

The Bodhisattva Vow

To all the Buddhas dwelling in the three times and ten directions,
To the great Bodhisattvas on the ten levels,
To the great teachers, the Vajra Holders - pray listen to me:

Until I attain the essence of enlightenment
I take refuge in all the Buddhas;
In the holy Dharma and
In the Assembly of noble Bodhisattvas
(repeat three times)

**Just as the buddhas of the past
Aroused the bodhichitta aspiration
And gradually progressed through
The stages of a bodhisattva's training,
Likewise I shall arouse the aspiration to enlightenment
For the benefit of all beings.
And I shall undertake step by step
That training of a bodhisattva
(repeat three times)**

Having attained a fortunate human existence,
Now my life has borne fruit.
Today I am born into the family of the Buddhas,
Now I have become a child of the Buddhas.

Now, at all costs, I must act
In accord with that family,
I must not do anything that will defile
This noble and faultless race.

Today in the presence of all the protectors
I summon all beings as guests to the state of buddhahood
And, in the meanwhile, to worldly happiness!
May celestial beings, asuras and all others be joyful!

May beings never separate from the enlightened mind
And always engage in the activities of a Bodhisattva;
May they be cared for by the Buddhas
And give up the actions of Mara.

May the Bodhisattvas accomplish
All they have intended for the sake of beings;
Whatever the protectors have intended for them,
May sentient beings receive it.

May all sentient beings be happy,
May all the lower realms be emptied forever,
And may the Bodhisattvas on the ten levels
Have all their wishes fulfilled.

May the precious bodhichitta take birth
In those in whom it has not taken birth.
And where it has taken birth may it not decline,
But grow forever more and more.