

Fall Term Opening Ceremony - BWZ

Prep: Everyone has written copy of vows; light candle at altar (Cloud: prepare your own altar)

Everyone in Dirt Zendo gathers, forming a ryoban by standing in two equal rows, facing each other.

Incense Offering: Teacher makes incense offering. ●●●
Then remains on the haishiki.

Ryoban Incense Offering: Members of the ryoban come up two by two to offer incense at the main altar. Cloud: make an offering at your altar during this time.

Dedication: When everyone in the ryoban has offered incense, someone recites the following:

Imperceptibly, the autumn wind gently blows over the fields, and the Sun and Moon control all directions. The Dharma King cannot leave. All the trainees have gathered together, and they pay their respects to the Bodhisattvas by offering their vows, and reciting the names of Buddha that possess immeasurable merit. We pray that the light of Truth shall shine of itself, and that the virtue of the Bodhisattvas that protect this Temple will be transferred to us. We ask for protection throughout this training period and pray that it will come to a peaceful conclusion. Together let us chant the names of Buddha with respect and honor.

Chanting the names of Buddha (all together; precentor hits kaishaku before each line):

☐ Vairocana Buddha, pure Dharmakaya

- ☐ Lochana Buddha, complete Sambhogakaya
- ☐ Shakyamuni Buddha, myriad Nirmanakaya
- ☐ Maitreya Buddha, of future birth
- ☐ All Buddhas throughout space and time
- ☐ Lotus of the Wondrous Dharma, Mahayana Sutra
- ☐ Manjushri Bodhisattva, great wisdom
- ☐ Samantabhadra Bodhisattva, great activity
- ☐ Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva, great compassion
- ☐ Kshitagarba Bodhisattva, great vow
- ☐ All honored ones, Bodhisattvas, Mahasattvas
- ☐ Wisdom beyond wisdom, Maha prajna paramita

Teacher briefly speaks about the training term.

Sharing of Vows: Each person states their vows for the term out loud.

When everyone is done, someone recites the following:

The virtue obtained by chanting the names of the Ten Buddhas protects the True Law and bestows on us the Blessings of the Earth. We beseech her, and all the Bodhisattvas, to share the force of their spirit with us, that our deeds will be fruitful, our joy pure, and our bliss eternal and selfless. Let us chant again:

Closing Invocation: All Together –

- All Buddhas throughout space and time,
- All Honored Ones, Bodhisattvas, Mahasattvas,
- Wisdom beyond wisdom, Maha Prajna Paramita.