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# **DAILY BUDDHA VANDANA**

**(Pali Gatha and English Translations)**



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## **INTRODUCTION**

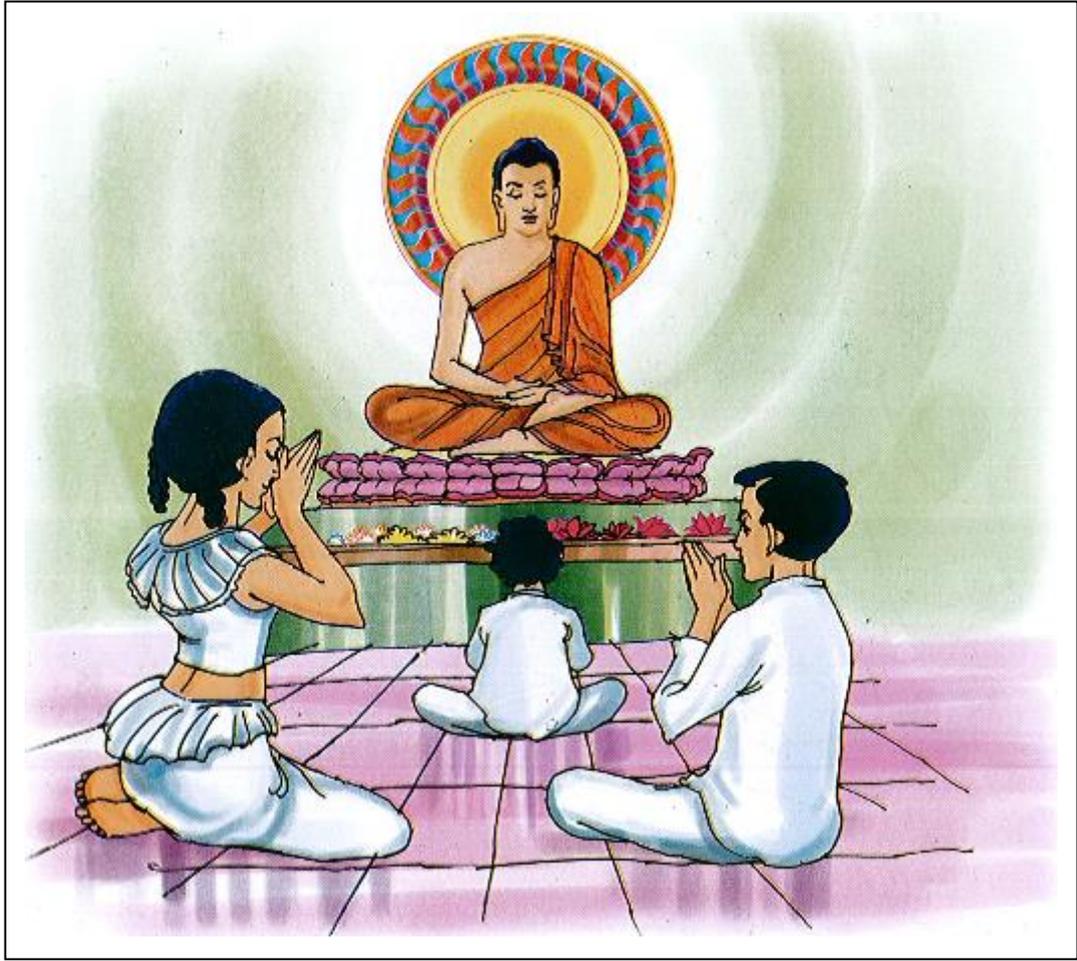
Buddhist devotional practices commonly consist of giving offerings and chanting pali stanzas (vandana gatha) in front of Buddha statues. The three most common offerings are flowers, incense, and light (as candles, oil lamps or lanterns).

What is the purpose of making offerings to the Buddha? We make offerings not because the Buddha needs them, nor do we make offerings to win the Buddha's favour. The Buddha developed universal loving-kindness and compassion. We pay respect and show our gratitude to the Buddha for showing the way to Enlightenment (nibbana).

We make offerings to create positive energy and develop good qualities such as giving with a respectful attitude and gratitude.

Moreover, the offerings remind us of certain teachings of the Buddha. The freshness, fragrance and beauty of flowers are impermanent. Fresh and beautiful flowers will soon become withered, scentless and discoloured. This reminds us of the Buddha's teaching that all things are impermanent. Light symbolizes wisdom. Light drives away darkness. Similarly, the light of wisdom dispels the darkness of ignorance. When incense is lit, its fragrance spreads. Incense symbolizes the fragrance of pure moral conduct. This reminds us to cultivate good conduct.

This little booklet contains frequently used vanadana gatha and their English meanings. This will help you to do the chanting effectively and meaningfully.



## **How to use this booklet:**

1. Organize at least half an hour in the evening for the Buddha Vandana.
2. Arrange a place for Buddha Vandana with a statue or picture of the Buddha.
3. Pick some flowers, sprinkle water to keep them fresh, light a candle, burn an incense stick. Prepare a small glass of water, fruit juice, medicinal drinks etc.
4. Ask everyone in the family to touch above offerings by saying "Sadhu".
5. Offer them to the Buddha with respect and saying "Sadhu".
6. Sit down, bring your palms to the chest and chant these gathas slowly and gently in a rhythmical manner. (Avoid irrelevant gathas if you are not offering some of the pooja items).
7. If possible, please try doing it everyday in a selected time.
8. When you understand the essence of these devotional practices and attend to them meaningfully, it demonstrates a feeling of devotion and reverence that arise from faith. Then these practices will cleanse your mind leading to inner calmness and also accumulate merits.

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## Daily Buddha Vandana

### **Sadhu Sadhu Sadhu**

Excellent!! Excellent!! Excellent!!

### **Salutation to the Buddha**

### **Namo tassa bhagavato arahato sammàsambuddhassa**

(repeat 3 times)

Honor to him, the blessed one, the worthy one, the fully enlightened one.

### **Taking Refuge in the Triple Gem (Tisarana)**

**Buddham Saranam Gacchâmi**  
**Dhammam Saranam Gacchâmi**  
**Sangham Saranam Gacchâmi**

**Dutiyampi Buddham Saranam Gacchâmi**  
**Dutiyampi Dhammam Saranam Gacchâmi**  
**Dutiyampi Sangham Saranam Gacchâmi**

**Tatiyampi Buddham Saranam Gacchâmi**  
**Tatiyampi Dhammam Saranam Gacchâmi**  
**Tatiyampi Sangham Saranam Gacchâmi**

I go to the Buddha as my Refuge.  
I go to the Dhamma as my Refuge.  
I go to the Sangha as my Refuge.

For the second time I go to the Buddha as my Refuge.  
For the second time I go to the Dhamma as my Refuge.  
For the second time I go to the Sangha as my Refuge.

For the third time I go to the Buddha as my Refuge.  
For the third time I go to the Dhamma as my Refuge.  
For the third time I go to the Sangha as my Refuge.

## Observing the Five Precepts

1. **Panatipata veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami**
2. **Adinnadana veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami**
3. **Kamesu micchacara veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami**
4. **Musavada veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami**
5. **Surameraya majjapamadatthana veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami**

## Pay Homage to the Buddha

**Iti pi so Bhagavâ – Araham - Sammâsambuddho  
Vijjâcarana sampanno - Sugato - Lokavidû  
Anuttarro purisa damma sârathi  
Sathhâ deva manussânâ - Buddho Bhagavâti.**

Such indeed is The blessed one – noble person, Perfectly enlightened,

1. I undertake the training rule to refrain from killing any living being.
2. I undertake the training rule to refrain from taking what is not given.
3. I undertake the training rule to refrain from misuse of the senses
4. I undertake the training rule to refrain from false speech.
5. I undertake the training rule to refrain from intoxicating drinks and drugs which tend to cloud the mind.

Perfect in knowledge and conduct Has gone to the blissful state of nibbana, The Knower of the worlds, The incomparable leader of persons to be tamed/disciplined, The teacher of gods and men, Full of knowledge and the blessed one.

## Pay Homage to the Dhamma

**Svâkkhato Bhagavatâ Dhammo - Sanditthiko - Akâliko  
Ehi passiko - Opanâyiko - Paccattam veditabbo viññuhiti.**

Well explained is the Dhamma by the Blessed one; to be understood here and now, with immediate results, inviting one to come and see, leading onwards to Nibbana and to be personally understood and experienced by the wise person.

## Pay Homage to the Sangha

**Supatipanno Bhagavato sâvaka sangho  
Ujupatipanno Bhagavato sâvaka sangho  
Ñâyapatipanno Bhagavato sâvaka sangho  
Sâmicipatipanno Bhagavato sâvaka sangho  
Yadidam cattâri purisa yugâni attha purisa puggalâ  
Esa Bhagavato sâvaka sangho  
Âhuneyyo -Pâhuneyyo – Dakkhineyyo – Añjalikaraniyo  
Anuttaram puññakkhetam lokassâti.**

Of orderly and disciplined conduct is the Order of the Disciples of the Blessed one ,

Of straightforward/upright conduct is the Order of the Disciples of the Blessed one ,

Of wise conduct is the Order of the Disciples of the Blessed one,

Of dutiful practice conduct is the Order of the Disciples of the Blessed one,

This order of the Disciples of the Blessed one namely, the four pairs of persons (Four pairs of sotapatti, sakinagami, anagami, arahath monks in each stages depending on the distance to Nibbana. This 4 pairs become 8 persons when considered as winners of path (maga) and fruit of each stage (phala)) is

Worthy of offerings- Worthy of treating/hospitality -Worthy of alms -  
Worthy of reverence and

Is an incomparable field of merit for the world.

## Pay Homage to the Three Main Objects of Veneration (The Cetiya, The Bhodhi and Images of the Buddha)

**Vandami chetiyam sabbam  
Sabbatane supa thittitham  
Saririka dhathu maha bodhim  
Buddharupam sakalam sada**

I salute every chetiya  
That may stand in any place  
The bodily relics the great Bodhi  
And all images of the Buddha.

## Pay Homage to the Bhodhi

**Yassa mule nisinnowa  
Sabbari vijayamaka  
Paththo sabbannutham saththa  
Vande tham bodhi padapam**

Seated at whose base,  
The teacher overcame all foes,  
Attaining Omniscience  
That very bodhi tree do I adore

**Ime ethe mahabodhi  
Lokanathena pujitha  
Ahampithe namassami  
Bodhiraja namaththu the**

These great trees of enlightenment  
By the lord of the world  
I too shall salute you  
May there be homage to you. O great Bodhi.

## Offering of Flowers

**Vanna gandha gunopetham  
Etham kusuma santhatim  
Pujayami munindhassa  
Siri pada saroruhe**

This mass of flowers fresh, fragrant and colorful  
I offer at the sacred lotus like feet of the noble sage

**Pujemi Buddham kusumena nena  
Punnena methena cha hothu mokkam  
Puppham milayathi yatha idamme  
Kayo thatha yathi vinasa bavam**

I worship the Buddha with these flowers;  
May this virtue be helpful for my emancipation;  
Just as these flowers fade,  
Our body will undergo decay.

## Offering of Light

**Ghana sarappa dhittena  
Dipena tama dhansina  
Tiloka dipam sambuddham  
Pujayami thamo nudam**

With lights brightly shining  
Abolishing this gloom  
I adore the Enlightened One  
The Light of the three worlds\*  
who dispels the darkness ( of ignorance )

(\*three worlds – kama loka, rupa loka and arupa loka)

## Offering of Incense

**Gandha sambhara yuttena  
Dupe naham sugandina  
Pujaye Pujaniyanam tam  
Puja bhajana muttamam**

With perfumed incense,  
From fragrant substances,  
I worship the exalted one, worthy of worship,  
Who dispels the darkness (of ignorance)

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**Sugandi kaya vadanam  
Anantha guna gandina  
Sugandinaham gandena  
Pujayami thathagatha**

Fragrant of voice and form,  
Fragrant of infinite virtues,  
The fragrant one, Thathagatha (the exalted one),  
With fragrance I worship.

## Offering of Water

**Adhivasetu no bhante  
Paniyam parikappitam  
Anukampam upadaya  
Patiganhatu muttamam.**

O Lord! The blessed one  
May this water  
Be kindly accepted by you  
Out of great compassion on us.

## Offering of Gilan Pasa

**Adhivasetu no bhante  
Gilana pacchayam imam  
Anukampam upadaya  
Patiganhatu muttamam.**

O Lord! The blessed one  
May these gilana pasa  
Be kindly accepted by you  
Out of great compassion on us.

(Gilan pasa – permissible food & drinks for Buddhist monks and nuns from noon to the following morning such as fruit juices, sugar candy)

## Offering of Medicinal Drinks

**Adhivasetu no bhante  
Besajjam parikappitam  
Anukampam upadaya  
Patiganhatu muttamam.**

O Lord! The blessed one  
May these medicinal drinks  
Be kindly accepted by you  
Out of great compassion on us.

Transfer Merits to all Devas

**Akasattha ca bhumattha  
Deva naga mahiddhika  
Punnam tam anumodittva  
Ciram rakkhantu loka sasanam**

May all beings inhabiting space and earth,  
Devas and Nagas of mighty power  
Having shared this merit  
Long protect the dispensation. (world's religious system)

**Akasattha ca bhumattha  
Deva naga mahiddhika  
Punnam tam anumodittva  
Ciram rakkhantu desanam**

May all beings inhabiting space and earth,  
Devas and Nagas of mighty power  
Having shared this merit  
Long protect the teaching.

**Akasattha ca bhumattha  
Deva naga mahiddhika  
Punnam tam anumodittva  
Ciram rakkhantu mam param ti**

May all beings inhabiting space and earth,  
Devas and Nagas of mighty power  
Having shared this merit  
Long protect me and others.

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**Etta vataca amhehi  
Sambhatam punna sampadam  
Sabbe deva anumodantu  
Sabba sampatti siddhiya**

May all devas share this merit  
Which we have thus accumulated  
For the acquisition of all kinds  
Of happiness and prosperity.

## Forgiveness for Faults

**Kayena vaca cittena  
Pamadena maya katam  
Accayam khama me bhante  
Bhuripanna tathagata**

If by deed, speech or thought  
Heedlessly, I have done any wrong  
Forgive, O master  
O Victor, Greatly wise.

## Transfer Merits to the Departed Ones

**Idam me natinam hotu - sukita hontu natayo (three times)**

Let this merit accrue to our departed relatives and may they be happy.

## Aspiration

**Imina punna kammena  
Mame bala samagamo  
Satam samagamo hotu  
Yava nibbana pattiya**

By the grace of this merit that I have acquired,  
May I never follow the foolish.  
But only the wise up to the time  
I attain nibbana.

## Meditation

**\* It would be really good if you can do meditation for a few minutes on Loving Kindness.**

## Worshipping Parents

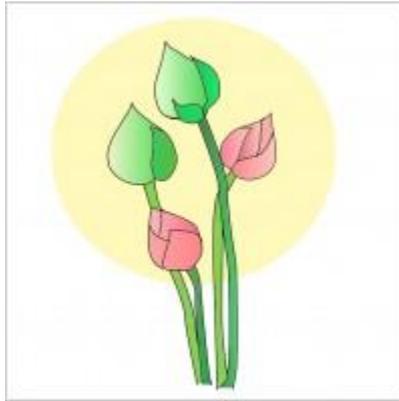
\* Always remember to worship your parents and show gratitude to them.

**Dasa mase ure katva  
Posesi uddikaranam  
Ayu deegham vassa satam  
Matu padam nama maham**

I worship the feet of my mother, who carried me in her womb for ten months and then nourished me. May she live long up to a century.

**Uddikaro alinghthva  
Chumbitva piya puttakam  
Raja majjam supatittham  
Pitu padam nama maham**

I worship the feet of my father who showed me affection and helped me to become a good member of the society. May he be honored in royal company.



**May you all become good, honest, lovable children and  
may the blessings of the Noble Triple Gem be always with you!**