

THE PURIFICATION AND BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

The children are welcomed informally. The parents say:

We come here on behalf of the children.

We acknowledge them as temporary guests in our home.

(What to abandon):

We abandon self-serving motives in relating to the children;

We relinquish the passion which attempts to exploit and manipulate;

We soften from the aggression which seeks control for its own sake;

We let go of ignorance which wants to avoid discomfort, stress, and inconvenience.

(What to cultivate):

We vow to be present to the children in all situations and circumstances;

We commit ourselves to watch over them, protect them, and teach and train them while they are with us.

We promise to always to act on their behalf and to nourish their inherent wellbeing.

The children offer a flower to the preceptor. Then the children say:

Show me my own face;

Show me my own beauty;

Show me my goodness, intelligence, and dignity.

Show me the enlightened one I will someday be.

The preceptor says:

Just as when the Buddha was born,

The devas bathed him,

Just so, with this pure, divine water I bathe you.

May you be purified of all self-doubt;

May your sight be cleansed,

And may you always meet yourself in a pure and sacred way.

Look in the mirror and see your own reflection;

Look in the mirror and see your beauty;

Look in the mirror and see your goodness, intelligence, and dignity;

Look in the mirror and see the enlightened one you will be someday.

Then the child looks in the mirror and the preceptor sprinkles him or her to bless and purify (during this, everyone says the Vajrasattva mantra).

OM VAJRASATTVA SAMAYAM ANUPĀLAYA/ VAJRASATTVA TVENOPATIṢṬHA/ DRIDO ME BHAVA/
SUTOṢHYO ME BHAVA/ SUPOṢHYO ME BHAVA/ ANURAKTO ME BHAVA/ SARVA-SIDDHIṀ ME PRAYACCHA/
SARVA-KARMAṢU CA ME/ CITTAM SHREYAḢ KURU HŪM HA HA HA HA HOḢ/ BHAGAVAN SARVA-
TATHĀGATA-VAJRA/ MĀ ME MUNCHA/ VAJRĪ BHAVA MAHĀSAMAYASATTVA ĀḢ

Instruction to the children:

When you feel helpless, call on the Buddha for his blessing and ask Trungpa Rinpoche and the other awakened ones for help.

When you are confused and lost, call on the Dharma for wisdom and remember meditation.

When you feel sad and alone, call on the saṅgha for love and do not be afraid to love others.

[Gifts]

Closing Aspiration

May the lineage be with you and guide you throughout your life;
May you meet with the authentic dharma in all you do, in your relationships, your work,
and your practice.
And may your life be a bright light and a source of truth and goodness for others,
bringing them hope, relief, and understanding.

Dedication of Merit

By the golden sun of the great east
May the lotus garden of the Rigden's wisdom bloom
May the dark ignorance of sentient beings be dispelled
May all beings attain profound, brilliant glory.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

The basic idea of the ceremony is to connect the child with his or her basic, unconditional being, or basic goodness, to rouse that being in the presence of the saṅgha, and friends, and to celebrate the goodness of the child as our commitment and our priority as families, caretakers, and friends.

The space around the preceptor and the mirror should be open and as free of chaos as possible, especially if there are many young children present. The children, one by one, should be brought across the space, up to the preceptor and the mirror. The preceptor should try to connect with each child first, then direct them to look into the mirror. The preceptor should then sprinkle the child two or three times from the abhiṣheka vase, while everyone is repeating the Vajrasattva mantra.

This was written by Reginald A. Ray