Buddha Puja

drawn from the Dhammapada

1. Praise

He is calm like the earth that endures

He is steady like a column that is firm

He is pure like a lake that is clear

He is free from samsara – the endless round of suffering.

In the light of his vision

He has found true freedom.

His thoughts are peace,

His words are peace,

And his work is peace.

2. Salutation

By what earthly path could you lead the Buddha astray,

He who can wander the pathless ways of the Infinite?

The Buddha, who is awake, whose victory cannot be reversed,

Is a being none can conquer.

One of true vision is not easy to find.

Freed from craving, hatred and delusion,

A Buddha is a guide to be treasured.

1st reading

Shakyamuni mantra + offerings

3. Going for Refuge

People in fear flee for refuge to mountains or forests,

To groves, sacred trees or shrines.

But these are not a safe refuge.

They are not a refuge that frees from sorrow.

One who goes for refuge to the Buddha,

To the Truth teachings, and to the community he taught,

They go indeed to a great refuge.

That is a safe refuge, a haven of wisdom and compassion.

Those who go to that refuge will eventually be free from sorrow.

Refuges and Precepts

4. Acknowledging Unskilfulness

Hold not a fault of little matter

Thinking – ‘this is minor to me’.

The falling of drops of water will in time fill a water jar.

In the same way, foolish people become full of delusion,

Though they gather it little by little.

Focus not on the flaws of others,

Nor on their deeds and misdeeds.

Focus instead on what we ourselves regret,

What we have done, or not done.

Neither in the sky, nor deep in the ocean,

Nor in a mountain cave, nor any worldly place,

Can we avoid our unskilful actions.

5. Rejoicing

Oh, let us live in joy,

Kindly among those who blame.

Among those who hate, let us live in love,

Among those who fight, let us live in peace,

Among those who crave, let us live content,

Among those who slumber, let us live awake.

When we know the balm of solitude,

And experience the relief of silence,

Then we are free from fear and sorrow,

And feel the joy of the Dhamma.

It is a delight to see the noble and ethical;

Contact with them inspires and gladdens us.

6. Awake and Watchful

The followers of Buddha Gotama

Are awake and ever watchful.

And ever by night and by day

They remember the Buddha, their teacher.

The followers of Buddha Gotama

Are awake and ever watchful.

And ever by night and by day

They find joy in deep contemplation.

2nd reading OR

Imasmim mantra:

*Imasmim sati, idam hoti*

*Imass uppada, idam uppajjati,*

*Imasmim asati, idam na hoti*

*Imassa nirodha, idam nirrujjhati*

This being, that becomes,

From the arising of this, that arises,

This not being, that does not become,

From the ceasing of this, that ceases.

7. Transference of benefit

As from a large garden of flowers

Many garlands and wreaths can be made,

So, by a human being in this life,

Much good can be achieved.

May any merit gained through Dhamma practice

Be shared equally among all beings.

The perfume of flowers goes not against the wind –

Not even the finest perfumes

Of sandalwood, of rose, or of jasmine.

But the perfume of virtue

Does travel against the wind,

And it can reach right to the ends of this world.

End with *Sabe satta sukhi hontu* mantra