

Seven-Fold Puja for Bhante Sangharakshita

1. Going for Refuge

We go for refuge with you, our teacher, as our guide.
From you we learnt to praise the Buddha's glory.
From you we learnt to tread the Buddha's Way –
The hacked path through the jungle,
The rainbow road to Truth.
Through you we made our friendships in the Sangha
And met together as disciples of the Way.

We go for refuge with you, our teacher, as our guide.
From you we learnt the significance of friendship.
From you the love of beauty and of art.
From you we learnt the Buddha's Eight-Fold Way.

2. Confession

When I consider my life
And what my life would be without a teacher –
the confusion and the pain,
the misery and heartache –
I pray that I may never be separated from you,
my precious teacher.

When I recollect my life
And all that I have gained
From being taught by you –
how fortunate I am, how blessed! –
I pray that I may never be separated from you,
my precious teacher.

For I have been foolish and ignorant,
Conceited and unkind –
Given to fantasies and lost in delusion,
Untrained in the Buddha's peaceful Way.

Even though I found a precious teacher,
Even though I walked the Path you showed,
Even though you lived and taught amongst us,
I stumble and still have everything to learn.

3. Asking Forgiveness

If I have harmed you in thought, word or deed
Please forgive me.
If I have been disloyal,
Ungrateful, arrogant or uncouth;
If I have misunderstood or misapplied your teaching;
If I have been unreceptive,
Hard-hearted or misconceived;
If I have been lazy or complacent
Worldly, petty or unkind
Please forgive me.

4. Giving Thanks

On this very day,
Here in this place,
I thank you, Urgyen Sangharakshita,
Bhante, revered teacher,
for your four most precious gifts:
A lotus flower.
A golden net.
A shepherd's round-dance
and a garden planted in the wilderness.
Here on this day,
In this place,
I dare accept them.

5. Rededication

Precious friend and teacher,
Guide to all the Buddhas,
Translator of the Dharma's Three-Fold Way,
Guardian of the Sangha,
Exemplar of clarity,
Model of kindness,
Teacher, guardian and friend
We thank you from the depth of our heart.
Holding nothing back,
We thank you again and yet again
for all that you have given.

From this moment until the day we die
May we Go for Refuge to the Triple Gem.
For now, more than ever, the world needs the Buddha's vision.
It needs the Buddha's Way,
It needs, so deeply needs, a Sangha of disciples.
Here on this day of grief and loss,
May we rededicate ourselves to the Three-Fold Way
With you, our teacher, as our guide.

6. Dedication

May we never be separated from you, our precious teacher,
in all our lives to come.
May we meet you again, in health and fortune on the way.
May we constantly bear you in mind
And hold you as our teacher above our head.
May we be always loyal, grateful, diligent and kind.
May we rejoice in your merits
And may we always study your words.
May we hold you in our heart as Bhante, precious teacher.
May we never be separated in this life
Or in our lives to come.

7. At the Moment of our Death

At the moment of our death may we bring to mind the Triple Gem.
May we hold our previous teacher, Bhante, in our heart.
May we beg forgiveness from anyone we've hurt.
May we rejoice in all that we've been given.
May we thank our friends and tread the Buddha's Way.
And may we be reborn among friends and teachers
with you, Urygen Sangharakshita, as our guide.