

BUDDHIST PRAYER/GATHAS

Thank you to Emyo Bizub and Seijaku Roshi of The Zen Society for these contributions.

Turning on the water

Water comes from high mountain sources.
Water runs deep in the Earth.
Miraculously, water comes to us and sustains all life.
My gratitude is filled to the brim.

Washing Your Hands

Water flows over these hands.
May I use them skillfully
to preserve our precious planet.

Watering the Plants

Don't think you are cut off, dear plant.
This water comes to you from the Earth and sky.
You and I have been together
since beginningless time.

Watering the Garden

The sunshine and the water
have brought about this luxurious vegetation.
The rain of compassion and understanding
can transform the dry desert into a vast fertile plain.

Changing Water in a Vase

Water keeps the flower fresh.
The flower and I are one.
When the flower breathes, I breathe.
When the flower smiles, I smile.

From *“Stepping into Freedom – An Introduction to Buddhist Monastic Training,”* By Thich Nhat Hanh, 1997, Parallax Press, Or *Present Moment Wonderful Moment,* by Thich Nhat Hahn, 2006, Parallax Press

Note: Thich Nhat Hanh states in his introduction that the gathas were originally compiled by Chinese meditation master Duti.

Earth Prayer

We gently caress you, the Earth, our planet and our home.
Our vision has brought us closer to you, making us aware of the harm we have done to the life-network upon which we ourselves depend.
We are reminded that we have poisoned your waters, your lands, your air.
We have filled you with the bones of our dead from war and greed.
Your pain is our pain.
Touching you gently, we pray that we may become peace-bringers and life-bringers so that our home in its journey around the Sun not become a sterile and lonely place.
May this prayer and its power last forever.

-- Sensei Ulrich, Manitoba Buddhist Temple 3