

# Sanskrit Lesson

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## Amitabha Sutra

सकृत्य कुलपुत्रेण वा कुलदुहित्रा  
वा तत्र बुद्धक्षेत्रे चित्तप्रणिधानं  
कर्तव्यं ॥१०॥ SATKṚTYA KULAPUTREṆA

VĀ KULADUHIRĀ VĀ TATRA BUDDHAKṢETRE  
CITTAPRAṆIDHĀNAM KARTAVYAM ॥ 10 ॥

"...(that) a vow for that Buddhaland  
should be earnestly made by a good  
man or a good woman."

Śākyamuni Buddha is concluding the section on the reason why living beings should make the vow to be reborn in the Buddhaland of Amitābha Buddha that began in issue #131, and this issue concludes the final summarizing statement that follows the reasons. That statement, which was started in issue #139 with "Therefore, then, Śāriputra, perceiving this benefit I speak thus," here gives the indirect statement describing what the Buddha means by "thus"—namely that *satkṛtya* "earnestly" (adverb from the gerund; literally "having done truly," & generally used to mean "having treated with respect," hence "devotedly, zealously," etc.) *cittapraṇidhānam* "a vow," nominative singular neuter subject of the passive verb construction with the neuter singular nominative form of the gerundive from root  $\sqrt{kr}$ - : *kartavyam* "should be made". Both words were discussed in issue #131, as was the phrase *tatra buddhakṣetre* "for that Buddhaland."

As before, those who should make the vow, the agents in grammatical terms, are expressed in the instrumental case, here *kulaputrena* "by a good man" *vā* "or" *kuladuhitrā* "(by a) good woman." The exact meaning of the words was discussed in issue #134, as was the use of the correlatives *vā...vā*.

*citta* "mind/heart" is the same word that is used in the expression meaning to bring for the Bodhi mind or heart, the resolve for Bodhi: *bodhicitta*, and so *citta* is virtually the equivalent of *praṇidhāna* "vow."

This concludes the tenth section of the Sutra which tells living beings about the good reasons for reciting the name of Amita Buddha which are the good results culminating in the certitude of being led by Amita Buddha to the Land of Happiness, of Ultimate Bliss.

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