



# The Land of Bodhicitta

A POEM

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By Geshe Tenzin Losel

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On our sibling voyagers of Venus and Mars,  
Two glimmers aglow in our race round the sun,  
But atmosphere boiling, else leaked out to space,  
The sweet or salt waters of life no more run.

From wave-weaving waters, encrustings of earth,  
From red-rousing fire, outgassings of air,  
This indigo-emerald, life-coloured world,  
A base fit to flourish, to bring forth and bear.

Through tribolyte, crinoid, stromatolite mats,  
Cooksonia, cycad and ammonites whorled,  
Neanderthal, quagga and mammoths great-tusked,  
As one tendril shrivelled, yet others unfurled.

With four billion years flown of life drinking deep  
This goblet of riches, a newfangled kind—  
Of homo and femina sapientes—  
A base where might flourish the full play of mind.

To whom Shākya's son came with black begging bowl.  
We welcomed him in and we offered him rice,  
Beneath our broad shade tree, beside our mud hut,  
Blessed in that rare instant, we knelt for advice.

We'll be brave for Buddhahood, look not for less.  
We tuned ear and tongue, lifted speech into song,  
We tamed the wild aurochs, we tamed the wild grains,  
Tame we our wild minds now, life's moment's not long.

The vows bodhisattvas teach we take once more,  
To lead wand'ring mothers to freedom the aim.  
But hampered our hopes... for our comfort's in fire;  
Though tipping points tip now, our pact is with flame.

The chances earth gave us to take birth like this!  
The vows Buddha gave us, our minds with his linked!

But fortunes revolve till just imprints remain  
Ephem'ral, inconstant, illusory—extinct?

Though feet will soon fail on this earth where they've roamed,  
This world or elsewhere, mind unfailing rove on  
Till deep deeds of kindness its wisdom release  
And bright be the light of a Bliss-Love-Gone-One!

No pure land, this haven where teachings touched hearts,  
But mother of mothers how precious you've been!  
Jade green, amber gold, sapphire blue, opal white,  
Cloud *katags* we offer, all-gen'rous jewel-queen.

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