

Sutra Copying Rite

Three Bows

With utmost sincerity,
I pay homage to the eternal Triple Gem,
throughout the ten directions of the Dharma realm.



Repentance

All the evil deeds I have committed in the past
Arose from beginningless greed, anger, and delusion,
Born from the body, speech, and mind,
I now confess them all.



Four Great Vows

Beings are numberless
I resolve to save them all.
Sufferings are endless, I resolve to overcome them all.
Dharmas are countless, I resolve to master them all.
The Buddha's Way is infinite, I resolve to accomplish it.



Sutra Chanting

All together the Lotus Sutra Ch.25 "Avalokiteshvara" or the Heart Sutra.
Alternatively a text chanted by a single person:
Sutra Copying Contemplation Text or The Imperial Lady Jotomonin's Prayer

Heart Sutra

MAHA PRAJNA PARAMITA HRDAYA SUTRA

Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattva doing deep prajna paramita, clearly saw
emptiness of all five conditions, thus completely relieving misfortune and pain.

O Shariputra, form is no other than emptiness, emptiness no other than
form; form is exactly emptiness, emptiness exactly form;

Sensation, conception, discrimination, awareness are likewise like this.

O Shariputra, all dharmas are forms of emptiness. Not born, not destroyed,
not stained, not pure, without loss, without gain; so in emptiness there is no form,
no sensation, conception, discrimination, awareness;

No eye, ear, nose, tongue, body, mind; no color, sound, smell, taste, touch,
phenomena; no realm of sight, no realm of consciousness, no ignorance and no

end of ignorance; no old age and death, no end to old age and death; no suffering, no cause of suffering.

No extinguishing, no path, no wisdom, and no gain. No gain and thus the Bodhisattva lives prajna paramita, with no hindrance in the mind, no hindrance, therefore no fear, far beyond deluded thoughts this is Nirvana. All past, present, and future Buddhas live prajna paramita, and therefore attain annuttara-samyak-sambodhi.

Therefore know, prajna paramita is the great mantra, the vivid mantra, the best mantra, the unsurpassed mantra, it completely clears all pain. This is the truth, not a lie. So set forth the prajna paramita mantra, set forth this mantra and say:

Gate gate paragate parasamgate bodhi svaha
Gate gate paragate parasamgate bodhi svaha
Gate gate paragate parasamgate bodhi svaha
MAHA PRAJNA PARAMITA HRDAYA SUTRA ❖

Sutra Copying Contemplation Text

Water is the wisdom-nectar, flowing from great compassion and mercy; ink is the ink of profound samadhi. When samadhi-ink and wisdom-water merge, the characters of the Dharma-body's true form are transcribed.

These characters are the profound treasury of the buddhas of past, present, and future, the true essence of the Tathāgata's three bodies. They fully encompass the Dharma gates of meditative wisdom and the merits of self-practice and benefiting others.

Thus, the characters of this sutra manifest the forms of the Ten Worlds, expounding the Dharma to benefit beings.

Therefore, I now copy this sutra.

By this universal merit, may all sins ever committed by this disciple and all beings of the Dharma Realm through body, speech, and mind since time without beginning vanish entirely. May we attain rebirth in the Pure Land with right mindfulness, see the Buddha, hear the Dharma, and realize the patience of the unproduced.

❖

Lady Jōtōmon-in*

Though this world's paper may decay after being written upon and enshrined with solemnity—and though shallow eyes may perceive it as ruined—the truth of reality is eternal and imperishable, endowed with all merits.

If my vow is steadfast, it will naturally accord with this truth.

Thus, may this sutra I copy become a scripture of the wondrous seven treasures, residing within a seven-jeweled stupa, preserved until the age of Maitreya. Even when Shakyamuni's teachings fade, may this sutra remain to ferry people across. When Maitreya appears in the world, may this sutra aid in delivering beings. May Maitreya, the future Buddha, continue ceaselessly across generations to ferry beings.

Further, by this merit, may the ruler of our land reign peacefully and the people dwell in tranquility.

May all beings of the Dharma Realm universally be saved.

In future lives, may I transcend the Three Realms, surely be reborn in the Pure Land, cultivate the path of enlightenment, swiftly become a buddha, and ferry all beings.

And after rebirth in the Pure Land, may I use this sutra to deliver others.

Even in the degenerate age, may I encounter it myself and, with this seed, protect people.

To complete this sutra is to share the vow of the Great Teacher Dengyō's proper practice.

Through this resolve, may we and the Great Teacher mutually become spiritual friends, aiding Buddhist practice and guiding others to awakening.

May Shakyamuni, Prabhūtaratna, Amitābha, Samantabhadra, Mañjuśrī, Avalokiteshvara, Mahāsthāmaprāpta, and the Three Treasures of the Ten Directions illuminate this deep sincerity and fulfill my vow.



Grind the ink

Breath regulation

Straighten posture and take ten deep breaths

After completing the sutra copying

Dharma Lotus Verse of the Buddha

May the merit of this practice,

Spread universally to all.

Together with every sentient being

May we all attain the Buddha Way.



Three Bows

With utmost sincerity,

I pay homage to the eternal Triple Gem,

throughout the ten directions of the Dharma realm.

Abbreviated Ritual

Opening the Sutra

The supreme, profound, and subtle Dharma,
So rare to encounter even in hundreds of thousands of eons,
Now I see, hear, and receive it.
May I comprehend the true meaning of the Tathagata's teachings.



Grind the ink

Regulate the breath

Sutra copying

Straighten posture and take ten deep breaths.

After completing the sutra copying-

Dharma Lotus Verse of the Buddha

May the merit of this practice,
Spread universally to all.
Together with every sentient being
May we all attain the Buddha Way.



General Setup:

At a temple or similar place, a hall is prepared. It may be conducted by one chief priest and several others, several people without monks, or a single individual at home.

If multiple people are present, one person chants from the beginning of the passage, while others join in from the indicated point or repeat the same passage after.

English, Japanese reading, or classical Chinese may be chosen or used as you wish.

Dress properly and wash the hands, face, and mouth.

Perform the rituals of applying fragrant powder and purifying water before entering the hall. If abbreviated no need.

Prepare the sutra-copying tools: a master copy, clean paper, inkstone, purified water, and brush. If there is a Buddhist altar in front, light incense and a lamp. Even without an altar, stand a single stick of incense in an incense burner.

**Lady Jōtōmonin: Fujiwara no Shōshi, daughter of Michinaga, consort of Emperor Ichijō, and mother of Emperors Go-Ichijō and Go-Suzaku.*

The national treasure "Gold-Bronze Sutra Box with Floral Scroll Design" (held by Enryaku-ji), discovered during the reconstruction of Yokawa's Fundamental Tathāgata Pagoda on Mount Hiei, is identified as the box containing Shōshi's copied sutra and this prayer.

It is also regarded as the oldest kana prayer text composed by a woman.

The original text begins and ends with the following lines:

"The Lotus Sutra in eight volumes, copied properly and reverently enshrined in Yokawa's Proper Practice Hall of the Great Teacher Jikaku."

"27th day of the 10th month, Chōgen 4 (1031), Bodhisattva Bhikṣuṇī."



Celestial Platform Vihara

天臺精舍

*This dharma material is free for distribution and reproduction in whole.
Out of respect for the teachings please keep the text in a clean place.
If you no longer need this text consider returning it to a temple for proper disposal.*

For information: **monastics@celestialplatform.org**

Practice notes:

This symbol ❖ indicates one bell or gong.