

The Heart Mantra of Arya Vairochana and the Fire at Lama Zopa Rinpoche's House (Saka Dawa 2006)

Rinpoche asked Ven. Holly Ansett (Ven. Roger's secretary who is in charge of the California Administrative Department of FPMT International Office) to share this story, so that when mantras or practices come into our lives unexpectedly, we won't miss the opportunity they give us.

Rinpoche translated this practice in 2002 and asked Ven. Tsering to design it so it could be framed and put around the house for protection from fires. [Ven. Tsering is a Kopan monk resident in Rinpoche's house. He helps Rinpoche write the [Prajnaparamita Sutra](#) in gold]. The finished version was passed to me to make copies and frame. Unfortunately, I lost the paper and spent four years looking for it (I did forget about it a few times in this period).

On 11 June 2006 (the day before Saka Dawa), I suddenly came across the mantra again. I immediately pinned it to the wall in the office as a reminder (also because it is a protection that is meant to be displayed). I thought to take it to Rinpoche's house, which is just next door to the California office building, but I wanted to frame it first.



The next day, which was Saka Dawa, there was a bad fire in the extensive offering room in Rinpoche's house. Ven. Tsering put the fire out by crawling into the burning room with eight different fire extinguishers. It could have been much worse, but it was still quite devastating. Unfortunately, we lost the whole room.

I told Rinpoche that I found the Heart Mantra of Arya Vairochana the day before and that it had crossed my mind to take it to the house, but I didn't. Rinpoche said that this was the activity of Buddha, revealing the text at that time. This is the action of the Buddha guiding us, to find a method or practice that will help, protect, or heal us.

Unfortunately, I didn't have the karma to understand and use the protection.

The extensive offering room was recently rebuilt. Right after the room was completed, a thirteen-foot thangka of Medicine Buddha that was offered by students of Rinpoche's arrived. There is no other place in the house that the thangka fits, except the new room. It fits perfectly! It was as though the new room was built especially for it. Rinpoche commented that it was like Medicine Buddha himself had come to the house. Rinpoche named the room 'Medicine Buddha Pure Land'.



With heartfelt thanks to all the kind people who helped to actualize Rinpoche's new room, especially Ven. Roger Kunsang, Ven. John Jackson and his sons Yeshe and David, Russell and Barbara Karkowski, Harvey Horrocks, Angela Wang, Jean Luc, Lara and Nathalie and of course Ven. Tsering (for putting out the fire).