

Songs for Ceremony for the Deceased

Incense Offering

*In gratitude, we offer this incense
throughout space and time
to all Buddhas and bodhisattvas.
May it be fragrant as Earth herself,
reflecting careful efforts,
wholehearted awareness,
and the fruit of understanding, slowly ripening.
May we and all beings be companions
of Buddhas and bodhisattvas.
May we awaken from forgetfulness
and realize our true home.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtBYW1sEKFs>

Opening Verse

*The Dharma is deep and lovely.
We now have a
chance to see, study,
and practice it. We
vow to realize its true
meaning.
[bell]*

Chanting from the Heart, vol II: p. 285

The Heart of Perfect Understanding

Avalokiteshvara

*while practicing deeply with
the Insight that Brings Us to the Other Shore,
suddenly discovered that
all of the five Skandhas are equally empty,
and with this realization
he overcame all Ill-being.*

*“Listen Sariputra,
this Body itself is Emptiness
and Emptiness itself is this Body.
This Body is not other than Emptiness
and Emptiness is not other than this Body.
The same is true of Feelings,
Perceptions, Mental Formations,
and Consciousness.*

*“Listen Sariputra,
all phenomena bear the mark of Emptiness:
their true nature is the nature of
no Birth no Death,
no Being no Non-being,
no Defilement no Purity,
no Increasing no Decreasing.*

*“That is why in Emptiness,
Body, Feelings, Perceptions,
Mental Formations and Consciousness
are not separate self entities.*

*“The Eighteen Realms of Phenomena
which are the six Sense Organs,
the six Sense Objects,
and the six Consciousnesses
are also not separate self entities.*

*“The Twelve Links of Interdependent Arising
and their Extinction
are also not separate self entities.*

*“Ill-being, the Causes of Ill-being,
the End of Ill-being, the Path,
insight and attainment,
are also not separate self entities.*

*“Whoever can see this
no longer needs anything to attain.*

*“Bodhisattvas who practice
the Insight that Brings Us to the Other Shore
see no more obstacles in their mind,
and because there
are no more obstacles in their mind,
they can overcome all fear,
destroy all wrong perceptions
and realize Perfect Nirvana.*

*“All Buddhas in the past, present and future
by practicing
the Insight that Brings Us to the Other Shore
are all capable of attaining
Authentic and Perfect Enlightenment.*

*“Therefore Sariputra,
it should be known that
the Insight that Brings Us to the Other Shore
is a Great Mantra,
the most illuminating mantra,
the highest mantra,
a mantra beyond compare,
the True Wisdom that has the power
to put an end to all kinds of suffering.*

*“Therefore let us proclaim
a mantra to praise
the Insight that Brings Us to the Other Shore:*

*Gate, gate, pāragate, pārasaṃgate, bodhi svāhā,
Gate, gate, pāragate, pārasaṃgate, bodhi svāhā,
Gate, gate, pāragate, pārasaṃgate, bodhi svāhā!”*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRwA9pZstJY>

Chanting from the Heart Vol II, p. 286

Touching the Earth

*Offering light in the Ten Directions,
the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha, to whom we bow in
gratitude.*

[bell]

*Teaching and living the way of awareness in the very midst of
suffering and confusion,
Shakyamuni Buddha, the Fully Enlightened One, to whom we bow in
gratitude.*

[bell]

*Cutting through ignorance, awakening our hearts and our minds,
Manjushri, the Bodhisattva of Great Understanding, to whom we bow
in gratitude. [bell]*

*Working mindfully, working joyfully for the sake of all beings,
Samantabhadra, the Bodhisattva of Great Action,
to whom we bow in gratitude. [bell]*

*Seed of awakening and loving kindness in children and all beings,
Maitreya, the Buddha to-be-born, to whom we bow in gratitude. [bell]*

*Seeing the Buddha in everyone,
Sadaparibhuta, the Bodhisattva of Constant Respect, to whom we bow in
gratitude.*

[bell]

*Showing the way fearlessly and compassionately, the stream of all our
Ancestral Teachers,
to whom we bow in gratitude. [bell, bell]*

Chanting from the Heart, Vol II, p. 282

Refuge Chant

Brenda - *Incense perfumes the atmosphere. A lotus blooms and the Buddha appears. The world of suffering and discrimination is filled with the light of the rising sun. As the dust of fear and anxiety settles, with open heart, one-pointed mind, I turn to the Three Jewels. [bell]*

Choir

The Fully Enlightened One, beautifully seated, peaceful and smiling, a living source of understanding and compassion, to the Buddha I go for refuge. [bell]

The path of mindful living, leading to healing, joy, and enlightenment, the way of peace, to the Dharma I go for refuge. [bell]

The loving and supportive community of practice, realizing harmony, awareness, and liberation, to the Sangha I go for refuge. [bell]

I am aware that the Three Gems are within my heart. I vow to realize them, practicing mindful breathing and smiling, looking deeply into things. I vow to understand living beings and their suffering, to cultivate compassion and loving kindness, to practice joy and equanimity. [bell]

I vow to offer joy to one person in the morning, to help relieve the grief of one person in the afternoon, living simply and sanely with few possessions, keeping my body healthy. I vow to let go of all worries and anxiety in order to be light and free. [bell]

I am aware that I owe so much

*to my parents, teachers, friends, and all beings.
I vow to be worthy of their trust, to practice wholeheartedly so that
understanding and compassion will flower,
helping living beings be free from their suffering.*

*May the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha support my efforts. [bell,
bell]*

Chanting from the Heart, Vol II, p. 312

https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video:__ylt=Awr9.QWPkoFnO_EVXur7w8QF;_ylu=c2VjaA3NIYXJjaAR2dGlkAw--;_ylc=X1MDOTY3ODEzMDcEX3IDMgRmcgNtY2FmZWUEZnlyA3A6cyx2OnYsbTpzYixyZ246dG9wBGdwcmlkA19HRnYzLnQyUVNtMIN4dWpYZHA1MkEEbl9yc2x0AzAEbl9zdWdnAzAEb3JpZ2luA3ZpZGVvLnNIYXJjaC55YWhvby5jb20EcG9zAzAECkZFdHIDBHBxc3RybAMwBHFzdHJsAzMzBHF1ZXJ5A1lvdXR1YmUIMjByZWZ1Z2UIMjBjaGFudCUyMHBsdW0IMjB2aWxsYWdlBHRfc3RtcAMxNzM2NTQ1ODY2?p=Youtube+refuge+chant+plum+village&ei=UTF-8&fr2=p%3As%2Cv%3Av%2Cm%3Asb%2Crqn%3Aatop&fr=mcafee&type=E210US1451G0#id=1&vid=6f2085e114769b53e272e0df2ac38127&action=view

Namo Chant

Namo 'avalokiteshvara (Repeat for about 3 minutes)

Chanting from the Heart, Vol II, p. 305

<https://plumvillage.org/library/chants/namo-avalokiteshvaraya>

Merit Chant

May the merits of this practice.

May the merits of this practice.

Benefit all beings

Benefit all beings

And, bring peace.

And, bring peace.

[Bell, bell, bell]