



A Prayer for the Buddha's Birthday

By Venerable Master Hsing Yun

Oh great, compassionate Buddha!
We are here to celebrate with sincerity and respect
Your birth into this world.
When all the flowers bloomed during the warmth of
spring,
Exotic flowers were contending in beauty and
fascination in the Lumbini garden;
Everyone in Kapilavatthu was rejoicing,
Gentle breezes spread the fragrance,
All birds sang in unison;
From that moment on,
There was promise in the human world,
From that moment on,
There was Dharma in the human world.

With one hand pointing to the sky
And the other pointing to the earth,
You declared the you were
The uniquely honored one in the world.
As you took seven steps,
Clusters of lotus flowers appeared,
And you used the pure and clean Dharma water
To wash away the stains of the earth.
Immediately,
Muddy mountain streams became crystal clear,
Burned-out torches were rekindled.
The heavens played wonderful music,
The earth displayed rare, auspicious signs;
All these portents welcomed your arrival to this
world.

Oh great, compassionate Buddha!
Because of your birth in this world,
Your forty-nine years of teaching the Dharma
Will hold sway for far more than three great kalpas.
The more-than-three-hundred gatherings in which
you taught the sutras
Will benefit more-than-countless sentient beings!

Oh great, compassionate Buddha!
It was you who broke the caste system,
You who preached the doctrine of dependent
origination and the equality of all beings,
You who opened all beings' minds to to Buddha's
wisdom and views,
You who awakened all sentient beings from
ignorance.

Oh great, compassionate Buddha!

In order to receive respectfully the joyous occasion
Of your birth to the world,
In some places, people decorate with lanterns and
colored hangings,
Full of joyful atmosphere;
In some places, people hold parades,
And the sounds of gongs and drums shake the sky;
Monasteries hold the ceremony of bathing
The image of the Buddha, as
Devotees and their families celebrate your birthday.
This is how your followers commemorate
Your gracious kindness!
This is how your followers remember
Your blessing and protection with gratitude!

Oh great, compassionate Buddha!
Please sympathize with the imperfections of our
virtues and merits;
We can only chant your great, sacred name
mindfully,
As though remembering our own kind mother.

Oh great, compassionate Buddha!
We kneel before you,
We pass our hands over your golden body,
We offer our sincere devotion, and
We pray and hope that your virtue brightens the
world.
May the Dharma lasts for ever.
Please allow our vision to to correspond with yours,
And clearly see and understand the suffering of all
beings;
Please allow our speech to correspond to yours,
And delight in saying wonderful and kind words;
Please allow our actions to correspond to yours,
By being willing to help our friends;
Please allow our thoughts to correspond to yours,
And concentrate on benefiting all beings.

Oh great, compassionate Buddha!
We offer our entire lives to expound and propagate
the Truths;
We offer our entire lives to liberate all sentient
beings.

Oh great, compassionate Buddha,
Please accept our sincere prayer!
Oh great, compassionate Buddha,
Please accept our sincere prayer!

Namo Shakyamuni Buddha.