

## ORDINATION CEREMONY YAMADA MUMON ROSHI

To become a disciple of the Buddha, the following must be observed.

Bodhisattvas. Thoroughly and deeply experience your own quiet, clear and limitless True Source, your boundlessly extending Buddha Mind.

Those who waver from this Mind will drown eternally in ignorance. Those who realize this Mind at this very instant and in this very place will become Buddhas.

For those moved by the Wonder of the Dharma to follow the Path of Liberation, to shave their heads and to put on monk's robes is the best Way.

The external forms of those who have completely left home to become disciples of the Buddha fit perfectly with this Way.

In cutting off the hair, we sever the very roots of Attachment to love and hate. If we realize freedom from attachment to dualistic thinking, love and hate, for even an instant, we will realize perfect freedom and joy in the most appropriate action of our Way.

There exist no Bodhisattvas of the past, Present or Future who have had True Enlightenment without this Vow, nor have the succeeding generations of Patriarchs been Enlightened without giving their entire lives and bodies to the Way.

Among all selfless and material merits, the foremost is that of becoming ordained. General virtue is only a temporary relief and is destined for obliteration. Inherent virtue is limitless. Its light is too bright to be concealed. It will grow stronger and more potent as it brings us to becoming a Buddha.

Bodhisattvas. Taking the tonsure, make the Vows to keep the Buddhist Precepts. Put on the robes and join the Sangha. From now on, overwhelming secular relationships shall no longer be given priority.

Bodhisattvas. First bow sincerely in departing thanks to your parents, your family, your friends and all the people who have helped you arrive here today. So doing they protect you on your Way.

Bodhisattvas. Realize the transiency of this world. Cut secular connections. Vow to enter the Path of the Buddha. Take the tonsure and never waver from this vow for a single instant.

The last tuft of hair is called the "shura". In cutting it, the roots of all dualistic thinking and all delusions will also be severed. It cannot be cut by a regular razor but only by the sword of Prajna Wisdom . Only a Person of Enlightenment can sever this, and I will cut it for you.

### **"Do you permit this?"**

Verse of the Tonsure (Chanted by Roshi)

The appearance is ruined, But the determined purpose is upheld. Becoming a monk and seeking the Holy Way. Vowing to deliver all Beings.

Bodhisattva, You have now taken the tonsure. You are truly a disciple of Buddha. First awaken your Bodhisattva Mind. Bodhisattva Mind is your Buddha Mind, the Great Compassionate Mind. To attempt to save Sentient Beings is to practice Buddha's Wisdom even if we are not yet awakened to it ourselves. Please follow me in chanting the Four Bodhisattva Vows.

#### Four Bodhisattva Vows(Chant Together)

SHUJO MI HEN SEI CAN DO  
BONNO MU JIN SEI CAN DAN  
HO MON MURYO SEI GAN GAKU  
BUTSU DO MU JO SEI GAN DO

SENTIENT BEINGS ARE NUMBERLESS,  
I VOW TO LIBERATE THEM DESIRES ARE INEXHAUSTIBLE,

I VOW TO PUT AN END TO THEM THE DHARMAS ARE BOUNDLESS,  
I VOW TO MASTER THEM THE BUDDHA'S WAY IS UNSURPASSABLE,  
I VOW TO BECOME IT

New disciple of Buddha. You have already awakened your Bodhisattva Mind.  
Now you must confess your karma from the limitless past.  
Purify the Three Kharmas: Please join me in confession.

Zange Mon(Chant together)

GA SHAKU SHO ZO SHO AKU GO KAI YU MUSHI TON JI CHI JU SHIN KUI SHI SHO SHO ISSAI  
GA KON KAI SANGE  
ALL MY TWISTED ANCIENT KHARMA FROM BEGINNINGLESS GREED, HATE AND DELUSION  
BORN OF BODY SPEECH AND MIND I NOW FULLY AVOW.

Bodhisattvas. The confession has been made and all is purified. Now give homage to the Three Treasures. The Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha. The Buddha is Shakamuni Buddha. Shakamuni Buddha is the Clear Mind of this Very Instant. The Clear Mind of this Very Instant is also the Dharma. That which cultivates this Clear Mind is the Sangha.

Sankikai(Chant Together)

NAMU KIE BUTSU NAMU KIE HO NAMU KIE SO  
NAMU BUTSU MUJO SON KIE HO RIYOKU SON KIE SO WAGO SON  
KIE BUKKYO KIE HOKYO KIE SOKYO  
NAMU! AWAKEN TO THE UNIVEREAL BUDDHA! NAMU! AWAKEN TO THE UNIVERSAL  
DHARMA! NAMU! AWAKEN TO THE UNIVERSAL SANGHA!  
TO AWAKEN TO THE UNIVERSE OF BUDDHA-THE MOST EXCELLENT WAY!  
TO AWAKEN TO THE DHARMA, FREED BEYOND ALL DESIRES,THE MOST  
EXCELLENT WAY!  
TO AWAKEN TO THE HARMONIOUS UNIVERSAL SANGHA-THE MOST  
EXCELLENT WAY!  
AWAKENED TO THE BUDDHA! AWAKENED TO THE DHARMA! AWAKENED TO THE SANGHA!

Bodhisattva, you have vowed to Honor the Three Treasures. Your Path's foundation into the limitless future will be no other than the One True Dharma.  
Follow no Path outside Mind.

Bodhisattva. Having now entered the True Way, discard all delusions. Receive the Bodhisattva's Great Precepts.

SANJU JO KAI  
THE THREE PURE PRECEPTS  
1. NOT TO DO EVIL  
2. TO DO GOOD  
3. TO LIBERATE ALL BIENGS

THE TEN SEVERE PRECEPTS  
1. NOT TO KILL LIFE  
2. NOT TO CONSIDER ANYTHING AS ONE'S OWN  
3. ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN SHOULD BE OPEN, PURE AND BRIGHT.  
4. TRUE WORDS AND TRUE MIND ARE THE BASE OF ATTAINING THE WAY  
5. DO NOT DELUDE THE REAL SELF  
6. DO NOT POINT OUT OTHER'S FAULTS AND MISTAKES  
7. DO NOT PRAISE YOURSELF AND DEGRADE OTHERS  
8. DO NOT BE POSSESSIVE WITH DHARMA TREASURES  
9. DO NOT INDULGE IN ANGER

## 10. DO NOT DISHONOR THE BUDDHA, DHARMA OR SANGHA

Bodhisattvas, a Great Vow must be made to not violate these Precepts for your whole life. There is nothing illuminating our lives more brilliantly than these Precepts.

**"Will you observe these precepts always?" "Yes, I will."**

The Sutra says: "To attempt to save Sentient Beings is practicing Bodhisattva's Wisdom, even if we are not yet awakened to it ourselves. Sentient beings receiving the Buddha's precepts will join the same World as all Buddhas and will become the same Mind as all Buddhas."

Bodhisattva. You have now taken the tonsure, You have put on the Dharma robes and kesa. You have received the Buddha's Precepts. You are truly a Bodhisattva. You will be honored by all of society.

To Assembly: With the greatest care for the Buddha's Way, keep it precious always. Thank you for your long and patient attention.

To New Monk: A Bodhisattva is born! There is no end to this Great Joy!