

Taking of the Bodhisattva Vows
&
Asking for Forgiveness to Break All
Karmic Obstructions

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1. Making of special aspiration to walk the Bodhisattva way:

By the power of whatever blessings and wholesomeness that this nature of “mine” had cultivated from the distant past till now, **may it arise** the **causes and conditions** for this nature of mine to have the **following right Dharma understanding life after life** whenever it **choose to come or have to come** in the form of a Form and Mind:

- i. **Right view** with regards to:
 - (a) the **law of karma (karma niyāma)**;
 - (b) the **law of Dependent origination or 12 links (Citta niyāma)** and
 - (c) the **Four Noble Truths (Dhamma niyāma)**;
- ii. To understand the **2 aspects** of the 5 aggregates of Form and Mind **clearly** via the **direct seeing** to realize that they are all **condition arising entities, causal phenomena** hence **impermanent**; leading to **suffering; not me, non-self** and **empty**. That this so called **living being** (5 aggregates of Form and Mind) is just a **karmically conditioned** ‘vehicle and tool’ for me to come to this **existential** world to **develop** the **cultivation** and **experience** all of the **beauty and wonders of life**. So use it with **wisdom** to arise the right thoughts, right speeches and right actions to be a **blessing to all** and **not to be deluded** by it. To **constantly** recite with **understanding** the following **dharma profoundly**:

*Rūpam anniccam, rūpam anattā;
Vedanā annicca, vedanā anattā;
Saññā annicca, saññā anattā;
Saṅkhāra annicca, saṅkhāra anattā;
Viññāṇam anniccam, viññāṇam anattā.
Sabbe saṅkhāra annicca,
Sabbe saṅkhāra dukkha
Sabbe dhamma anattā.*

- iii. Having **developed the above right view** this nature of “mine” **vows** to **always** keep the following **3 sets of pure precepts** following the advice of all Samma Sambuddha:
 - a) To **avoid all evil** and to **understand clearly** what **constitute evil** (the 3evil roots of Greed, Hatred and Delusion);
 - b) To **cultivate all virtues** and **blessings** leading to the perfection of them all;
 - c) To **cultivate wisdom** to help **liberate** and **take across** all sentient beings.

2. Taking of the 4 basic vows

*'Just as all the previous Sugatas, the Buddhas generated the **Bodhi mind** of enlightenment and **accomplished all the stages** of the Bodhisattva training. So too will this nature of 'mine' for the sake of all beings, **generate the Bodhi mind** of enlightenment and accomplish **all the stages** of the Bodhisattva training so that the **seed of 'Bodhi'** can be **strongly planted** within my nature.'*

This **nature of mine further vows** with **utmost sincerity, faith** and **perseverance** to **walk to perfection** this **Bodhisattva way** via taking the following initial **4 basic vows** of a Bodhisattva:

- i. This nature of mine vows **to liberate the countless living beings** from samsara and take them all across to the other shore; 众生无边誓愿度
- ii. This nature of mine vows **to endure and sever all vexation/suffering**;
烦恼无尽誓愿断
- iii. This nature of mine vows **to cultivate and penetrate all dharma** to realize the perfection of all wisdom; 法门无量誓愿学
- iv. This nature of mine vows **to perfect the 10 pāramitā (or perfections)** to realize the unsurpassed Samma Sambuddhahood. 佛道无上誓愿成

3. Additional vows to break all karmic obstructions to bring about the way

- i. If by action, speech or thought, whether knowingly or unknowingly via ignorance, delusion and heedlessness, that this nature of 'mine' had **offended** or **done anything wrong** unto the **Triple Gems** (Buddha, Dharma and Saṅgha), this nature of 'mine' would like **to sincerely** ask for **forgiveness**.
- ii. Whomsoever from the distant past until now, whether knowingly or unknowingly that this nature of 'mine' had caused any **karmic negativity, misery, suffering** or **mislead**, this nature of 'mine' would like to **sincerely** ask for **forgiveness** from them all. May my **sincere request** for forgiveness be accepted by all so that all these **karmic obstructions** can be **amicably dissolved** or **watered down** or **lessened**; thereby enabling this nature of 'mine' to continue with its cultivation to realize the **true dharma** with ease.
- iii. This nature of 'mine' also vow to **repent** and **from** now onward vow **never to repeat** any of these karmic negativities (borne of Greed, Hatred and Delusion) by following the **advice** of the Buddha **to avoid all evil, do good** and **purify my mind** via **striving on with heedfulness** to keep the **5 precepts** and cultivate the **Buddha dharma diligently** so that it will **never violate** this law of karma again whenever it arise.

- iv. By the power of **whatever wholesomeness or merits** that this nature of 'mine' had cultivated since the distant past until now may it arise the **causes and conditions** for this nature of 'mine' to have the ability to overcome all other **karmic obstructions or obstacles amicably** so that this nature of 'mine' will be able to **gain back its life, life after life** to walk the path of dharma **to fulfill** and **realize** all its Bodhisattva vows.

4. Additional miscellaneous vows to enhance the cultivation

This nature of 'mine' **vow**:

- i. 'To be **successful** in **fulfilling** all my above vows soonest possible;
- ii. To cultivate **strong affinity** with all Buddha and Bodhisattvas and **to request** their nature's **blessing, protection** and **guidance** always;
- iii. To strengthen my **5 spiritual faculties of saddhā, viriya, sati, samādhi** and **paññā** until they become balas or powers, life after life so that all the above vows can be successfully fulfilled with ease;
- iv. To cultivate **extensively all virtues, blessings** and **merits** to **help support my cultivation** so that they **will shine forth to aid this nature of 'mine'** when needed in times of **trials, difficulties** and **tribulations** while walking the Bodhisattva way.