

Advice on What To Do for Wedding Ceremonies

By Lama Zopa Rinpoche

Invite all the Sangha and people from the Center to come together to do prayers. The individuals who are getting married should make offerings to all the Sangha [this can be done during the ceremony or at the conclusion of the ceremony].

Suggested Prayers for Everyone To Do [Especially the Sangha]

1. *Calling the Guru from Afar (long or short version)
2. *Heart Sutra. *If a Geshe is present, The Heart Sutra can be chanted by the Geshe (in Tibetan). Otherwise, it can be chanted in Chinese, English, etc.*
3. Eight Verses of Thought Transformation
4. *Four Mandala Offerings to Chittamani Tara or Praises to the Twenty-One Taras
5. *Medicine Buddha Puja (*The Wish-fulfilling Jewel*). *Visualize the Medicine Buddhas above your heads. Then make offerings and requests to each Medicine Buddha.*

Dedication prayers can be any or all of those mentioned below:

1. *King of Prayers
2. *Prayer to follow Bodhisattva's conduct (end of Chod prayers)
3. Prayer to be Reborn in the Land of Bliss (Amitabha)
4. Any prayers that reflect on the past lives and actions of the Shakyamuni Buddha and other buddhas and bodhisattvas.

NOTE: You can do all or some of the prayers mentioned above. The main prayers to be recited are marked by an "*". All prayers mentioned here are available from the FPMT Education Department, email: materials@fpmt.org, www.fpmt.org/shop.

Advice

The main thing is that you make your married life to serve others – to make your life meaningful and also to remind you of what is the meaning of life. Your marriage (wedding) ceremony should remind older Buddhist students of the meaning of life and should educate new people as to the real purpose of life – that it is not for using other people, or for ones own ego.

Colophon

Written by Lama Zopa Rinpoche at Kachoe Dechen Ling, Aptos, March 2003 for the marriage of Kunkyen and Jennifer at Land of Medicine Buddha. Lightly edited by Kendall Magnussen, FPMT Education Services, July 2003.