

# *Bodhi Stand*

compiled by Bhikshuni Heng Ch'ih

## *UPASAKA KUO K'AI OWEN*

Kuo-k'ai first encountered the Proper Dharma when he came to Gold Mountain Monastery to work on renovating it in the mid-70's. On the one hand he was laying a solid concrete wall to San Francisco earthquake-proof standards and on the other he was learning that there were other less-material but no less formidable ways of providing protection. Such as:

*"Five years ago I was worried as could be, afraid that San Francisco would fall into the sea. Then my teacher smiled and he said to me, 'I won't let the earth quake. I won't let the earth shake. I won't let you down, make no mistake, I won't let the earth quake.'*

*"Sure enough five years have passed and we're still here, hardly a tremor to cause us fear. Scientists and researchers are puzzled when they hear what to students of the Dharma is perfectly clear."*

Time passed and Kuo-k'ai returned to continue his study at the City of 10,000 Buddhas. A student of Fine Arts as well as a skilled craftsman, he has had time to reflect on the foundation of the Proper Dharma as he helps erect the permanent Precept Platform at the City. Wishing to make firm his own foundation within the Dharma, Kuo-k'ai made the following vows on October 13, 1981.

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

On this day the anniversary of the Venerable One leaving the home-life, and praising all those True Good Knowing Advisors throughout the ten directions, I disciple, Kuo-k'ai, make these vows to the Venerable Master and to Kuan Shih Yin Bodhisattva:

Just as the greatly wise Manjushri Bodhisattva, I vow to memorize the

*WONDERFUL DHARMA LOTUS FLOWER SUTRA.*

This great Bodhisattva, Wondrous Light, upheld this storehouse of Dharma for 80 small aeons; my vow to uphold this wonderful Dharma will extend to as many asamkhyeya kalpas as there are sand grains in the Ganges River. As the Venerable Shariputra probably did, I vow also to always request the Venerable Master to expound this wonderful Dharma as well as the

*FOREMOST SHURANGAMA MANTRA and SUTRA.*

Because of the power of Kuan Shih Yin Bodhisattva's great vows of compassion, and my vow to always hold the name of Kuan Shih Yin Bodhisattva, I vow that in the future if there are those who wish to behold the wonders and characteristics of this great Bodhisattva, that they will ultimately see Kuan Shih Yin Bodhisattva and will become irreversible from the Bodhi Mind.

I pray that the Buddha, the Doubly Complete Honored One, and the Greatly Compassionate Bodhisattva will help me to fathom the principles of cause, effect, and retribution, so that I will remember throughout all future time the causes and conditions of the One Great Matter and will not retreat from the Bodhisattva Path, thus causing all living beings to leave behind all of their ignorance and put to rest all suffering, and attain liberation.

May Kuan Shih Yin Bodhisattva and the Venerable Master accept this dharma; I transfer any merit from these vows to the Most Supreme One, to the adornment of all Buddha lands, and to all living beings throughout the ten directions and three periods of time who suffer from the myriad forms of offenses.

NA MWO KUAN SHIH YIN PU SA.



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