

Special Words to Transfer Merit for Memorial Service for Unborn Children

Today, on the occasion of this memorial service for unborn children,
we reverently address these words to
the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One,
as well as all buddhas, bodhisattvas, and heavenly spirits.

The irreplaceable life of unborn children comes into being within their mothers' bodies through their parents' deep bonds of love. Though these children received the rare gift of life as human beings, they have journeyed beyond this world. Life is as transient as the morning dew in sunlight. Their parents grieve so deeply over their loss that they hardly know how to proceed with the memorial service.

We who are gathered here today have encountered the Dharma through Rissho Kosei-kai owing to our abundant virtues from past lifetimes. We have learned of the extraordinary merits to be gained through memorial services for the departed. Aspiring to enlightenment, we will endeavor to purify ourselves through self-examination in the hope of attaining Supreme Perfect Awakening.

Chapter 25 of the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, “The Bodhisattva Regarder of the Sounds of the World as Universal Gateway,” says:

“When living beings are beset by woes
And burdened by countless pains,
The wondrous wisdom power of the Regarder of Sounds
Can free them from the sufferings of the world.
She is in full command of transcendent powers,
Having fully mastered the skillful means of wisdom.
In the lands of the ten directions,
There is no place she does not manifest herself.
All the evil states of existence,
Those of hells, of hungry spirits, and beasts,
And the sufferings of birth, aging, illness, and death,
She gradually brings to an end.”

With sincere hearts, all of us in attendance at this ceremony today respectfully offer the merits of this sutra recitation to these unborn children. We recognize this ceremony as an occasion to

rededicate ourselves to bodhisattva practice. We also resolve to transfer to these children all the merits of the good deeds we have performed and will perform for all eternity.

We earnestly pray that through the merits of embracing the Three Treasures of Buddhism, these unborn children may be freed from all attachments and quickly accomplish the great fruit of Supreme Perfect Awakening.

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