

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