

## *Across the Sea of Suffering in a Boat of Vows*

Before the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas of the ten directions and three periods of time, the Venerable Sages of past and present, the Venerable Abbot and the Great Assembly, I disciple Kuo Ch'i, Heng Chia, make the following vows:

1. I vow to leave the home-life as a pure youth in every life at an early age under the Venerable Abbot Hua for as long as he returns to teach, transform, and rescue living beings.

2. I vow to help propagate the proper, orthodox Buddhadharma in every lifetime and to be able to translate the teachings into whatever languages necessary in order to spread the Buddhadharma.

3. I vow to return as a man unless taking on the body of a woman would be more expedient.

4. I vow not to indulge in frivolous speech.

5. I vow to eat only one meal a day.

6. I vow that as long as a single living being hasn't accomplished Buddhahood, I too will not attain the right Enlightenment.

7. I vow to cultivate and obtain the Five Eyes and Six Spiritual Penetrations in every lifetime.

8. I vow not to become arrogant, selfish, or to seek for benefit, name, or fame.

9. I vow to cross over those living beings with whom I share affinities.

10. I vow that until the end of time I will uphold these vows.

11. I vow that I would rather fall into the uninterrupted hells for time without end than to ever become involved in any way with the propagation of teaching that are contrary to true principle and that only bring suffering to those who follow them. I vow to always use whatever skills I possess in life after life to help the Venerable Abbot propagate the true and actual Great Vehicle Buddhadharma which expresses true principle and which can lead beings out of suffering.

12. I vow to fully dedicate all blessings and bliss which I ought to receive and enjoy myself to all living beings of the Dharma Realm.