

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.

English translation by Ken McLeod, 2005.

The seven branches counteract specific kleshas: homage counteracts pride; offering counteracts greed; confession counteracts hate; rejoicing counteracts jealousy; requesting the turning of the Dharma Wheel counteracts ignorance; beseeching teachers to remain in the world and continue teaching counteracts wrong views such as a belief in permanence; dedication of merit (generating goodness) counteracts doubt.