

ACROSS THE SEA OF SUFFERING IN A BOAT OF VOWS

SHRAMAMERIKA HENG TSAI'S VOWS

(Continued from VBS Issue #142)

16. If even a single living being hasn't become a Buddha, I too will not become a Buddha. Only after all living beings have been crossed over will I attain Proper Enlightenment. All men I consider my father; all women I consider my mother. As long as the hells remain unemptied, I vow not to attain Proper Enlightenment.

17. I vow that in life after life I will hold the Buddha's Precepts, and not create even a tiny dust mote's worth of evil karma. I vow to adorn and protect the Awesome Department, and not harm even the tiniest creature. I vow not to encounter the eight difficulties, nor be deficient in the four conditions. Prajna will always manifest before me, and I will never retreat from my Bodhi resolve. I vow to study and cultivate the Proper Dharma and to understand the Great Vehicle, to open the conduct doors of the Six Paramitas and leap across three asamkhyeyas' kalpas. I vow to erect the Dharma banner in all places and break through the multilayered net of doubts, to subdue all demons and propagate the Triple Jewel, causing it to flourish as I serve the Buddhas of the ten directions without weariness.

18. I vow that at the end of this life I will forever escape the revolving wheel of the three evil realms; I will renounce the threads of love which have accumulated for many kalpas, be reborn in the Land of Ultimate Bliss, ascend to the superior grade lotus, and draw near to Amitabha Buddha. The flower will open, and I'll see the Buddha, awaken to the patience with non-production. Then, not leaving peace, I will enter the Saha World, to teach living beings so that together we may realize the Buddha Way.

Empty space can be exhausted, but these vows of mine will never be exhausted. May sentient and insentient beings alike perfect the seeds of wisdom.

SHAKYAMUNI BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY: MAY 1, 1982.

Come with sincere hearts, deep faith, and firm resolve to bathe the infant Buddha and simultaneously cleanse your own self-nature. Let us

"think of washing clean the body and mind; of brushing away accumulated dirt; of developing a sense of shame; of painfully changing our former wrongs to create a new life; of being unique, and awesome persons full of great power; of doing beneficial deeds for the sake of all living beings, in the Dharma Realm; of taking the citizens of all nations as brothers and sisters and creating virtue; of establishing a model for all under heaven."

-WATER AND MIRROR REFLECTIONS.

by Venerable Master Hua

Celebrations will be held at Gold Mountain, City of 10,000 Buddhas, and Gold Wheel Temple. Check with these Centers for days and times.