

**THE EIGHT PRECEPTS VOW**  
**FOR OBSERVANCE ON VESAK, TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2008**

**REFUGE**     *(Recite three times)*

I take refuge in the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Supreme Assembly until I reach enlightenment. In order to accomplish the purpose of myself and others I shall generate bodhicitta. All Buddhas of the ten directions! Please listen to me: In order to attain enlightenment, from now on I shall generate bodhicitta.

**PURIFYING THE PLACE**

May all the realms where sentient beings exist be pure and devoid of coarse objects. May they be as smooth and as flexible as the nature of lapis and the palm of one's hand.

**MULTIPLYING THE OFFERINGS**

May the entire realm of space be filled with the offerings of gods and men, those that are actually offered and those that are imagined, like the supreme clouds of offerings made by Samantabhadra.

**THE OFFERING-CLOUD MANTRA**

*(Recite three times)*

**OM NAMO BHAGAVATE / VAJRA SARVA  
PRAMARDINE TATHAGATAYA /  
ARHATE SAMYAKSAM BUDDHAYA /  
TAYATA OM VAJRA VAJRA / MAHA VAJRA /  
MAHA TEJA VAJRA / MAHA VIDYA VAJRA /  
MAHA BODHICITTA VAJRA /  
MAHA BODHI MANDO PASAM DRAMANA  
VAJRA / SARVA KARMA AHWARANA BISHO  
DHANA VAJRA SVAHA**

**BLESSING THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE OFFERINGS**

By the power of the truth of the Triple Gem,  
The blessings of the Buddhas and bodhisattvas,  
The spiritual energy of the two vast collections,  
And the pure and inconceivable Dharmadhatu,  
May these offerings become suchness.

**INVOCATION**

Holy Buddha, who has complete control and all realizations, you are the savior of each and every sentient being, the destroyer of evil groups with only

your everlasting great love, which fully sees each and every existence. You and your surrounding attendants! Please be at this place.

**SEVEN-LIMB PRAYER:** *After the invocation, visualize that your infinitely kind root guru Avalokiteshvara, surrounded by the Buddhas and bodhisattvas of the ten directions, actually appears in space before you. Then recite the seven-limb prayer:*

Respectfully, I prostrate to Guru Avalokiteshvara with body, speech, and mind.  
I make all offerings, without exception, both actual and imagined.  
I confess every sin collected within cyclic existence since beginningless time.  
I rejoice in the virtuous actions of all ordinary and noble beings.  
Please Buddha, remain as our guide, and turn the Wheel of Dharma until samsara ends.  
Through the merit created by myself and others, may the two bodhicittas ripen and may I attain buddhahood for the sake of all sentient beings.

**PROSTRATION AND MANDALA OFFERING:**

*Offer a mandala in order to receive the ordination:*

By the virtue of offering to you, the assembly of Buddhas visualized before me, this mandala built on a base resplendent with flowers, saffron water and incense, and adorned with Mount Meru, the four continents, the sun and the moon, may all sentient beings share in its good effects.

Please enjoy well and bless me and all sentient beings to be released from the three poisonous minds, for I am offering without the slightest hesitation or attachment my body, friends, enemies and strangers, and all possessions that are the object of my greed, ignorance, and hatred.

*Make three prostrations, reciting this mantra with each one:*

**OM NAMO MANJUSHRI YE /  
NAMO SU SHRI YE /  
NAMO UTTAMA SHRI YE SVAHA**

**TAKING THE PRECEPTS:** *Having made three prostrations, kneel on your right knee with your hands together in prostration and your head and shoulders bowed, visualize Guru Avalokiteshvara before you, generate the motivation for taking the precepts, and repeat three times:*

All Buddhas and bodhisattvas dwelling in the ten directions, please pay attention to me! Just as the tathagatas of the past, the foe destroyers, the purified and developed Buddhas, like the wise horse, the great elephant, did what had to be done, accomplished the work, left the burden, and afterwards achieved their own work, their always-joining aggregates completely extinct, of perfect speech, of well-liberated Holy Mind and with well-liberated wisdom, all, for the sake of all sentient beings, in order to benefit them, in order to liberate them, in order to eliminate famine, in order to eliminate sickness, in order that the thirty-seven dharmas of enlightenment be perfected, and in order to definitely actualize the no-higher result, pure, completed enlightenment, have taken the Restoring and Purifying Vows, so do I, [ say your name ], from sunrise on Tuesday until sunrise on Wednesday, for the sake of all sentient beings, in order to benefit them, in order to liberate them, in order to eliminate famine, in order to eliminate sickness, in order that the thirty-seven dharmas of enlightenment be perfected, and in order to definitely actualize the no-higher result, pure, completed enlightenment, take the Restoring and Purifying Vows.

*On completing the third recitation, think that you have received the vows in your continuum and rejoice. Then regenerate the thought of bodhicitta, the altruistic aspiration to attain enlightenment for the sake of all sentient beings by thinking:*

Just as the foe destroyers of the past have abandoned all misconduct of body, speech, and mind, such as taking the lives of others, so shall I, for the sake of all beings, abandon for one day these wrong actions and devote myself to the pure practice of the training.

## **THE COMMITMENT PRAYER TO KEEP THE PRECEPTS**

From now on I shall not kill, steal others' possessions, engage in sexual activity, or lie. I shall avoid intoxicants, from which many mistakes arise. I shall not sit on large, high or expensive beds. I shall not eat food at the wrong times. I shall avoid singing, dancing, and playing music, and I shall not wear perfumes, garlands or ornaments. Just as arhants have avoided wrong actions such as taking the lives of others, so shall I avoid wrong actions such as taking the lives of others. May I quickly attain enlightenment, and may the living beings who are experiencing the various sufferings be released from the ocean of cyclic existence.

## **THE MANTRA OF PURE MORALITY**

*(Recite twenty-one times)*

**OM AHMOGA SHILA / SAMBARA /  
BHARA BHARA / MAHA SHUDDA /  
SATO PADMA BI BHUKITE /  
BHUDZE DHARA DHARA / SAMANTA /  
AVALOKITE / HUNG PHAT SVAHA**

## **PRAYER TO KEEP ONE'S MORALITY PURE**

May I complete the perfection of moral conduct by keeping the law of moral conduct purely and untainted by pride.

## **PROSTRATION**

*Make three prostrations*

## **DEDICATION PRAYERS**

May the perfect bodhi mind  
Not yet born arise and grow.  
May that born have no decline,  
But increase for evermore.

Because of the merits of taking the ordination and keeping the precepts, may I and all sentient beings achieve the two enlightened Holy Bodies created by the two vast accumulations of merit and transcendental wisdom.