

## Universal Transference of Merit

May this merit extend universally to all, so that we together with all beings realize the Buddha way.

## Four Vows

Beings are numberless; I vow to free them.  
Delusions are inexhaustible; I vow to end them.  
Dharma gates are boundless; I vow to enter them.  
The Buddha way is unsurpassable; I vow to realize it.

*Three full prostrations or standing bows*

September 11, 2001—September 11, 2011  
Remembrance and  
Memorial Service

Red Clay Sangha  
Atlanta, GA



## **Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures**

I take refuge in Buddha.  
May all beings  
embody the great way,  
resolving to awaken.

I take refuge in Dharma.  
May all beings  
deeply enter the sutras,  
wisdom like an ocean.

I take refuge in Sangha.  
May all beings support harmony in the community,  
free from hindrance.

### **Sutra-opening verse**

The unsurpassed, profound, and wondrous dharma  
is rarely met with, even in a hundred,  
thousand, million kalpas.  
Now we can see and hear it, accept and maintain it.  
May we unfold the meaning of the  
Tathagata's truth.

## **Memorial Prayer**

We respectfully dedicate the merits of chanting the  
The Lotus Flower Sutra in the presence of the  
Buddha, and the Three Treasures to the memory of  
all victims of terrorism and hatred for whom we  
observe this memorial service today. May their  
essence permeate throughout the ten directions.  
May the heart of our prayer permeate throughout  
the ten directions.

It is said in the The Lotus Flower Sutra, "Good men  
or women in the future who hear the Sutra of the  
Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma with  
faithful respect caused by their pure minds, and  
have no doubts, will not fall into hell, the region of  
hungry spirits, or the region of animals. They will  
be reborn before the Buddhas of the worlds of the  
ten directions. They will always hear this sutra at  
the places of their rebirth. Even when they are  
reborn among people or gods, they will be given  
wonderful pleasures. When they are reborn before  
the Buddhas, they will appear in lotus-flowers."  
May all sentient beings be blessed with these  
merits, and may we all together attain Buddhahood

*"Please proceed to the altar and offer incense"*

To those who see me aft-er a long time,  
I say, “It is dif-fi-cult to see a Bud-dha.”

I can do all this by the pow-er of my wis-dom.  
The light of my wis-dom knows no bound.  
The du-ra-tion of my life is in-num-er-a-ble kal-pas.  
I ob-tained this lon-ge-vi-ty by a-ges of prac-ti-ces.

All of you, wise men!  
Have no doubts a-bout this!  
Re-move your doubts, have no more!  
My words are true, not false.

I know who is prac-tic-ing the Way and who is not.  
There-fore, I ex-pound var-i-ous teach-ings  
To all liv-ing be-ings  
Ac-cord-ing to their ca-pa-ci-ties.

🔔 I am al-ways think-ing:  
“How shall I cause all liv-ing be-ings  
To en-ter in-to the un-sur-passed Way  
🔔 And quick-ly be-come Bud-dhas?”

## **Won-der-ful Dhar-ma Lo-tus Flow-er Su-tra The Du-ra-tion of the Life of the Ta-tha-ga-ta Chap-ter Six-teen**

It is man-y hun-dreds of thou-sands  
Of bil-lions of tril-lions  
Of a-sam-khyas of kal-pas  
Since I be-came the Bud-dha

🔔 For the past in-nu-mer-a-ble kal-pas  
I have al-ways been ex-pound-ing the Dhar-ma  
To man-y hun-dreds of mil-lions of liv-ing be-ings  
In or-der to lead them in-to the Way to Bud-dha-  
hood.

🔔 In or-der to save the de-lu-ded peo-ple,  
I skill-ful-ly show my nir-va-na to them.  
In re-al-i-ty I shall ne-ver pass a-way.  
I al-ways live here and ex-pound the Dhar-ma.

🔔 Al-though I al-ways live here  
With the de-lu-ded peo-ple,  
I dis-ap-pear from their eyes  
By my su-per-nat-u-ral pow-ers.

When they see me seem-ing-ly pass a-way,  
And make of-fer-ings to my sha-ri-ras,  
And a-dore me, ad-mi-re me,  
And be-come de-vout, up-right and gen-tle,  
And wish to see me

With all their hearts  
At the cost of their lives,  
I re-ap-pear on Vul-ture Peak  
With my San-gha,  
And say to them:  
“I al-ways live here.  
I shall ne-ver be ex-tinct.  
I show my ex-tinc-tion to you skill-ful-ly  
Al-though I ne-ver pass a-way.  
I al-so ex-pound the un-sur-passed Dhar-ma  
To the liv-ing be-ings of the o-ther worlds  
If they re-spect me, be-lieve me,  
And wish to see me.  
You have ne-ver heard this;  
There-fore, you thought that I pass a-way.”

I see the de-lud-ed peo-ple sink-ing  
In an o-cean of suf-fer-ing.  
There-fore, I dis-ap-pear from their eyes  
And cause them to ad-mi-re me.  
When they a-dore me,  
I ap-pear and ex-pound the Dhar-ma to them.

I can do all this by my su-per-nat-u-ral pow-ers.  
I live on Vul-ture Peak  
And al-so in the o-ther a-bodes  
For a-sam-khya kal-pas.

The de-lud-ed peo-ple think:  
“This world is in a great fi-re.  
The end of the kal-pa of de-struc-tion is com-ing.”  
In re-al-i-ty this world of mine is peace-ful.  
It is filled with gods and hu-mans.  
The gar-dens, for-ests, and state-ly build-ings  
Are a-dorned with var-i-ous trea-sures;  
The jew-eled trees have man-y flow-ers and fruits;  
The liv-ing be-ings are en-joy-ing them-selves;  
And the gods are beat-ing heav-en-ly drums,  
Mak-ing var-i-ous kinds of mu-sic,  
And rain-ing man-da-ra-va flow-ers on the great  
mul-ti-tude and me.

This pure world of mine is in-de-struc-ti-ble.  
But the de-lu-ded peo-ple think:  
“It is full of sor-row, fear, and o-ther suf-fer-ings.  
It will soon burn a-way.”

Be-cause of their evil kar-mas,  
These de-lu-ded peo-ple will not be a-ble  
To hear e-ven the names of the Three Trea-sures  
Dur-ing a-sam-khya kal-pas.

To those who have ac-cum-u-la-ted mer-its,  
And who are gen-tle and up-right,  
And who see me liv-ing here,  
Ex-pound-ing the Dhar-ma,  
I say:  
“The du-ra-tion of my life is im-mea-sur-a-ble.”