

BEGINNING ANEW CHANT

We, your children
with our hearts at peace and pure,
join our palms and turn respectfully to you
our loving and patient Mother Earth,
as we offer words of fervent repentance. [BELL]

We have not been fortunate enough
to bring the teachings into our lives earlier,
and so we have lived in forgetfulness for a long time.
Obscured by ignorance,
we have brought about suffering
and made many foolish mistakes.
We and our ancestors
have sown our hearts' garden with unwholesome seeds.
We have been responsible for exploiting and polluting
you,
our beautiful planet earth.
Much of what we and our ancestors have done
continues to damage the environment day after day.
We repent of these countless unmindful acts
that have brought about so much unnecessary suffering.
We vow to begin anew from today. [BELL]

We see how thoughtless we have been,
as we strayed from the path of mindfulness.
Driven by craving, ignorance, and fear,
we have treated you as something other than ourselves.
Troubled by anxiety,
we have failed to protect you,
and to see that we are all your children.
Angry and resentful, we blame each other,
and polarize the world into separate factions.
Unable to speak to or look at others with eyes of
compassion,
we create suffering that lasts a long time.
Now we turn to you our mother,
and in sincere repentance we bow our heads. [BELL]

We know that in the human consciousness
are buried countless wholesome seeds
of love and understanding,
and of peace and joy.
But because we have not known how to water them,
they have not sprouted fresh and green.

We have grown used to chasing a distant
happiness,
which causes us to exploit your resources.
Our mind is constantly occupied by the past
or travelling far into the future.
We are caught in a cycle of craving.
Unable to appreciate the precious things we have,
we seek happiness in consumption.
This has led to the devastation of the environment,
which will last for a very long time,
causing suffering for our children and their
children.
Now in the hall, fragrant with incense,
we vow to change and begin anew. [BELL]

With sincerity and respect,
we turn to you, mother earth
and all the great beings
who are courageously protecting you.
Our deep aspiration is to also cherish and protect
you,
and not repeat the mistakes we have made.
We vow to live in an awakened way,
to train according to the true teachings.
We vow to practice mindful breathing and smiling,
and diligently live in mindfulness. [BELL]

We will come back to ourselves
and live in the wonderful present moment,
to sow wholesome seeds in our hearts' garden,
and to cultivate understanding and love.
We will learn to look deeply
and practice deep understanding,
to see the true nature of all that is
and free ourselves from the suffering
brought about by the notion of birth and death.
We will practice right action,
and care for you and all species throughout the
day,
bringing the source of joy to many places,
helping all to suffer less,
and repaying the deep gratitude we owe
to parents, teachers, friends, and all beings.
With faith we light up the incense of our heart.
We turn to you, our Compassionate Mother
and vow to protect you
by training ourselves diligently
on the wonderful path of practice. [BELL, BELL]