

The Bodhi Mirror Presents



Venerable Phra Tepsophon, Maha Thera

*"In the world, kings are foremost.
Among the myriad streams, the sea is foremost.
Among all stars, the moon is foremost.
Among all sages, the Buddha is foremost.
Among all moral codes, these Precepts are foremost."*

The preceptees who received the transmission of the Complete Precepts at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas on October 24, 1982, owe a debt of kindness to Venerable Phra Tepsophon, Abbot of Wat Thai of Los Angeles. The Venerable Maha Thera Tepsophon acted as first Certifying Master at the awe-inspiring and solemn Karmavaca Proceedings conducted in the newly completed Precept Hall at the City.

All novices who were ordained had undergone at least three years of intensive training which included daily bowing of repentances and vows, study of the precepts, rules, and modes of deportment, and participation in daily Dharma assemblies where the Dharma was spoken. This training and practice intensified during the final 108-day Platform and culminated when Three Masters and Ten Certifiers representing both traditions and seven nations gathered to perform the time-honored rituals of Orthodox Precept Transmission. Having prepared themselves to the best of their ability, the novices lined the walkways of the City during the course of the Transmission ceremonies, thus expressing their veneration of the Masters gathered to bestow the precepts upon

them and their sincere and silent gratitude for the kindness of their teachers and masters among the Sangha.

The Buddha's Precepts, shared by the Theravada and Mahayana Traditions, are the foremost moral code. Appropriately, Venerable members of the Sangha from both traditions continued the precedent established in the 1979 Precept Transmission at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, of sharing the responsibility of transmitting the Precepts. This act of harmony and cooperation will do much to ensure a firm foundation for the Proper Dharma in the West.