

Special Words to Transfer Merit on the Seventh Day after Death Including Forty-ninth Day and One Hundredth Day

These words of transferring merit are reverently offered to the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni, all buddhas, and all other honored ones.

Today, on the [*ordinal number*] day after the death of [*posthumous name/ secular name*], we sincerely conduct this memorial service by making offerings of incense, flowers, light, and several kinds of food and drink.

The departed received the rare gift of life as a human being and encountered the Wondrous Dharma that is rarely met. But life is uncertain because death comes to young and old alike. There is no avoiding the suffering that comes from being separated from our loved ones, for we are destined to part with all whom we have met.

On [*month/ day/ year*], at the age of [*number*], [*appropriate pronoun / given name*] departed this world. Since then, [*number*] days have already passed. The people now gathered here hold the image of the dearly departed in their minds and shed tears, cherishing memories of [*appropriate pronoun*]. However, [*appropriate pronoun*] has returned to the source of all life, the imperishable life of the Eternal Buddha. May [*appropriate pronoun*] be guided by the teachings of Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle, and Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion, to reach the radiant land of tranquil light and enter the unsurpassable Way, hearing the true and wondrous Dharma of the One Vehicle.

Chapter 16 of the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, “The Life Span of the Eternal Tathagata,” says,
“The Tathagata perceives the character of the threefold world as it really is. Birth and death do not leave it or appear in it. There is no staying in the world or departing from it for extinguishment. It is neither substantial nor insubstantial. And it is neither thus nor otherwise. This is not how the threefold world sees itself, but the Tathagata sees such things as these clearly and without error.”

Today, the bereaved family, their relatives, members of the Sangha, and friends, all in attendance here, have respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma. On the occasion of this memorial service, we vow to practice the bodhisattva way and

accumulate merits by doing virtuous deeds, thus transferring those merits to the departed.

We reverently pray that the Buddha and all the buddhas and honored ones witness our vow and that the departed may experience the joy of the Dharma through this sutra recitation so that [*appropriate pronoun*] may quickly accomplish the great fruit of Supreme Perfect Awakening.

Namu Myoho Renge Kyo
(*Strike the gong once.*)

Note

This Special Words to Transfer Merit is also applied for the memorial service that can be performed every seven days from the second-seventh day until the sixth-seventh day.