 2 O the Saviour
 The One called Avalokitesvara
 Personifying the body of compassion
 Of all Buddhas
 We beseech thee to make our spirits ripen
 And fructify to observe reality
 Bereft of illusion
- 3 Our obdurate egocentricity
 Ingrained in our minds
 Since beginningless time
 Contaminates, defiles and pollutes
 The environment
 Created by the common karma
 Of all sentient beings

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- 4 Lakes and ponds have lost
 Their clarity, their coolness
 The atmosphere is poisoned
 Nature's celestial canopy in the fiery firmament
 Has burst asunder
 And sentient beings suffer diseases
 Unknown before
- 5 Perennial snow mountains resplendent in their glory Bow down and melt into water The majestic oceans lose their ageless equilibrium And inundate islands
- 6 The dangers of fire, water and wind are limitless
 Sweltering heat dries up our lush forests
 Lashing our world with unprecedented storms
 And the oceans surrender their salt to the elements



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- 7 Though people lack not wealth
 They cannot afford to breathe clean air
 Rains and streams cleanse not
 But remain inert and powerless liquids
- 8 Human beings
 And countless beings
 That inhabit water and land
 Reel under the yoke of physical pain
 Caused by malevolent diseases
 Their minds are dullened
 With sloth, stupor and ignorance
 The joys of the body and spirit
 Are far, far away
- We needlessly pollute
 The fair bosom of our mother earth
 Rip out her trees to feed our short sighted greed
 Turning our fertile earth into a sterile desert

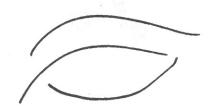


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- 10 The interdependent nature
 Of the external environment
 And people's inward nature
 Described in Tantras
 Works on Medicine, and astronomy
 Has verily been vindicated
 By our present experience
- 11 The earth is home to living beings;
 Equal and impartial to the moving and unmoving
 Thus spoke the Buddha in truthful voice
 With the great earth for witness
- 12 As a noble being recognises the kindness
 Of a sentient mother
 And makes recompense for it
 So the earth, the universal mother
 Which nurtures all equally
 Should be regarded with affection and care



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- 13 Forsake wastage
 Pollute not the clean, clear nature
 Of the four elements
 And destroy the well being of people
 But absorb yourself in actions
 That are beneficial to all
- 14 Under a tree was the great Sage Buddha born
 Under a tree, he overcame passion
 And attained enlightenment
 Under two trees did he pass in Nirvana
 Verily, the Buddha held the tree in great esteem
- 15 Here, where Mañjuśri's emanation

 Lama Tson Khapa's body bloomed forth

 Is marked by a sandal tree

 Bearing a hundred thousand images of the Buddha

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- 16 Is it not well known

 That some transcendental deities

 Eminent local deities and spirits

 Make their abode in trees?
- 17 Flourishing trees clean the wind
 Help us breathe the sustaining air of life
 They please the eye and soothe the mind
 Their shade makes a welcome resting place
- 18 In Vinaya, the Buddha taught monks
 To care for tender trees
 From this, we learn the virtue
 Of planting, of nurturing trees



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- 22 In times of yore
 Our forbears ate the fruits of trees
 Wore their leaves
 Discovered fire by the attrition of wood
 Took refuge amidst the foliage of trees
 When they encountered danger
- 23 Even in this age of science
 of technology
 Trees provide us shelter
 The chairs we sit in
 The beds we lie on
 When the heart is ablaze
 With the fire of anger
 Fueled by wrangling
 Trees bring refreshing, welcome coolness
- 24 In the tree lie the roots
 Of all life on earth
 When it vanishes
 The land exemplified by the name
 of the Jambu tree
 Will remain no more
 Than a dreary, desolate desert





- ાટ્ટેળ.વડુ.મ્રિંજ્ય.જી.વર્ષ્ટ્ય.ર્જેચ.જે.વર્ષ્ય.જીય. મ્યૂંન.જ્યન્ય.વજ્ય.વડ્ય.વડુંય.જીંટે.ત.સૂનેશ વિનેઇ.ત્યદ.બૈસ.જ્ય.ક્ષ્યત્ય.ળ.તૂર્ટ.સ.તુંથી માંહયે.ત્યદ.સૂંન.ળશ્ચ.વેકુશ.વડું.રેદ્યા.તું.યું!
- |स्टर्अ.त.पु.सूंचे.चु.सैंट.सूैंच.पीचेश्वचट.वैंट.| |भ्यूष्य.भुट.स्वेचश्वच्य.वेण.३भ.केट.टेंट.प्यूं.तूं। |ऱु.के.पींट.के.खर.पात्र.के.कूंभ.सूचेश| |क्रूब्य.र्ह्य.चेटश.वर्य.व्हे.कुंग.स्वाया

- 25 Nothing is dearer to the living than life Recognising this, in the Vinaya rules The Buddha lays down prohibitions Like the use of water with living creatures
- 26 In the remoteness of the Himalayas
 In the days of yore, the land of Tibet
 Observed a ban on hunting, on fishing
 And, during designated periods, even construction
 These traditions are noble
 For they preserve and cherish
 The lives of bumble, helpless, defenceless creatures
- 27 Playing with the lives of other beings without sensitivity or hesitation

 As in the act of hunting or fishing for sport Is an act of heedless, needless violence

 A violation of the solmn rights

 Of all living beings



- 28 Being attentive to the nature
 Of interdependence of all creatures
 Both animate and inanimate
 One should never slacken in one's efforts
 To preserve and conserve nature's energy
- 29 On a certain day, month and year
 One should observe the ceremony
 Of tree planting
 Thus, one fulfils one's responsibilities
 Serves one's fellow beings
 Which not only brings one happiness
 But benefits all
- 30 May the force of observing that which is right
 And abstinence from wrong practices and evil deeds
 Nourish and augment the prosperity of the world
 May it invigorate living beings and help them blossom
 May sylvan joy and pristine happiness
 Ever increase, ever spread and encompass all that is



डेबायावदे दे पर स्रविष्टि र रट वह्या तीट पर दुव $\vec{n}_{0,1}\vec{n}_{1}\vec{n}_{2}\cdot \vec{n}_{2}\cdot \vec{n}_{2}\vec{n}_{2}\cdot \vec{n}_{2}\cdot \vec{n}_{3}\cdot \vec{n}_{3}\cdot \vec{n}_{2}\cdot \vec{n}_{2}\cdot \vec{n}_{3}\cdot \vec{n}_{2}\cdot \vec{n}_{3}\cdot \vec{n}_{3$ ब्रुन्दिन मुन्दिन मुन्दिन स्थाप नियम् स्थाप मुन्दिन स्थाप स्था चभ्रण.त.र्य.वष्ट्र.र्वट.बुर्ग.क्षेष्ट.बुर्ट.क्रियःज्ञात्र.वर्ज्ञर्यत्र्रीयः मुक्ति, मुक्ति, प्रास्तिका लयः क्षियः प्रहीत्रा प्रसीतः मुक्ति । ८से०१-५८मूँ प्रवेद प्रदा र्दे ५५.५ र्सू मृष्ट्र गुद्र मुक्त प्रवेश मुक्ते दि प्र. लेब. वटु. क्षेत्रका. क्षे. बच्चा क्षेत्रका. क्षेत्वा. क्षेत्रवा. कष्टे व पत्तेत्र य द्वा धुम्राम् देम द्वा देश देश व्य दि । व य देव मु । वेद र द्वा मु । वेद र देश वेद । व य देव । वेद र देश वेद र वेद । विद र वेद पत्तेष. पर्वेद. विश्व अर्थेष. येषा. ये. विष्य प्राप्त अर्थ. विष्य प्राप्त अर्थ. विष्य $\widehat{a}_{C,C}(\nabla_{\mathfrak{A}},\operatorname{Lay}_{A},\Delta_{\mathcal{L}},\operatorname{Sp}_{A},\widehat{a}_{\mathcal{L}},\operatorname{Sp}_{A},\nabla_{\mathcal{L}},\operatorname{Lay}_{A},\operatorname{Sp}_{A},\operatorname{Lay}_{A},\operatorname{Sp}_{A},\operatorname$ 5.4x.して、当と当るが、近く、身、なな、など、過じ、近に利、因の、方、して、 ત્રું તા. તર્ુ. ક્ર્યા. ક્રીં. વે. જ્રદા અત્રાપ્તર્વા ત્રીયા. ત્રીય ण्चेष.प्रतित्र.ध्यका.पर्डूष.षु.पश्चेर.भा.वीर.षु.५भा.वीका.कूँर.पर्वेर.



