

Dear Friends,

Recently, I have given several Dharma talks during retreats on the meaning of the various daily scriptures in plain language. Some people have found it helpful and urged me to write the talks out so others could read them. The following, on the Kanzeon Scripture, is the result and I hope to do more if they are useful to people.

gassho,

Koten

Kanzeon Scripture

Why is Great Compassion so important to training that it is called the very offspring and heir of the Buddha?

Just Listen:

Great Compassion responds to all beings and situations without exception. It produces and comes forth from deep commitment to training ourselves. It is essential to understanding and practicing the teaching of all the Buddhas.

When people hear about Great Compassion, look for its manifestations in their lives and cherish it within their own hearts, then everything is transformed.

If events should overwhelm you, pushing you towards suffering and pain, bring to mind, practice and realize Great Compassion and that situation will be transformed and you will be able to be still no matter what happens.

If you are drifting, without purpose, and life seems to be about to drown you, remember, think on, bring to mind and call upon Great Compassion and you will see compassion in the situation and be able to stay afloat.

If circumstances cast you down and there seems no way to get up, bring to mind, remember and practice great compassion and you will be lifted up.

If you fall and hurt yourself on the rocks of life, remember again Great Compassion and let go of the hurt and continue on.

If surrounded by threatening events and people who wish you harm, call upon, bring to mind and practice Great Compassion and the minds of those people will change for the better.

When you are persecuted by events and there is no way out, think on, remember the great power of compassion and a way through will appear.

If tied up and chained down by events, frustrated, unable to escape, bear in mind and remember compassion and it will free you.

When others spread poison about you or try to manipulate you, call upon, practice and rely on Great Compassion and they will be unable to do you any real harm.

If evil should come, terrifying you, rely on the strength of Great Compassion and it will be unable to have any power over you.

When anger or desire threaten to overwhelm you, remember, hold fast to, and take refuge in compassion and you will be able to be still in the midst of it.

When you cannot see what is good to do because of overwhelming distractions, think on, remember and take refuge in Great Compassion and the sky will clear.

If struck by unfairness and disaster or pain you cannot bear, remember, take refuge in and practice compassion and you will be able to go on.

The power of Great Compassion is miraculous, can be applied in all situations, in all worlds, everywhere. There is no place where it cannot manifest itself - hellish, bestial, evil, pain. In all circumstances and mental states compassion can be applied.

To view things in this way and take refuge in compassion is not delusion or wishful thinking but seeing things as they really are, in Truth, free from confusion, full of love for all beings.

Great Compassion must always be remembered, prayed to, thought upon throughout our entire lives. She is Pure Light, Wisdom dispelling all darkness, overcoming all obstacles. When the entire universe is shaking She sits still and pours out Great Compassion on the entire world, putting out the fires.

When the news of the world grieves and oppresses us, think on the power of Great Compassion and remember that nothing can resist the power of Compassion.

When we listen for the call of Great Compassion in our lives we will hear the exquisite, powerful and incomparable Voice of kindness and clarity and stillness above all the clamor and din of the world.

Because of all of this we should have faith in and remember Great Compassion, a true, holy refuge in all grief, trouble and disaster, even in the face of death and destruction.

Great Compassion can never be exhausted, is full of merits and virtues. Because of this She must forever be adored.

They who hear this Teaching about Great Compassion and remember to practice it will receive inestimable merit because here the power of Great Compassion is described and explained. The life of Compassion, endowed with all miraculous power, appears everywhere.

The power of this teaching on Great Compassion causes those who truly listen to and practice it to want to go all the way on this incomparable Path to the Unborn.