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# *BOWING THE TEN THOUSAND BUDDHAS REPENTANCE SUTRA*

*A Twelve-year Old's Perspective*

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*-by Sari Epstein, Cultivating Virtue Girls' School*

Three weeks ago we started a bowing session at the City. It was exciting, something new. I had no idea what it would be like. My only thought was 10,000 Buddhas, wow! I couldn't imagine bowing for three weeks.

*Disciples and Friends of the Dharma gather to bow to the Buddhas at the culmination of the Ten Thousand Buddhas Repentance Assembly.*



The first time I went to bow I was surprised to find most of the bowing cushions moved out of the way and replaced by book stands and bowing cloths. The air was light, clear, and happy. I started to bow, it wasn't bad! But after a bit, my head got dizzy. Bowing is not as easy as it looks.

The days passed by and we were doing parts of the session at school. During the lectures many of the Dharma Masters started speaking about repentance and bowing. They spoke about how in hundreds of millions of kalpas it is difficult to encounter and how it was an extremely rare chance to help the world and repent of our karmic offenses.

I heard that and thought, "This is such a rare chance, so I better do it and not let it pass by!" After the first two hours my legs ached. It was hard but I just kept going. That's just what you have to do--keep going, don't stop. It was also hard to concentrate. A lot of times I would start thinking of other things. At other times it was really easy and nice, each name, each bow, we were really before the Buddhas even if we couldn't see them.

One afternoon when I was getting really tired, a bunch of people walked in, made some offerings, and took pictures. That was all. Of course that's really good, it plants seeds for the future, but here we were all bowing the repentance, such a good chance, and they knew about it, but still they didn't get to do it.

I hadn't thought about this before. There are many people who never get to know anything about the Buddhadharma; there are many who although they do know, don't do anything, but there are only a very few who can live in and stay at the City and do the things we do here. I better use this chance while I have it!