

Seven Branch Prayer

With complete faith I bow
To Buddha Shakyamuni and
All the victorious ones and their followers
Abiding in the ten directions and three times.

I offer flowers, incense, light,
Perfume, food, music, and many other things,
Both in substance and in my imagination.
I ask the noble gathering to accept them.

I confess all evil actions that i have done
In the grip of emotional reactions,
From time without beginning until now:
The five that ripen immediately,
The ten non-virtuous acts, and others.

I rejoice in the goodness of all the virtue
Listeners, independent buddhas,
Bodhisattvas, and ordinary people
Gather throughout the past, present, and future.

I pray for the Dharma Wheel to be turned,
The teachings of the universal and individual paths,
In ways suitable for the different aptitudes
And motivations present in sentient beings.

I ask the buddhas not to pass into nirvana,
But, with great compassion and until samsara is completely empty,
To look after all sentient beings
Who are drowning in this ocean of suffering.

May whatever goodness I have generated
Become a seed for the awakening of all beings.
Without delay, may I become
A wonderful leader for sentient beings.

Refuge and Bodhicitta

Until enlightenment, I go for refuge in the
Buddha, the Dharma, and the Supreme Sangha.
By the merit of generosity and other virtues,
May I attain buddhahood for the benefit of beings.

Four Immeasurables

May all sentient beings have happiness
and the causes of happiness.
May we be free of suffering and the causes of suffering.
May we never be separated from the true happiness
which is free from suffering.
May we abide in great equanimity, free from the partiality
of attachment and aversion.

Dedication Prayers

By this virtue, may I quickly realize mahamudra
And bring every sentient being,
without exception, to that state.

Bodhicitta is precious.
May it arise in whom it has not arisen.
Once arisen, may it not diminish,
But ever grow and flourish.

Soothing the Pain of Faith

Revulsion and determination form the foundation.
Supreme pure bodhicitta in its two aspects
Is the secret for never veering from the Mahayana path.
May bodhicitta arise, be stabilized, and grow in strength.

When the confusion of the eight concerns has been thrown over,
Ego-clinging completely severed, and genuine concern for others
thoroughly developed,
Whatever appears can be an aid on the path of awakening.
Bless me that mind training be complete.

With the direct understanding that what is ultimate
has no origin, cessation, or duration, is empty,
Yet what is present arises from dependence and coincidence
like an enchantment,
May I come to see everything and work naturally
for the welfare of limitless beings
As long as samsara exists.

*Refuge and dedication prayers translated by Lama Eric Triebelhorn.
Seven Branch Prayer translated by Ken McLeod, 2005. Soothing the Pain
of Faith verses by Jamgon Kongtrul translated by Ken McLeod, 1987.*

The Way of the Bodhisattva Practice and Study Group

Opening and Closing Prayers

