

Notes on the Mañjuśrī mantra:

ॐ अ रा प चा न धि ॥

oṃ a ra pa ca na dhīḥ

The Perfection of Wisdom (Pañcaviṃśatisāhasrikā Prajñāpāramita Sutra) in 25,000 lines, which has been translated as *The Large Sutra on Perfect Wisdom* sets out the following meanings for the five middle syllables:

- A** is a door to the insight that all dharmas are unproduced from the very beginning (ādyā-anutpannatvād);
- RA** is a door to the insight that all dharmas are without dirt (rajas);
- PA** is a door to the insight that all dharmas have been expounded in the ultimate sense (paramārtha);
- CA** is a door to the insight that the decrease (cyavana) or rebirth of any dharma cannot be apprehended, because all dharmas do not decrease, nor are they reborn;
- NA** is a door to the insight that the *names* [i.e. nāma] of all dharmas have vanished; the essential nature behind names cannot be gained or lost.

