

Amitabha Sutra

Sanskrit Lesson

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प्रतीयथ यूयमिदमचिन्त्यगु-
णपरिकीर्तनं सर्वबुद्धपरिग्रहं
नाम धर्मपर्यायं ॥११॥

*prattiyatha yūyam-idam-acintyaguna-
parikīrtanam sarvabuddhaparigraham
nāma dharmaparyāyam (11)*

"All of you, believe and accept this discourse on Dharma which is called one that is praised for its inconceivable qualities and receives the protection of all Buddhas."

In this lesson, we have the words spoken by the Buddhas of the Eastern direction with their vast, longue tongue--the *nirvedhanam* or "penetration" which they *kurvanti* "make"--as discussed in the previous lesson. What they say is: *prattiyatha yūyam* "Believe and accept, all of you." *prattiyatha* is the main verb in the sentence, and it is in the imperative mode. That mode is indicated by the imperative ending which is, in the second person plural (called for because the Buddhas are speaking to all living beings), the suffix *-tha*. It is added directly to the stem of the verb, in this case *prattiya-*, which is composed of the prefix *prati-* plus the root *√i-*. That combination of prefix and verbal root gives a verb that means either "believe" or "accept," and contains the idea of trusting in and being resolved upon as well. *yūyam* here is the personal pronoun "you," used in the vocative case of direct address, and it is second person plural as is the imperative verb.

idam means "this," and it is the accusative singular masculine of the demonstrative adjective, and agrees with the direct object of the verb: *dharmaparyāyam* "discourse on Dharma," also accusative singular masculine as are the two words that describe it: *acintya-guna-parikīrtanam* "praised as having inconceivable qualities," and *sarva-buddha-parigraham* "having assistance from all Buddhas." *nāma*, as before, means "by name." In other words, this Sutra or discourse on Dharma is one that is praised (*parikīrta*) for its qualities (*guna*) that are inconceivable (*acintya*), and it is known as a Sutra that receives the assistance and protection (*parigraha*) from all (*sarva*) Buddhas.

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