

LITANY TO KANZEON BOSATSU

O Holy Kanzeon, give us the grace to know and recognize you, in whatsoever form you may take, on the streets, in the shops, in our work, in our leisure;
Give us the courage to recognize you in pleasure and in pain, in happiness and unhappiness;
Give us the wisdom that comes from the ability to recognize you in all your myriad forms, not merely the ones we want to see;
Give us the compassion to forgive those who are in the grip of delusion, prejudice and bigotry; grant to them the power to know the spirit of the Dharma, not merely an ability to read rules and scriptures;
Give us the wisdom to know that what the Christian church teaches has been taught by the Buddhas for thousands of years;
Give us the courage to take the Sufis by the hand and, in their dancing, to know the joy of meditation;
Give us the understanding that the Jewish festivals are celebrated by the Buddhas;
Teach men to know that peace in the world can only be gained if we make peace with ourselves in our own hearts;
Teach us to know that we are responsible, everyone of us, for the conflicts that are, at this moment, tearing the world, because of the greed and duality in our own hearts;
Teach us to face ourselves as we really are by holding up your mirror, in all your manifestations, before us;
Teach us that the Buddha Nature is within all beings, of whatever colour, religion or species they may be;
Teach us to be grateful to inanimate objects for making themselves available for our use;
Teach us that we have not the right to expect trees and plants to give themselves to us without our expressing our gratitude;
Give us the common decency, if nothing more, to improve the lot of the animals without whose suffering at the hands of the experimenters many of us would not be alive today;
Teach parents that their children have the right to respect, attention, love and acknowledgement of their opinions;
Teach children that their parents' words should be listened to and seriously considered;
Appear on the television screens and in the theatres and teach the dangers of drug addiction, and the evils of crime, that we may be saved therefrom;
Help us to know that all living things have the same basic fears, hopes, loves, longings, hunger and thirst and that they are only pretending not to have them out of fear of ostracism by society;
Teach us not to be made cowards by circumstances and the Truth;
Teach us that an angry man is a frightened man; help us to be friends to the lonely;
Give us the sight of your thousand eyes to see where help is needed and the strength of your thousand arms to give that help;
Teach us not to look at others' faults but to see our own;
Teach all Buddhists that it is better to live in harmony with each other than to argue and fight over doctrine and dogma;
Teach those who slander, curse and revile others that the only person who gets hurt thereby is themselves for all curses must, by the law of karma, return tenfold upon the heads of those who utter them;
Teach those who are slandered, cursed and reviled to have a compassionate heart towards the poor, misguided and deluded wretches who utter such curses;
Teach us that, in the whole universe, the only real enemy is fear and superstition;

Grant to those who seek to control others by means of swollen headed belief in their own ability, threats and superstitious beliefs the courage to face themselves and know that their real reasons for their behaviour is their desire for power;
Teach those who hate the opposite sex to that of themselves the importance of facing their own latent homosexual tendencies;
Give us the courage to look into the great mirror that all living things and inanimate objects hold up in front of us and see ourselves truly as we are; grant us the intelligence to do something about the reflection;
Teach us that the Buddhas and the Patriarchs undergo no conceivable harm by their subjects living their lives normally;
Teach us to know that an enlightened man is a whole man, unfettered by the opinions of others;
Teach us to love and enjoy the blue sky, the sun, the rain, the snow and the storms that nature sends us; give us the intelligence to use the opportunity for perpetual training that they bring;
Grant us that, in the winter of our lives, we may be able to look back down the years without too much regret;
Help us to face that which men call death truly for, if one can see gods and angels at the moment of death and feel no elation; if one can be set upon by devils and demons and feel no fear, one knows true freedom;
By such means as these do we live in eternal meditation.

Reverend Jiyu Kennett Roushi
January 1971