

## *Appendices*

A INVOCATIONS & BLESSINGS

B GUANYIN ORACLES

## Appendix A : Invocations & Blessings

### BASIC INVOCATION

#### Adaptable For Different Ceremonies, Seasons, & Locations

Great Mystery, mother of all things  
Earth and water, wind and flame  
All buddhas throughout space and time  
Shining Manjushri  
Guanyin in your mercy  
Bodhi tree and morning star  
All the nations who leap and crawl, swim and fly  
Moonlight and rain light and darkest night  
All grandmothers, grandfathers  
All the ancestors of our Way in the still halls,  
in the fragrant teashops  
Attend us now, bless this ceremony  
For all our relations  
The humans are ...  
    ... taking refuge  
    ... getting married  
    ... welcoming a baby, etc.  
this morning, tonight, etc.

### SAMPLE BLESSINGS FOR A NEW MEDITATION HALL

1 /  
May the spirits of this place —  
of mountain and pine,  
cloud and prairie —  
May the ancestors of meditation,  
May all the bodhisattvas and all the grandparents  
watch over you  
smile on you  
and may you forever take joy in each other's joy

2 /  
Rare and precious, to come together as companions of the Way ...  
Nothing more important than the kindness for others  
that arises from knowing our own hearts

May the spirit of your sangha be one of welcoming, encouragement, and generosity  
May you be blessed  
May you grow old together on the greatest adventure of all

Note : In Japanese tradition, during the ceremony inaugurating a new meditation hall a Daruma (Bodhidharma) doll with blank eyes sits on the altar. At some point the holder of the ceremony fills in the pupils with black ink, vivifying the statue (and therefore the hall). What would our North American equivalent be?

### BLESSINGS FOR STATUES

#### *for a Buddha Statue*

The Tathagata as a Rain Cloud

I refresh this entire world  
Like a cloud which releases its rain evenly for all ...

When I rain down the rain of the Dharma,  
All this world is well-refreshed.  
Each one according to their power to take heart  
This well-preached Dharma, one in taste.

As when it rains the shrubs and grasses,  
The bushes and the smaller plants,  
The trees and also the great woods  
Are all made splendid in the ten regions;

So the Dharma always exists for the good of the world,  
And it refreshes the entire world.  
And then, refreshed, just like the plants,  
The world will burst forth into blossoms.

*from the Saddharmapundarika Sutra*

#### *for a Guanyin Statue*

So vast and deep the vows she made  
To liberate afflicted beings,  
To hear her name or see her form  
Or fervently recite her name  
Delivers beings from every woe.

Were you closed in prison walls,  
Your wrists and ankles chained,  
One thought of Guanyin's saving power

Would instantly procure release.

Had you taken some fatal substance  
And lay at the door of death,  
One thought of Guanyin's saving power  
Would nullify its poison.

To those enmeshed in litigation  
Or trembling in the midst of hosts  
There comes the thought of Guanyin's power,  
Whereat all hatred is dispersed.

Were you beset by raksha-fiends  
Or noxious dragons, gibbering demons,  
One thought of Guanyin's saving power  
And none would dare offend you.

If savage beasts press all around  
With fearful fangs, ferocious claws,  
One thought of Guanyin's saving power  
Would send them helter-skelter.

Should thunder roll and lightning flash,  
Or fearsome rains come hissing down,  
One thought of Guanyin's saving power  
Would straightway lull the storm.

In every corner of the world  
She manifests her countless forms.  
No matter what evils gather,  
What hell-spawned demons, savage beasts,  
What ills of birth, age, sickness, death,  
Guanyin will one by one destroy them.

Your mercy is a shield from danger,  
Your compassion forms a wondrous cloud  
Which, raining down the Dharma-nectar,  
Extinguishes the flames of woe.

To the perfection of her merits,  
To the compassion of her glance,  
To the infinitude of her blessings,  
Worshipping, we bow our heads!

*from the Lotus Sutra*

### TRADITIONAL CIRCUMAMBULATION CHANTS

Religious places like shrines and stupas, sacred landscapes like mountains and lakes, and venerable people of all sorts can all be circumambulated ... The traditional direction is clockwise, the traditional number of times is in multiples of three

1 /

Om!

Muni muni

Maha muni

Shakya muni

Svaha!

2 /

Om mani padme hum

### BLESSING FOR A NEW HOME

May the spirits of this place  
May the ancestors of meditation  
May all the bodhisattvas and all the grandparents  
watch over you  
smile on you  
bless your new home  
may wisdom go to every corner of this house  
and may you forever take joy in each other's joy

### INVOCATION & BLESSING FOR A NEW TEACHER

Great Mystery, mother of all things  
The ancient seven buddhas  
and the buddhas yet to be born  
Earth and water, wind and flame  
Bodhi tree and morning star  
All the nations who leap and crawl, swim and fly  
All grandmothers, grandfathers  
All the ancestors of our Way in the still halls,  
in the fragrant teashops  
Great Ancestor Horse and Spirit Shining Pang  
The poets on every shore  
Attend us now, bless this ceremony  
The humans are making a teacher tonight