

Emergency Non-Denominational Buddhist Rites at End of Life

Namo Tassa Bhagavato Arahato Samma Sambuddhassa!

Homage to the Buddha, the Blessed One, the Perfected One, the Supremely Enlightened One

Peace to all beings, and in particular to you, <Name of Patient>, in this critical moment of your life. By virtue of our shared humanity and our common ground of being. The Unborn or Buddha Nature, you are held by hand by countless of fellow travellers as you may embark on a new chapter in your life and death journey. Long ago, on His deathbed, the Buddha exhorted his disciples once more:

“Be you lamps unto yourselves. Hold fast to the Teaching as a lamp and refuge, and you shall reach the supreme goal, but you must be diligent and sincere. Do not be sad, subject to change are all compounded things, strive on heedfully.”

The effort the Buddha was encouraging us to wholeheartedly undertake is about letting go of our wants, dislikes, opinions and delusions, so that we can become aware of the Unborn that has been animating us all along, of our shared humanity, and our common home. In rediscovering our roots and reconnecting with others through our shared experience, we find release from suffering and the warmth and fulfilment of the heart. The insight into the way things really are, leads out of suffering, and naturally gives rise to Great Compassion. In the Buddha's own words:

“... In gladness and in safety, may all beings be at ease. Whatever living beings there may be, whether they are weak or strong, omitting none, the great or the mighty, medium, short or small, the seen and the unseen, those living near and far away, those born and to-be-born: may all beings be at ease! Let none deceive another or despise any being in any state. Let none through anger or ill-will wish harm upon another. Even as a mother protects with her life her child, her only child, so with a boundless heart should one cherish all living beings; Radiating kindness over the entire world: spreading upwards to the skies, and downwards to the depths, outwards and unbounded, freed from hatred and ill-will. Whether standing or walking, seated or lying down, free from drowsiness, one should sustain this recollection. This is said to be

the sublime abiding. Not holding to fixed views, seeing clearly, freed from all sense desires, the pure-hearted one is not born again into a world of suffering”.

As we open our heart and let go, we acknowledge our shortcomings, ask for forgiveness and give our forgiveness, and we take refuge in the Three Jewels:

- The Buddha, the Unborn, our Common Heart and Ground of Being
- The Dharma, His Teachings and the way things really are
- The Sangha, the community of all those who have kept the Path open by walking it

May the virtue and strength of this recollection, and any merit accrued, be of benefit to you <Name of the Deceased>, and all beings.

May all beings find contentment and be free from suffering, may them all attain Buddhahood.

London Bereavement Support Programme

This resource has been funded and supported by the Mayor of London under the remit of the [Mental Health and Wellbeing Recovery Mission](#), which is being led by Thrive LDN. The mission aims to build a coalition of wellbeing champions and empower Londoners to act to improve their own and their communities' wellbeing. For more information visit www.thriveldn.co.uk.

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Emergency Non-Denominational Buddhist Funeral Service

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Peace to all beings! By virtue of our shared humanity and our common ground of being, the Unborn or Buddha Nature, <Name of Deceased> is held by hand by countless of fellow travellers as he/she/they embarks on a new chapter in his/her/their life and death journey.

Long ago, on His deathbed, the Buddha exhorted his disciples once more:

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The body that was called <Name of Deceased> is dead and is dissolving into the elements from which it came. The collection of qualities and attributes that they have forged and that made up their character, lives on. When the day’s work is ended, the night brings peace and rest. So, in saying goodbye to <Name of Deceased> we also reaffirm what they lived and were.

May the virtue and strength of this recollection, and any merit accrued, be of benefit to <Name of the Deceased>, and all beings.

May all beings find contentment and be free from suffering, may them all attain Buddhahood.

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